



FLYER NEWS

The University of Dayton Student-Run Newspaper Since 1956

VOL. 67, NO. 13

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

RUNNING WITH THE NATION'S BEST



Junior midfielder, John McGovern (#96), flies down the field against North Dakota State University on March 30, 2019. McGovern is among the Flyers' leading scorers, ringing in 15 points so far this season. Photo courtesy of Kelly Cobal.

*With just one loss in the regular season, the men's club lacrosse team is ranked second in MCLA Division II and hoping to win a national title: a feat the program achieved just five years ago. Learn more about this team's success and their high-paced offense on **page 13**.*

NEWS: *Detailing the beekeeping mini course being offered at UD on **page 2**.*

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT: *Praising Jordan Peele's "Us" on **page 6**.*

OPINIONS: *Discussing the role of gender in the democratic primaries on **page 10**.*

SPORTS: *Highlighting a four-year member of the cheer team on **page 14**.*

First beekeeping mini course offered at UD

KATHERINE KIRCHNER

Contributing Writer

The sun is bright when honeybees journey out of their hive to collect pollen and nectar for their colonies. They fly to hundreds of flowers every day, pollinating these plants in exchange for the natural ingredient of honey.

The bees are not the only ones at work, however, as beekeepers all over Dayton spend this time meticulously working in the beehives.

Former police officer Mike Pittman is one of these beekeepers, or apiarist. During the day, Pittman collects honey and carefully checks the frames inside the hives, each capable of holding thousands of honeybees. As he carefully places the frame of whirring bees back into the hive, he expertly continues on to the next one.

Pittman just began his 10th year as a beekeeper in Dayton. This winter, Pittman taught the first beekeeping class offered at UD.

The six-week mini course allowed students to learn about the importance of honeybees and prepare them to become beekeepers in the future. By teaching this class, Pittman hopes to show young adults the significance this insect has on their lives, something Pittman did not realize until he

was retired.

Juniors Meaghan Lightfoot and Carter Spires were two of the students who chose to take this class. Lightfoot, an environmental biology major, chose to take Beekeeping after meeting Pittman at the Honey Festival in Kettering last fall.

“My biggest takeaway from Beekeeping 101 was how vital bees are to the human way of life and how our modern practices are impacting their survival,” Lightfoot said. “I have a much greater appreciation for bees!”

According to National Geographic, the number of honeybees is declining as a result of anthropogenic practices such as pesticide usage, land development and global warming.

Spires is studying mechanical engineering with a sustainability, energy and the environment (SEE) minor and chose to take this course for a unique reason.

“I took Beekeeping 101 because I wanted to learn how to bee keep so I could do it later in life,” Spires said. “I loved the class periods when Mike Pittman talked about how easy backyard beekeeping was, and I enjoyed learning about the bee’s flight patterns.”

The former police officer began his beekeeping journey in 2009 after watching a beekeeping program on the National Geographic Channel.

“It was so interesting that I got a book, ‘Beekeeping for Dummies,’” Pittman said. “After that I got another book called ‘Beekeeping Biology,’ and I couldn’t put it down. And then I decided ‘I’m gonna try to do this.’”

Pittman said the beekeeping mini course helps show students that honeybees do a lot more than just give us honey; they also pollinate much of our food. According to the National Resources Defense Council, honeybees contribute to the pollination of 30 percent of our food worldwide.

By recognizing honeybees as crucial to our survival, Pittman hopes Beekeeping 101 will persuade students to utilize their voice and put pressure on politicians to change practices that harm our honeybees, such as pesticide usage.

“If the honeybees disappeared, everything we think is important would be irrelevant,” Pittman said. “The food chain would break down worldwide. It would be every man for themselves.”

For those who want to help honeybees but who are unable to take

Beekeeping 101, consider planting flowers. According to the Honeybee Conservancy, it is recommended to have multiple types of flowering plants in your garden, ensuring the honeybees have a constant food source.

The Honeybee Conservancy also stresses supporting local beekeepers: by buying their honey and other beeswax products (such as candles), apiarists can continue the work they are doing for these creatures and our environment.

For those looking to start their own hive, Pittman recommends joining the Greater Dayton Beekeepers, a network of beekeepers who meet once a month. More information can be found on the organization’s Facebook page.

Beekeeping 101 will be offered next semester to more students at UD. Since it is a single-credit mini-course, it can be taken for no extra cost.

“If it weren’t for the honeybees we wouldn’t be here,” Pittman said. “And there would be no honeybees in the U.S. if it weren’t for the backyard beekeeper.”



(Left) Mike Pittman, a local apiarist who began teaching a beekeeping mini course to UD students this semester, works on his beehives. (Right) Pittman’s beehives, which are located in his yard. Photos courtesy of Mike Pittman.

UD to offer sustainability major for Fall 2019

MALEIA HARTMAN
Contributing Writer



As prospective students take their tour, it is easy for them to gain the impression that UD is a sustainability-focused university. However, it is an institution without a major in sustainable studies. There are plans for that to change come Fall 2019.

In 2014, George and Amanda Hanley donated \$12.4 million to establish the Hanley Sustainability Institute. This gift will enable UD to sponsor a major in sustainability.

Plans for the major began in 2015 after the initiation of the sustainability, energy and the environment (SEE) minor. Rebecca Potter, the director of the Sustainability Program, started work on the major with a SEE advisory committee made up of faculty members from multiple departments.

Potter said the minor served as a trial for the major. The minor was announced in 2010 and was described as a “mini major.” It was designed to be a challenging minor for students with opportunities for experiential and interdisciplinary learning.

The major is going to have two tracks: a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in sustainable studies. The two tracks will allow students from non-science majors to more easily double major and find classes that align with their interests. The major will require the liberal arts curriculum as it is housed in the School of Arts and Sciences.

It also will require students to pick a concentration within the major. The B.A. choices are Vocational, Food Studies and Urban Sustainability, and the B.S. options are Vocational, Energy and Sustainable Watershed. The curriculum also requires all students in the program to complete a capstone and experiential learning credit.

There has been much anticipation for the major since work started on it in 2015. Many students in the sustainability program picked UD in the hope of graduating with a sustainability major.

Senior Jesse Carbonaro, with assistance from the university, developed

her own course guide to, essentially, graduate with a sustainability major. She began college as an environmental biology major with a SEE minor in the hope to understand the “natural processes, chemical changes, and scientific effects of human practices on the world.” It was not until studying abroad in Berlin that she came to the realization that she wanted to study sustainability at a higher level.

She started the process of expanding the SEE minor into a major for herself. This resulted in her working with Potter to determine which classes would best contribute to her major. Her transcript ended up reflecting a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Education Studies. Her curriculum had a foundation in biology to tackle complex environmental issues and included a sustainability capstone course and classes in a variety of disciplines, such as English and economics.

Carbonaro said Potter, the Hanley Sustainability Institute and the School of Arts and Sciences were

helpful in constructing the curriculum. She is excited for more students to engage with the curriculum and gain this knowledge.

“Learning about sustainability in an interdisciplinary fashion is advantageous as our students go out into the workplace,” Carbonaro said. “The major equips students to problem solve creatively and effectively to our world’s emerging problems. Additionally, I feel this major will complement majors across all schools very well as sustainability is woven into all disciplines.”

The major is expected to be finished by this summer and should be available for students to begin taking classes by Fall 2019. Potter hopes the announcement of the versatile, new major will bring interest to the Hanley Sustainability Institute and other sustainability initiatives on campus.

Photo courtesy of Kaitlin Gawkins.

UD student competes on Wheel of Fortune

GRACE JAMES

Contributing Writer



The Wheel of Fortune game show played a large role in junior Mary Schultz's life years before she was a contestant.

Growing up, her family would gather at her grandmother's house every Thursday night for supper. At 6:30 sharp, they would change the channel on the TV to Wheel of Fortune, no matter what. From a young age, the show was a weekly event that brought her family together.

"It was her favorite show," Schultz said. "She never missed an episode."

In early 2018, when Schultz's grandmother was in the hospital going through chemotherapy, Wheel of Fortune was playing on the TV. Schultz decided then to enter to be a contestant. Sitting by her grandma's side, Schultz entered for fun, not thinking anything would come from it.

Months went by before Schultz received an unexpected email in October. She had been selected to audition in Indianapolis. The audition was a simulation of the show itself. The auditionees practiced calling out letters on the board and took a written test. After a large cut, approximately 25 percent of the group was left, and they took turns simulating the show again. They were told they would be notified whether or not they made it within two weeks.

After the weeks went by, Schultz began to lose hope that she would get to participate on the show. So, when January rolled around, Schultz was not expecting any news. However, when she checked her email thinking she had received a message from Isidore, Schultz was overjoyed when it was actually from Wheel of Fortune, telling her she had been selected to compete on the game show. Even though her grandma had passed away before Schultz got to be on the show, she knew her grandma would still be proudly watching over her.

Schultz flew out on Valentine's Day, meeting up with her mom and older sister, Rose, in Los Angeles. The next day, Feb. 15, was the day of the taping. Schultz showed up at Sony Studios in Culver City at 8 a.m., ready for a long day of filming. The studio was filming six shows that day, but Schultz's group was first up at noon.

Prior to filming, Schultz got to

spend time with the other contestants, 18 in total. All of them were from different colleges across the country, as the show was filming all the programs for "College Week Spring Break." Before the taping began, the hostess of Wheel of Fortune, Vanna White, made an appearance to wish the group good luck. Schultz was ready to compete.

"I felt really prepared," she said.

The taping went smoothly, and Schultz won a total of \$3,000.

"It was very surreal," Schultz said.

After the taping ended for Schultz, there were still five more shows to go. She went into the audience to sit with her mom and sister for a little while before leaving the Sony lots. As tempting as it was to explore the studio to see what future blockbusters were being filmed, the contestants were tightly confined to the Wheel of Fortune set.

Nevertheless, Schultz and her family did get to explore Los Angeles before going back home. They visited the famous Griffith Observatory (seen in the film *La La Land*) and Malibu beach.

Schultz had to keep her role on the show a secret until 10 days before it aired.

"It was tough to keep it a secret," she said.

When March 18 finally arrived, Schultz had her friends and family over for a watch party. As for the prize money, Schultz will not receive it until 120 days after the air date of the show. Conveniently, that will fall around the time she will be in working in Spain for the summer.

Even though being a contestant on the show was a once in a lifetime opportunity, Schultz still enjoys playing Wheel of Fortune on her phone.

"I still love playing the game," Schultz said. "It's a guilty pleasure."

(Above right) UD junior Mary Schultz competes on Wheel of Fortune. (Bottom right) Schultz poses for a picture on the Wheel of Fortune set in California. Photos courtesy of Mary Schultz.

Mistake delays campus diversity survey findings

CAROLYN KROUPA
Contributing Writer

On March 1, Lawrence Burnley, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, released a statement on Porches pertaining to a mistake made in the AIM4 Community Excellence Survey.

The survey's purpose is to aid the Diversity and Inclusion Assessment Task Force to identify areas that need improvement regarding diversity, equity and inclusion. The Task Force will then strategize a plan to advance these initiatives on a university-wide scale.

However, in January, an error was found in the survey. Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx identities were omitted from the demographic section of the survey. This was an oversight of the Task Force and the third-party consulting firm Halualani & Associates.

"...Hispanic/Latino/Latina/

Latinx identities were inadvertently omitted from the demographic sections when the survey was designed. This error occurred as we worked to align different ways that these identities are currently captured in various systems at UD," Burnley wrote in the letter. "Although we developed appropriate categories for the survey, through human error the categories were left out in the final design, and the omission was not caught until the survey and its analysis were completed."

Essentially, the mistake omitted members of the UD community who identify as Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx.

As of Fall 2018, Hispanic students make up five percent of full-time undergraduate students. Hispanic students made up nine percent of the incoming

Fall 2018 class.

In an attempt to remedy the situation, interactive online listening sessions will be conducted with Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx employees and students. The information collected will be combined with the rest of the survey results. The results are projected to be released in May.

Burnley invited all members of the UD community who identify as Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx to participate in the interactive online listening sessions; members of the campus community can contact the Task Force at diversityandinclusion@udayton.edu for more information.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion held an event to explain the survey to students in November 2018.

What is #1Day1Dayton?

SHEA DONOVAN
Contributing Writer

UD's first giving day is on April 10. One Day, One Dayton will be a 24-hour celebration of the university, the first of its kind. Since its founding in 1850, the affection of both alumni and friends toward this community has remained constant. The planners say One Day, One Dayton is a chance to recognize and continue that support.

To honor UD's founding, One Day, One Dayton is seeking at least 1,850 donors. Organizers are seeking gifts of any size. Donations can help provide

scholarships, support research and offer greater opportunities to students.

For example, UD's Department of Communication is raising funds for an annual professional trip to Hollywood for graduating seniors, study abroad opportunities and department scholarships.

Donors can decide specifically where they want to give their money within the university.

Progress can be tracked and watched live on UD's website.

As Christian Cubacub said,

"There's truly a unique beauty about someone investing in you because they believe in your potential."

There also is a "unique beauty" about throwing a pie in a professor's face. Multiple university staff and faculty have offered to be "pied" in the face if certain fundraising goals are met.

Flyer News will be covering One Day, One Dayton on Twitter on April 10. For updates, follow us on Twitter @FlyerNews.



Senior Send-Off

2019

APRIL 27

Join us in C Lot for:

11AM-1PM

- * Senior Brunch
- * Champagne Toast

1PM-5PM

Talent Showcase

CONCERT

Gates open at 6 p.m.
Chris Lane at 7 p.m.

* *Event is for seniors graduating in 2019.*

* *Register on 1850.*

"As Christian Cubacub said, 'There's truly a unique beauty about someone investing in you because they believe in your potential.' There also is a 'unique beauty' about throwing a pie in a professor's face. Multiple university staff and faculty have offered to be 'pied' in the face if certain fundraising goals are met."

- Shea Donovan

All good things come in pairs...

*"Us" serves as a stellar
encore in the filmmaking
career of Jordan Peele*



GRIFFIN QUINN
Print Editor-in-Chief

He did it again. After delivering one of the most widely-discussed films in the last decade with “Get Out,” Jordan Peele thrilled audiences once more with his second feature film, “Us.”

Upon the May 2018 announcement that Peele was working on a second thriller movie, I’ll have to admit, I was a bit worried that it would pale in comparison to his debut. And, after seeing “Us,” I can rest assured knowing that – unlike the members of Duke’s starting five – Peele is not a “one-and-done.”

“Us” is centered around the Wilsons: a black middle-class family that is vacationing on the California coast. The mother, Adelaide (Lupita Nyong’o), had grown up visiting this area but, after a haunting experience in a house of mirrors on a Santa Cruz beach, was fearful to return.

The corny, teddy-bear like father, Gabe (Winston Duke), urged his wife to eventually make the trip. Fully-equipped with a fresh supply of dad jokes, Gabe provides the comedic re-

lief and then some. And, to these dad jokes, audiences can cringe along with daughter, Zora (Shahadi Wright Joseph), and son, Jason (Evan Alex).

When the Wilsons venture to the beach, they unite with the Tylers, a white family of four that has a newer car, a bigger boat (that consistently runs) and a more modern, better-equipped vacation house.

Throughout the early parts of the movie, it is clear that Gabe is trying to keep up with the Tylers and constantly feels economically inferior to the family friends.

While at the beach, Jason breaks off from the group and encounters a man standing with his arms spread wide and blood on his hands.

When Adelaide cannot locate her son, she panics as she is reminded of her experience on the same beach 30 years earlier. Jason, though, is eventually found completely unharmed.

The Wilsons return to their house for the night where, as the family prepares for bed, they are visited by a family that is a twisted mirror of their own: a husband, a wife and two children, all dressed in red jumpsuits with tan

leather driving gloves on their right hands and holding a pair of sharp brass scissors.

As it turns out, everyone (including the Tylers) have these red-clad doppelgängers. They are a group of the unseen, unheard and unacknowledged. Sick and tired of their fate, these doppelgängers emerge to conduct a massive, blood-soaked takeover as part of a revenge plot 30 years in the making.

Throughout the film, there are harbingers of disaster everywhere that all point to the same Bible verse, Jeremiah 11:11: “Therefore thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.”

Although its social commentary is not as forthright as Peele’s first film, “Us” still manages to be much more than just another bone-chilling horror flick.

Peele has stated that “Us” is not about race, but rather an exploration into the idea that we are our own worst enemies. The film serves as an allegory for the perils of capitalism and the discontentment that builds up when

we overlook those whose labor we exploit for our happiness.

With a title that can also serve as an abbreviation for the United States, Peele contends that we – as Americans – are our own worst enemies. The movie symbolizes the notion that we have overlooked classes of people and have stifled their voices for far too long.

Albeit the fundamental practicality of “Us” may be flawed (considering the mass amounts of human duplicates that are shown to live underground), it certainly is an entertaining movie that will continue to spark conversation.

As the 40-year-old director and producer now aims to revitalize “The Twilight Zone,” it’s hard to imagine that Peele will cut himself off from sharing social commentary through the thriller genre anytime soon. And, with a jaw-dropping dual-character performance by Nyong’o, I expect that “Us” will anchor many conversations when award season comes around. Perhaps Peele will go two-for-two at the Oscars.

Graphic courtesy of Olivia Pettigrew.



Artist Spotlight: Dani Lioce

LAUREN DURHAM
Contributing Writer

Art can be a powerful vehicle in communicating exigencies of the time. It is common to let a piece showcase a specific message that the creator desperately wants to share with the viewer. However, senior Dani Lioce treats her artwork a little differently.

The fine arts major relies on common, everyday experiences to fuel her work. Her favorite subject may come as a surprise—feet.

“I pick up on the intricacies of the creases and the cracks. [They] are something that are so personal to each

person. I like the history behind them. They are something that’s used everyday and overlooked,” Lioce said.

One of her favorite paintings, entitled “Grip,” displays the simple yet intricate details of feet. The combination of thick and thin paint on top the soft pink background makes the image seem even more animated.

Using subject matter such as this allows viewers to instantly connect with their own experiences and human understandings. The intimacy draws people in, creating a very personal viewing experience.

“The sort of narrative I’ve created in my work recently is about the human

body relationship and how anybody that looks at the figure can relate to the pose or the gesture of it,” she said.

Lioce began as a graphic design major, but after support from her friends and encouragement from her professors, decided to devote her time to fine arts. The challenging curriculum and motivational professors truly made an impact on her art while at the university.

For the past few summers, Lioce participated in the Dean’s Summer Fellowship program.

“We got the whole department to ourselves, so it was kind of a true studio experience. You could kind of see

what it would be like to be a true working artist with your own space to make work.”

As she nears graduation, Lioce hopes to work in galleries and curation. She anxiously awaits the opportunity to create unique pieces on a larger platform that will enhance art enthusiasts’ individual experiences.

To see more of Lioce's work, you can visit her Instagram page, @keepitonthedl or her website danilioce.weebly.com. To see the works featured in this article in color, visit flyernews.com!

Photos courtesy of Dani Lioce.



Porch Profile: 128 Evanston

The women of UD's Campus Canvas house share some of their favorite memories



ROSE RUCOBA
Staff Writer

Could you talk a little bit about Campus Canvas, your special interest house?

Mary Guida: [Campus Canvas] is a student-led, special interest house where once a month we put on student artwork and student music and then an open mic at the end of the night.

Emily Wellmann: It's in our house.

Kaitlin Gawkins: (referring to common space) This is the art from this month.

Jess Bullock: Our next one is on April 26.

KG: From 7 - 9 p.m.

EW: It's supposed to be collaborative and it's supposed to be a place - a casual art gallery setting - where people can come together and it's low pressure. It's kind of a come-as-you-are: everyone is welcome. It's supposed to be a space for students to just appreciate art and music in an accessible manner.

MG: I feel like when I explain it to people, I also add in that informal gallery settings are kind of on the move in the art world because people don't really want to go out to formal galleries anymore because it's awkward and you don't know what to say and what to wear. So coming to somebody's house—you're more comfortable.

JB: Also, it's a group show so we take anyone who wants to show their art and we just put it everywhere. Last year, that was one of my favorite events because we had like 30 different artists—more than 30 I think—and just had [their artwork] all over our house. It was really cool.

EW: There are some people who are like, "I don't have a whole body of work to share." But some people might have a couple photos here and there to share.

What will you miss the most about living in the Campus Canvas house?

JB: I'm going to cry!

KG: I'll tell you what we'll miss the least... Cleaning!

MG: We still haven't finished cleaning from last [show].

KG: Everything is different [for shows]. We change the way our living room is laid out every month. We have different art in here every month, so our decorations are never the same.

JB: Which is really nice because it feels like every month is a new, fresh start.

EW: What will I miss the most? I mean...everything about everything.

KG: We meet new people constantly.

JB: Yeah, meeting new people every month and being able to do this creative collaboration because every month there's a really cool jam session that happens. Every event is different and I love that. You never know what to expect.

MG: When freshmen come in and you know they're freshmen, you're like, "Come here. How did you hear about us? Do you want to open mic?"

KG: You can reliably have a deep conversation, like a million deep conversations, every month.

MG: One of my favorite things is we have a bowl out here and we ask people to write us a note. So people that walk in write "I love your textures," or they leave notes for artists too. Or they leave us a note like "Tell us what you're thinking," and we do it each time and go back and read those and give them to the artists.

KG: And sometimes people will leave [a note about] what the house means to them and just say really sweet things.

What is on everyone's bucket list?

MG: I want to ride in a hot air balloon when I graduate. That's on my bucket list.

KG: We're trying to do a Femme Fatale class—for exercise. We do have a list. We've been trying to do art together, so we've been trying to have art days where we all hang out and make art. We're trying to get a big canvas, maybe, where we all paint together. That's something we've been talking about for awhile.

JB: (reading the list) "Throw eggs at the spots where there's bad juju."

KG: We want to meet everyone in our old houses and rooms. I almost did it once, but not everybody was here so I didn't do it. Everyone has to be there because we all lived in the same hall freshman year.

What is everyone's spirit animal?

MG: I think I'd be a heron, like a blue heron.

EW: I'd be an indoor cat.

KG: You're an indoor cat who has escaped. You're confused.

JB: Yeah!

KG: You're a domesticated, indoor cat who is like, "I've left the house. I don't know what to do."

EW: I feel like I'm an indoor cat who wandered up to a house and just got brought in. I used to be an outdoor cat, but now I'm not.

JB: I think I'm half gazelle, half...I forget what the other one is—some kind of bird, but I don't remember what kind of bird.

KG: I don't remember. I used to have one that I would say.

MG: Are you a bird? I think you're a bird.

KG: I was going to say...the grasshopper I always say that I am, but I just don't know if they're really me.

MG: I think you're an ostrich.

KG: She said that as if we've been talking about it!

MG: I've been talking about it in my head.

Ostriches are scary!

KG: Ok, I'll be an ostrich.

EW: I hate to derail this, but if you could be any animal, like a were-animal, which one would you be?

MG: Were?

EW: Like a werewolf. You transform once a month into an animal.

JB: I'd say duck, I think.

MG: That's a good one because you can swim.

KG: Definitely a bird. Absolutely a bird.

EW: I think I would want to be a giraffe just because I think it would be really funny watching a human transform into a giraffe. Can you imagine your head just sprouting upwards and your body gets all spotty?!

Do you have any advice for first years?

JB: Get off campus!

All: Get off campus!!!

KG: Take the Flyer, take an Uber, take a bike, take your friends, take your dogs.

EW: Go to the Oregon District, go to the MetroParks, go to Yellow Springs, go to Funk Mural, go volunteer somewhere, go learn about the city because it's the weirdest, most beautiful city around.

KG: Collectively, what is our superlative as a house? Can we do that?

MG: Most likely to crash your party.

JB: That's just you.

EW: Most likely to cry at their own party!

MG: Most likely to cry of happiness.

KG: Most likely to scare everyone away!

EW: Yep!

KG: Most likely to not be on campus.

To learn more about Campus Canvas and to see when the next show will be visit their Instagram, @udcampuscanvas or their UD Campus Canvas facebook page!

Photos Courtesy of Kaitlin Gawkins

Picture Perfect Paint Parties allows students to make memories with their mothers



MADDIE BARTSCHE
Contributing Writer

This past weekend, Kappa Delta Sorority celebrated its annual Mom's weekend. From a mother-daughter brunch to afternoon zumba, the weekend was packed with bonding time. One of my favorite events during the weekend was painting with my mom at Picture Perfect Paint Parties.

Picture Perfect Paint Parties is a company located in downtown Dayton that offers simple, step-by-step instructions in a laid-back atmosphere where you can create your very own piece of art.

The studio provides you with everything you need including a canvas, aprons, easels, brushes, acrylic paint, towels and helpful guidance. Picture Perfect Paint Parties offers private parties as well as

parties open to the public. If you're looking for a fun date night they have a couples painting event next Saturday, April 13. There's also an upcoming Mother's Day paint session on May 11.

I was very happy to have some time with my lovely mother, and I'm not just saying that because she also happens to read Flyer News! My mom and I have always enjoyed being artsy together, so this paint party proved to be an exciting experience for us. We painted a chic black and white vase with pink roses inside.

During the party, an instructor led the class in step-by-step instructions on how to paint the portrait. The class allowed for individuals who wanted to strictly follow instruction and reproduce a painting as well as those who wanted to follow their creative spirit with some loose guidance.

Both my mom and I felt as if we had free reign on how we wanted our painting to turn out. A simple look around the room after the class had finished left me looking at a wide variety of interpretations of the spring portrait.

We were told multiple times that at Picture Perfect Paint Parties all paintings come out perfect. In a way this statement is true because the class allowed for people of various skill levels to all create something they could be proud of.

As usual, my mom's painting came out technically perfect and stunning. Yet my painting, although not as seemingly perfect, represented me and my style in a perfect way.

As to be expected at a mother-daughter event, when Abba's "Dancing Queen" came on, everyone began to sing and some even abandoned their

painting in order to fully engage in the spectacle of a spontaneous dance party. Even the mother-daughter pair who had begun the event with the stress of losing a windshield wiper on their way to the event in the pouring rain mustered up the enthusiasm to belt out the lines to this classic.

In this moment as we all sang out, "You can dance, you can jive," we were truly having the time of our lives. Going into the night as inexperienced painters, we all came out as painting queens!

To experience this for yourself, you can drop in to studio hours Thursday 5:30-8 p.m., Friday 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. or Saturday 6:30 to 8 p.m. Or, schedule a private paint party by calling (937) 265-0691.

Photos Courtesy of Maddie Bartsche.

Lily's Bistro: Authentically unique dining

CASSIDY KYLIN
Contributing Writer

Lily's Bistro in Dayton's Historic Oregon District is a hidden gem that every foodie needs to try. As soon as you walk in the restaurant, you know your dining experience will be like none other due to the family-owned atmosphere and the unique interior design.

My favorite part of the restaurant's design is the huge skylight that gives the dining room a comfortable feel. The patio is also a great spot now that the weather is acceptable for outside dining.

Lily's is open throughout the week for brunch and dinner, but is closed on Mondays.

Since this is a local restaurant, they feel it to be important to support other local businesses as well. Lily's menu changes every week because they use all local products and want to use the best quality from week to week.

For example, the omelet on the brunch menu will contain different ingredients every week depending on what fresh produce they receive. With the menu always changing, you will always be pleasantly surprised; especially because you know the food is fresh and high quality.

The menu also offers vegetarian and vegan friendly options, which sets this place apart from other restaurants. For every meal that is meat-

based, they have a vegetarian version as well.

I had the breakfast burrito, but chose the vegetarian version instead and it blew my mind. Substituting potatoes for chorizo is a genius idea.

Not only is their food menu unique, but the drink menu is as well. The drinks are all hand-crafted by the bartenders and change regularly. They have a variety of mimosas and other liquor drinks as well as locally brewed beers on tap.

I tried the pineapple mimosa which was absolutely delicious; it wasn't too bitter and had a great sweetness to it. We then added their house-made grenadine, which is made with cherry and pomegranate, to the pineapple mimosa, and it's definitely the way to go.

The atmosphere and service is spectacular as well. Since this is a family-owned restaurant, you can feel how everyone who works there actually cares about the well-being of the restaurant and the customers.

The restaurant also has a local feel because of its unique layout and artwork from community artists hung on the walls. It feels like everything was hand-picked by the owners, which make the overall vibe one of a kind.

There are too many places out there that are open just to make money, but Lily's does it differently because they care about every aspect of how the restaurant is run.



The servers are extremely friendly and knowledgeable about the menu, which really helps when you're as indecisive as I am when it comes to what you're going to order.

Lily's Bistro is the perfect place for any foodie who likes to try new things and be adventurous with their meals.

With the charmingly local aesthetic, fantastic service and a menu unlike any other restaurant, Lily's Bistro has taken casual dining to a whole new level. Whether you go for brunch or dinner, you will not be disappointed with anything on the menu as long as you're willing to branch out.

Reservations can be made by calling (937) 723-7637, but walk-ins are also accepted. Lily's Bistro is located at 329 E. Fifth St.



Photos Courtesy of Cassidy Kylin

Let's talk about gender and the democratic primaries

MARY McLOUGHLIN
Opinions Editor

One of the most exciting things about the democratic primaries so far has been the number of female candidates. After news cycle upon news cycle horrifically dominated by orange, watching politicians like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in power pink advocating for causes I care about has felt like a breath of fresh air.

When it comes to issues of gender, there has been an abundance of news stories chronicling men in politics saying absolutely the wrong thing. On March 15, Maine politician Richard Pickett voted against mandating that state prisons provide federal hygiene products on the grounds that, “the jail system and the correctional system was never meant to be a country club.”

In an April 5, New York Times editorial, Lauren Kelley documented several instances where men making legislation about abortion fundamentally misunderstood how pregnancy works. She notes a lawmaker in Idaho who suggested that gynecologists use the kind of camera women can swallow, a Texas lawmaker who thought abortions meant cutting into abdomens, and another lawmaker who thought rape kits were a way that “the woman can get cleaned out” to prevent pregnancy.

When it comes to President Trump, instances of his sexism go beyond what the word count for this op-ed could possibly allow, but they include inappropriate comments about women's appearances, sexuality, intelligence, and his unwelcome advances.

The promise of a future where someone who understands what it is like to be a woman might hold power is a hopeful one. And, from an empirical perspective, studies from various disciplines all show ways in which better representing women in political office benefits the whole country.

The McKinsey Global Institute found that gender equity in politics fuels the economy. Pipeline Inequality reports that congresswomen pass twice as many laws as congressmen and are more likely to work across the aisle. Research conducted at Rice University found that legislative bodies with more female representation had fewer instances of corruption.

But gender cannot be taken for a platform in itself. Rather than considering how a candidate's experiences and policies respond to patriarchy and other power structures, media sources have taken on the



Graphic courtesy of ClipArt Library.

“The promise of a future where someone who understands what it is like to be a woman might hold power is a hopeful one.”

role of policing who is and isn't disadvantaged enough by these systems to run.

When Pete Buttigieg garnered attention as an openly-gay man running for political office, an article by Christina Cauterucci for Slate asked, “is Buttigieg a run-of-the-mill white male candidate, or does his sexuality set him apart?”

While it is important to consider how a person's identity has shaped their politics and the choices that they will make, we cannot be playing a game of who is oppressed enough. And we absolutely cannot be debating if Buttigieg is really gay enough to be marginalized.

Identity matters, but it is not everything. Someone who is a woman is not automatically equipped to dismantle the patriarchy just like someone who is a man is not automatically damned to perpetuate it. We know this from the plurality of white women who voted for President Trump in the 2016 election even after the release of the horrifically misogynistic Access Hollywood tape.

After all, the patriarchy is not just the ab-

sence of women. Feminist international relations scholar Cynthia Enloe describes patriarchy “a system—a dynamic web—of particular ideas and relationships.” She explains, “Patriarchy is everyday sexism, but it is more than everyday sexism. Patriarchy embraces misogyny, but relies on more than misogyny. Patriarchy produces gender inequality, but its consequences run deeper than gender inequality.”

Merely representing women in politics doesn't challenge patriarchal structures if those women gain power from their proximity to masculinity and masculine values. Margaret Thatcher, though a female leader, perpetuated authoritarian values in a way that aligned with the patriarchal prioritizing of the rational over the emotional. On the other hand, Justin Trudeau has challenged patriarchy as one of the only two global leaders to claim a feminist foreign policy (no matter how flawed).

During the primaries, beyond just pointing out where gender is and is not, we need to be talking about how certain spaces,

reactions, and policies are gendered. My argument is not that gender doesn't matter. Instead, I am arguing that gender matters in more ways than just considering where people fall along the gender spectrum.

When it comes to candidates, I don't think we should write people off simply because they are men. Rather, we should write-off candidates who do not understand the way their maleness functions and is mobilized to disadvantage others. In my opinion, Joe Biden needs to step down, not because his white maleness necessarily makes him incapable of a presidency that challenges patriarchal values, but because his response to allegations of sexual misconduct shows that he does not understand how his power and gender work to make gestures he viewed as friendly feel uncomfortable and threatening to women.

And beyond just talking about the gender of the candidates, we need to be aware of how the gender of the candidates influences the ways that we talk about them.

Yes, Pete Buttigieg is objectively smart and we should absolutely be talking about his accomplishments. But we should also notice when the same media agencies who laud his intelligence don't mention the same qualities and merits of candidates who are women and people of color when their identities mean we are less likely to perceive them as intelligent.

Yes, Beto O'Rourke's casual skateboarding aesthetic is fun and charming. But we also have to recognize that no woman who skateboarded onto stage would ever be taken seriously. John Buysse, former social media manager for Hillary Clinton tweeted photos of Beto eating on the campaign trail and noted that, “There aren't photos like this of HRC because she knew there are different rules for men and women running for office.”

I haven't decided who I am voting for in the primaries yet. During the 2016 election, it was a privilege to be able to cast my vote for a woman. I would really love the chance to be able to do that again. But first and foremost, I am committed to voting for the candidate who I think is best equipped to dismantle the systems of racism, sexism, ableism, and homophobia that have for too long been at the center of our political system.

While it's likely that the best man for that job might very well be a woman, for now, I am keeping my options open.

“Beyond just talking about the gender of the candidates, we need to be aware of how the gender of the candidates influences the ways that we talk about them.”

Letter from Campus Ministry Executive Director Crystal Sullivan on sexual assault awareness



Photo courtesy of udayton.edu.

Dear Campus Community,

As we enter Sexual Assault Awareness month, we all take the time to learn ways that we can each be positive influences in situations where people are harmed by power based violence and to learn ways to support survivors.

As campus ministers, we grieve, knowing that sexual violence touches more people than most of us realize. We also lament the significant pain that has been caused historically by power based violence that comes from the hands of some church representatives brought to new awareness this year through grand jury and other reports across the USA.

These reports are compounded by allegations of sexual assault in athletic programs, schools, and other institutions that should be trusted, but who have failed. This pain challenges people of faith - who struggle to understand how and why, to influence reform that will end this and all types of sexual assault and rape, to focus energy on believing and supporting survivors, and to restore hope in institutional leadership.

We want survivors to know that if you share your journey with us, we will believe you. The violence you have experienced is not your fault. You have many options.

Campus ministers are among many supporters on campus who will stand with you in your pain as you encounter the ways that sexual assault has touched your life. We can offer a listening ear, be prayerful companions with you, and connect you with appropriate support on your journey towards healing.

If you are one who is angry, confused, or disappointed in a church or other institution that has failed to protect you and you long to encounter the safety of God in the midst of disappointment, we invite you to enter into a journey towards God with any one of us, and with the faith community here at UD.

We are UD alumni, parents, brothers, sisters, friends, staff, and ministers who are here to walk with you through faith's deepest questions or doubts.

We strive to be in solidarity with you as we seek to represent the healing presence of Christ in communion with those who know pain. Whether we meet you or not, know that we are praying for survivors and all whose lives have been impacted by sexual assault and other forms of power based violence.

We ask that each person who needs healing will know deeply God's unconditional love and acceptance.

We stand in solidarity with survivors and invite members of the campus community to increase awareness of sexual violence and take action to prevent it.

Sincerely,

Crystal Sullivan and Members of the UD Campus Ministry Team

Letter to the Editor: Giving back with #1Day1Dayton

Imagine not having that study-abroad experience that changed how you view the world. Imagine not getting to see that amazing light you brought to a child's eyes during Christmas on Campus. And can you imagine not meeting the people who make this university so special to you and will be in your life forever because of the bonds that you created in the tight-knit first-year dorms? I can't. That's one reason I take giving back seriously. I also would not be here if not for my scholarship, and I know that part of my scholarship comes from people who donate to this community: our alumni, our parents, our faculty, and students like you and me.

So, when I heard about One Day, One Dayton, UD's inaugural giving day, I immediately knew I wanted to be involved. Donors to this amazing university make a huge difference by paying it forward and changing the lives of every student on this campus, including you and me.

Like many of you, I don't have a lot of money to give. And I know you may ask the question, "What can \$5 or \$10 really do?" But when we come together as a community and rally together, we can make all the difference.

There's always a lot of talk about community and this is a chance for you to show your pride. One Day, One Dayton is a chance to show a brighter side to our community. I can give up a few iced chais this week and pay it forward for the next group of Flyers — because I want them to have the same opportunities and experiences I've had.

On April 10, you can help students from many different walks of life have an unforgettable UD experience — similar to your own. I hope that you will join me online or on campus during our inaugural giving day. I hope you make a gift. And I hope UD continues to be the community I have grown to love so much.

Sierra Hammond '19

One Day, One Dayton Ambassador

#1Day1Dayton



Photo courtesy of udayton.edu.

How to celebrate National Poetry Month

MARY McLOUGHLIN
Opinions Editor

April is National Poetry Month, but like many holidays that don't come with Hallmark cards, it seems like most Americans aren't celebrating. The 2017 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts, a collaboration between the NEA and the Census Bureau, found that only 11.7 percent of the adults had read poetry in the last year.

While these numbers are sad, they're not that surprising. As an English major, I spend a lot of time reading, analyzing and working with poetry. Lots of the poems we read are pretentious or tired or make terrible metaphors that compare women to fruit. The mechanical analysis of poetry that we do often makes poems seem like rocks you have to hack and chip away at in order to find something beautiful.

But recently, my friend Rose sent me a poem on Twitter that reminded me about magic. This poem was originally shared by a writing professor named Ben Purkert, but it was written by one of his second grade students. She was throwing a fit during class, so Purkert sent her to write a poem in order to calm down. She wrote:

Wake up, people!
The moon loves us.

It's been over a week, but I still feel haunted by those two lines. Too often trying to get through the kind of poems we read in school is like wading

through molasses. But this poem feels like an act of urgency.

So much of the content we value and gravitate towards fuel our need to make sense of the world. Facts and information seem most important, but in a news cycle oversaturated with sorrow, reality can sometimes have very little to offer in the way of comfort.

But poetry reminds us that beyond reality, there are some things that are desperately true. And one of those things is

that a little girl somewhere believes that she, you, and I are all loved by a moon.

Information makes sense of our world, but sometimes we need poetry to pull us into the senseless where there is room for meaning.

My friend Rose, who shared that poem with me, does this really well. She makes a habit out of pointing to the world around her and announcing, "Now that's a poem."

For her, what counts as a poem varies. Sometimes it's the old pink car on a Texas road. Other times, it's the way a ray of sun hits a pillow. Once, it was the way Barack Obama looked in a cowboy hat.

When it comes to her poems, there are very little rules. These poems don't always have words. They never rhyme. They aren't always beautiful. Sometimes, they are shockingly ordinary.

But the way she looks at them, insists they are worth noticing, worth paying attention to, makes them all feel magic.

Even if you don't like to read, celebrate National Poetry Month by surrounding yourself with the people and things that make you believe in magic.

Believe in the world around you and let it empty your lungs of its breath. Despite everything you know to be true about rocks, believe you are loved by the moon. Notice something ordinary, and believe that it matters and is beautiful.



Photo courtesy of FreePik.

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CLUB LACROSSE

Looking to make another national championship run

ATTICUS HUGHES
Contributing Writer

The majority of students on campus are faithful supporters of our various sports teams. Between men's and women's basketball, football, and men's and women's soccer our campus is filled with prideful UD supporters.

What most students don't know is that there is another sport on campus that is firing on all cylinders at the moment. The men's club lacrosse team is putting together one of their best seasons since their 2014 national championship run.

Yes, you heard that correctly. In 2014 the Men's Club Lacrosse team won the MCLA Division II Club Lacrosse National Championship. Since then the team has gotten little to no recognition on our campus.

How could we let such a successful program go relatively unnoticed for so long? No worries, here is everything you need to know about the team and what they have brewing for the remainder of their season.

The Dayton men's lacrosse program is led by head coach Joe Venturella, assistant coach Zach Gagel, and team president, senior attackman, Sam White. The Flyers lacrosse team is 8-1 through nine games so far, winning two of three last weekend against top-10 ranked teams.

Their only loss came against the top ranked team in the country, Minnesota Duluth, by a score of 9-6. The Flyers currently sit as second ranked team in MCLA

Division II.

The Flyers have put up some impressive stats through the nine games played. Sam White leads the way with 24 points, followed by sophomore midfielder Brennan Mooney with 18 points, and junior midfielder John McGovern with 15 points. Senior goalie, Mitch Nietupski, has maintained a save percentage at 57.8% and averaged 7.4 saves per game.

"We're all about going fast... our main goal is to get as many good looks as we can every possession and run our opponents into the ground," senior captain Casey Marsh said.

The Flyers have backed up their exciting style of play with

the results, averaging 13.3 goals-per-game, while conceding only six goals-per-game.

With just two games left to play in the regular season, Dayton has lofty ambitions for the postseason.

"Our ultimate goal is to win a national championship," senior captain Sam White said. "Part of that is just taking the season one game at a time and not looking ahead. Every game we have to get better."

It's not everyday Flyer fans get to witness one of their own teams compete for a national championship. White attributes this prolific season to the culture they've built during his four-year tenure with the program.

"I think from a culture standpoint, everyone has the same goals in mind for how they want this season to end up. Especially all the guys who were on the team last year. Coming off a disappointing season, we didn't want that type of performance to become a habit. The new guys came in with a lot of enthusiasm and understood what our expectations were for this season."

Marsh expanded on White's comments about culture saying, "What we have here is a group of like-minded brothers, who are on this team for the love of the game and each other... being a club sport there's nothing forcing

us to play, we are all here because we love the game of lacrosse and we have the ability to compete at a very high level here at Dayton."

The lacrosse team isn't comprised of scholarship athletes, just a group of guys who play for the love of the game, and for a chance to represent the University of Dayton wherever they go.

With the regular season ending, be on the lookout for an exciting tournament run from the Flyers' Lacrosse team.

The 2019 MLCA Men's National Championship will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah May 6-11, where the Flyers will look to hoist the Division II trophy once again.



Photos courtesy of Kelly Cobal

CHEERLEADING

Four years of flips, stunts and gUD times

CONNOR HANSON
Sports Editor

Senior Alison Vrabec from Akron, Ohio has been cheerleading for Dayton her past four years here. Initially, she was a part of a freshman class that was as big as ten people, but it has since dwindled down to just two.

“My class was kind of the extreme,” Vrabec said. “A lot of girls found other activities that they’d rather do and kind of went their own way. However, both my roommates are juniors, and their class has stayed pretty big. I think it’s also because our class was cut down, so we needed more people.”

For Vrabec, she couldn’t have imagined not cheering all four years here or even not cheering in college all-together. Being able to cheer at UD was definitely an added bonus for her when she came here on initial visits and tours.

“I wouldn’t say that it was a big deciding factor, but I loved the school and saw that I could cheer, which I thought was pretty awesome,” Vrabec said.

However, she took it a whole step further and tried out for the team as a senior in high school, before she even had officially committed or even put a deposit in for the following year. That has since been disbanded due to people trying out and never attending, but the chance to officially be on the team before coming to Dayton was an added benefit for her.

Since then, she’s stuck with the team through thick-and-thin and has seen it grow and shape differently over the years. When she first came in, there were around 25 people on the roster, and that now has expanded to around 50, as of right now. That has

been both a positive and a negative in her mind.

“Everybody was so close my freshman year, and we could all hangout or go to a restaurant super easily. But now, with the numbers, it’s hard,” Vrabec said. “You don’t get to talk to everyone or see everyone, and if you want to hang out and have a team dinner at a house, we can’t do it because of our size. I love having all the people, and we can do some really cool stuff, but it’s hard to connect with everyone like I was used to doing.”

Not only is trust important in a sport where people are relying on each other to lift, spot and catch them, but cheerleading in general is a major part of their daily life here at Dayton.

When thinking about cheerleaders, one might be tempted to think that there’s not much outside of them cheerleading at Dayton football and basketball games, but there’s so much more to it. The team holds practices and works out with UD’s strength and conditioning coach twice-a-week. They also travel to basketball’s post-season tournament play, like the A-10 tournaments and NIT this year.

Put that all-together, and cheerleading can suddenly become a major factor in your day-to-day life and even weekly life, especially if there are multiple home games in one week.

When asked about one of the reasons she stayed with the cheerleading team while the rest of her class thinned out, her response was because of the people on the team.

“I live with two cheerleaders, and a lot my close friends are cheerleaders,” Vrabec said. “When we travel and do all that extra stuff, you kind of have to become close with them. We usually have practice or workouts or a game,

and all of that adds up to almost seven days a week. So, you’re with these people for a good chunk of your time, that’s why it’s definitely the people that have kept me coming back.”

And being on the team these past years has not only created some life-long friendships, but also amazing experiences that will stick with her past her undergraduate days here.

One experience that still stands out happened her sophomore year at the women’s basketball A-10 Tournament, the year they won the tournament championship.

“Going into my sophomore year, I didn’t want to go to the tournament since last year they lost in the first round,” Vrabec said. “But once we got there, we played the whole weekend and won the whole thing, and it was so much fun. That’s definitely one of my favorite memories.”

And with other memories like Dayton men’s basketball’s buzzer-beater win over VCU to secure the A10 title and just the overall perspective of being on the floor during women’s and men’s basketball games at UD Arena, Vrabec has a bounty of memories to pull from when looking back at her four-year career here.

Plus gaining some amazing friendships along the way with her teammates has made it a decision that she gladly stands-by to this day. For her future, she will be graduating in May with a degree in Psychology and two minors in Sociology and French.

She will then be coming back in the fall to pursue her Masters in Clinical Psychology here at UD, and of course, be back in UD Arena to cheer on her favorite Flyers.



Photos courtesy of Rick Roshto and Kristina Sucher.

FOOTBALL

Red vs. White annual spring showcase game on the horizon

CONNOR HANSON
Sports Editor

Spring ball wraps up this week for the football team, as they head into their annual Spring Game on Sunday, April 14 at Welcome Stadium.

The team finished last season with a record of 6-5 and 5-3 in Pioneer Football League play. Despite what their record showed, three of those five losses came to FCS Playoff teams, and Dayton ended the season on a three-game win streak.

Looking into the future, the team now has the tough task of replacing their all-time leading rusher Tucker Yinger and historic PFL punter Sean Smith. They also had the need to replace quarterback Alex Jeske, but redshirt freshman and PFL Offensive Freshman of the Year Jack Cook already solved that problem after Jeske went down in the first quarter of the season.

Besides that, the team returns 13 of their starters. Seven returners on offense and six returners on defense will highlight this year's team, with

All-PFL players such as redshirt senior Adam Trautman and redshirt sophomores Andrew Lutgens, Kyle Butz and Michael Niese leading the way.

The team has also gotten it done on the academic side of things... again. They led the entire PFL with 79 student-athletes on the PFL Academic Honor Roll. This makes it the 12th consecutive year that Dayton has had the most student-athletes named to the list and 24th time in the 26 years that the PFL Honor Roll has been in existence.

The requirement to be named to the PFL Honor Roll is the student-athlete needs to attain a 3.0 grade point average or higher during their fall semester.

Dayton will also be bringing in another strong recruitment class, with a majority of them attending this week's Spring Game. There, they will watch the game from the sidelines and then be paired with a "big brother" on the team after the game.

"I'm very proud to say the



Redshirt freshman backfield duo of Jake Cook and Richie Warfield did a lot of damage for the Flyers last season. Photo courtesy of Atticus Hughes.

quality of the young men who are joining our program is as good as ever," head coach Rick Chamberlin said after signing day in a Dayton Athletics article.

As for right now, the Flyers still have three more practices to go before their Spring Game on Sunday. The two honorary coaches for that game will be from the 1989 national championship team, Dan Sharley

and Jon Husted, while Chamberlin will spend his time in the broadcast booth, helping cover the game.

This will be the last time the football team is together in pads before they return in early August to start up training camp. It will also be the last time to see the football team play until late August when they again have a scrimmage to signal the end to their training camp and start

of non-conference play. Next year's captains will also be announced at Sunday's game.

The Spring Game officially kicks off at 1 p.m. at Welcome Stadium, with free admission to all fans, and free ice cream to the first 100 fans in attendance.

COLUMN: NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Writer predicts the NBA Playoffs and Finals champion

MICHAEL CROUCHLEY
Contributing Writer

This NBA season has been filled to the brim with drama and action. From LeBron James' disastrous first season with Lakers, to Anthony Davis' trade request, fans have been thoroughly entertained this season. With the regular season ending today, it's time for the beautiful two month celebration of the greatest league on Earth that we call the NBA Playoffs. Here are my previews, predictions and overall thoughts on this year's playoffs.

The top-heavy Eastern Conference

The bottom three spots in the East's playoff picture are still very much up for grabs in the last few days of the season, but to be honest, it doesn't really matter. It is entirely possible that the six, seven and eight seeds in the East will have losing records, which is pretty miserable. It would be absolute shocking if any of them forced an upset in the first round. However, the East's top five teams are very strong.

The Milwaukee Bucks will

definitely go into the playoffs as the East's one seed, which very few people would have predicted at the beginning of the year. A masterful first season from head coach Mike Budenholzer, and an otherworldly performance from MVP candidate Giannis Antetokounmpo have put them in prime position.

The Toronto Raptors also come in to the playoffs with a solid chance to make it to the NBA Finals. Despite superstar Kawhi Leonard playing only 58 games, a breakout performance from forward Pascal Siakam has lead Toronto to an impressive season. Siakam's scoring average is 16.9 points-per-game this season, up from only 7.3 last year.

The Philadelphia 76ers and Boston Celtics both come with question marks on their chances to make it out of the East. Both teams had their fair share of struggles this year, but looking only at raw talent, Boston and Philadelphia might be the two best teams in the conference - and in a game seven, sometimes that's exactly what you need.

The Wild West

The main thing to look for in the West is upsets. All eight playoff teams hold relatively similar records. The Denver Nuggets were the surprise of the year, grabbing the two-seed in the conference behind dazzling passes, and an even more dazzling dad-bod, from center Nikola Jokic. However, with an incredibly inexperienced roster, I could see the weathered and veteran-heavy Oklahoma City Thunder upsetting them in the first round (if that is who they match up against).

Two teams who probably won't get upset in the first round are the Houston Rockets and Golden State Warriors. Houston struggled early in the season but James Harden decided to have one of the greatest offensive seasons of all-time, averaging over 36 points-per-game. We all know about the Warriors and their five superstars. If there is one thing that might sink the Warriors, it would be playing DeMarcus Cousins too much. The offseason addition has struggled to fit in to the Warriors system.

Finals Prediction

Is betting against the Warriors dumb? Yes, but I've never shied away from doing dumb things. Maybe I'm just sick and tired of Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant steamrolling through the playoffs, but I believe that James Harden and the Rockets can be the team to knock them out of their throne this season. They would've done it last year if they hadn't had one of the most statistically improbable meltdowns of all time in game seven of the Western Conference Finals.

I also think Giannis and the Bucks will be the team that comes out of the East to battle the Rockets in the Finals. However, Harden's elite pick-and-roll game and Houston's spacing will pick apart a Milwaukee defense that doesn't switch, forcing starting center Brook Lopez off the floor.

This NBA season was filled with so much excitement that it's only right it ends in that way too. The Houston Rockets will be the 2019 NBA Champions, dethroning the Warriors and beating the Bucks in seven games.



Houston Rockets guard James Harden is leading the NBA in scoring this season. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

MEN'S TENNIS

Flyers' depth proves vital late in the season

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Dayton's men's tennis team is in the midst of a second strong season in a row, currently sitting at 15-6. The Flyers suffered their first Atlantic-10 conference loss to George Mason on Saturday. They immediately bounced back on Sunday, convincingly taking down George Washington. They will need to continue showing this resiliency to improve on the disappointing end to last season.

UD's 2017-18 record was 18-7, but they couldn't capitalize on the successful regular season - bowing out to a weaker VCU squad in the A-10 tournament.

There are several differences in Dayton's rotation from last year, having to replace two key contributors, Zach Berry and Carsten Fisher, who both graduated. One thing that hasn't changed however, is senior Jordan Benjamin.

Benjamin has held down the No. 1 spot in the lineup all season long. He hasn't been able to recreate the dominance of his undefeated 2017-18 season, but the 11-4 singles record he boasts this year is not too shabby either.

The Flyers have also been getting contributions from newcomers to the team. Redshirt senior Langford Hills, who transferred to Dayton from the University of Alabama, has an impressive 12-2 record in

singles matches. Junior Spencer Richey also transferred from the University of Alabama this season and holds a 9-4 singles record. Freshman Joe DeMarco has also been instrumental in UD's success this season. DeMarco has a 14-5 overall record and took home two A-10 Rookie of the Week awards in-a-row early last month.

Early in the season, the Flyers struggled to find consistency at the bottom half of the rotation. They could usually rely on Benjamin, Hills and Richey on courts one, two and three but were not getting enough contributions elsewhere. DeMarco, along with senior Lorenzo Rollhauser and redshirt sophomore Steven Karl, have helped to stabilize Dayton on courts four, five and six. The trio have a combined singles record of 26-17, and while it seemed like depth would be a weakness for UD early in the year, it's turning out to be a strength.

The Flyers have shown solid resiliency throughout the season, but harder tests are still ahead of them. Before the A-10 tournament at the end of the month, UD heads to Kentucky to take on No. 38 University of Kentucky this Friday. Kentucky has a 13-12 overall record this season, and they are way better on their home courts, holding a 7-4 home record.

The A-10 Championship will be held in Orlando, Florida from April 25-28.



Senior Jordan Benjamin has an overall record of 14-9 this season. Photo courtesy of Dayton Athletics.

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