

# The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 24, Issue 1 | August 30, 2020

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## Welcome from the *Free Press*

Ciara O'Brien & Molly Sherman  
Co-Editors-in-Chief

On behalf of the *Free Press* staff, welcome back to The Hill, in any mode you may be experiencing it in this semester. Whether it be from behind a computer screen or a mask, we are excited to see you all! Every year presents new challenges, but this semester in particular introduces quite a few new obstacles. Adjusting to a new normal means navigating new class structures, student life dynamics, socialization restrictions, and public health protocols.

Life amidst a pandemic is new for all of us, but through finding our voices in the media, we can all contribute productively to an evolving world.

We hope you see the *Free Press* as a reflection of your experiences and thoughts during your time on The Hill. If you think of an event or idea you would like to see in the *Free Press*, send us an email. We can add it to our budget of ideas for our reporters to tackle or guide you in your writing process.

Regardless of your experience in journalism, our trained Editorial Staff can guide you as you write your very own article. Just imagine how exciting it would be to see your



Welcome banners hung around campus as students arrive for move-in. (Ciara O'Brien/McDaniel Free Press).

work in our next print edition! We are a student run newspaper always in need of more student voices. Whether you are hoping to contribute one article or many, your voice will be appreciated by our Staff and the campus body as a whole.

Contributing to the *Free Press* is a great opportunity to get involved at McDaniel, whether you are spending the semester at home or on campus.

If you are interested in writing, editing, journalism, or photography, you can gain invaluable, professional experience as a member of our staff. Even if you do not plan on pursuing a career in journalism, joining our staff will present you with opportunities to strengthen workplace skills, exercise your voice, and improve your communication skills. We welcome any and all article ideas, whether it be coverage on

campus, local, national, or even international news. We are also interested in publishing opinion pieces in our commentary section and we are open to a range of article contributions. Please take a look at our website to see what kind of articles we publish.

We value your individual voice and perspective. The *Free Press* is not only a platform to share campus happenings, but also a place where See **WELCOME**, page 7

## The Hilltop Pub opens for the first time since construction began



Harrison House has been converted into upperclassmen housing; Marketing offices were moved to Winslow Hall. (Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press).

Ciara O'Brien  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Aug. 19, the new Hilltop Pub opened for the first time since the renovations of the student center. Although the pub's location remains the same, most of the similarities seem to stop there. "We added new items to the menu but kept the favorites," said Kevin Laster, Resident Director for AVI at McDaniel.

Some of those menu items include healthier options such as smoothies, rice bowls, salads, flatbread, and wraps, and pub classics including quesadillas, burgers, grilled cheese, and chicken tenders.

The pub will now be serving Freshens Fresh Food Studio, which centers around a "healthy 'fresh casual' concept," according to their website. The chain has

450 locations, most of which are located at airports or colleges and universities.

In order to comply with COVID-19 regulations, the pub has implemented several new ways for students to get their food safely, including via mobile ordering, limited seating options, and take-out. "We take safety very serious[ly] and have implemented a vast amount of protocols to keep students as well as team members safe here at McDaniel," Laster said.

AVI is following strict rules for keeping food services safe on campus through the acronym BACK: Begin, Act, Communicate, and Keep Up.

The first step, Begin, states that "one of the first steps in reopening your operation, is thoroughly cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing."

Act means to act with proper training, protocols, and procedures to protect all of the McDaniel community. This entails wearing a proper face covering, washing hands frequently, and completing a daily symptom check to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Communicate is a comprehensive plan to check in with pub team members, clients, and guests alike. Lastly, Keep up with updates and guidelines. "Our COVID-19 Response Team continues to remain

active and vigilant in ensuring we provide the most accurate and up-to-date guidelines, standards and policies to our team members," AVI wrote in their reopening guidelines. The mobile ordering app was experiencing technical difficulties at first, and students were not able to utilize it for the first few days of opening. "We are working through some IT related issues with the app and kiosk but will have it ready soon," Laster said.

If a student would like to order food from the pub using their phone, they should download the "Transact Mobile Ordering" app, select McDaniel College, and begin ordering.

The hilltop pub will be open from 9:30 a.m.-12 a.m. from Monday to Friday, and 6 p.m.-12 a.m. on weekends.

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# Get to know clubs on campus

**Molly Sherman**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

**Best Buddies**  
*Audrey Wixted*

The purpose of this organization is to encourage inclusion in our community for all, but especially the intellectually/developmentally disabled community. We are planning to have virtual movie nights, game nights, DIY craft nights, and a virtual dance party. It is a great way to get involved with the local community. You will meet a diverse group of individuals and form meaningful friendships. By being a part of Best Buddies, you are promoting a safe and inclusive environment. You can get in touch with Best Buddies by emailing Audrey at amw020@mcdaniel.edu.

**Black Student Union**  
*Corin Cole*

The purpose of the Black Student Union is to stimulate African American unity, respect and self-consciousness, promote awareness of local, national and international issues of interest to the African American community, serve as an organizational base from which the concerns, views and needs of African American students can be addressed in the most efficient manner possible, plan and implement artistic, intellectual, and constructive activities and programs of particular interest to African American students, help the McDaniel College community understand the heritage of various Black cultures of the world, and serve as a support system for its members and those who express an interest in the organization's goals. This semester, we are planning to focus on social justice issues and community education along with maintaining the safe space that we have created for Black students. It's great to get involved with BSU because there are many opportunities to get to know other students and to attend events that highlight what it means to be Black and what it means to be an ally. You can reach out via our page on The Arch or email the president directly at crc011@mcdaniel.edu. You do not have to be Black in order to be involved. We are inclusive and welcome all.

**Consent and Sex Education (CASE) Club**  
*Mackenzie Hunt*

The mission of CASE club is to educate the McDaniel community about consent, sex education, healthy relationships, and other social justice-related topics. We also aim to support survivors of sexual assault and relationship violence and make them feel heard on and off campus. While COVID-19 has disrupted how our events normally look, we will continue to host events educating students on consent, STI prevention, birth control methods, healthy relationships, sex education, and how to support survivors of sexual assault and relationship violence.

CASE believes that normalizing conversations on these topics will help McDaniel become a more inclusive and safer community for all of our students. We hope you will join us in the fight against sexual violence on college campuses. Please email our president, Mackenzie Hunt (mrh014), to learn more information and to be added to our future communications about events and meetings. To any survivor at McDaniel: We believe you. We support you. We love you.

**Green Terror Programs (GTP)**  
*Tara Salvati*

GTP strives to provide a diverse range of entertaining events and activities that will appeal to a variety of interests on campus. GTP provides weekly programming events for free to all students. This semester, we are planning to do a lot of fun and safe events for a diverse group of students. This includes themed trivia nights and bingo nights, events to do with friends and by yourself. Getting involved with the organization is a great leadership experience and allows for members to be creative in a safe space! To get in touch, email Tara Salvati (President; trs007), Jenna Warren (Director of Internal Relations; jmw029) or reach out on our social media pages: @gtpmcdaniel (Instagram/Twitter) and GreenTerrorProgramsMcDaniel (Facebook). Our meetings are Mondays at 6pm in Hill 108. Even if you don't want to participate in our organization, we encourage everyone to attend our events because they are free and we love seeing how excited people are for our events.

**Hispano-LatinX Alliance**  
*Elva Joya*

The mission of the Hispano-LatinX Alliance (HLA) is to facilitate a space where students can learn and educate themselves, their family, and the McDaniel community about different Spanish-speaking cultures, engage in traditional experiences, and find an inclusive supportive familia (family). We also strive to serve the local Spanish-speaking population, learn about issues, and work towards solutions concerning the LatinX population and advocate for students of LatinX decent on campus. We provide opportunities for social engagement, leadership, community service, and education. While the club focuses LatinX cultures, all students are welcome! This semester, we are planning to have bi-weekly general board meetings online as well as a variety of virtual and in-person programs. We want to have dance lessons night, loteria (kind of like bingo), cafecito, speakers, and good vibes. Help us do it! Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th- October 15th) is around the corner and we need help planning and executing events! If you are someone who identifies as Latino/a/x, it can be hard trying to find a home or niche without knowing where to start. Since our population on campus is smaller compared to other racial



The Involvement Fair will run from Aug. 24-Sept. 2. (Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press).

and ethnic identities, it feels better knowing that there are people who can understand you on a deeper level. While we all may identify as latino/a/x, there is so much diversity within our community. We need to support and build each other up; we can't do this alone! If you are not someone who identifies as Latino/a/x, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about different people and the beautiful traditions and cultures that we cherish and hold close to our hearts. College is not only about learning in the classroom but learning about different people and cultures that exist within the world and being able to understand where they come from. Understanding is the basis of compassion and through compassion, we have more peace. It is wonderful being an ally! We love to have a good time, laugh, dance, make friends, have fun, and let go of the stress of school. You can get in touch with me by email at eej003@mcdaniel.edu, the HLA e-board by email at hlae-board@mcdaniel.edu or message us through our instagram page @hla\_mcdaniel! We will be having our first zoom meeting on September 2nd from 7-8 pm. DM or Email us for the Zoom Link! We are looking for new ideas, new faces, and new passion! Our club is what we make it. We are here to support you and serve your needs. We want to continue old traditions and make some new ones! We are always receptive to feedback and coming up with new ideas of what to do. Come to one of our meetings and if you don't like the vibe or don't feel like you connect, let me know personally and we can figure it out!

**Jewish Student Union (JSU)**

*Andrew Witten*

The mission of the JSU is to bring together all students Jewish or not, while learning and celebrating the meaning behind Judaism. This semester, the goal is to have as many in-person meetings allowed, given that the proper COVID-19 procedures are followed, with the option of virtual meetings as needed. With this, we will also be working with the Baltimore Federation to get in touch with local Jewish groups that may be in need of some assistance in the area. We are a growing group that is all about sharing what we have learned with those who may have no knowledge of Judaism, or even grew up in a

different Jewish household. This will be done with the goal of creating new friendships and having a good time with good people. We will be having a welcome meeting after the involvement fair has taken place. However, if you are eager to learn more now, you can follow our Instagram, @jsumcdaniel, and shoot us a message, or send an email to myself, Andrew Witten, JSU President, at agw003@mcdaniel.edu. We look forward to continuing our strong growth with the large amount of incoming students who are Jewish and those who are willing to learn and get involved. B'shalom, McDaniel JSU

**McDaniel Student Art League**  
*Kelly Creager*

Our mission is to display and gain recognition for student artists on McDaniel campus. We aim to gain recognition for young artists who don't know where to start in making a name for themselves. This semester we plan on showing off our artists via social media. An "Artist of the Week" will be featured on our Instagram, @sartl\_mcdaniel, where we aim to grow our artists following and fan base. If you are interested in getting your art out there and seen then this club is for you. You do NOT have to be an art major/minor to join. You don't even have to be an artist. If you want to get involved in the community art scene then this is for you. If you are interested, you can email our president, Kelly Creager, at klc024@mcdaniel.edu. We are a new club so we are looking for people who would love to help us start up and get established.

## Fall 2020 Editorial Team

**Ciara O'Brien '22**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

**Molly Sherman '22**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

**Jake Fine '21**  
Assistant Editor



**McDaniel Sunrise Hub***Kylie Baker & Jake Fine*

We aim to bring the national Sunrise Movement to campus and highlight their goals of focusing resources on low income communities, creating jobs in environmentally conscious fields, and pushing for the Green New Deal. This semester, we'll be working on Get Out The Vote, member engagement, teach-ins, electing climate and social justice champions, and holding our current political representatives accountable! Though McDaniel Sunrise is environmentally centered, we focus on all social justice issues. These issues impact all of us in one way or another and it's important for all of us to rise up and take responsibility towards creating a better future. You can get in touch with the movement via @SunriseMcDaniel on Instagram and Twitter and by emailing Kylie and Jake at kab032@mcdaniel.edu and jef004@mcdaniel.edu, respectively. You don't have to be an expert activist, scientist, or politician to join the movement, all you have to do is show up!

**Nippon Ai: Anime Club***Mikey Melvin*

The purpose of our club is to indulge and enjoy anime and

japanese culture. We are planning to attract more members this semester and create more fun events to help spread the wonderful world of anime! Our club is a great way to explore and discover a new world of entertainment, not to mention the friends you can make and bond with through the power of anime. We meet at 8pm on Fridays in Hill hall room 110, feel free to join us! This is a safe space for all genres of anime and all levels of anime interest; from anime pro to first time watchers!

**Palabras to Words***Jessia Avila*

Palabras to Words seeks to support English Language Learners in the McDaniel College and Carroll County community. We work with all English Language Learners, not only, as our name would imply, native Spanish speakers. Our goal is to improve the reading, writing, speaking, communication, and comprehension skills of any individual through one-on-one tutoring. Our Fall 2020 semester will include a variety of events. We are planning to include social events (which will adhere to McDaniel's regulations for safety), a virtual

learning workshop for English tutoring. Our Fall 2020 semester will include a variety of events. We are planning to include social events (which will adhere to McDaniel's regulations for safety), a virtual learning workshop for English Language Learners, a fundraiser, service projects, and a virtual discussion with a distinguished guest speaker via Zoom. If you are passionate about languages, teaching, and helping others reach their individual potential, Palabras to Words provides opportunities to tutor English Language Learners and engage with the campus and Carroll County community! You do not need to speak Spanish or any other language to join Palabras to Words. If tutoring is not a good fit for you, we also offer fundraising and event planning opportunities! If you have any questions or would like to join our organization, you can email: Julia Dunn (President; jkd006), Ada Mejia (Vice President; aem019), or Jessia Avila (Secretary; jma013). Our first meeting of the Fall 2020 semester is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2 at 6:30 PM (EST) through Zoom. If you would like to receive the meeting information, please contact one of the individuals listed above.

**Pre-Health Club***Makayla Patterson*

Our mission is to provide a community for students who are interested in the health fields. This could be pre-med, pre-dental, pre-vet, nursing, PA, PT, all of the above! We want to provide relevant information to students about these professions so that students can have a better understanding of what it takes to go into the health field and what it entails. This semester, we have a few fun events that we would like to run. These include an alumni panel, a CPR class so members can get certified, as well as a few speakers hosted in Zoom Meetings! It is a great community of people who want to help you succeed in your specific field. There are upperclassmen who have taken similar classes and professors and can give you advice on the best routes to take. Plus, our events are very informative (and fun), and we plan to have some amazing speakers this semester. You can email Makayla at map023@mcdaniel.edu to get involved!

## Even with support, isolation and quarantine challenge McDaniel students

**Jake Fine****Assistant Editor**

"I'd do anything to get out of this room," said sophomore Mary Daniel, on day 11 of 14 of her on-campus quarantine in Rouzer hall. Whether facing isolation or quarantine, McDaniel students that are separated from the rest of the community because of COVID-19 are feeling disengaged and alone, despite efforts from the College to ensure students' mental and physical health.

AnnMarie Walker, a sophomore, and the first student removed from campus for isolation, reflected on the process, "It's isolating in a physical sense but also in a mental and emotional sense," said Walker. At 7:30 a.m. during orientation, Walker woke up with a headache and sore throat, which she entered into the Campus Clear app. She was flagged by the app for exhibiting Covid related symptoms. She alerted a college official that she got flagged on the app, and was told to stay in her dorm room.

After a long day of isolating in her dorm room, she got a call around 5 p.m. from the Wellness Center for triage. She was told that she would need to move to the McDaniel wing of the Best Western Westminster Hotel for isolation, and that Campus Safety would be in contact with her about the move.

Walker was anxious during her eight hour wait for a phone call from the Wellness Center, and her anxieties heightened further during the wait for Campus Safety to call her after she was told she'd need to move.

For Walker, packing was an emotional process, full of unknowns about how long she'd have to stay at the Best Western, if she'd be able to drive herself, and the nature of other safety protocols. Instead of using College transportation, Walker was able to drive herself to the Best Western, where she met Campus Safety officers who brought her "a substantial amount of food," including fruits, granola bars, and water bottles.

The next day, Walker was able to drive to the Westminster Agriculture Center, which provided a 24-hour COVID-19 test. In the meantime, she was able to enjoy the luxuries of the hotel room. Walker said, "It was pretty nice, actually [...] I had hot showers, had TV with cable, and there are two double beds in the room,"

For each day Walker was in isolation, she received multiple calls from a Wellness Center counselor, who checked in on Walker's physical, mental, and emotional health. Walker was also able to keep her own morale up by taking walks outside.

After three nights at the Best Western, Walker received a call from the Wellness Center at 9 a.m., alerting her that her COVID-19 test was negative. She received another call shortly after letting her know that she was clear to move out of the Best Western, and Walker was back on campus by 10:30 a.m. that same day.

Despite the isolation and fear that Walker faced, she said of her experience at the Best Western, "Of all the places you could be, it is definitely a good option. I think



Alotted food for quarantined students is delivered all at once at 8:30 a.m.  
(Photo courtesy of Mary Daniel)

if you needed anything the school would bring it to you. With me at least, they were emailing and calling a couple times a day to check in and see if I needed anything at all."

Daniel, on the other hand, has had a much more trying experience. She's been quarantining in her dorm room in Rouzer Hall for 11 days now, with no escape aside from quick trips to the bathroom. Daniel was quarantined after an abrupt call from Dean Towle, saying that Daniel had been in contact with someone who tested positive, and that she may need to be quarantined. Later that day, the need to be quarantined was confirmed by Daniel's boss, one of the Res Life area coordinators.

## "I just feel like I'm missing out on everything."

Towle asked Daniel a variety of protocol-based questions related to how long Daniel was in contact with the positive-testing student,

how long Daniel had her mask off, and if she was feeling any symptoms. Because Daniel had been tested the same day as the student who had tested positive, it was too closed to call. Daniel was told that she needed to be quarantined. The Carroll County Health department contacted Daniel and told her information about when she could be released, as well as other safety protocols.

The wellness center called Daniel every day to check up on symptoms. However, the experience was frustrating for Daniel, for a multitude of reasons.

"I wish they could have tested me again to clear me early. I wouldn't mind taking another test," said Daniel. The college did not test Daniel after she was put into quarantine, and they did not offer to do so.

Additionally, Daniel felt extremely detached from the rest of campus. "It's been really sad because I've just been stuck in the room while all my friends have been outside having fun. I just feel like I'm missing out  
See **ISOLATION**, page 3



# Old Main Bell Ringing Photos

Ciara O'Brien, Co-Editor-in-Chief



Students pose outside of Hill Hall shortly after ringing in.



First-year students wore coordinating "Taking my first steps on The Hill" t-shirts.



A new student rings in as peer mentors cheer in the background.



First year students wait in anticipation to ring in.



Peer mentors cheer as new students ring the Old Main Bell.



A new student joins Provost Julia Jasken to ring in at the Old Main Bell.



Students pose outside of Hill Hall shortly after ringing in.



A new student joins Provost Julia Jasken to ring in at the Old Main Bell.

Follow us on Facebook for the complete album of Orientation photots.



# Summer on The Hill

Jake Fine, Assistant Editor



McDaniel Local students stroll through Red Square on their way to North Village.



Local Leaders spent downtime celebrating the McDaniel hammock culture.



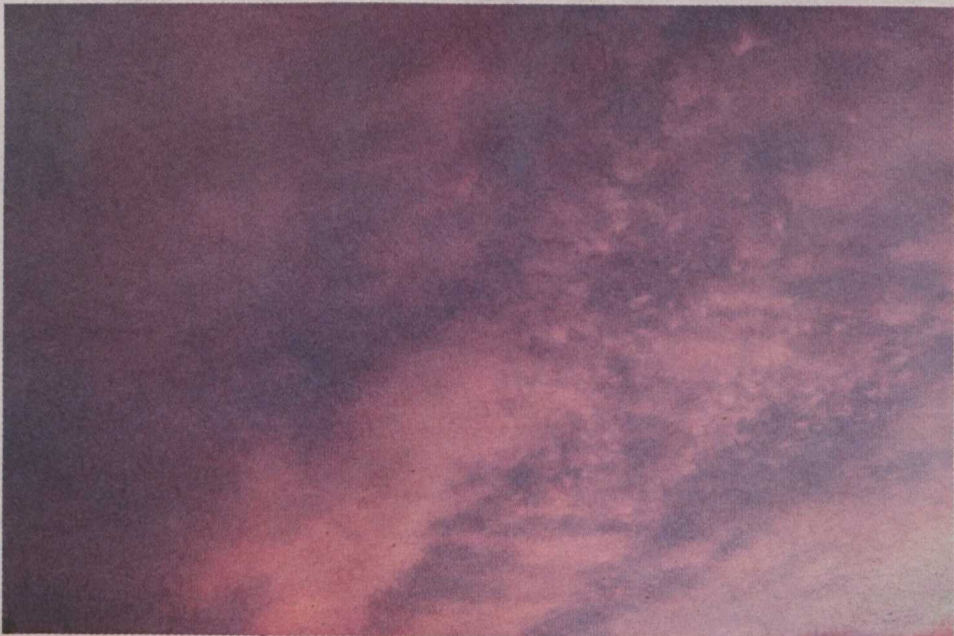
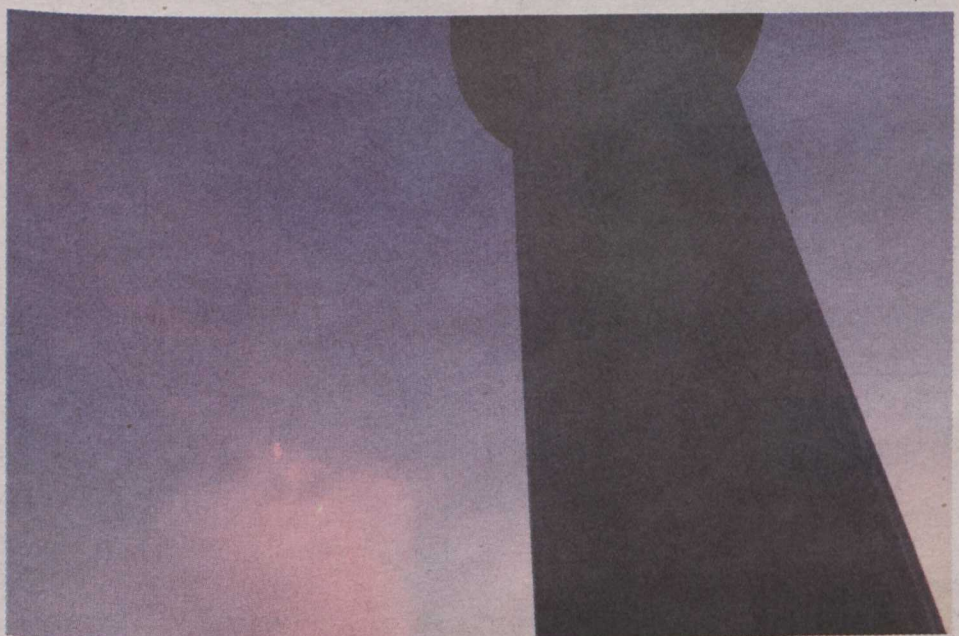
McDaniel Local students spend time journaling after a busy morning of activities.



McDaniel Local students enjoy the bounties of nature on the Hill.



Over the summer, McDaniel skies were illuminated by beautiful sunsets.



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# Sunrise Movement shows up to the gates of MD Governor Larry Hogan's mansion

**Molly Sherman**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Tired-eyed and full of prowess, activists stood outside the gates of Maryland Governor Hogan's mansion, shouting and beating a drum, demanding that he wake up, turn his lights on, and lead Maryland out of a pandemic and storm of injustices.

The Sunrise Baltimore hub organized this action in Annapolis, MD on Friday, August 14th, at 4:30 am. Sunrise is a movement focused on building an army of young people to stop climate change, create millions of good jobs, and stand up against injustices. This action was a part of a nationwide Sunrise Movement set of actions to hold all public servants accountable.

"We're wide awake to the scale of these problems, and the governor and the state legislature need to wake up too," said Sunrise Outreach Team co-leader Laís Ramirez Santoro.

Speakers at the event spoke on their personal experiences as Maryland residents, educators, and students and shared instances of negligence on the part of elected officials.

One speaker pointed out that amidst the COVID-19 crisis,

Governor Hogan has allegedly been spending his time crafting a propagandized book about leading, instead of taking on the responsibilities of leadership through action.

The Maryland legislature has been out of session since March 16, 2020; taking a recess in lieu of passing laws, garnering relief for civilians, and responding to racial injustice.

"Mitch McConnell is on vacation. Chuck Schumer is going on his vacation," said Greg Wilson, the Actions Team Lead of the Baltimore Sunrise Movement, "It is not just Republicans who have failed us. It is not just Republicans who are asleep," he said, addressing the Governor, asleep in his mansion.

The event was attended by masked and socially distanced young people and adults, many of whom voiced their concerns from the position of educators in the Maryland school systems. One motivation for doing so may be the demand for equal protection for public and private schools from the deadly COVID-19 virus.

"Sunrise hubs across the country are staging Wide Awake demonstrations to get the protection and support our politicians should provide," the

Sunrise Baltimore Movement wrote in their Press Release for this event.

Organizers of the event continued to write out their demands in the Press Release addressing the need for holding police officers accountable for their actions, halting evictions so unemployed people are not being put on the streets, and sending every Marylander a mail-in ballot now, ensuring safe and accessible voting for all.

Protections for tenants were initially offered in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Section 4024(b), which prohibited landlords from evicting or charging tenants for the nonpayment of rent. These protections ended on July 25, 2020. Landlords were additionally required to provide 30-days notice before tenants must vacate the property.

As of Aug. 23, 2020, tenants unable to pay their rent due to unemployment or other COVID-19 induced complications were legally evicted from their homes amidst a global pandemic that has only been worsening in the United States since the original relief was initiated, and never renewed.

The McDaniel Sunrise Movement stood in unity with the Baltimore Sunrise Movement at the event, attending in alignment with

the Center for Disease Control COVID-19 safety protocols.

"No justice, no sleep," the attendees chanted, because even in the darkness of 5 a.m., they were wide awake.

**Feeling lost in love, classes, or life?** Write into our anonymous advice column!

One of our staff members, expertly trained in all things life and love, will respond to your anonymous request for advice. Simply enter the website address below into your browser, share your story, and read the response in the next issue of the *Free Press*!

<https://forms.gle/3L4agLdMce-W7aFKQ6>

Glar should be the only thing hurting you this year.

Connect with the Free Press!



@mcdfreepress



Sunrise Movement members protest outside of Governor Hogan's mansion in Annapolis.  
(Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press)



Protestors got loud, singing songs and banging drums at 4:30 in the morning.  
(Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press)



## COVID-19 Campus Tracker

2

Total number of newly confirmed positive COVID-19 cases of our on-campus population over the previous seven days.

5

Total cumulative number of positive COVID-19 cases of our on campus population, since move-in started.

968

Total cumulative number of Wellness Center administered tests, since move-in started.

This information was obtained from the COVID-19 Campus Notification System. It was last updated on Aug. 27, 2020, and will continue to be updated every weekday by 9 a.m. To learn more, please visit the Return to the Hill (RTTH) webpage.

Read more articles at  
[www.mcdanielfreepress.com](http://www.mcdanielfreepress.com).

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Assistant Editor

### JOIN OUR STAFF

The Free Press welcomes all students interested in writing, photography, editing, videography, design, and more!  
No experience necessary.

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email: [freepress@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:freepress@mcdaniel.edu)  
office: Hill Hall 111



## ANW

*Albert Norman Ward Hall*

The upperclassmen dorm building located next to Gill Center.

## Big Baker

*Baker Memorial Chapel*

Also known as BMC, the large church that is in front of the fountain.

## Blackboard

An “online classroom” website where your professors can give assignments and upload grades; it is important to check this often.

## Budapest

McDaniel’s sister campus is in Budapest, Hungary.

## Caboose

The caboose by the football field is a reminder of the Western Maryland Railroad which McDaniel was originally named after.

## Campo

*Department of Campus Safety*

Located across the street from Gardens Apartments.

## Caseys’ Corner

The Starbucks coffee shop located in Hoover Library.

## CEO

*The Center of Experience and Opportunity*

Located around the corner from the dining hall, they can help you write a resume, decide your major, or any number of other professional things.

## Contrast

A literary magazine on campus that takes student submissions and is released every spring.

## DMC

*Daniel Maclea Hall*

A mixed-year Honors Program residence hall located across the parking area from Rouzer.

## First Stop

Located on the second floor of the library, First Stop is an office designed to help first-year McDaniel students with anything they need to have a successful first year.

## Free Press

The best publication on campus, but we aren’t biased or anything.

## Funion

The satirical issue of the *Free Press* released each April Fool’s Day.

## FYS

*First Year Seminar*

A course required for each first-year student as part of the McDaniel Plan.

## Gardens

The apartments down the steps from the Rouzer parking lot, across the street from Campus Safety.

## Gill

The gymnasium complex.

## Glar

*Englar Dining Hall*

The dining hall on campus, located in Decker College Center.

# McDictionary

Ciara O’Brien

Co-Editor-in-Chief

## Glarsgiving

A festive feast hosted every year in Glar, typically right before Thanksgiving break

## Gleggs

Glar’s notorious scrambled eggs.

## Green Terror

McDaniel’s mascot.

## Herbie Hoover:

Hoover Library’s mascot.

## The Hill

A nickname for McDaniel, as well as the name of the alumni magazine.

## Hoover

The library, which is located across from Hill Hall.

## ILL

*Interlibrary Loan*

A way in which students can borrow books, articles, and magazine from other schools through the Hoover Library website.

## Jan Term

January Term, a three-week term between the fall and spring semesters, and a requirement of the McDaniel Plan. Many students use this opportunity to study abroad.

## Klitzberg Pavilion

An area just inside Gill where students can chat, do homework, and hang out.

## Little Baker

*Baker Chapel*

Located in between the theater and Peterson Hall.

## McDaniel Compliments

A Facebook page where the McDaniel community can anonymously post compliments for their peers and classmates.

## McSwagger

A term coined by President Casey, used often during important speeches.

## Meal Exchange

Each meal plan comes with a certain number of “meal exchanges” which you can use at the pub or Casey’s Corner. These do not come out of your standard dining hall swipes, but are a separate tally.

## Memorial Bell

The bell in Red Square, used to “ring in” during New Student Orientation and “ring out” after graduation.

## North Village

An apartment complex located beyond the gym.

## ODEI

*Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

Located beneath Rouzer, this office coordinates events and programs and works with multicultural student organizations.

## 1Card

Your ID card, which is used to swipe into Glar, check out books, and at various vendors on and off campus.

## OSE

*The Office of Student Engagement*

Located beneath Rouzer, this office aids student organizations and Greek-lettered organizations, and hosts events.

## PA Ave.

*Pennsylvania Avenue*

A street bordering the far side of campus where many student houses are located.

## Pub

Another dining option located in the newly renovated student center that serves everything from rice bowls to grilled cheese. Check out our article about the pub on the first page!

## Red Square

*Memorial Plaza*

The gathering space between the library and Hill Hall.

## Roger Casey

The current president of the College. His house is across from the theater.

## Rouzer

The first-year residence hall located next to/attached to Roj College Center.

## Roj

Roj Student Center, formally known as Decker Student Center, is a spot for students to relax, study, or grab a quick bite to eat from the pub between classes.

## SASS

*Student Academic Support Services*

An office located in Merritt Hall that provides aid to students with documented disabilities.

## Spring Fling

A celebration during the spring semester with inflatables, food, tie-dye, and other fun activities.

## WMC

*Western Maryland College*

The former name of the College until 2002.

## Whiteford

One of the first-year residence halls, located behind Hill Hall.

## ISOLATION *from page 3*

on everything,” said Daniel.

Walker felt similarly detached at the Best Western. “It was very strange being separated from campus. It was during move in and orientation and I was supposed to be meeting my mentees, but I was happy to have friends to FaceTime, text, and I was talking to my parents. It was very weird not being on campus when things were happening,” said Walker.

Both Walker and Daniel faced serious issues with the food, which was supplied by Glar. All of the isolated or quarantined student’s meals for the entire day are delivered in the morning, around 8:30 a.m.. “Normal Glar isn’t the best, Glar reheated is worse,” said Walker.

“They send out a multiple choice survey for what you want and it’s pretty much the same thing every day,” said Walker. “It’s so bad,” said Daniel. “They give us everything we pass over in Glar. I can’t eat the food [...] I haven’t had real food in almost two weeks.”

Daniel also shared interest in more virtual activities. “I wish the school had more virtual stuff that people in quarantine would be able to do. Having activities to keep us connected to society would help, because I feel so disconnected.”

Both Walker and Daniel shared their concerns with administrators.

With the threat of COVID-19 looming over students’ heads, there are many factors that motivate students to act safely and responsibly. While it’s clear that respect for each others’ health is motivating for many community members, the challenges of quarantine and isolation both serve as strong warnings to engage in safe behavior.

## WELCOME *from page 1*

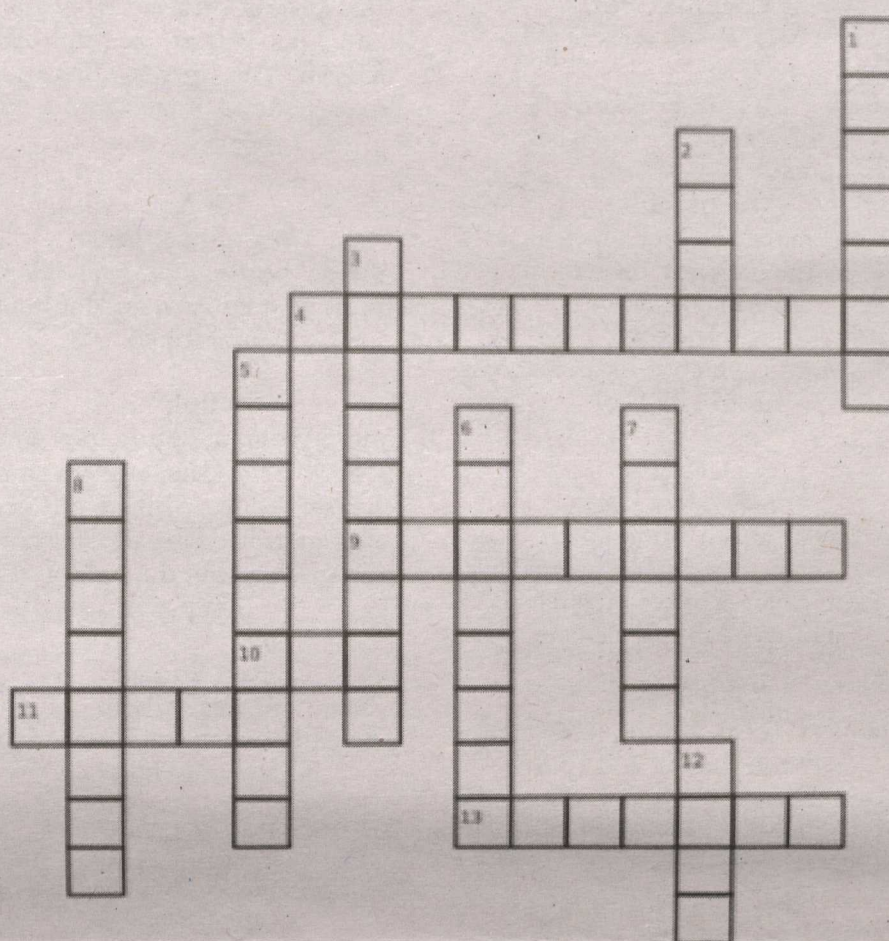
you can share your ideas to enhance the campus.

The greatest stories are told from the people best positioned to tell them, so, come write for the *Free Press*, and share your story, idea, or event, with everyone on the Hill.

If you are interested in submitting an article idea or joining the *Free Press* Staff, send an email to [freepress@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:freepress@mcdaniel.edu) or reach out on instagram, twitter, or facebook @mcdfreepress.



# Put your McDictionary knowledge to the test!



## Down:

1. The three-week term between the fall and spring semesters which many students use to study abroad
2. Shorthand for Englar Dining Hall
3. McDaniel's student-run newspaper (and what you're reading right now)
5. The first-year residence hall located behind Hill Hall
6. Where McDaniel's sister campus is located
7. The first-year residence hall attached to Roj College Center
8. Also known as BMC, the large church in front of the fountain
12. The gymnasium complex

## Across:

4. McDaniel's mascot
9. The gathering space between the library and Hill Hall, formally known as Memorial Plaza
10. A course required for each first year student as part of the McDaniel Plan
11. Shorthand for the Department of Campus Safety. Located across the street from Gardens Apartments
13. A nickname for McDaniel

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# The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 24, Issue 2 | September 23, 2020

INSIDE: RBG Tribute (pg. 3)

| Failing Administration (pg. 5)

| Adjusting to Pandemic Life (pg. 9)

## McDaniel announces upcoming plans: a bright future for January term, spring semester, and more

Rachel Allen

Contributor

Max Engle

Contributor

The Return to the Hill Committee (RTTH) announced plans for January Term and the Spring Semester. With Covid-19 affecting millions of people, McDaniel has been taking many precautions to ensure safety of staff and students this year. This has allowed a smooth fall semester for staff and any students that chose to take hybrid classes or live on campus. In an effort to maintain this level of safety and function in the spring, McDaniel has altered their Jan Term and Spring dates.

RTTH explained because of the likelihood of another COVID-19 spike in the winter months, all Jan term classes will be held online either synchronously or



Tests are administered outside of Hoover Library (Rachel Allen/McDaniel Free Press).

asynchronously and there will be no residency offered on campus.

All courses that require travel, both domestically and internationally have been canceled. Students may receive credit for in-person internships if the health and safety protocols of the external sites have been approved by the college in advance. Registration for Jan term

classes will begin September 21. Residence halls and Englar Dining Hall will close on Wednesday, November 25 at noon. When moving out for winter break, students will no longer be required to move all personal belongings out of their dorm; which was a previous requirement at the beginning of the year. There will be

more information about the Spring move in process coming soon. Once spring semester begins, McDaniel will be taking extra steps to ensure the safety of its students and faculties. This includes delaying the start of the Spring semester to February 1 in order to reduce class scheduling during flu season. *Continued on page 2*

## Radical group “Hugs Over Masks” spreads lies and COVID-19 in Westminster



Participants gather at the Westminster Community Pond (Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press).

Molly Sherman  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Every Saturday, Carroll County locals gather at the Westminster Community Pond to champion scientific illiteracy under the guise of the organization Hugs Over Masks.

Dr. Kate Dobson, a rhetoric professor who studies how groups use persuasive language to describe their actions, described the gathering as “a likely super spreader event - spreading falsehoods as well as risk of additional COVID

contagion.”

Hugs Over Masks claims to be leading a “truth education campaign,” committed to unraveling the medical consensus perpetuated in public health organizations’ advisories and enforced through law enforcement.

Attendees sit, playing music and chatting while offering pamphlets to the curious passerby, containing information attesting to the health risks associated with wearing masks and the violations of personal liberties.

The provided pamphlet claims wearing a mask increases respiratory infections, citing a study published by the National Institute of Health. The study did a comparison of cloth and medical masks. In the pamphlet they created, Hugs Over Masks claims that “wearing a cloth mask significantly increases the risk of flu-like illness.”

Their reference to the research does not account for the comparison-based nature of the study that regards the effectiveness of different mask types. The text that loosely mirrors what the pamphlet cited it for states that cloth masks were simply less effective than medical masks in reducing the rate of respiratory infection. It did not conclude that masks were responsible for infection transmission and in fact just made a recommendation to use medical masks over cloth ones.

It seems that cherry picking scientific information and interpreting it into a context that supports their views is at the basis of Hugs Over Masks propaganda. The organization claims to provide the truth by isolating information that reinforces their position. Intermixed with misrepresentations of published studies were legitimate concerns about the proper balance of health protections and personal liberties. The intended purpose behind the formation of Hugs Over Masks is to pursue the restoration

of civil liberties, democracy, and ‘way of life,’ as noted on their website.

The pamphlet continues this pursuit, broadly stating that mask usage causes stress, anxiety, stigma, marginalization, and higher suicide rates as some of the negative consequences of COVID-19 interventions. This information seems to correlate mental well-being, amidst widespread economic devastation and hundreds of thousands of Americans dying, with wearing face coverings. They write that mask usage promotes bullying of those not wearing masks and impairs social development, as children cannot see facial expressions. While this may be truthful, what may deepen their concerns surrounding social well-being and development is the high-risk nature of attending schools resulting from anti-maskers refusing to do their part to bolster public health. It is difficult for children to socialize and develop when attending school is life threatening due to the inability of selfish individuals to adequately comply. See **MASKS**, page 11





# Psychological warfare threatens democracy

Daniel Ocampo  
Contributor

As the 2020 presidential elections are just around the corner, it is important to be skeptical and informed about the news we see so one can make an informed and conscience decision.

The 2016 presidential elections have proven just how influential social media consumption can be in regards to who people vote for. Cambridge Analytica, a British political consulting firm, assisted the Trump Campaign through targeted advertising. Christopher Wylie, a whistleblower who brought this scandal into public knowledge described this as “psychological warfare.”

Before being approached by the Trump Campaign, Cambridge Analytica assisted the Vote Leave Campaign, the ultimate winner of the 2016 Brexit referendum: a vote that decided that the U.K. will leave and be separated from the European Union (EU).

Cambridge Analytica was also approached by Ted Cruz’s Campaign for a short period of time, which ultimately led Ted Cruz to go from one of the least popular republican candidates to a direct competitor for the republican presidential candidate alongside Donald Trump.

The Trump Campaign then contacted Cambridge Analytica, and with their help, they were able to ultimately win over Hilary Clinton’s campaign. Now the question arises: how exactly did Cambridge Analytica achieve victories across multiple different instances? Cambridge Analytica specializes in data analysis and strategic communication. They were successfully able to analyze specific data on the public’s demographics and psychographics and create specific strategies to tailor specific advertisements to the public. Cambridge Analytica was able to obtain a large portion of its data through the big social

media conglomerate, Facebook. Cambridge Analytica not only used user data that was leaked but was also collecting data on people who use Facebook. This could include multiple different strategies, such as that random post that has a link to a quiz and tells you “The True Meaning of your Name” or “Which Disney Character Are You Based on Your Facebook Profile?”, and all of us are guilty of taking these kinds of quizzes at some point in our life. Cambridge Analytica would collect data from the methods mentioned that would reveal which political party they support, your location, and the likeliness they would change their views. All that data would reveal very detailed information about nearly every Facebook user in the United States.

As for their strategic communication, Cambridge Analytica was, at the same time, leading Trump’s Advertising Campaign. They were able to present this data to specifically target advertisements to people of certain demographics and psychographics.

An example of this is how Cambridge Analytica would target advertisements promoting Donald Trump and trying to intensively highlight Hillary Clinton’s flaws and corruption. This was specifically targeted to Facebook users who live in counties of swing states.

This was all done to turn those states red instead of blue for when voting came around. This is only one example of how Cambridge Analytica was able to use that data and present it through Facebook. But how do we know all of this? Christopher Wylie became a key figure as to how this information came to light about the Cambridge Analytica scandal. He had served as their Director of Research in 2013 and 2014, and ultimately became known as the whistleblower in this scandal for coming out to various news outlets about what Cambridge Analytica is doing, and how he contributed to the outcomes. Wylie outed himself by telling The Guardian that he ended up creating this “psychological warfare mindfuck tool.”

He also revealed that “The Company has created psychological profiles of 230 million Americans,” which only goes to show how truly powerful Cambridge Analytica was in obtaining the data and thoroughly

analyzing it. Christopher Wylie went on to testify under U.S. and U.K. courts regarding Cambridge Analytica and stuck true to his intentions to reveal Cambridge Analytica’s manipulative strategies. So what does this mean for the 2020 Presidential Elections? The outcome of this scandal resulted in Cambridge Analytica declaring bankruptcy and ceased operations on May 1st, 2018. Facebook implemented different changes to advertising and how it can be used through their website as a result of this scandal coming out, while also being fined \$643,000 to the U.K., and a hefty \$5 billion fine from the Federal Trade Commission. This was good news then, but what about now? There are multiple companies collecting data on us every second we are on social media, that was never up for debate. Our right to privacy has slowly diminished since the dawn of the 21st century. This is why we may see advertisements specifically tailored to something you talked out loud with friends, or how you are being suggested movies tailored to your specific interests. It is information like this that we need to be wary of, and how companies are using your specific data.

For example, if you email Spotify and ask them for the data they have collected on your profile, they have details on what times (to the millisecond) you press the pause button, on all of your played songs since the creation of your account, which songs have you skipped through, all the times you have

logged in or out of your account, and so much more.

Data collection is inevitable nowadays if we want to have any access to social media, or anything that has an online presence. There is only so much one person can do to limit the amount of data that is being collected on them. The difference will be in how skeptical and how far we seek to find the truth.

Cambridge Analytica used the fact that most of their targeted audience was not fact checking everything they read on the internet, allowing the spread of misinformation about Hillary Clinton, and further spreading their political agenda. As the 2020 Presidential Elections come fairly quickly, there are multiple issues causing public outrage from both ends of the political spectrum, it is up to every individual to make out of what is true from what is being posted on the internet. Whether it means fact-checking news outlets, newspaper articles, social media posts, and even this publication itself, it is critical for us to know how easy it is to tailor specific ads and spread a specific political agenda through that medium.

As Christopher Wylie once stated among the U.K. courts, “If we allow cheating in our democratic process ... What about next time? What about the time after that? This is a breach of the law. This is cheating,”



2016 election events beckon voters to resist voting pitfalls (Image courtesy of Pixabay).

## McDaniel Plans for Spring Semester cont.

This also includes removing days set aside for spring break, in an effort to reduce off campus travel. A full Spring semester schedule is available on McDaniel’s website. One of the biggest changes to the Spring semester is the return to the typical semester class style, removing the 7-week class schedule that the Fall semester is currently under. The classes offered in the Spring will also be offered either virtually, traditionally, or in a hybrid fashion, similar to the classes in the Spring semester. Students who are staying at home will have the option to stay home in the Spring, however the college has not announced anything about previously online students moving back onto campus.

The college also announced that it will not be sending students abroad, specifically to the McDaniel Budapest satellite campus. The campus is looking to send students internationally as soon as they deem it is safe to do so. The RTTH committee has also advised that students returning to campus in February will need to have documentation proving that they have gotten a flu shot before February 2, 2021, and students should come back to campus with a negative COVID-19 test done during the winter break. The committee did not announce if they planned on holding another school-wide testing move-in, similar to that during August.

Flu shots will begin being administered in the Kiltzberg pavilion on the following dates: Tuesday September 22, Wednesday October 7, Wednesday October 21 and Thursday November 12. The college advises that students take advantage of this opportunity before the end of the Fall semester, to prepare for a healthy return to campus in February. As the RTTH committee announced, any and all announcements and decisions are subject to change in the coming months, so it is important to remember to stay safe and stay informed about the college’s decisions, as well as any developments outside of the college that may impact our return to the hill in February.

### Fall 2020 Editorial Team

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# A tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsburg

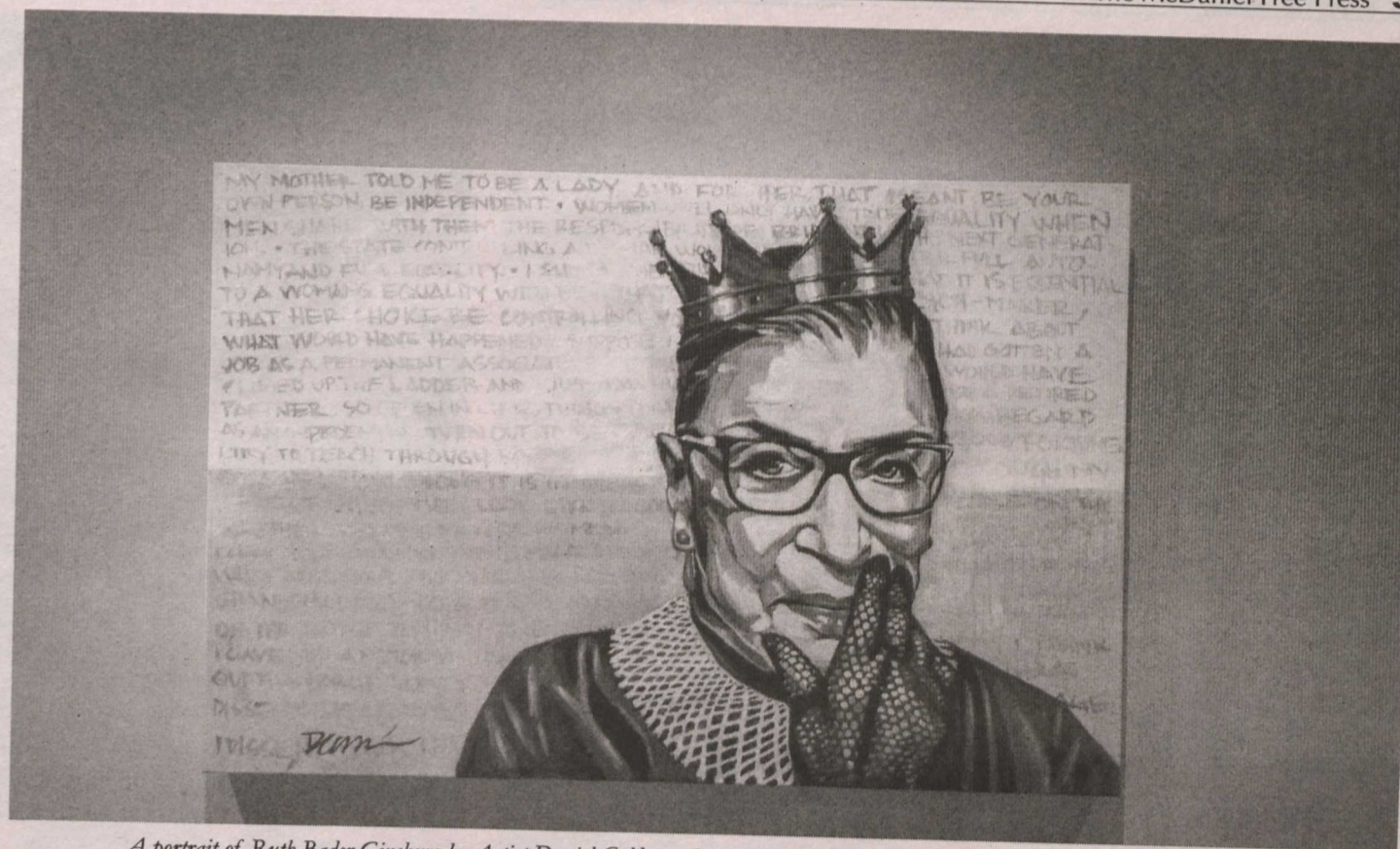
Ciara O'Brien  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Last week, we mourned the loss of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She was known to many as a champion of women's rights, and she delivered progressive votes on many important social issues today, including abortion rights, same-sex marriage, voting rights, immigration, health care, and affirmative action. She was the second woman ever to serve on the Supreme Court.

As she battled an increasingly conservative bench, and four rounds of cancer, critics called for her to retire. "I have often said I would remain a member of the Court as long as I can do the job full steam. I remain fully able to do that," she responded earlier this year when her cancer returned for the fifth time. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, born Joan Ruth Bader, was born on March 15, 1933 in Brooklyn, New York. She thrived in school even from a young age and was heavily involved in extracurricular activities. She was an editor of her high school paper, The Highway Herald.

After high school, she attended Cornell University on a full scholarship. Soon upon arrival, she met her future husband, Martin Ginsburg. They got married in 1954 shortly after her graduation and remained married for 56 wonderful years until he passed away in 2010. She went on to attend Harvard Law School, all while taking care of her young daughter, Jane, and husband, Martin, who had just been diagnosed with testicular cancer. She completed her education at Columbia Law School and graduated at the top of her class in 1959.

Despite her excellent grades, Ginsburg could not find a job as a



A portrait of Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Artist Daniel Calderon, Latex on Canvas (Photo courtesy of Flickr user Todd)

lawyer after graduation. "I had three strikes against me," she recounted in an interview with CBS Sunday Morning. "One, I was Jewish. Two, I was a woman. But the killer was I was a mother of a four-year-old child."

She eventually became a tenured professor at Rutgers and pursued interests in issues of gender equality. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed Ginsburg to the U.S. Court of appeals for the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C. On June 14, 1993, President Bill Clinton announced Ginsburg's nomination to the Supreme Court. She was confirmed on Aug. 3.

Standing at 5'1" and weighing just about 100 lbs., Ginsburg's presence still towered on the bench. Ginsburg authored the court's opinion in the 1996 landmark case United States v. Virginia, only three short years into her tenure. The ruling allowed women to gain admission to the Virginia Military Institute, which was historically all-male. In her

scathing opinion, Ginsburg wrote, "generalizations about 'the way women are,' estimates of what is appropriate for most women, no longer justify denying opportunity to women whose talents and capacity place them outside the average description."

As much as she will be remembered for her majority votes, she is also iconic for her powerful dissents in cases such as Shelby County v. Holder. The voting rights case rolled back the 1965 Voting Rights Act's protections and allowed states to change their voting procedures without any further supervision. "Throwing out preclearance when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory changes is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet," Ginsburg famously wrote.

She died on Sept. 18 of metastatic pancreatic cancer at the age of 87. She will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery alongside her

husband. RBG will be the first woman to lie in repose at the Supreme Court and inside the Capitol.

Ginsburg told her granddaughter, Clara Spera, that she wants her replacement to be chosen after the election. "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed," Ginsburg told Spera a few days before her death.

This terrible tragedy sheds light on the importance of your vote in the upcoming election. We should not have to mourn the loss of an icon and democracy as a whole at the same time. Our beloved "Notorious RBG" is gone, and we will miss her dearly. Now is our time to take action and honor her legacy by fighting for the rights that Ruth Bader Ginsburg spent her entire career striving towards.

## Book review: Beetle and the Hollowbones

Sophia Gilbert  
Contributor

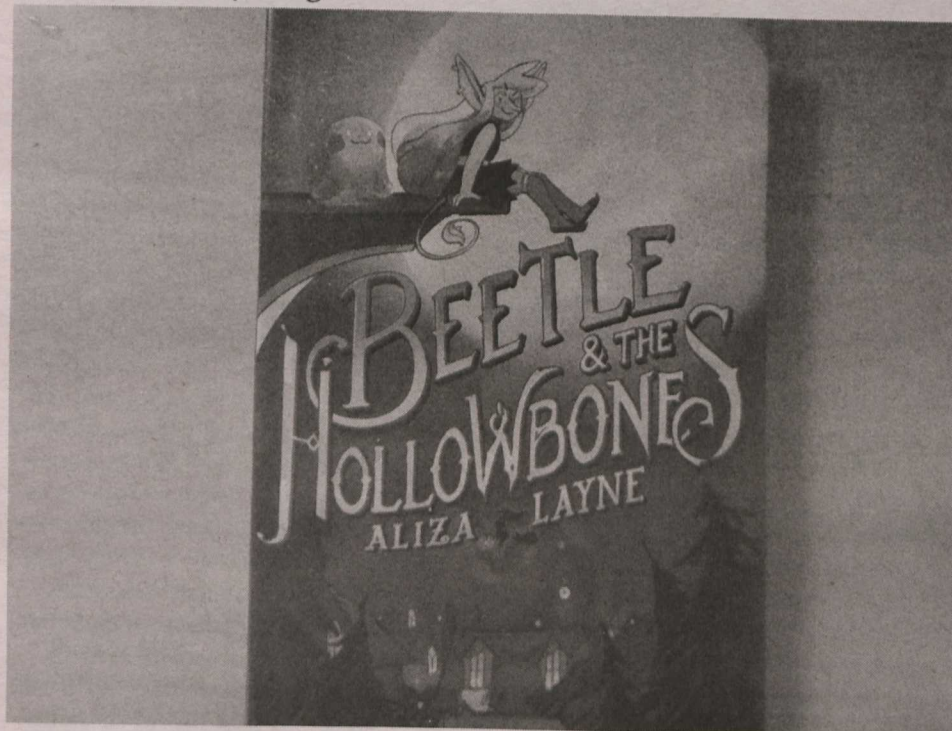
Beetle and the Hollowbones by Aliza Layne follows the adventures of aspiring goblin-witch Beetle and her best friend, Blob Ghost, as they try to solve the mystery of why Blob Ghost is unable to leave the mall grounds. Further complicating things, Beetle's childhood best friend Kat Hollowbone has returned to town and Beetle's feelings about that are all over the place. After all, Kat is now a beautiful, powerful witch who doesn't really seem to need Beetle around anymore. Or at least, that's what Beetle thinks. Throw in an evil scheme from Kat's new mentor and Beetle's rising magical powers and you have a story you won't want to put down.

I was super excited to read this one, and it didn't disappoint. The graphic novel is illustrated beautifully with a wonderfully spooky Halloween vibe tied in. The colors are rich and vibrant, and the orange and purple color scheme works well to set the atmosphere. Though targeted towards a younger audience, if you like graphic novels, Halloween, and

LGBT+ representation, then you'll love Beetle and the Hollowbones. If there's anything critical to be said, it would be that a few frames of the novel were hard to follow, but not to the point that it drastically took away from the plot. I loved the adorable romance between Kat and Beetle and how the story depicted some harder topics like having to stand up to family members and navigating changing friendships. In addition, Blob Ghost is such an adorable character that I too would like to spend an afternoon exploring the mall with them.

All said, Beetle and the Hollowbones was a genuinely fun, heartwarming story that allowed me to escape into its world of magic for an afternoon, which in my opinion makes it well worth the read. Favorite Quote: "Each day we wake up and we make a choice: to give up or to do our best and hope it comes out right."

Beetle and the Hollowbones is Aliza Layne's first novel, though she is also the creator of the long-running webcomic Demon Street. Beetle and the Hollowbones was released through Simon and Schuster



Author Aliza Layne created the cover art for her book (Sophia Gilbert/ McDaniel Free Press).

publishing on August 4, 2020 and can be purchased here. You can also visit Aliza's page here if you'd like to see behind the scenes of Beetle or check out Aliza's webcomics.

Do you have a new book or novel you'd like me to review next? Feel free to drop a suggestion via email at [freepress@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:freepress@mcdaniel.edu) or message the Free Press Instagram page @mcdfreepress.





# The plastic pandemic

**Shannon Musolf**  
Contributor

Amidst a time of uncertainty and fear due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, environmental awareness has taken a back seat. While focusing on our human contact, possible symptoms, and social distancing, we have forgotten another large issue: single-use plastics and pollution. Since everyone's health and safety has taken even more priority in the past eight months, humans have had to adjust and take more precautions than ever. Latex gloves, disposable masks, plastic take out boxes, personal protective equipment (PPE) such as plastic gowns, and single-use plastic silverware are all a much larger part of our every day lives now.

According to IPS News, "the United States is projected to generate an entire year's worth of medical waste in just two months."

Aside from some of the obvious non-environmentally friendly aspects of the pandemic, there are more things going on that you may not know about. Due to social distancing, many facilities are not able to operate at full capacity which therefore slows down production. This means that places like waste management facilities are unable to take in and process the amount of waste being sent in, which is even more than normal because of the

abundance of single-use plastics being used.

These plastics are ending up in oceans, fields, and forests. Other facilities or companies that would normally monitor illegal activity are also unable to do so. Deforestation, illegal mining, and poaching are all able to fly under the radar more than ever in places such as Africa, the Galapagos, and the Amazon Rainforest.

Along with this, COVID-19 has taken priority over environmental policy action, so it is up to us as humans to take personal responsibility and action.

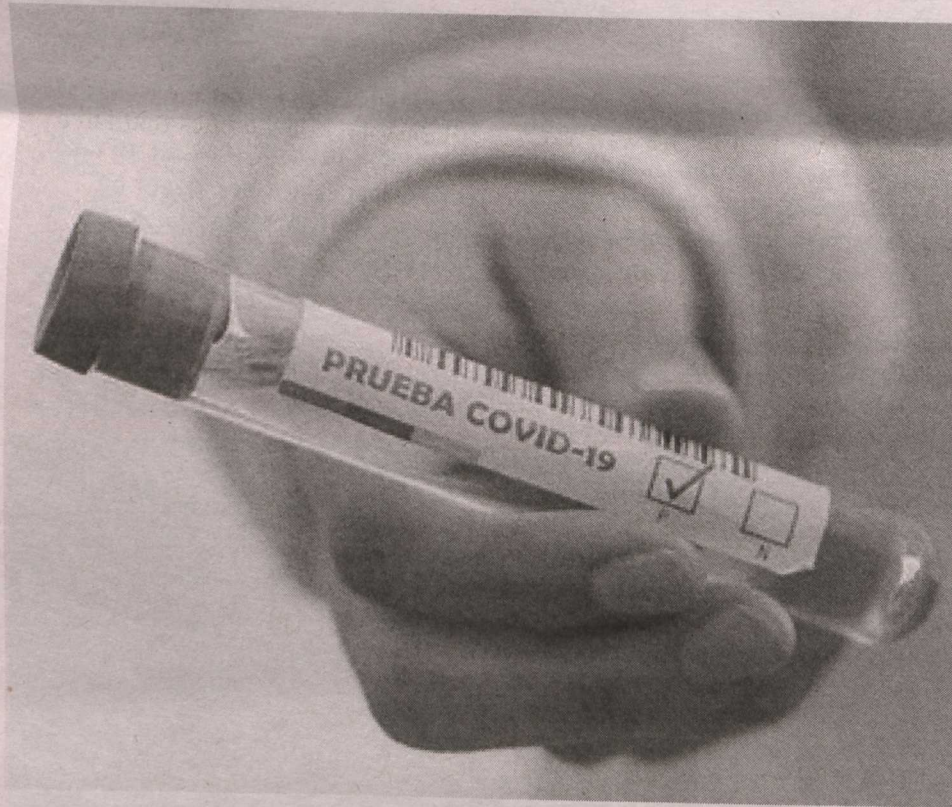
Now, you may be wondering what you can do as a student at McDaniel College to help this cause. Plastic can take up to 500 years to biodegrade as it is petroleum based, so any instance where you can replace a single-use plastic is a great place to start. First and foremost, you can invest in a few reusable items that you can implement in your life. Single-use plastic face masks are made of polypropylene, a plastic that is particularly hard to biodegrade. Amazon, Old Navy, Target, and Walmart are all easily accessible places that you can buy cheap, reusable masks that can be washed and worn over and over. Another easy replacement would be to bring a reusable shopping bag with a set of reusable plastic or



Single-use containers fill McDaniel trashcan (Shannon Musolf / McDaniel Free Press).

metal utensils when you go to eat at Glar. You can wipe them off when you are done and then take them back to your room and clean them off to use them again. Although many of the water fountains on campus have been closed off for sanitation and safety reasons, try taking your reusable water bottle to one of the water bottle refill stations located in Gill Center, outside of Glar, or Hoover library to reduce the use of plastic water bottles. These tasks may seem small, but

with the help of everyone on campus, we can do our part to reduce the use of single-use plastics and help keep the environment clean, all while still prioritizing our health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic!



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay user fernandozhiminaicela)

## McDaniel's low test numbers: too good to be true?

**Max Engle**  
Contributor

Approaching the sixth week of students living on campus in this unprecedented semester, the college has successfully maintained a low number of positive COVID-19 cases on campus. Over the last month of testing, McDaniel College's campus has only seen a total of ten positive cases with over 1,500 administered tests. Although not perfect, these results are almost as close to it as one can get, given the situation of other Maryland Institutions. Towson University pivoted to remote learning as of Aug. 26th, only a week or so into the hybrid semester for both schools. Towson University's decision to go online

was a shock to McDaniel students, staff, and faculty, given how close Towson's campus is to McDaniel's. Towson has administered over 13,600 tests over the past 3 months and has had a total of 448 positive results since (a positivity rate of 0.033%).

McDaniel has shown more successful test results than Towson as McDaniel's positive case rate continues to steeply decline with each week. With over 1,500 administered tests, McDaniel's current positivity test rate is a staggering 0.006% (as of September 17th, 2020), meaning that for every 1000 tests McDaniel administers, only six come back positive, which is a significantly less rate compared to

Towson University.

Where McDaniel College and Towson University differ is in two major areas: McDaniel College is significantly smaller than that of Towson, by almost a difference of 13,000 students. However large the difference, the rate variances may be due to how each institution responded to and worked with state and nationwide COVID-19 relief policies.

Towson followed the bare minimum of the recommended guidelines, such as mask mandates, sanitation procedures, physical distancing, and self-screening.

McDaniel is unique in their response by including not only a strict no-guest policy but also enacting strict statutes against students who disobey state mandates and on-campus policies.

Are these extra precautions the cause for a huge difference in positivity rates on campus? Perhaps the rules that McDaniel has put in place for students living on campus are truly promoting a positive and safe environment for students on campus. That is, of course, if the rules are being respected.

As a student at McDaniel, it is easy to see on campus, in our housing, and on social media, that not only are guest policies not being abided by, but mask mandates and social distancing seems to be difficult to follow for students on campus as well. Signage is posted for outdoor furniture to not be moved—and yet, it is moved. Designated outdoor eating areas are assigned, and yet dozens of students can be found in the new Roj Center every night, eating and talking without masks and without physical distancing. Not only are mask mandates being loosely followed, but the unique guest policy that McDaniel has had its shortcomings as well; students who follow these rules are still in contact with a significant number of

students who do not follow the no guest policy under the radar, despite the harsh statutes the campus has placed in consequence to breaking said rules. The students who do not respect the college's wishes do so with the idea that all guests and themselves are asymptomatic and therefore free of any restrictions. So where is the disparity in McDaniel's low numbers and green-level status compared to the student body following the restrictions to a bare minimum? The CDC suggests that the issue may lie in the testing itself. As stated by the CDC on their testing webpage, the biggest cause of positive cases testing negative is the mishandling of samples when they are taken. McDaniel faculty and grad assistants follow as many guidelines as they can when administering the self-swabbing, or anterior, tests. Whenever the swabs are enclosed, they are placed into an open cooler to be sent to Quest Diagnostics.

The CDC recommends that each sample be kept immediately cool, at around two to eight degrees Celsius, for up to 72 hours after collection. Any delay in testing requires testing specimens to be stored at negative seventy degrees Celsius or below. Although McDaniel College does utilize a cooler when obtaining the swabs, this cooler lays open, in the sun, until filled. Perhaps the school takes care of the administered tests once the cooler is filled and properly stores them but that does not take away from the fact that most if not all tests taken by staff, faculty, and students are placed in what seems to be insufficient storage containers. This would explain the differences in the data the school receives and posts on the Return to the Hill page and the actual practice of social distancing, mask mandates, and no guest policies that every student can see on campus.

See **TESTING**, page 9



# Failing us: our administration's climate destruction complicity

**Jake Fine**  
Assistant Editor

When it comes to stopping McDaniel's contributions to the climate crisis through meaningful and timely change, our administration has utterly failed us. Just as we know that climate change has been a problem since at least as early as the 1970s, we've known that institutions like corporations and universities are disproportionately at fault for climate destruction. Although McDaniel is a small school, we are still at fault for our share in climate devastation. Our leaders have failed to own up to their share of that responsibility, and our community members have noticed. We need McDaniel's leaders to do better.

Young people in our country can see through the bureaucratic language and empty symbolic gestures of failing leadership from a mile away, because we've grown up with it all around us. The time where we'll tolerate excuses for inaction is long gone.

We do not just mean inaction when it comes to carbon emissions, recycling, or sustainability efforts, although our College fails on all three of those fronts. We mean inaction in the form of social and economic injustice, as well. Young people recognize that environmental justice is intersectional and that in order for it to be effective, McDaniel must pursue all forms of justice. Right now, it seems as if the urgency of the climate crisis on campus is only understood by students, faculty, and some staff. We have change makers amongst engaged student organizations such as Sunrise McDaniel and Green Life, a dedicated Environmental Studies department bolstered by professors who address climate change in their own fields of study, and in the newly formed Environmental and Climate Justice Coalition. These groups will lead our campus through the climate crisis, but they can't do so most effectively without the support of our administration.

Students beg for change, for transparency, and for justice, and are met with responses that are half-measure and inefficient. It needs to become an urgent priority to create and implement a new Climate Action Plan that recognizes the intersectionality of environmental justice and reflects the seriousness of the climate crisis. Without an equitable and exhaustive plan for the future, our administration is failing us.

Last year, junior Morgan Bliss wrote a commentary piece about McDaniel's failures when it comes to climate action. A year later, these failures still cripple our campus, and Bliss' writing and observations remain incredibly relevant. Some of these failures Bliss addressed included our college's purchase of compostable cups that are not composted, the use of Roundup on campus, and a failure to construct our new student center under any sustainability initiative like a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. The LEED certification is important because it improves the quality of life of the community and demonstrates a commitment to sustainability.

In 2009, students, faculty, and staff worked together to create the McDaniel College Climate Action Plan. This plan included in-depth recommendations for reducing the campus' carbon emissions in nearly every department, including technology, physical plant, curriculum, food service, and transportation. Our students, faculty, and staff developed an incredible plan, with clear recommendations and instructions for moving toward carbon neutrality, and our college's leaders completely failed to set the plan into action.

Our administrators have neglected to take decisive climate action even though they know that students are doing so on campus. In fact, our college absolutely loves to market students' sustainability efforts. For years, the office of Communications and Marketing has shared coverage of Green Life events, Earth Day, campus garden and trash clean-ups, and even last September's climate strike.

These events are used all over college marketing materials to recruit prospective students and to showcase environmental-friendly initiatives on campus. Students' hard work should definitely be recognized, and the public recognition of students' actions is a great thing. However, the problem comes when our College turns protests and clean-ups into superficial marketing opportunities instead of taking accountability for their direct contributions to climate change.

Our college is eager to jump on the opportunity to invest in marketing, but they're not actually willing to respect current or future students when it's time to make investments into meaningful change. We generate an incredible amount of waste, yet our leaders seem unwilling to take even small steps toward large-scale recycling or composting initiatives (although they will facilitate funds to sustainability projects through Griswold-Zepp awards and the Green Terror Revolving Fund).

Our college will spend hundreds of hours soliciting millions of dollars in donations for a new student center, but they won't get it LEED certified. Our college will produce high-quality videos to rebrand the McDaniel Environmental Center, but they won't invest in repaving the road for it. Our college will move decisively to profit off of students' labor, but they'll drag their feet when it comes to financially committing to fixing their environmental issues.

These marketing projects serve to gaslight McDaniel community members into thinking that meaningful change is actually taking place. In reality, we slip closer and closer into climate catastrophe every year with nothing to show for it except for pictures and videos of a campus that will no longer exist due to our inaction. Marketing doesn't create meaningful change, and it does not heal those who disproportionately feel the effects of climate change.

When the college deactivated seven majors and minors two years ago, including my own, President Casey said that these changes were necessary so we can look 10-15 years into the future of the



(Image courtesy of Pixabay user gerald)

College. Yet, Casey shows blatant disregard toward the exponentially more devastating environmental destruction. We will not benefit from the projected productivity of cutting liberal arts education, let alone have a livable future for our planet, if we do not take action now. Amidst the climate crisis, young people are consistently treated as if we are incapable, or that we don't know what we're talking about. The College treats students as if we are just tuition dollars and tools to boost institutional reputation. Our generation, this generation, is capable of being and doing so much more.

We have all of the solutions already. We know what needs to be done. We know how to do it. We have the willpower to lead the way. Yet, we're roadblocked by administration after administration that refuse to make even the smallest sacrifice for the sake of a livable future. As soon as powerful change requires a monetary investment, it becomes suddenly impossible and deemed unattainable. Beyond real estate acquisitions and long-overdue building refurbishments, what legacy is Casey leaving us?

On campus, this is no different, and our administrators and the Board of Trustees should be ashamed of themselves for their lack of action. No excuse will ever be good enough when humans die every day through results of environmental injustice. It is up to all of us to ensure that we create a livable future: One that is just, one that is equitable, and one that gives everybody the things that they need. In order to create this future, we need to hold each other accountable, at an individual and community level. This accountability then needs to propel action.

**“The problem comes when our College turns protests and clean-ups into superficial marketing opportunities instead of taking accountability for their direct contributions to climate change.”**

Our administration harms students through negligence when they fail to meaningfully address their

share in climate destruction yet still advertise like they're taking action. This parallels other struggles where young people are demanding action and are met with empty symbolic gestures, like renaming streets and changing logos to respond to young peoples' cry against police brutality. We see right through it.

I implore our administration, that has consistently trudged its feet when it comes to creating meaningful and long-term change, to take the lead and show us that McDaniel is here to stay. Show us that McDaniel is here because we truly care about the future by investing in it and taking action to secure it. The institutions that survive are going to be the ones that act decisively on the right side of history, not the ones that fail to make even the smallest of changes. Students, faculty, staff, and community members have been leading this charge for decades, and regardless of the level of administrative support they receive, won't stop any time soon. Now is the time for McDaniel's leaders to join the fight for environmental justice, before it's too late.

Climate change needs to become our highest institutional priority. It's time to stop dragging our feet. Our students can easily draw the lines between the way that our administration acts on climate issues and the way they act on other issues; including racial injustice, sexual assault, and COVID-19.

We cannot change our institution's past, but we can change the future, and we need to act now. There can be no middle ground when it comes to the future of our world. You can either support a livable future through the pursuit of environmental justice, or you can perpetuate the trajectory of destruction we're currently on. So, I ask our College's administration: whose side are you on?

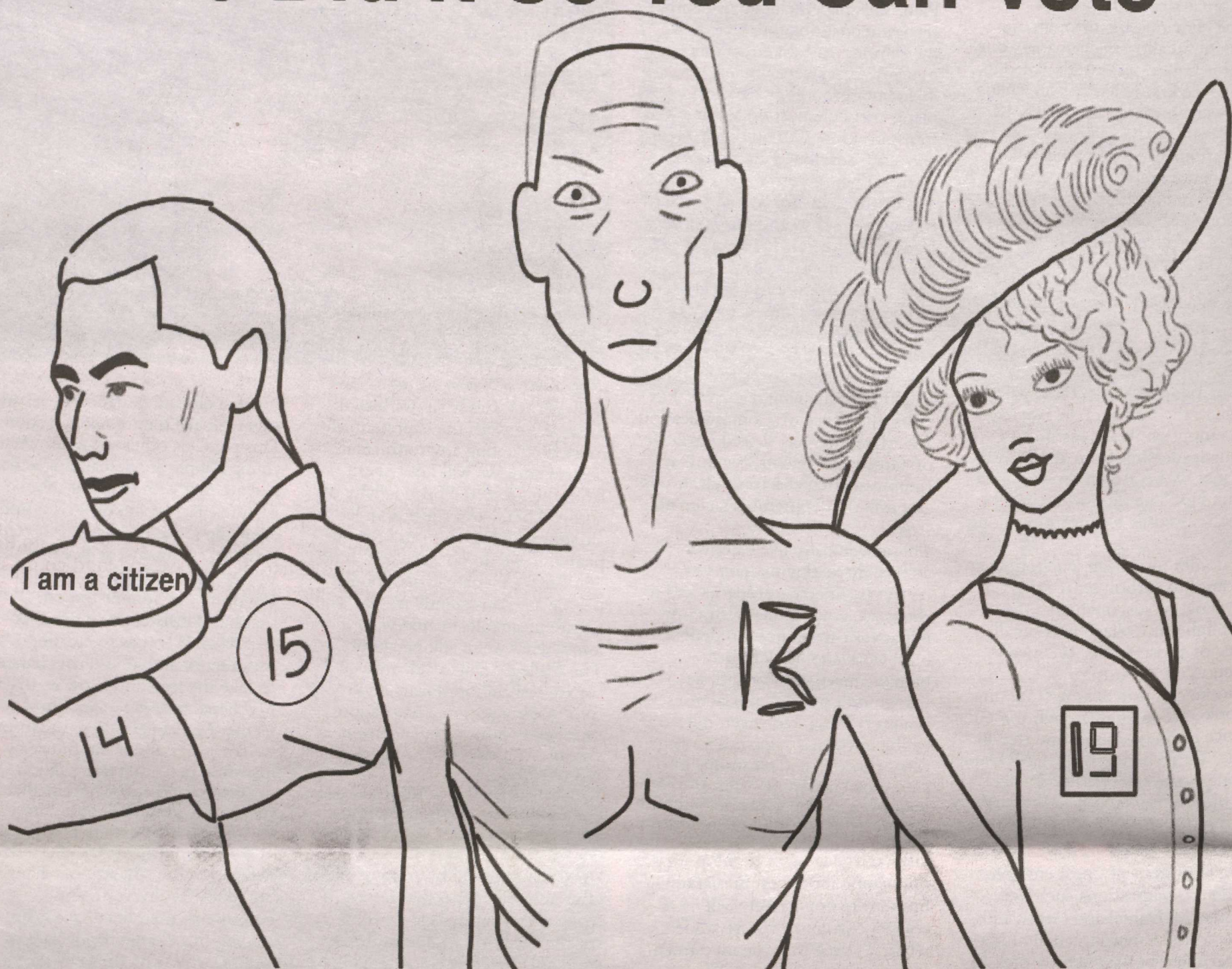
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# We Did It So You Can Vote



Syd Hinnant  
Contributor

Artist's notes:

I digitally drew the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th amendments. I tried to symbolize how our grandparents or great grandparents had to suffer, protests, and die for our rights to vote. I think it's important because I've heard people around my age say they're not voting because they don't care or because they don't believe in the government. And to me, it doesn't matter if you don't like the candidates or don't care about politics, what matters is the fact you're able to vote in the first place, and it would be disrespectful for taking advantage of the opportunity to choose the next president.

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## Dogs around campus

Photos courtesy of their respective owners.



Professor Vanessa Flora-Nakoski's Seamus. His favorite games are "keep-away," ripping the fluff out of his plushies, dragging around tree branches that fall in his yard, digging holes to find beetles, attacking the sprinkler, and herding all of his people into the same room. He's also recently taken up swimming in Morgan Run and hiking at Piney Run Park. His best friend is Grayce in the Environmental Studies department, and his only enemy is his feline sister Branwyn. If you see him on campus, ask him for a high-five (because that's his favorite trick)!



Audrey McComas's Maggie. She is a high energy adventurer. She loves meeting new people and especially loves playing with other pups. Her favorite things to do are to eat, do the few tricks she knows how, cuddle all day long, and go on super long walks. If you ever see Maggie stop and say hi and give her some love!



Max Engle's Gus. Gus' favorite activity is sleeping, but when he's not napping in his kennel, he's out playing fetch and meeting new friends on campus.



Erick Lowe's Freyja. Freyja goes to the woods every single day. When she isn't hiking, she loves to play fetch and cuddle at night.



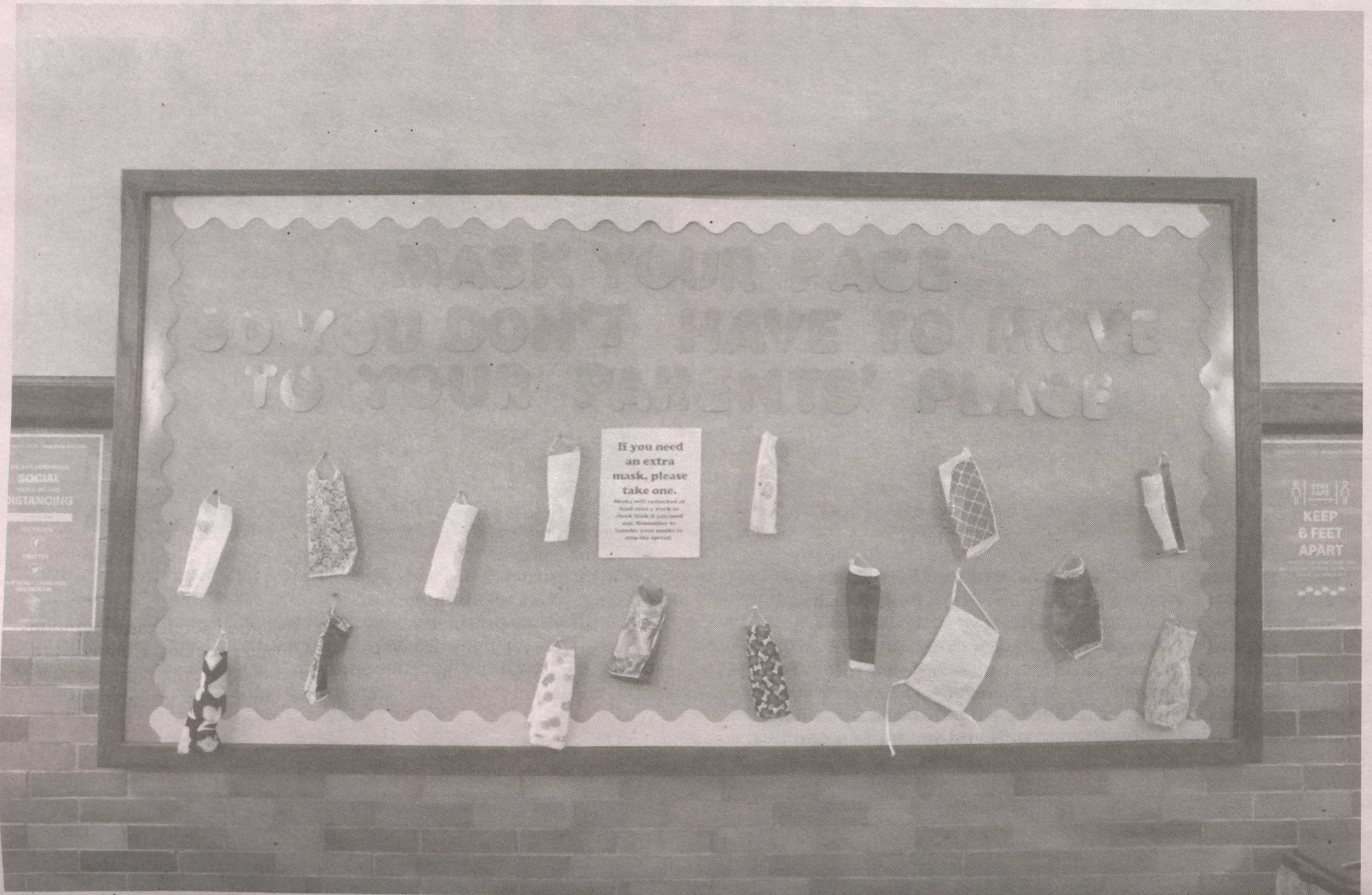
Micaela Champion's Clover. Her favorite things to do on campus are chase squirrels, take naps, and try to lick everyone she passes when she goes on walks.



Profesor Engle's Graycie. Gracie is pictured at one of her favorite McDaniel spaces at the McDaniel Environmental Center. She misses her students!



# Tracy Fleming: sewing connections, masking infections



**Ciara O'Brien**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Tracy Fleming's board of masks is on the first floor of Lewis Recitation Hall (Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press).

At the beginning of quarantine earlier this year, McDaniel Staff Member Tracy Fleming did not even know how to sew. Now, she has made over 775 masks and counting. About 49 of those masks were taken by McDaniel students and community members. Fleming has fully immersed herself in the McDaniel community and has worked in many different departments throughout her years here. Starting out in the Department of Campus Safety, she worked as a dispatcher and sometimes still fills in from time to time.

"If you call campo this Saturday, I'll be the one you are talking to," Fleming said.

Now, students can find her on the first floor of Lewis Recitation Hall working as the department secretary for business administration and economics, department secretary for communication and cinema, and a human resources assistant. On top of her already busy schedule, she also just started a part time job at Joann Fabrics.

When COVID-19 began to take shape this spring, Fleming and her family had trouble finding reusable masks and disposable was the only option.

"I watched a YouTube video, got out my mom's sewing kit, and figured out how to sew a square," Fleming said.

After a while, masks for the family turned into masks for the entire community. She donated masks to her teacher friends all over the country, homeless outreach programs in Baltimore City, and she gave 100 masks for her daughter to pass out to classmates in need at her

college.

"Sometimes I leave a plastic baggie with masks in it for waitresses, hostesses, and cashiers... I found a pattern with postage stamps on it to give to the mailman," Fleming said. When students began arriving back on The Hill a few weeks ago, Fleming could not help but notice that some students did not have access to reusable cloth masks and only had one or two disposable ones. "Obviously, my students have a need... When I say my students, I mean all of you across campus, not just [the students in my department]," Fleming said. "I put up the bulletin board right before the first week of classes."

Although Fleming does not always get to see students take the masks off the board in action, sometimes she can hear their excited reactions from inside her office.

"I can hear them in the hallway when they see new colors and new patterns... it's cool to see people walking around with masks that I made," Fleming said.

Although Fleming is giving away her handmade masks for free, she has received some financial and cloth donations from fellow McDaniel staff and faculty members.

"So much has been donated... as long as it's cotton I can use it," Fleming added.

When asked what she wishes students knew about the challenges that staff and faculty are facing today, Fleming emphasized that they are working just as hard as students during such a difficult time.

"As hard it is for students, I think a big misconception is that professors

are just working behind the scenes or that it is easier... we've been working all summer and lots of the faculty took summer classes to learn how to teach in an online format," Fleming said.

"As a staff member supporting my teachers in these departments, it's been hard on everyone." Another big misconception that Fleming noted is that most professors prefer teaching online. "A big reason a lot of people become teachers is to touch the next generation. When you can't see the question forming on their faces, it's hard to help them," Fleming added. Overall, Fleming is proud of McDaniel students and surprised that we have not followed in the unfortunate footsteps of other colleges and universities across the country that had to close down campus due to high case numbers.

"It really seems like students are following guidelines," Fleming said.

*Fleming's mask board is located on the first floor of Lewis Recitation Hall and is restocked at least once a week.*



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# Adjusting to college life with COVID-19

Rachel Allen  
Contributor

McDaniel students are in full swing of the Fall Semester. Students' time on campus has allowed them to discover and adjust to college life with COVID-19.

McDaniel has taken a lot of precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The changes have caused students to make adjustments in their daily lives. A core part of college students' lives are classes. During registration in the summer, students were given an option to choose from classes that were online or hybrid (a mix of online and in person).

"I chose hybrid classes because I felt like since I was spending the money to be on campus, it was worth it to take in person classes," stated freshman Morgan Crouse.

In previous years, classes were always in person; making the adjustment to online learning a big change. Some students have found it easy to adjust and are enjoying learning from the comfort of their dorm.

"It has been really easy to adjust to the way classes are. I actually enjoy online learning and being able to do it from my dorm has been super nice," said sophomore Kameron Ellison. Ellison is taking one hybrid class and one online class.

Professors have worked to help students during these times. Class functions are a lot different this year, both in-person or online.

"One of my professors allowed us to work on a project in our dorm instead of in class because it was a lot of sorting. She said she understood if we did not want to do it in our masks," explained freshman Hannah Burke.

McDaniel has provided students with the option of eating in the dining hall or taking food to go. There are various options to eat on campus: Englar Dining Hall, Hilltop Pub, and Casseys Corner are common eating spots for students. There is an app called "Mobile Order" available for students. On this app, students may reserve times to sit in and eat in Englar Dining Hall or take food to go. The Hilltop Pub and Caseys Corner only offer take-out orders and do not offer seated dining. Students have expressed it was easy to adjust to the new style of eating on campus.

"One of the easiest adjustments to make was the process of reserving meals and food," stated Ellison.



Covered outdoor seating outside of Gill (Rachel Allen / McDaniel Free Press).

Students often feel safer choosing grab and go options when having meals and decide to eat in their dorm.

"I think it is convenient to be able to get whatever food I want and bring it back to the dorm, [because] I am also staying safe and not being exposed to many people while eating with my mask off," explained Crouse.

Besides classes and food, housing is a large part of the college lifestyle. Students were given the option to reside on campus for the semester. If a student did not wish to reside on campus, online classes were available for them.

"I chose not to live on campus; all of my classes had the option to be online. It did not make sense to pay for overpriced housing when I could do all of my classes in my room," said freshman Tyler Andorn.

Andorn explained there is a downside of living off campus, especially for a freshman. Although the classes are accessible online, there is not much opportunity to meet new people in person on campus.

"It sucks [living at home] though, I can't meet new people for the first semester," commented Andorn. Freshman Nia Roberts chose to live at home for the Fall semester. She explained she had doubts of how long students would live on campus. "It was easier [to stay home] because it helped financially and honestly, I thought everyone was going to get sent home early," commented Roberts.

Other students thought living on campus was worth the cost of residing on campus, despite the changes to the college atmosphere. "I decided to live on campus because I wanted to get the full

college experience. I also feel like I work better on campus than when I do at home," said Crouse.

Resident assistants (RA) always play a huge role in ensuring campus residential living goes smoothly. However, COVID-19 made being the job of an RA different and more difficult than other years.

Jada Stump is an RA who signed up for the job before COVID-19 hit.

"When applying last year it wasn't something that was expected to be a part of the job," explained Stump. Dealing with some people who say they don't believe COVID-19 is real and don't want to follow the rules can get to be annoying sometimes, especially when they want to be rude and disrespectful to you for simply doing your job," Stump continued. Stump has found it difficult to find the balance between being a peer and being a mentor.

"It's been really challenging as an RA to basically have to be the COVID police to my peers," stated Stump. Despite the unique conditions and challenges COVID-19 brought to RA's, Stump feels rewarded to be able to help.

"I'm thankful for my residents this year. They've all been so kind and respectful as well as made my job ten times more enjoyable. It's rewarding to see them succeed and know I've been able to help," commented Stump.

Students who decided to live on campus agree that McDaniel is taking all the proper precautions. "I think McDaniel is taking all the right precautions, I feel like they are going a great job; which is why our case numbers are so low," affirmed Burke.

Students are constantly seeing headlines online about colleges being sent home because of a spike

in COVID-19 cases; but are proud to go to a school that is handling COVID-19 well.

"I feel good about the precautions McDaniel is taking. Compared to other colleges, the policies really seem to be limiting gatherings and socializing within buildings," said Crouse.

As a part of the effort to stop the spread, McDaniel has surveillance COVID-19 testing every week. McDaniel chooses random students to be tested.

"The random testing, I believe, helps a lot to pick up on any outbreaks. I personally feel really safe on campus because of all of McDaniel's precautions," stated sophomore Megan Harman.

The McDaniel community has been forced to adjust to the new life of college with COVID-19. Students have found value in adjusting united and together.

"It is not too difficult. I think it has been easier to adjust to wearing masks and the social distance because everyone is doing it so no one feels like the odd man out," explained Harman.

COVID-19 came with unexpected changes to everything in college. The virus shows the importance McDaniel has to students. Despite all of the shifts in everyday college life, the majority of students thought it was worth coming to campus.

"I wanted to experience college, no matter what changes were made due to COVID-19," said Burke. Students agree no matter the changes, they want to be living at McDaniel, on the hill.

"I decided to come back to the Hill because it's my home," affirmed Stump.

## TESTING from page 4

Now, this is not to say every student breaks the rules set out by the campus and the state of Maryland, but it is hard to believe that the restrictions the school has in place warrants us to perform at a rate almost six times better than that of Towson University. If this is how the data lines up, it would be a miracle to say the least. Does McDaniel College warrant a green-level status at this time? Or are there still some challenges the college is facing that both students and administration have yet to see?

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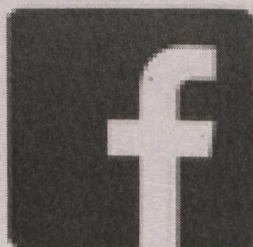
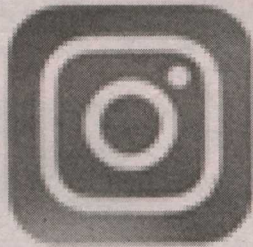
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Crime Log

The Daily Crime and Fire Log is available for public view in the Campus Safety office, located at 152 Pennsylvania Ave. The most current 60 days of information is available from the dispatcher; archived records up to seven years can be requested. Unless otherwise noted, the incidents listed here are closed. "DOCS Office" refers to the Department of Campus Safety office on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Reported 8/26 Harassment	Campus Wide	Reported 9/8 Harassment: Phone	Off Campus	Reported 9/11 Decency Offense: Public Urination (Count 1)	Campus Wide
Reported 8/26 Harassment	Campus Wide	Reported 9/8 Harassment	Whiteford Parking Lot	Reported 9/11 Decency Offense: Public Urination (Count 2)	Campus Wide
Reported 8/26 Harassment	Campus Wide	Reported 9/8 Harassment	Campus Wide	Reported 9/12 Blanche Ward Hall	
Reported 8/27 Larceny	Eaton Hall	Reported 9/9 Alcohol: Possession (Under 21) (Count 1)	Campus Wide	CDS* : Student Conduct Violation (Count 1)	
Reported 8/29 Hate Bias Incident: Vandalism	Blanche Ward Hall	Reported 9/9 Alcohol: Possession (Under 21) (Count 2)	Campus Wide	Reported 9/12 Blanche Ward Hall	
Reported 8/31 Harassment: Phone	Campus Wide	Reported 9/9 Alcohol: Possession (Under 21) (Count 3)	Campus Wide	Reported 9/14 Stadium Drive Malicious Destruction of Property	
Reported 9/2 Malicious Destruction of Property	Decker Student Center	Reported 9/9 Alcohol: Possession (Under 21) (Count 4)	Campus Wide	Reported 9/14 Campus Wide Harassment	
Reported 9/2 Larceny	Lewis Hall of Science	Reported 9/9 CDS: Student Conduct Violation (Count 1)	Campus Wide	Reported 9/17 Campus Wide Harassment	
Reported 9/5 Harassment	Campus Wide	Reported 9/9 CDS: Student Conduct Violation (Count 2)	Campus Wide	Reported 9/20 Blanche Ward Hall	
Reported 9/5 Stalking	Campus Wide	Reported 9/11 Larceny	Alumni Hall	Harassment: Phone	
Reported 9/7 Larceny	Alumni Hall	Reported 9/11 Alcohol: Possession (Under 21)	Campus Wide		
Reported 9/8 Harassment	Campus Wide				

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**MASKS** from page 1  
with public health measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. They claim that "any attempt by a Governor to suspend Constitutional rights is an act of lawlessness and a violation of his/her oath of office." They raise genuine concerns, though legal scholars across the county indicate that no governor acting in the interests of protecting public health has violated the powers entrusted to them. "In a nutshell, refusing a mask, a shot or any other kind of medical treatment is our right as human beings," wrote Dahl. To support this argument, Hugs Over Masks quotes several paragraphs from the original U.S. constitution. Quoting the over 200 year old constitution misrepresents the reality of how our government and society function. 1,000s of laws have been passed to protect public and personal safety; from seat belts to speed limits to infectious disease immunizations. Additionally, the constitution is a living document and has been and will continue to be amended as technology, culture, and human needs evolve over time. "As citizens, we were never given a chance to process this sudden change and have an appropriate involvement in their legislation," wrote Rob Dahl, co-organizer of the Westminster event, in correspondence with me over Facebook Messenger. I would venture that the world stands in solidarity over the lack of time afforded to civilians to prepare for a pandemic. Ironically, we may

have been afforded more time had the public committed to following public health advising instead of questioning scientific consensus. "We're in this park prominently displaying normalcy," wrote Rob and Rachel Dahl, co-organizers of the Westminster event, in correspondence with me over Facebook Messenger, "first and foremost. Our actions say "Remember what normal is? Let's not lose this." While there is almost certainly universal desire for normalcy, the reality is, in the United States alone 200,000 Americans have died. This is no longer a matter of what suits our individual desire for normalcy. We are already losing by continuing to let this virus tear apart our country.

**"It seems that cherry picking scientific information and interpreting it into a context that supports their views is at the basis of Hugs Over Masks propaganda."**

"For me, being out there, hugging openly in public, shaking hands, and not wearing masks, essentially demonstrates the lack of fear we have," wrote Dahl. The group saw its event as an innocent gathering calling back on the nostalgia of yesterday, however;

its main function was to spread misinformation and – due to the unfortunate absence of masks and social distancing – they risked spreading COVID as well. The misinformation being transmitted through the Hugs Over Masks movement, coupled with the public display of breaking public health recommendations, has a viral quality, especially among people with a lesser grasp of scientific studies. A lot of work goes into Hugs Over Masks to craft and promote these positions. One can't help but admire their rationalization. But advocating for personal liberty while others are suffering and dying is misguided. Promoting information to uphold the selfish views of one does not contribute to the life and liberty of all, it diminishes the value of human life and collective responsibility of community. Instead of acknowledging the credibility of our elected officials and our top scientists and allowing them to guide us through a challenging and unpredictable pandemic, movements like Hugs Over Masks have taken the education of millions of vulnerable Americans into their incompetent hands, distributing misinterpreted science and propaganda to the benefit of only themselves.



COVID-19 Campus Tracker

- 1  
Total number of newly confirmed positive COVID-19 cases of our on-campus population over the previous seven days.
- 11  
Total cumulative number of positive COVID-19 cases of our on campus population, since move-in started.
- 1776  
Total cumulative number of Wellness Center administered tests, since move-in started.

This information was obtained from the COVID-19 Campus Notification System. It was last updated on Sept. 22, 2020, and will continue to be updated every weekday by 9 a.m. To learn more, please visit the Return to the Hill (RTTH) webpage.





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# The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 24, Issue 3 | October 22, 2020

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## President Roger Casey announces his retirement

Ciara O'Brien  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Sept. 24, President Roger Casey announced that he will be retiring as the ninth president of McDaniel College in June 2021. Casey noted that many factors play into this decision, including his desire to focus on his family.

"As I reflect on my tenure as president of McDaniel over the last decade, I am constantly reminded of what drew me here in the first place: the people and the community," Casey wrote in an email to the McDaniel Community.

Casey emphasized that continuity of leadership is very important to the Board of Trustees. He also vows to remain fully engaged until a new president takes office.

"My focus right now is on continuing to serve in my role as president over these next eight months," Casey wrote. Shortly after Casey announced his retirement, the McDaniel community received another email from Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Otto J. Guenther '63, Board of Trustees Chair.



(Jake Fine / McDaniel Free Press)

"I want to thank Roger for his vision and leadership over the past decade that he has served as president of McDaniel. I do not think that there could have been a more well-suited president to lead this institution during what has been a challenging time for higher education, particularly for similarly sized four-year, liberal arts colleges,"

he wrote.

Guenther went on to describe some of Casey's accomplishments throughout his ten years as president.

"Under Roger's leadership, we have recruited and enrolled the largest incoming and most racially diverse classes in the history of the college and broke the 1,800

mark in total undergraduate enrollment this fall. We have also seen the college achieve increasingly national prominence and just last week, McDaniel was again named #1 "Best Value" for the second consecutive year by U.S. News & World Report," he wrote. Under his leadership, the College

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## Shortened class periods present new challenges for students



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay user HaticeEROL)

Rachel Allen  
Staff Reporter

The first semester of the 2020-2021 school year was split up into two seven-week sessions. Students still had to take final exams at the end of their classes. However, this year students faced new obstacles in finding success leading to a unique experience for everyone.

The fast pace of the session caused stress amongst some students, especially when final exams approached. However, some students found finals easier than a typical semester.

"The timing for exams was easier. With fewer classes you don't have to worry about time conflicts or

preparing when you'll study for each exam," junior Alex Hartwick said. Professors understood the change to hybrid or online learning would come with difficulties. So, some adapted their final exams to best help students during this new way of learning.

"My professors tried their best to change the format of my final exams to adjust to online learning," sophomore Kaeana Aguon said. While many classes were held online, hybrid classes sometimes met in-person. Any time students or professors met in a classroom, facial masks had to be worn. The prospect of wearing masks during final exams increased stress in some students. Freshman Jahdel Darego was able to

take all of his finals online.

"I was glad my exams were all online, I would not have wanted to take an exam in a classroom with a mask on," Darego said. Finals being taken online allowed for a change in scenery from the traditional classroom. Students were able to take finals from the comfort of their dorm.

"The easiest part was being able to take my final exams in the comfort of my dorm instead of having to physically go into class," Aguon said.

Although many students found ways to work with the new format of their classes, there were still parts of their session that were hard to adjust to.

"It was fast-paced and felt bizarre to be ending a course in October," Hartwick said.

Aguon agreed that one of the hardest parts of the session was the speedy pace of learning.

"The pace of class leading to the final exam was excessively fast. Having to teach and learn fourteen weeks worth of material into seven weeks was overwhelming. [It was] a lot of weight on my shoulders," Aguon said.

Freshman Sergio Martin had a similar experience. He felt time was cut too short.

"The hardest part was taking in as much information as I can in seven weeks and be tested on it. It was fun, but I wish we spent more time

on [the material]," Martin said.

This year brought many uncertainties for everyone. Darego was unsure if grading would be stricter with online learning.

"I did well on all of my exams, so they were okay. Before the exam I was nervous professors may grade strictly because of the online format," Darego said.

Seniors found their capstone projects as an additional layer of stress on top of their class load. "As a senior, I'd say the hardest part was that one of my projects was my capstone. I felt like I was under a lot more pressure than I was expecting because the turnaround time on the project was so quick," senior Jessica Thomas said.

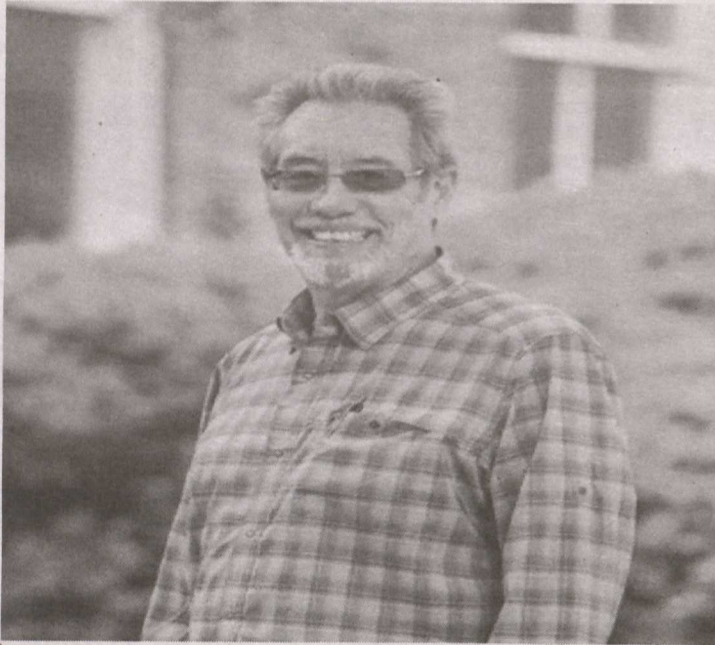
Despite this year's unique circumstances, students developed ways to make it through their session.

Aguon reflected on her experience and said "I look back at it and don't know how I managed it all. It was an interesting experience to say the least!"





# Westminster and McDaniel community leader reclaims patriotism in Carroll County



Henry Reiff at a Patriots Resist rally.  
(Photos courtesy of McDaniel College (left) and Henry Reiff (right).)

**Jake Fine**  
Assistant Editor

Every Saturday, professor Henry Reiff can be seen standing outside the Westminster Public Library eliciting cheers, car horns, and expletives from passersby as he proudly waves an American flag, untouched on one side, and with the words “Black Lives Matter” written on the other. Reiff has served a number of roles throughout his years within the Carroll County community, and he continues to take on new ones every year. These roles range from upright bassist to Boys and Girls club, board member to coordinator of McDaniel’s Graduate Studies programs, and include most imaginable roles in between. While Reiff’s experience as a community leader and McDaniel professor and administrator is extensive, his focus has shifted onto organizing within the past four years. In response to Trump’s election and Muslim ban weeks after, and inspired by the Women’s March on Washington, Reiff began a movement to publicly oppose hatred and instead promote positive values: Patriots Resist. Three and a half years later and fast approaching the critical 2020 election, Reiff continues to host Patriots Resist rallies every week, as he has “virtually every Saturday” since Feb. 2017. The goal of Patriots Resist is to promote positive values and to advocate for policy and behaviors that Americans might be able to adopt to take the country in a better direction. Originally just called “Resist!,” Reiff quickly changed

the name of the organization to “Patriots Resist”. “The extreme hate in this country has appropriated patriotism, and we need to take it back,” said Reiff.

Attendees, who gather outside the Westminster Public Library, display positive messaging about the America they want to see, rather than negative messaging about what they don’t. Signs at Patriots Resist rallies display messages that read “Science is real!,” “Black Lives Matter,” and “Love not hate makes America great.”

Promoting positive and inclusive messages while proudly displaying patriotic regalia is a way for attendees to display their support for the American values that Reiff holds dear.

For Reiff, civil conversations and the pursuit of education are methods to improve the United States. “This country has to be about citizens working together and taking a position that they might not take individually but understand that for the common good, it is necessary,” said Reiff.

Furthering the common good is an essential motivator for Reiff’s activism, and doing so in Westminster has given him hope for the future.

“In Carroll County, a notoriously conservative area, I’ve found that there are a lot more people than I would have maybe imagined who really want to see things change in a positive and progressive way,” said Reiff.

According to Reiff, about 90 percent of people who interact with Patriots Resist protests are supportive, though 10 percent of

passersby are “extremely hostile.”

Rally attendance has varied from just four people in the dark days of winter to over 300 people in the heat of the summer following the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement. Turnout continues to increase every weekend as stakes for the 2020 election heighten, as do the challenges that Patriots Resist members face.

In the summer of 2018, naysayers drove by and fired bottle rockets at the protestors, injuring a woman. At a Black Lives Matter protest that Patriots Resist members attended, an individual got into a physical altercation with protestors and was arrested.

Members have recently had racial epithets hurled at them. A few weeks ago, an aggressor on the street walked by and said “F\*\*\* Black Lives Matter, I hate N\*\*\*\*\*s.” Reiff said this is “not something you would expect in Westminster in 2020.”

Reiff has also had individual troubles with those who disagree with the pro-America protests.

“This guy was yelling ‘white lives matter’, and I got into it with the person, and I felt ashamed. It was a reminder that we all have to work really hard to have civil conversations,” said Reiff.

Reiff remains hopeful and resilient moving forward from incidents like these, and the infrequent but staunch negativity of those who loudly disagree with the group’s positive messages of inclusion and patriotism. He recognizes that mistakes are part of the human experience, an understanding fostered through Reiff’s experience

as an educator at McDaniel. Reiff came to McDaniel in 1989, beginning his career as the coordinator of the Graduate Program of Special Education. He has served multiple roles as a Dean in Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and the Graduate Program. He is currently serving a sabbatical in his transition to retirement. During his tenure, Reiff has helped launch online education programs, developed a systematic approach to graduate education, created a program for elementary STEM leaders, and developed the graduate certification program “Equity and Excellence in Education.” Within the Carroll County community, Reiff’s roots run deep. Reiff is the former chair of United Way Carroll, a family stability nonprofit; a Boys and Girls Club founding and board member; a volunteer at the Carroll County democratic headquarters; and a heavily-involved member of St. Paul’s United Church of Christ. He is also an esteemed musician, and has played bass with internationally recognized musicians in ensembles of varying sizes.

Reiff is in a prime position to pursue equity within the county due to his incredible depth of involvement as an activist and educator in the area. Civic involvement and social justice are key values to Reiff.

Reiff knows that there is still much work to do in creating a better America. “Protesting is the easy part. Making things happen is a lot harder. I do think that education is so much at the heart of this, and having difficult conversations [...] not so much with people who believe what we do, but people who believe differently.”

While Reiff has hopes to “restore normalcy” after November’s election, it seems unlikely that he will stop his activist work any time soon.

“We need to hold politicians accountable to do what they say they are going to do or to make them do what we need them to do, whether they want to or not,” said Reiff.

Reiff hopes to take a break from weekly protests after November’s election, but he knows that he will be back out on the streets, regardless of what happens. “If Biden is elected [...] I think we still need to go out. I think we need to hold Biden and the Democratic Party accountable,” said Reiff.

“If Trump wins, I’m not taking a vacation.”

## President Roger Casey announces his retirement

has expanded through the creation of scholarships such as the Dorsey Scholars Program and campus improvements.

“Campus improvements include the new central fountain and courtyard named for beloved professor Ira Zepp ’52 and our first Black alumnus, Victor McTeer ’69, the Roj Student Center, the new Kinesiology facility, the Gill Stadium, and renovations to Hoover Library and numerous other facilities,” he wrote. Guenther also described how the

Board of Trustees has formed a transition committee.

The Transition Committee, which is comprised of six members of the Board of Trustees, is being chaired by Bruce H. Preston ’75. The committee is currently taking steps to begin the process of selecting McDaniel’s tenth president.

“The highest priority for me and for the Board is to ensure McDaniel’s next leader is equipped to carry out our distinctive educational mission and build upon the accomplishments of the past

decade. We are committed to providing regular communication throughout this process to keep you informed,” said Guenther.

Eventually the Transition Committee will become the Presidential Search Committee, which will serve along side the Transition Committee and include an alumni representative, faculty representatives, a staff representative, and a student representative. Those who are interested in learning more about the search process are advised to visit the Presidential Transition webpage.

### Fall 2020 Editorial Team

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**Jake Fine ’21**  
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**Kylie Baker ’23**  
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# Farmer's market adjusts during COVID-19

Jill Courtney  
Contributor

Now more than ever it's important to shop within your community, and to do it safely. One way to shop locally for produce and specialty products is at the Downtown Westminster Farmer's Market on Railroad Ave.

The Market put forward new guidelines in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic to keep its patrons safe. As featured on the Market's website, some of these guidelines include: an 8 - 8:30 a.m. block reserved for people over 60 years of age and at-risk individuals, establishing a market flow pattern, mandatory face coverings, a 50 customer limit within the shopping area, and asking that no products be handled before purchasing - allowing the vendor to bag the product and hand it to the customer, minimizing contact.

A McDaniel student who shopped at the market last Saturday says he felt comfortable with the new precautions in place. "Everyone I encountered was wearing a mask and properly socially distancing. It was easy to keep my distance from other customers."

However, 2020 McDaniel alumnae Rachael Fox, an employee of vendor Jeannie Bird Baking Company, expressed her concerns about the risks involved at the market each week saying, "When the farmer's market first opened for the season there were strict regulations on masks and guests were not allowed to bring their own bag. Now, masks



Patrons can shop their favorite vendors in the Conaway Lot on Railroad Avenue (Jill Courtney / McDaniel Free Press).

are not required but encouraged and people can bring their own bags." Fox had some recommendations for bettering the safety protocols suggesting, "As someone who graduated with an environmental degree it makes me sad to say, but right now I think the market should still enforce the no personal bag rule. Jeannie Bird and many of the other shops have paper bag options that are eco-friendly and are able to be re-used." She continued, "Additionally, there could be a hand washing station or hand sanitizer available for every shop, arrows on the ground to guide guests, and one flow lane of 'traffic' to make sure that everyone who visits and works at the market is as safe as possible." Even during the pandemic, vendors continue to attend the market in hopes that people in the area will support them and give them business they desperately need during this time. Colleen Histon

of Shepard Manor's Creamery shared that they began selling at the market eight years ago and have had a successful year selling in Westminster following the pandemic because of their unique product. "We are the only producer of Sheep's Milk cheese in the State of Maryland and one of a very few 'farmstead' cheese-making operations, meaning we produce the milk from our sheep and produce all the cheese and soap at our farm." However, despite the success with sales, Colleen said that they have still faced challenges because of the pandemic. "The market overall sales are better because more folks are buying but we are at risk every time we attend to sell when the general public is involved. There has been no down time for our farm and our exposure risk is tremendous." Owners of The Caramel Kettle Gourmet Popcorn, Tom and Mill Dixon, are from Taneytown and

have been selling their specialty popcorn at the Westminster market for four years. "Our favorite part of the Market is seeing the customers each week. We know they are there to support small and local businesses. Especially now, we appreciate their support so much." The Dixons' "mom and pop" shop has been closed since March and since then the market has been their only event. "The pandemic has made everyone in the community aware of how important small businesses are. The support here at the Downtown Westminster Farmer's Market has been a lifeline to our business."

If you are interested in supporting local businesses and looking for fresh produce, baked goods and other unique products, the Downtown Westminster Farmer's Market has you covered every Saturday 8 a.m. - noon at 27 Railroad Ave. until Nov. 21!

## Book review: "Cemetery Boys"

Sophie Gilbert  
Contributor

Aiden Thomas's debut novel, "Cemetery Boys," follows 16-year-old Yadriel, a transgender Latinx guy trying to prove to his traditional family that he's ready and able to take on the role of a brujo.

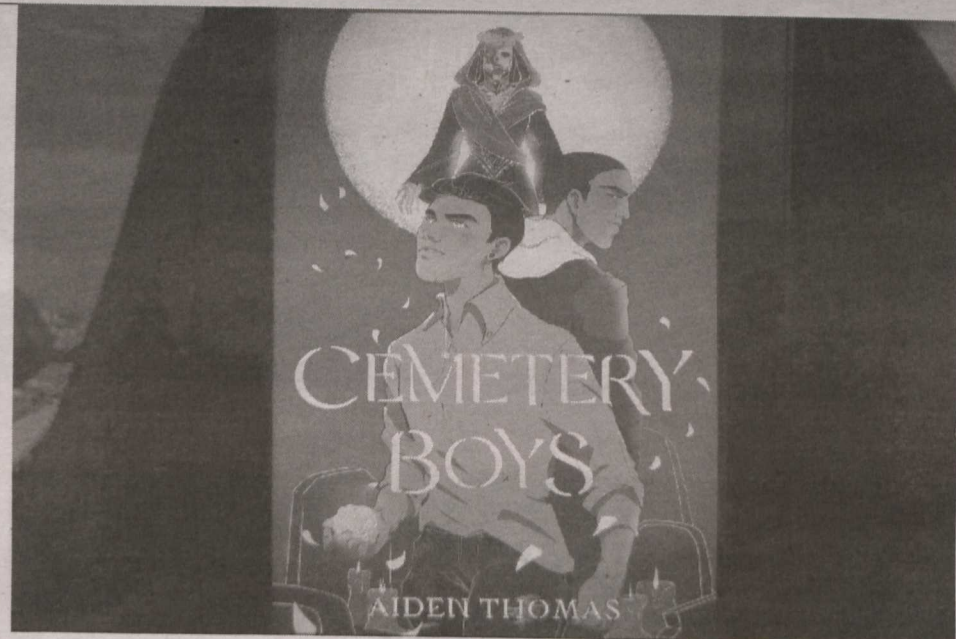
The bruja of Yadriel's family was gifted with magic by the Lady of the Dead. Yadriel wants nothing more to take part in the traditions of the brujo, who are able to summon spirits and, when necessary, help them move on from Earth by severing them by the tethers that keep their spirits here. However, it's an incredibly gendered system and not all of Yadriel's family has accepted him as male.

To prove that he is able to join the brujo, he and his cousin Maritza undergo the necessary ritual for Yadriel to do so behind their family's back. However, during the ritual, Yadriel and Maritza feel a sharp pain that signals that a member of their family has died, in this case, painfully. Their cousin, Miguel, is gone and his tether is missing as well. Without knowing where his body and tether are, they are unable to find out what happened to him.

Meanwhile, Yadriel sees this as his chance to test out his new powers as a brujo and seek out his missing

cousin to sever his connection to his tether so he can return for Dia de los Muertos. However, the tether he finds doesn't belong to Miguel but a boy from his school named Julian who doesn't want to pass on until he knows his friends are okay. Yadriel, Maritza, and Julian must work together to solve the mystery of their cousin's disappearance and Julian's death so Yadriel can prove to his family once and for all that he's who he's meant to be and so Julian can pass on. However, what happens when Yadriel and Julian find themselves being pulled closer together?

This story had all my favorite elements: magic, LGBT+ main characters; and an adorable romance that in no way felt forced. I also loved all the colorful imagery and the descriptions of the festival for the Day of the Dead. Without giving too much away, this book also made me very emotional. It was so easy to get swept up in the action, and I couldn't put it down. The story also handled a number of difficult topics like the actualities of living as a trans person and a Latinx person in the current political climate. However, these are not so much made out to be plot points as they are framed as an ongoing everyday part of the characters' realities. It was handled sensitively and was incorporated well into the



(Sophie Gilbert / McDaniel Free Press)

novel.

If I had any criticisms, they were driven from my mind by the tsunami of emotions that came with the last few chapters. Any faults were overshadowed by the pure impact it had on me and the way that it drew me in until the very last page. I've already gone back and reread several of my favorite passages and I would undoubtedly read it again, which is the biggest sign of how much I enjoyed a book. It also seemed like a good fit for our October issue given the timing. My favorite quote has to be "You ready?" Julian asked, a curious look on his devastatingly handsome face. 'No,' Yadriel confessed, his

voice tight. Julian grinned. 'Do it anyways.'

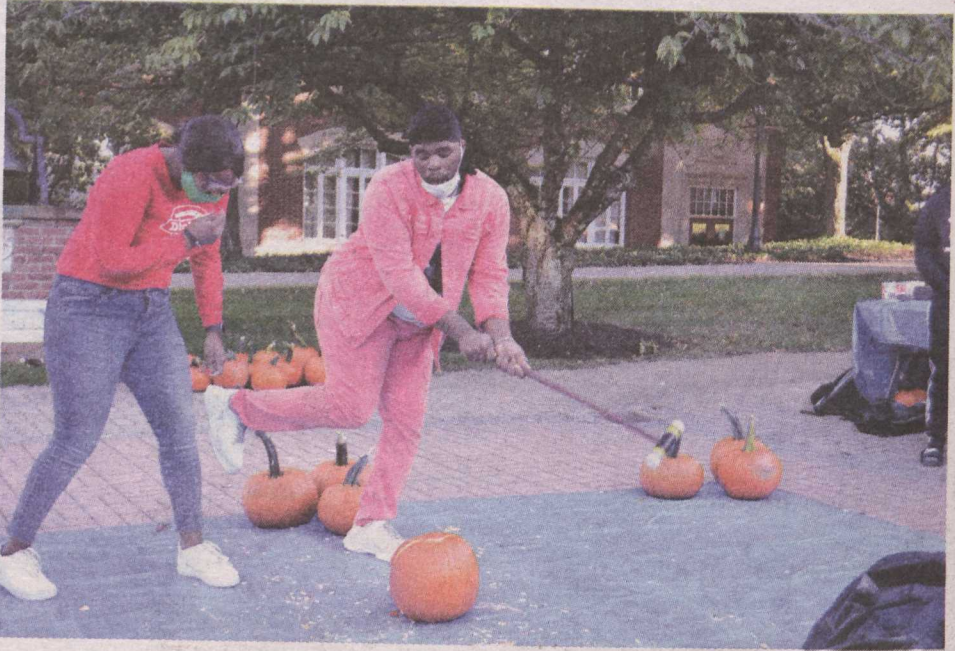
This book was published on Sept. 1, 2020 through Swoon Reads and can be purchased here. You can also visit Aiden's page to learn more about the author, see some artwork for the novel, or learn about their upcoming novel, "Lost in the Never Woods."

Do you have a new book or novel you'd like me to review next? Feel free to drop a suggestion via email at [freepress@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:freepress@mcdaniel.edu) or message the Free Press Instagram page @mcdfreepress.



# Greek Life Fall Festival Pumpkin Smash

Shaquille Tairellil, Staff Photographer





The scariest day of the year



**Syd Hinnant**  
Contributor

My comic strip is about the Green Terror visiting and helping the terrifying creature of Halloween get ready for this different experience of Halloween in 2020. I heard through the media that some places in the States are banning trick or treating, haunted houses not being allowed, and people are saying that Halloween is canceled. I also heard Halloween can still be celebrated, so long as people are six feet apart and wearing their masks, are not physically giving others candy, and are not attending social gatherings. This year has been scary for a lot of us, so let's make the important scary night of the year be safe and fun.

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COVID-19  
Campus Tracker

- 1  
Total number of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases of our on-campus population over the previous seven days.
- 17  
Total cumulative number of positive COVID-19 cases of our on-campus population, since move-in started.
- 2460  
Total cumulative number of Wellness Center administered tests, since move-in started.

Crime Log

The Daily Crime and Fire Log is available for public view in the Campus Safety office, located at 152 Pennsylvania Ave. The most current 60 days of information is available from the dispatcher; archived records up to seven years can be requested. Unless otherwise noted, the incidents listed here are closed. "DOCS Office" refers to the Department of Campus Safety office on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Reported 9/20 Harassment: Phone	Blanche Ward Hall	Reported 9/27 Alcohol: Possession (Under 21) (Counts 1-8)	PA 143	Reported 10/3 Alcohol: Possession (Under 21) (Counts 1-6)	North Village 193	Reported 10/17 Assault: Hands/Feet (Counts 1-2)	Blanche Ward Hall
Reported 9/20 Harassment	Campus Wide	Reported 9/28 Malicious Destruction of Property	ANW/DMC Quad	Reported 10/4 Harassment: Social Media	DOCS Office	Reported 10/18 Malicious Destruction of Property	Hoover Library
Reported 9/21 Malicious Destruction of Property	Harvey Stone Park	Reported 9/30 Larceny	Whiteford Hall	Reported 10/6 Alcohol: Possession (Under 21) (Counts 1-6)	DMC Hall	Reported 10/19 Harassment	Carroll House
Reported 9/23 Controlled Dangerous Substance: Paraphernalia	Decker Student Center	Reported 9/30 Harassment	Campus Wide	Reported 10/6 Controlled Dangerous Substance: Student Conduct Violation (Counts 1-2)	Lowes		
Reported 9/24 Harassment	Englar Dining Hall	Reported 10/3 Controlled Dangerous Substance: Student Conduct Violation	Off Campus	Reported 10/8 Alcohol: Possession (Under 21) (Counts 1-5)	GA 161		
Reported 9/25 Controlled Dangerous Substance: Student Conduct Violation	Off Campus			Reported 10/11 Harassment	Campus Wide		



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# Sunrise Baltimore and allies take on the evolving battle against trash incineration

Molly Sherman  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Rising before the break of dawn, the movement group Sunrise Baltimore and aligned organizers stood outside the house of Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young, demanding he wake up to the nightmare of trash incineration and put the dream of Wheelabrator trash incinerator to bed.

In his last two months of office, it is rumored that stand-in Mayor Young is planning to extend the Wheelabrator contract, currently scheduled to end in 2021, against the wishes of the City Council and those subjected most to the impacts of trash incineration.

Organizers gathered at 5 a.m. on the chilly Oct. 10 morning to distribute signage reading “Green New Deal,” “Wake Up Jack,” and “Wide Awake.” Most prominently, a large banner, “This is an emergency - act like it” was assigned to be carried at the front of the group. The well-organized team equipped itself with identifiable police and press liaisons, videographers, photographers, and action coordinators.

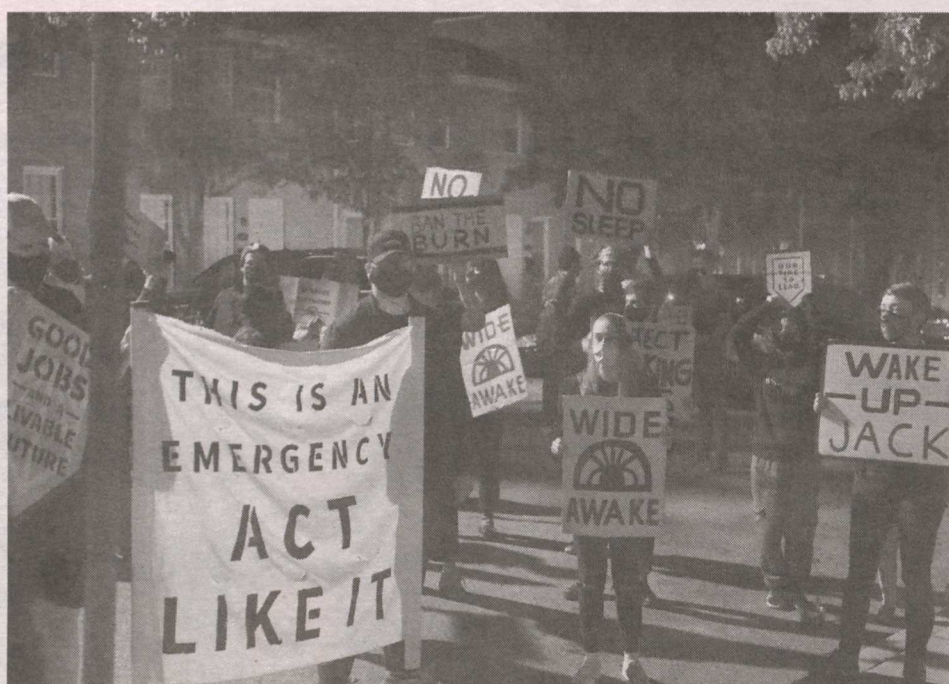
Around 5:15 a.m., the group walked silently down the street to the Mayor’s house. Upon arrival, their first course of action was passing out letters to the neighbors that included an apology, why they were there, and who in the group will answer their questions. In front of Mayor Young’s house,

attendees delivered passionate speeches about the health consequences and disproportionate impacts on lower-income communities, the lack of economic and energy productivity of trash incineration, and the effects of allowing the incinerator to remain open on policy initiatives. Speeches were followed by chanting and songs.

The South Baltimore Community Land Trust, Clean Water Action, Franca Muller Paz for district 12, United Workers, and many others joined Sunrise Baltimore at this action and with their tireless efforts throughout many years. The citizens of Baltimore have been fighting against the consequences of toxic air emissions from the Wheelabrator trash incinerator for decades.

The adverse health consequences are well documented in medical and scientific literature. Exposure to toxic air emissions correlates with decreased lung function and increased asthma and heart attacks, increased hospital admissions in the affected area, and results in increased death.

Trash incineration is touted as a solution to mitigate methane, a greenhouse gas released from landfills; however, landfill methane can be virtually eliminated if people simply compost their food. Additionally, according to EPA data, the Wheelabrator trash incinerator is 427 times more air-polluting than the Quarantine Road Landfill in Baltimore.



Concerned citizens gathered on the street outside of Mayor Young’s house in Baltimore (Photo courtesy of Daniel Anderson).

As recorded in the EPA’s National Emissions Inventory database, Wheelabrator is the largest air polluter in Baltimore, responsible for 36 percent of industrial air pollution.

Trash incinerators, like Wheelabrator, often describe themselves as “waste-to-energy,” which is an unscientific term. “It is not physically possible to turn matter into energy without a nuclear reaction. Trash incineration merely turns trash into toxic ash and toxic air emissions,” writes ‘Clean Air Baltimore,’ a campaign working to replace waste incineration with zero-waste jobs.

Since the action, City Council president and likely incumbent Mayor, Brandon M. Scott, who once echoed the wishes of City Council, has backtracked on his campaign promise and now favors extending the contract with

BRESCO.

“It’s not as simple as saying we don’t want to do business with them anymore because others still will burn their trash there, affecting our air,” Scott said.

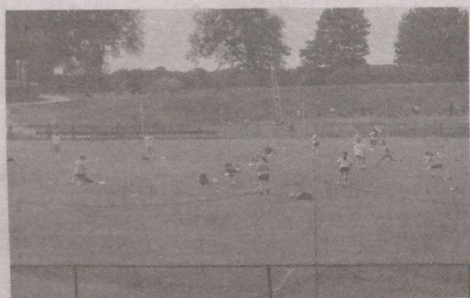
Baltimore city is responsible for 62 percent of the trash being burned at the BRESKO facility. Losing the majority of its trash supply would force the incinerator to shut down - mitigating detrimental health effects on the community from the persistent trash burning.

Scott was expected to advocate for the shutdown in two months. In light of his new revelation to extend the contract, the fight for clean air seems to be far from over for the citizens of Baltimore.

“Whether it’s five more years or five more days of having this incinerator, it’s going to continue to poison our families,” said Muller Paz.

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## McDaniel athletics prepares to launch amidst COVID-19



Women’s soccer practices follow social distancing guidelines (Max Engle / McDaniel Free Press).

Max Engle  
Staff Reporter

McDaniel College Athletics, after several months of conversations and discussions behind closed doors, has decided to bring the fall season into full swing.

Despite the Centennial Conference’s decision to not continue with fall sporting events across colleges, teams across McDaniel College are gearing up for next spring - including some typical fall sports. The lack of a football season has been a huge hit to campus life, so the college and the Centennial Conference are playing with the idea that our regular season is played in the spring, rather than early fall.

McDaniel College Athletics has started a campaign to “fill the bowl” to encourage members of the McDaniel Community to donate sums of money to the

college to reserve spots and spaces, with tiers ranging from \$25 to a grand \$1,867. All donations to the campaign will support student athletes at McDaniel as they prepare for the coming seasons. Athletic Communications is also promoting a “#MaskUpMcDaniel” campaign to highlight the college’s variety of different sports and star athletes. Although the college is excited to celebrate the return of sports at McDaniel, some members of the student body are not as keen to hop into regularity so quickly. There is some fear with sports practices commencing, and students spending more of less isolated time together on and off the field that McDaniel’s Green Level status will be difficult to maintain in the coming weeks. Even before practices began, McDaniel’s total amount of COVID-19 cases has been slowly rising with each week. Student athletes from different sports on campus believe that the athletes, the coaching staff, the school, and the athletic department are all working diligently enough that any chance of new cases is slim to none. The life of a student athlete has shifted drastically since the start of this unique season, with practice schedules being shifted around, more accountability and responsibility on every team member, and the exclusion of a normal season weighing on every athlete’s shoulders.

“What’s different about football right now is that we only have our individual training right now,” says punter Andy Witten. “Lifting and academics are on our own,” says Witten. He also explained how McDaniel’s phasing program works, explaining that each piece of equipment each athlete touches solely belongs to them during practices to limit contamination from player to player. This extends from practice pads to individual footballs on the field. Other sports are exhibiting similar limitations to prevent cross-contamination, such as softball and baseball sanitizing their balls and bats and throwers on the track and field team each owning their own set of throwing equipment, such as shotputs and discuses.

The biggest change seen across the board is that whole teams are no longer practicing together. Small groups, either separated by position, gender, or graduating class, are how student athletes are experiencing team connections during practices. Even then, students are still accommodating for social distancing on their runs, in their drills, out in the field, and in the pool. Runners in track and cross country maintain a 10-15 second gap between them to avoid drafting and swimmers have larger lanes with a limit of one person per lane. Most teams at McDaniel exceed the expectations of the school

and state guidelines by keeping masks on even when they are not required to, such as the throwers when they condition on the turf or the swimmers who only remove their masks seconds before they’re entering the water. Senior swimmer Zach Kiick says, “We take [these restrictions] especially seriously, because we know we’re one of the few sports who absolutely has to have our masks off to practice and compete.”

Despite all of the restrictions, the heightened responsibilities, and the fact that their seasons are cancelled inevitably, the student athlete populace maintains a positive attitude. The ability to practice with their teammates, talk with their coaches, and enjoy the sports they love grants every student athlete a sense of relief that they have been yearning for since being sent home last spring. “It’s nice I am able to finish my mile and cheer on my teammates,” says track and field captain Julia Murphy, a sentiment she shares with most of her teammates.

Zach Kiick speaks for all McDaniel student athletes when he says, “We’re excited to hit the ground running, well... to hit the water swimming,” whenever that may be.



**Write with us!**



# Liberal arts professor adapts to COVID-19 challenges by bringing the classroom outside

**Molly Sherman**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

In a display of liberal arts inspired problem solving, Professor Slade has taken a unique approach to mitigate some of the risks of COVID-19 during this unique semester; he is immersing himself and his students in nature and a COVID-19-free atmosphere by repurposing Harvey Stone Pavillion into an outdoor classroom.

Back in May, when the pandemic was worsening every day, Slade was thinking about how he would teach in the upcoming semester. Having some health issues himself and a family susceptibility to respiratory illness, he was personally invested in finding a safe place to teach for him and his students. "I want to be safe, I want my students to be safe," said Slade. He sought to create an environment conducive to education, "I don't want [students] to be worried about getting sick while they're trying to learn something."

In Harvey Stone Pavilion, ventilation is not a question. The fresh air blows through every second and the UV rays hitting students on their ten-minute walk to the secluded classroom set up acts as a natural disinfectant. "Outdoors is really the safest place to be," said Slade.

Slade was approached by fellow faculty members who had concerns about the weather and the influences of nature on the space. "I took a lot of incoming sarcasm when they first heard of it," said Slade. The space can be windy sometimes and there will be the occasional squirrel to run through class and scurry onto the roof. "I think too many of us have become disconnected with the natural world," said Slade. Being in the space and so immersed in nature, "You start paying attention to the weather more. You start paying attention to the seasons

more" said Slade. Despite having a front seat to the elements, in session A, there were only three classes where the rain resulted in a transition to online learning. Slade was also inspired by an article in the NY Times touching on the time between 1920 and 1950 when many classes were held outside in tents. In the winter, students would use heated soapstones at their feet and blankets to keep warm. Slade joked, "If they did that in the early 1900s through the winter, my students can put a jacket on." His class will be moved online as the winter weather rolls in.

In session A, Slade saw a notable improvement in grades, despite the universally felt challenges of being in a pandemic. "I can genuinely say that taking notes on a lecture has been way better outside," said Daniel Ocampo, a student currently in the session B section of Slade's TV production course.

"You can do everything you can do in a classroom," said Slade, "There's literally nothing I can't do out here that I can do in a regular classroom." In session A, Slade taught a course in introduction to media and TV production. He is able to project audio, display video, and use a chalkboard.

"It's been a uniformly pleasant and challenging experience," said Slade. His biggest challenge has been the amount of time it takes to set up. He gets there about 45 minutes before class starts to run cables and set up the computer, projector, and chalkboard. "Set up time is considerable but it's worth it when you have a safe teaching space." Luckily, being that a gravel road leads right up to the pavilion, he drives right up to his classroom in his electric car. "It's so great to drive right up to your classroom, open the door, take everything out, and set it up right there."

Harvey Stone Pavilion was built by the Civilian Conservation Corp



*Professor Slade has successfully taught two session A cinema courses in Harvey Stone Pavillion (Shaquille Tairellil / McDaniel Free Press).*

built in 1934 as a part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. Harvey Stone was built in response to the need for relief, reform, and recovery from the Great Depression. Today, it seems to function similarly, serving as a creative way to address the new dynamics of teaching amidst a global pandemic. "McDaniel and its faculty and students are uniquely positioned to be creative and to thrive during this global health pandemic," said Slade. Slade attests his own innovation and the creative problem solving of others on campus to the heart of liberal arts. "The liberal arts is all about adaptability and resilience and innovation." He is hopeful, for not only his unique and successful project at Harvey Stone but for the growth he has seen around him as well. "I look around and I see the creative problem solving that's happening among the faculty and the students and it's encouraging how quickly we have been able to adapt," said Slade.

20 years prior to Slade and his wife renovating the outdoor space, they held their wedding reception there. Harvey Stone was adorned with Christmas lights and other amenities, "It was amazing" said Slade. "We had figured out how to repurpose it as a wedding venue and so I know this space was infinitely repurposable. So if we could

repurpose for a wedding reception it wouldn't be that hard to repurpose it for a classroom," said Slade. The night before the semester started, Slade and his wife went to Lowes and purchased about \$80 worth of plywood, brought the tools out to Harvey Stone, and built a blackboard on site. The very next day, Slade was there using it to teach in his adapted classroom, canopied by the changing leaves of the trees. And on Sept. 30, the twentieth anniversary of their wedding day, he taught a class. "There's these weird patterns in life," said Slade, "There's things that reoccur in your life, that come back to you. It's surprising. Like, 'hey I've been here but in a different way.'"

Though its essence is ageless, Harvey Stone is still subject to the passage of time, and it needs some renovations. "I really hope there's a way we could raise a fund to fix the roof and put in electricity," said Slade, who sees a lot of potential in the space, not just for teaching in the pandemic, but for all time. "There's a lot of holes in the roof. I think we should really do what we can to save Harvey Stone."

"Like us, it's resilient, the roof is coming apart, but it's still hanging in there."

## McDaniel Theatre performs "Spoon River Anthology"

**Syd Hinnant**  
Contributor

On Sept. 25th and 26th, McDaniel College Theatre performed "Spoon River Anthology" live on the hill near the gazebo. This performance of Spoon River Anthology features a musical adaptation by Charles Aidman and was based on Edgar Lee Masters' collection of free-form poems.

The play was directed/choreographed by Julie Herber, musically directed by Alison E. Shafer, and stage managed by senior Flannery Bendel-Simso. Six McDaniel student actors and actresses portrayed "over 70 characters" who were epitaphs, former residents of the town of Spoon River.

The story follows a variety of former residents sharing their "lives, loves, and losses," in a "humorous, poignant, malicious, and haunting" way, according to Herber.

The story is set in the Spoon River Cemetery, which was referred to in the play as being on a hill. The set design was inspired by a "hipster country chic wedding," said Herber, who was thankful towards set designer Shana Joslyn. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the setting of "Spoon River Anthology", which would have been hosted in the McDaniel theater. Herber said that the play lends itself to "the natural landscape of the McDaniel campus."

Adhering to the safety guidelines of McDaniel College caused production difficulties. The rehearsal period was shorter than previous plays. Actors and actresses had to spend late evenings on weekdays rehearsing and performing outside, staying six feet apart, and wearing masks. Herber said theatre is all about "connection and at times [is] almost intimate," but due to COVID-19 challenges, Herber and the pro-



*The performance was conducted on the pop-up stage (Syd Hinnant / McDaniel Free Press).*

duction crew had to be creative in building the same theatrical experience as if the play was indoors.

Regular masks limited the visual expressiveness of the actors and actresses and muffled their voices. The production crew solved the problem by having the performers wear clear plastic masks, which allowed audiences to see their expressions, and microphones, which let audiences hear their voices. In the performance, there

were a couple of dance numbers, and the way the dances were choreographed allowed performers to social distance while dancing together. For the audience, people brought their own blankets to sit on, the ground was marked for seating six feet apart with limited capacity. Despite the challenges, the "Spoon River Anthology" was a successful live performance. I am looking forward to what's in store for McDaniel College Theatre's Spring Play.



# Free Press Issue & Halloween Word Search

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

## Word Bank

TERROR  
 PUMPKINS  
 GHOULS  
 RAT  
 CEMETERY  
 NATURE  
 SPOON  
 SPORTS  
 CASEY  
 SUNRISE  
 FARMER  
 PATRIOTISM

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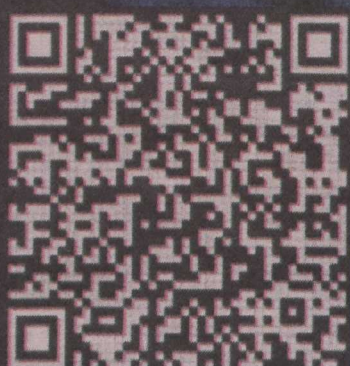
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# The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 24, Issue 4 | November 19, 2020

INSIDE: Political conversations with students (pg. 3) | Voting Photos (pg. 4) | Real Food Challenge Update (pg. 6)

## Concerns raised about campus safety-student power dynamics

Molly Sherman  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

In multiple anonymous, unreported accounts, students expressed feelings of disempowerment from interactions with campus safety officers.

"Campus safety officers have an expectation to interact with everyone in a courteous and professional manner, whether it is with a student, faculty/staff, or other members of the greater community," said Chief Eric Immler, director of campus safety, in response to a question about the guidelines for campus security conduct with students.

Though expectations are clear, there are some undocumented accounts of students feeling that campus safety officers misuse their institutionalized power in a manner that is problematic for their safety.

In one account, a campus safety officer invited a female student to reach out to him personally for campus safety resources. "During Local, it seemed to be a little flirtatious whenever he was talking to me. There was a time when we were having a conversation when it was just the Local Leaders



The Department of Campus Safety Office. (Jake Fine / McDaniel Free Press).

around and we were all hanging out and he like stopped to talk and made some comments like 'Oh, anytime you ever need anything just call when I'm at work,' said Anonymous. Recalling her feelings of confusion from his suggestion to contact him directly, she thought that the interaction blurred the lines between a campus resource and a

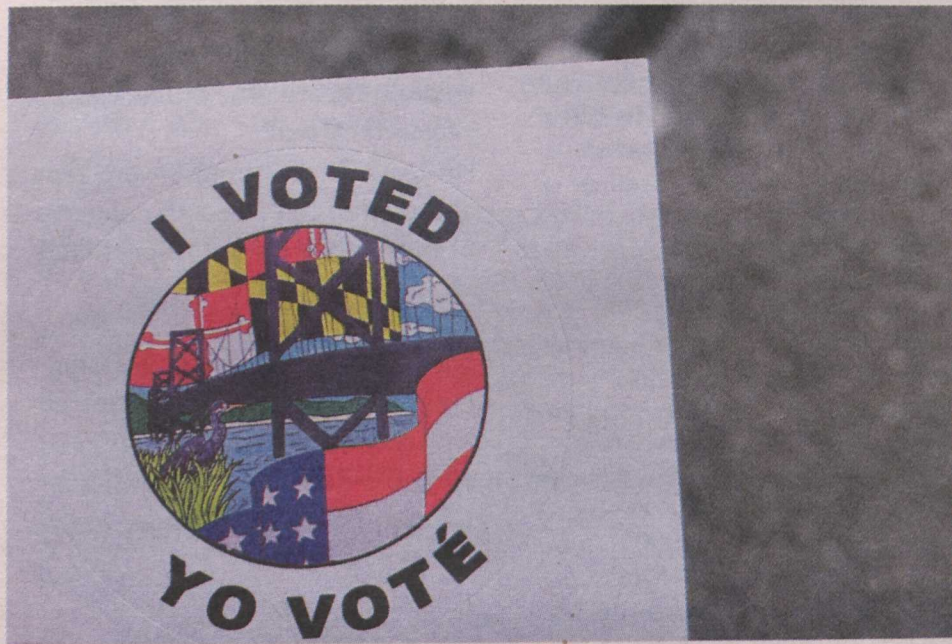
'friend.'

Another student at McDaniel College interacted with a campus safety officer on "Tinder," a popular dating app. The officer matched with the student whose profile was marked by the banner given to students of McDaniel College. It is not known whether he was aware of the banner meaning.

This student originally assumed that the officer's profile belonged to a college student. Once looking through the officer's photos and consulting with friends after they matched, she realized his connection to McDaniel campus safety. "It was definitely a conflict of interest for him I'd say, maybe

See CAMPO, page 2

## McDaniel students reflect on the 2020 election experience



Voters received a local artist designed sticker after voting in the 2020 election (Rachel Allen / McDaniel Free Press).

Rachel Allen  
Staff Reporter

The 2020 presidential election was the first time many students at McDaniel College were able to vote. First-time voters in this election say they felt empowered and proud after voting. Students understood the importance of voting and urge more of the younger generation to vote in future elections.

Some students chose to vote in person because they felt more confident their vote would be counted as opposed to voting by mail.

"I voted in person because I wanted to make sure my vote was

in, I did not want it to get lost in the mail," freshman Kai Cummings said.

Freshman Ellie Glass also felt more confident about her vote being counted by voting in person.

"I voted in person because I wanted to do everything I could to make sure my vote was counted," Glass said. "Physically handing in my ballot made me feel confident that it was getting to the right place."

The pandemic caused some fear amongst voters. Some people decided to vote by mail to avoid public exposure. Glass says her in-person voting experience felt safe.

"I voted early," Glass said. "I only waited about 45 minutes in line at my local election office. Everyone was socially distanced and wearing their masks. I felt safe voting in person; it was an overall great first [voting] experience."

Students who decided to vote by mail still had a good first-time voter experience.

"I voted via an absentee ballot because I was not comfortable being around people," junior Danielle Wendt said.

Wendt says waiting for her ballot was tough, but when she received it the process went smoothly.

"It was a little nerve-racking to wait to receive my absentee ballot because of the lack of funding for the postal workers," Wendt said. "But once I got my ballot, it was easy to fill it out and drop it off in a drop-off box."

This was the first presidential election students have voted in, which brought many positive feelings for the younger generation.

"It felt powerful," Wendt said. "With everything that has gone on this year, I liked knowing that I did my part and made my voice heard."

Glass also said she felt good about voting. Her first vote made her feel like she was a part of something important.

"I was so thrilled about voting in my first presidential election," Glass said. "It felt great to use my voice and to have a say in what our

country's future is going to look like."

Students understand the importance of voting and hope their peers do too.

"If someone my age was hesitant about voting, I would say that the only way to make your voice heard is to voice it," Wendt said.

Wendt understands some people may be discouraged to vote because of the candidates, but she hopes people will still vote no matter the circumstance.

"I understand not liking either candidate but voting helps change broken systems rather than letting them stay broken," Wendt said.

Senior Cambrie Cooke says voting is a quick action that can make a huge change.

"I would say if someone is hesitant about voting, it only takes a few minutes to do and the outcome can benefit so many people, so it is worth it," Cooke said.

See ELECTION, page 2





# McDaniel athletics adjust to COVID-19 restrictions

Jay Mann  
Contributor

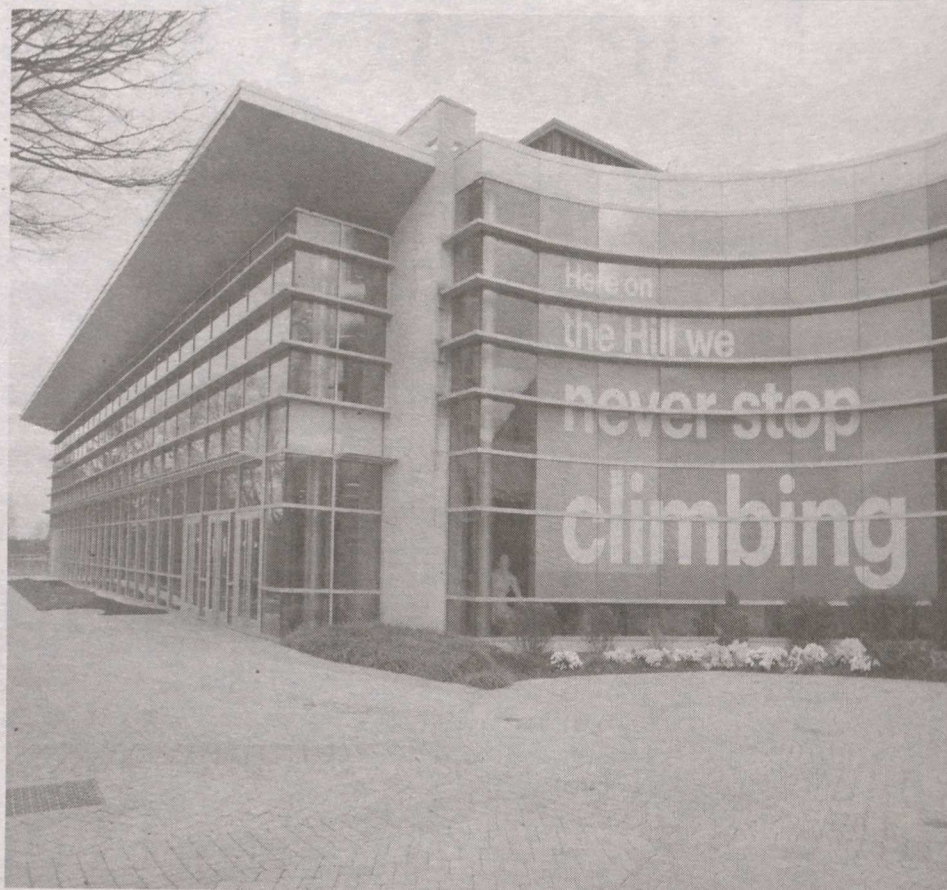
McDaniel has allowed sports teams to begin practice. However, they are not your average practices. Regulations have been put into place in hopes of protecting the players and coaches from Covid.

I got a chance to sit down with the Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Duane Echols and discuss what actions took place in order to keep players and coaches safe. In order to keep these practices going, masks must always be worn and they have divided the team into five sessions.

He goes on to say that in the beginning it was very stressful, but everybody adjusted, and it is starting to go smoothly. So far there is no schedule yet for when a game

may be, but we are very optimistic and hope that there will be one soon. He also predicted that this season they will go 16-9, a major turnaround from last year's 6-19 team.

There are also some updates being made in student activities. In Gill, the old gym is now open to students starting at 6:00 PM. If you are interested in just getting out of your room and shooting some hoops at the gym, feel free to sign up for a slot on the IMLeagues app. There can only be three people in the gym, and one person per basket. It is recommended that you sign up for your time slot as early as possible because it could be gone later that night.



The Gill Center (Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press).

## Campus safety concerns cont.

CAMPO, from page 1

not quite appropriate for the association between us," said Anonymous. They did not interact any further after matching on the app.

During her freshman year, she interacted with the officer a lot to get into her building and believes this was one of the reasons she was ultimately able to recognize him, "Back then, it was just normal, and now, it would feel much more awkward. But I would try to be casual or not mention it or try to put myself or him in a situation where it would be uncomfortable," said Anonymous.

The transaction on Tinder has influenced how Anonymous interacts with the campus safety officer. "I feel kind of awkward now so whenever I see him I kind of just turn the other way really quickly," said Anonymous, "There haven't been interactions that led me to believe he recognizes me. But, I don't know, if you match with someone on Tinder and their bio says 'McDaniel College,' and you work there, you're probably on the lookout for them."

"It crosses a line when a campus safety officer makes comments about someone's body or engages with them in a way that is too intimate and personal and social," said senior Rachel Gunnerson, a Rape Crisis Intervention intern, co-president of McDaniel Consent and Sexual Education club, and a social work major.

"There is an inherent power dynamic between a campus safety officer and a student because the student knows that the campus safety officer could get them in trouble," said Gunnerson. This dynamic becomes more heightened

for women, "In general, women are taught to treat men in polite and face-saving ways, no matter their behavior, so it's the case here that women are going to feel obligated to say thank you or accept what they are doing, trying to think of it as a compliment or trying to push it out of their minds because they know that they can get in trouble from that person."

In another account, on more than one occasion, an older campus safety officer doing fire extinguisher checks commented on the outfit of a female student, who also asked to remain anonymous in this piece. She recalled he would particularly make remarks when she was wearing a short skirt. In these encounters, she would be going about her day, not engaging, when the officer would enter the residence to perform these checks, and choose to comment on her appearance.

While these women do not define their interactions as acts of sexual violence, Gunnerson finds the actions of the campus safety officers to still be problematic, and contributing to a larger narrative of misconduct. "Not that there has been an incident that we know of true sexual violence against students from campus safety officers, but it should be noted that those who perpetrate sexual violence, which also could include harassment, which some of the things said could be labeled as harassment... is because of power and control," said Gunnerson, "People who are campus safety officers are already in that position of power and making those comments about someone's body or being too forward or being too social and acting as a peer, that is a way to exert that power."

No McDaniel officials have

been made aware of the accounts in this article. Immler indicated that students with complaints can report to him directly. "The College, as an employer, maintains policies related to all employees and relationships with students. As an employee, officers are to abide by these policies the same as any other faculty or staff member of the College. Specific complaints related to any employee's interactions with students would be handled as an employment matter, investigated on a case by case basis," he said.

Gunnerson suggests that it might not feel so straight forward. "It can be really difficult for someone to come forward if this were to happen to them, if they were to have a weird interaction, because who is the one who deals with these interactions? It's campus safety," said Gunnerson, "Someone might feel comfortable reporting it for fear that they would find out."

Students can report concerns to the Title IX coordinator, Jennifer Kent or report information anonymously using the Student or Incident of Concern Report form. In addition, any student can contact the Director of Human Resources, Jennifer Glennon, to share concerns about a college employee and may choose to remain anonymous. Anyone can reach out to the Rape Crisis Intervention Services in Westminster for hotline counseling and other accessible services at (410) 857-0900.

Liz Towle, Dean of Students, indicated that the College, "takes our responsibility to respond to and address reports of sexual harassment very seriously, especially when it involves a student and an employee. For this reason it is even more critical for students to report what they have experienced."

"You don't have to keep this to yourself. It can feel uncomfortable,

but if you want to come forward and gain power in that way that's within your right, but no one should have to come forward if they don't want to," said Gunnerson.

Ciara O'Brien & Jake Fine contributed to this article.

### A Note on Anonymity

In this issue of the Free Press, the editorial staff decided to make the unusual decision to publish an article featuring several anonymous sources. Behind the scenes, "Concerns raised about campus safety-student power dynamics" was thoroughly fact checked and sent to our faculty advisor for review prior to publication. The Free Press is committed to allowing all members of the McDaniel community to have their voices be heard. The article features accounts by real students. Their identities were kept anonymous to protect the identity of those students and respect their comfort levels.

Our formal policy regarding exceptions for granting anonymity is available on our website. Any questions can be directed to Co-Editors-in-Chief Ciara O'Brien or Molly Sherman.

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## McDaniel students reflect on the 2020 election experience cont.

ELECTION, from page 1

Glass says people need to understand how the outcome of elections do have an effect on the world.

"If you do not think voting affects you, then I challenge you to look around and put yourself in

someone else's shoes," said Glass. "Ask yourself how the outcome may impact someone else's life."

Glass says she has seen people get caught up in their own lives and fail to understand the people in power may affect other people differently than it affects themselves.

"It's easy to get caught up in our own individual worlds full of privilege, but let's take one step back and be empathetic to the needs of others," Glass said.

Glass is happy with how many people her age voted, but urges even more people to vote in the

future.

"Your vote could be the difference of a better America," Glass said.





# Political conversations on The Hill

Rachel Allen  
Staff Report

With America’s political climate being tense, McDaniel College students have found political topics becoming more common in conversations with their peers. Students have had different experiences when discussing politics on campus.

The diverse atmosphere of opinions allows for potentially tense situations to occur when discussing politics on campus.

“From what I have seen at McDaniel, I believe politics can affect friendships,” freshman Kyla Farmer said. “In the days leading up to the election, I overheard conversations in the Pub as well as the dining hall and if these people were my friends, I would leave the friendship.”

Farmer says compared to past years, she feels more comfortable talking about politics with her peers. “I am still hesitant to talk about politics today, however if someone mentions it first, I am more willing to enter the conversation than I was in the past,” Farmer said.

Despite her openness to have political conversations, she has found some of her peers are close minded and are not open to hearing her views.

“A majority of the time my peers are not interested in what I have to say, they are set in their ways and don’t want to hear the other side of the story,” Farmer said.

On the other hand, sophomore Kameron Ellison has rarely encountered students who are not open to hearing different points of views.

“I think for the most part, people are mature enough to hear the other side. Very few times have I encountered somebody who won’t



Students convene in Red Square to discuss election topics (Rachel Allen / McDaniel Free Press).

listen to the opposing viewpoint.” Political differences have been seen to produce conversations that end in arguments and anger. On the USA Today website, Susan Page summarizes this idea.

“They storm out; this one said that; it’s tit-for-tat; I’m going to throw mud at you; you’re going to throw that mud back. It’s like they can’t even work on anything,” Lynn Andino, a nurse and political independent who was interviewed in Page’s article.

Junior Brie Cohen has had mixed experiences with expressing her political beliefs. While she does not see her beliefs affecting any friendships, she is not comfortable openly discussing them.

“I do not really feel all that comfortable sharing my views with my professors either,” Cohen said.

“I have definitely heard stories about professors treating certain students differently after finding out their political beliefs and I don’t

want to be penalized for that.” Cohen feels that because her political beliefs do not align with the majority of students, she is unable to openly express how she feels. “[My political beliefs are] not shared by the majority, which is why I do not share my political views with most people on campus,” Cohen said. “I do recognize that Carroll County is much more conservative than where I grew up, but the student body is pretty liberal as a whole.”

When discussing her interactions with students, Cohen feels she is often stereotyped by her outward appearance.

“I feel like a lot of people assume my political views because my outward appearance (Latina, Jewish, queer, brown) and are surprised when I discuss them,” Cohen said.

Regardless of her experiences, Cohen feels like she is in a safe political climate at McDaniel.

“However, attending McDaniel has allowed me to escape the political bubble that I used to live in and really allowed me explore and develop my own personal views and policies,” Cohen said.

Other students agree with Cohen’s statement on the safe political atmosphere of McDaniel.

“On The Hill, politics do not determine friendships. I see many people who put their political views aside from their friendships,” Ellison said.

Moving forward, Farmer says if students research and learn more about political views other than their own, it can help produce a better environment for discussions.

“Everyone has an opinion and being aware of both sides before having a conversation will make the conversation feel more friendly and less like an attack on each side,” Farmer said.

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## Crime Log

The Daily Crime and Fire Log is available for public view in the Campus Safety office, located at 152 Pennsylvania Ave. The most current 60 days of information is available from the dispatcher; archived records up to seven years can be requested. Unless otherwise noted, the incidents listed here are closed. “DOCS Office” refers to the Department of Campus Safety office on Pennsylvania Avenue.

<b>Reported 10/24</b> Noise Complaint	<b>PA 181</b>	<b>Reported 11/1</b> Disorderly Conduct: Drunk and Disorderly (Counts 1 and 2)	<b>PA 174</b>	<b>Reported 11/14</b> Park Malicious Destruction of Property	<b>Harvey Stone</b>
<b>Reported 10/25</b> Hit and Run	<b>Blanche Ward Hall Parking Lot</b>	<b>Reported 11/1</b> Larceny	<b>Hill Hall</b>		
<b>Reported 10/26</b> Malicious Destruction of Property	<b>North Village 187</b>	<b>Reported 11/1</b> Malicious Destruction of Property	<b>Hill Hall</b>		
<b>Reported 10/28</b> Larceny	<b>McDaniel Hall</b>	<b>Reported 11/5</b> Harassment: Phone	<b>PA 154</b>		
<b>Reported 10/29</b> Harassment	<b>Campus Wide</b>	<b>Reported 11/10</b> Controlled Dangerous Substance: Possession	<b>North Village Quad</b>		
<b>Reported 10/31</b> Malicious Destruction of Property	<b>Stadium Lot</b>	<b>Reported 11/11</b> CDS: Student Conduct Violation (Counts 1-4)	<b>PA 143</b>		
<b>Reported 11/1</b> Motor Vehicle Theft	<b>Smith House</b>	<b>Reported 11/12</b> Fraud and Deceit: By Scam	<b>Hoover Library</b>		
<b>Reported 11/1</b> Decency Offense: Public Urination	<b>PA 174</b>				

### Fall 2020 Editorial Team

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Co-Editor-in-Chief

Molly Sherman ‘22  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Jake Fine ‘21  
Assistant Editor

Kylie Baker ‘23  
Proofreader

## COVID-19 Campus Tracker

3  
Total number of newly confirmed positive COVID-19 cases of our on-campus population over the previous seven days.

23  
Total cumulative number of positive COVID-19 cases of our on-campus population, since move-in started.

2998  
Total cumulative number of Wellness Center administered tests, since move-in started.

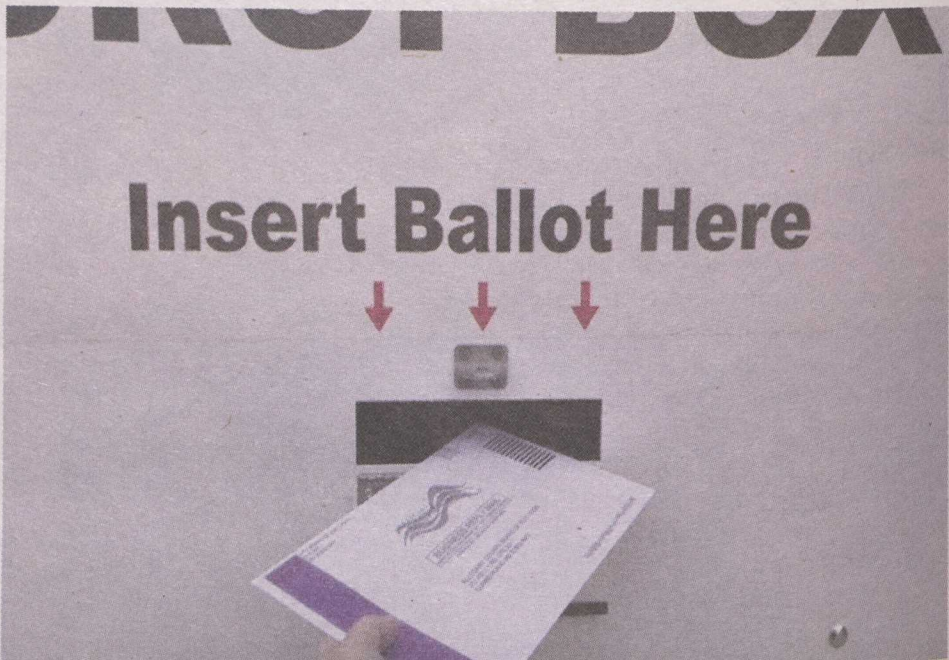
This information was obtained from the COVID-19 Campus Notification System. It was updated on Nov. 18, 2020, and will continue to be updated every weekday by 9 a.m. To learn more, please visit the Return to the Hill (RTTH) webpage.



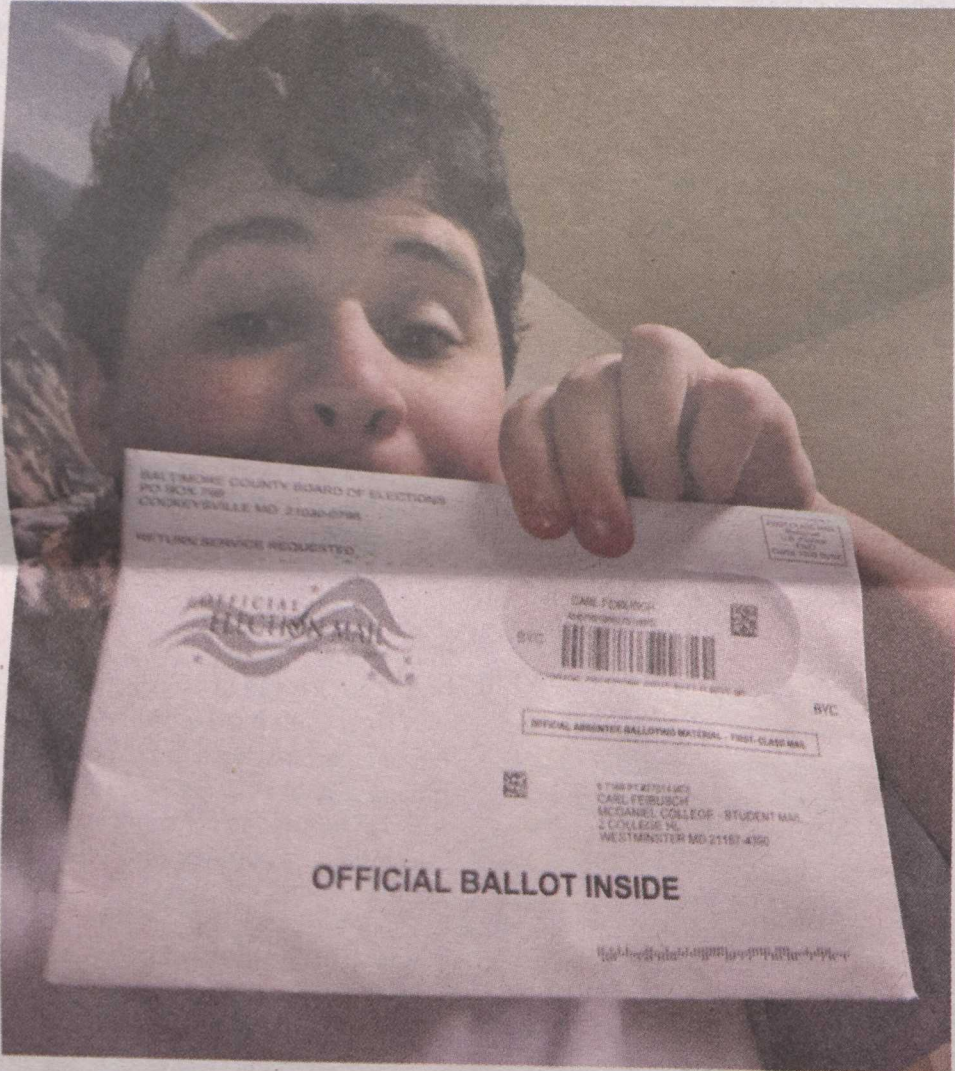
Voting in the 2020 Presidential Election



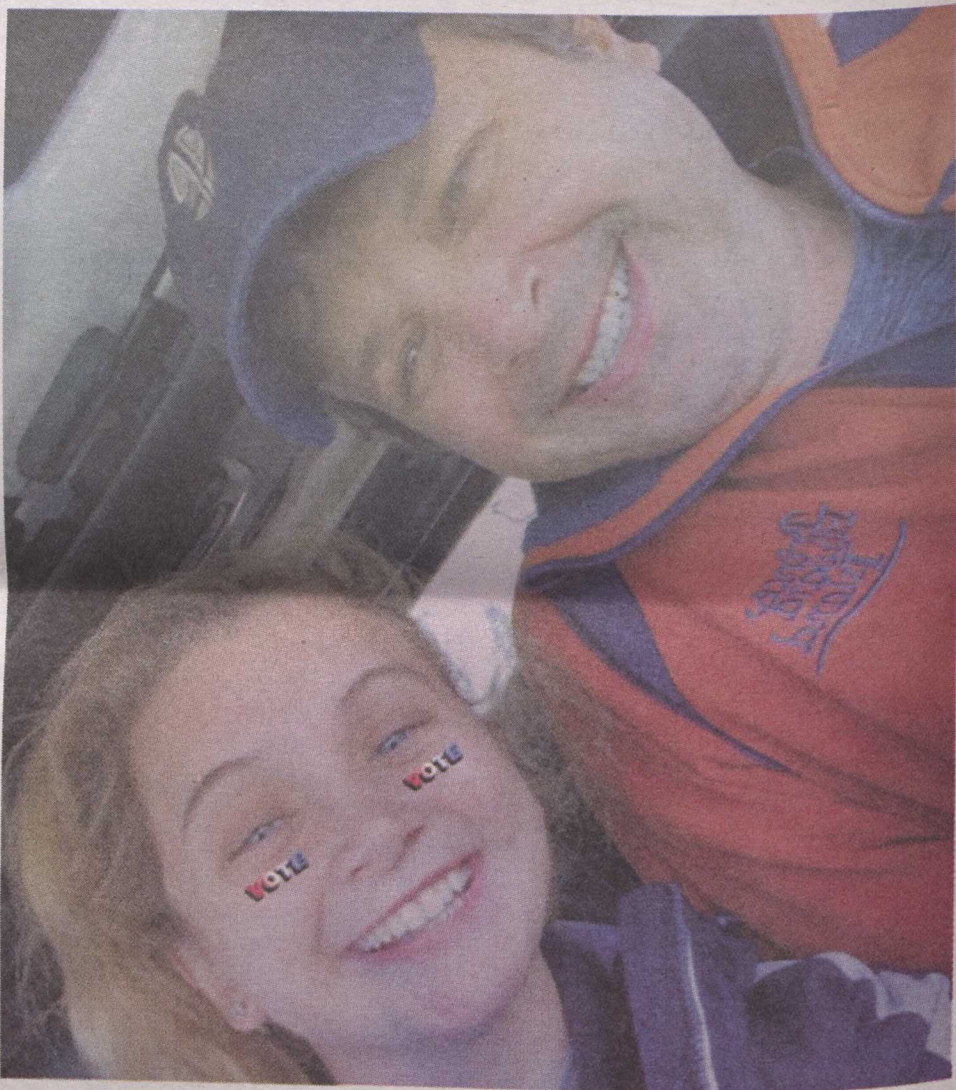
Ciara O'Brien and her mom voted early in person.



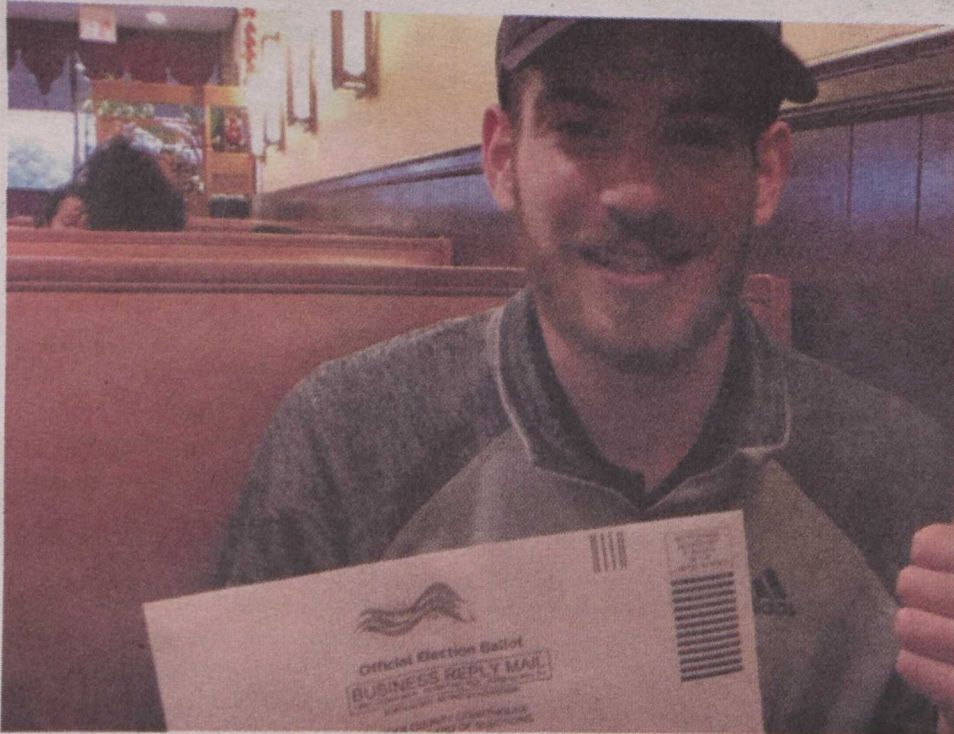
Jill Courtney dropped off her ballots this election.



Carl Feibusch was excited to vote in his first election this year.



Bethany Rippon, pictured here with her dad, a McDaniel alum, chose to vote in-person at a Pennsylvania vote center.



Andrew Witten mailed-in his ballot.



Rachel Allen and her mom voted early in person.



# 2020 Election Week Photos

Molly Sherman, Co-Editor-in-Chief





# Where in Westminster: American Ice Co., “Enter as Strangers! Leave as Friends...”

**Sophia Gilbert**  
Staff Reporter

Looking for a new hangout spot or a quiet place to get caught up on schoolwork? You might want to check out American Ice Co. (AIC). Located within walking distance on Main Street, this cafe opened just last year but has already been making steps to become a place to bring the community together. During the day, the cafe is a friendly stop for a warm drink or a quick lunch. On Tuesday and Friday nights though, they open up the cafe for open mic nights and live music.

The decor is cozy and welcoming with emphasis placed on lots of natural wood and lit up with string lights running along the ceiling. The exposed brick and chalkboard menus give it a rustic feel that is only improved by the friendly people and soft music playing in the background. This combined with the quiet upstairs area makes it an ideal place for studying and customers are encouraged to stick around and enjoy AIC's hospitality for a while.

For McDaniel students, AIC offers a 20 percent discount and they have an entire upstairs area to study or talk, as well as free wifi through Ting. The conference room upstairs is also available for reservation for meetings or events. In warmer weather, they have outdoor seating out front and around back.

AIC has also been partnering with other local businesses like Hen's Nest Eggs in New Windsor and Baughers here in Westminster. Their apple cider chai incorporates Baugher's popular apple cider and their own chai recipe for a perfect fall drink. If you're feeling adventurous, their ever-expanding drink menu also offers things like white chocolate lavender hot chocolate and honey maple lattes.

If you're hungry, AIC offers several breakfast and lunch options from a simple ham, egg, and cheese croissant to their Fiery “Naan-

Wich,” their own take on a chicken sandwich. If you're in the mood for something sweet, they also offer an array of baked goods. If you're lucky, you might be able to grab some of their hazelnut beignets, a personal favorite of mine. Their curry chicken salad is one of their most popular lunch items, and for good reason. Even their oatmeal offers something special, incorporating fresh berries, figs, and yogurt to transform a traditional breakfast.

All their food is made from scratch and they also offer gluten-free options. If bubble tea is your thing, AIC offers several different varieties from the more traditional Thai bubble tea to their purple Taro boba. If you aren't trying to leave campus (understandably given the circumstances), AIC is on DoorDash. In addition, curbside pickup and phone orders are also an option.

When asked about what she wanted the people of Westminster to know, manager Alisha O'Malley said “The plan is to be open longer for dinner and start introducing craft beers and wines.” Currently, the open mic and live music events are BYOB, but AIC is hoping to obtain their liquor license and start serving beverages at these events as well.

In regards to potential community events, Alisha said to “look forward to some outdoor festivals in 2021.” Their goal is to hold more art and music events as time goes on. In the meantime, if you play an instrument and are interested in performing, you can sign up for an open mic night or just come out to enjoy the ambiance.

For more information about American Ice Co., you can contact Alisha at [alisha.omalley@aic.cafe](mailto:alisha.omalley@aic.cafe). When she's not working at the cafe, you can find Alisha performing music in various cafes, wineries, and distilleries in and around the Baltimore area. You can also come check out the cafe for yourself at 62 West Main Street, just a ten minute's walk from McDaniel College's main campus.



(Sophia Gilbert / McDaniel Free Press).



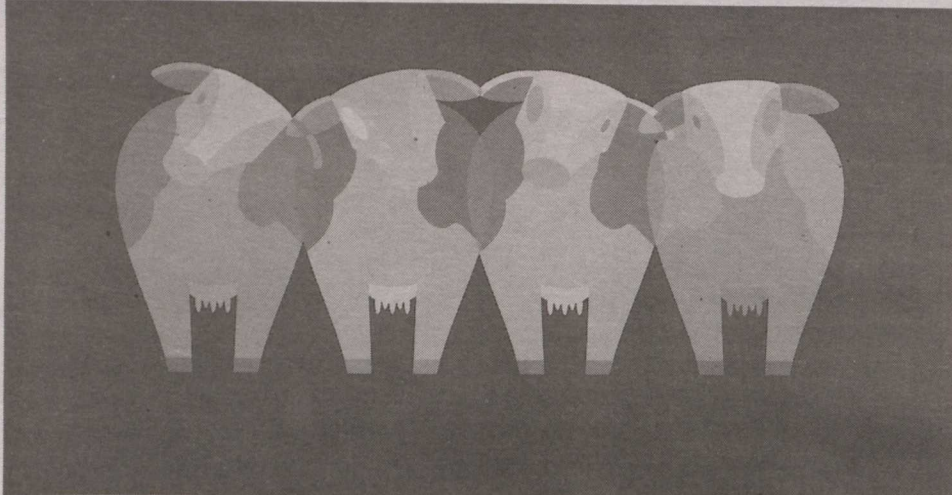
Alisha O'Malley playing outside of AIC on Sept. 18. (Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press).

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## 20 percent by 2020. Where are we now?



**Ciara O'Brien**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

(Photo courtesy of Pixabay user thejakesmith).

In the fall of 2014, President Roger Casey and Beth Gerl, vice president of student affairs and dean of students at the time, signed the Real Food Challenge during the busy lunchtime frenzy in Englar Dining Hall.

The Real Food Challenge was a student-led pledge promoted by McDaniel and dining service partner Sodexo, which vowed to purchase 20 percent “real food” in dining services by the year 2020. Real food was defined as local,

sustainable, humane, and fair trade.

In 2017, The Free Press reported on a three year update to check in on The College's progress. As of Nov. 2017, McDaniel was at seven percent.

Since the 2014 pledge was created, a lot has changed. Sodexo was replaced by AVI Foodsystems, Inc. in Jan. 2019. Although Sodexo took the Real Food Challenge along with them when they left, AVI also strives to order a certain percentage from local vendors.

“AVI is dedicated to source as much local as we can, but the Real Food Challenge is a program within American Association of Sustainability in Higher Education that Sodexo had committed to prior to their departure,” said Kevin Laster, Resident Director for AVI.

As of February 2020, McDaniel Culinary Services was purchasing 41 percent of their total food from local vendors consisting of 31 local farms, ranging from 24.7 to 194 miles away from Kearny Produce.

According to the McDaniel AVI website, “Simple things like switching off lights to major initiatives to reduce environmental impact are a part of the company's culture and beliefs.”

Since the two food services seem to measure progress by different standards, it is hard to tell how much progress has been made. Even though 41 percent of dining services food is locally sourced, other aspects of the Real Food Challenge such as sustainability, humane, and fair trade factors were not considered. Also, it is unclear how the covid-19 pandemic may have impacted these numbers.

In 2017, Rita Webster, Glar's general manager at the time, said that a lack of student interest to drive the program was a major challenge of the initiative. Now, as McDaniel searches for a new president, an eco-conscious leader is just what many students are hoping and advocating for.



# A safe place for election stress & anxiety on The Hill

**Max Engle**  
Staff Reporter

After the end of the 2020 election season, McDaniel College has provided a safe, comfortable place for post-election stress-relief for its students and staff.

Some students find their peace in the organizations and opportunities they have on campus.

Voula Papakonstantinou, a first-year student who is active in the Progressive Student Union and Sunrise McDaniel, said that the election felt like “anxiety, fear, and hope.”

Papakonstantinou said “Our government system has been unpredictable and unreliable, so it’s hard to know whether or not our voices will be heard... [but] the groups that I’m a part of on campus make me feel hopeful... I felt that even if things went [not the way I was hoping], we still had the strength and initiation to make our voices heard.”

Papakonstantinou has participated in many social change events since arriving on campus, including protests in Baltimore and Harrisburg, as well as writing postcards to undecided voters in Pennsylvania with Sunrise McDaniel before the election.

She added, “I could tell that the air was super tense around campus [leading up to the election], but no one [on campus] really talked about voting until election day or the day prior... I don’t think McDaniel [did] anything besides offering counseling services, there hasn’t been too much election talk.”

The limited number of election-based events on campus in the weeks leading up to the election

was an intentional effort from McDaniel’s Office of Student Engagement (OSE). The director of OSE, Amanda Gelber, who oversees student organizations, Greek life, and leadership, had some input in response to observations like Papakonstantinou’s.

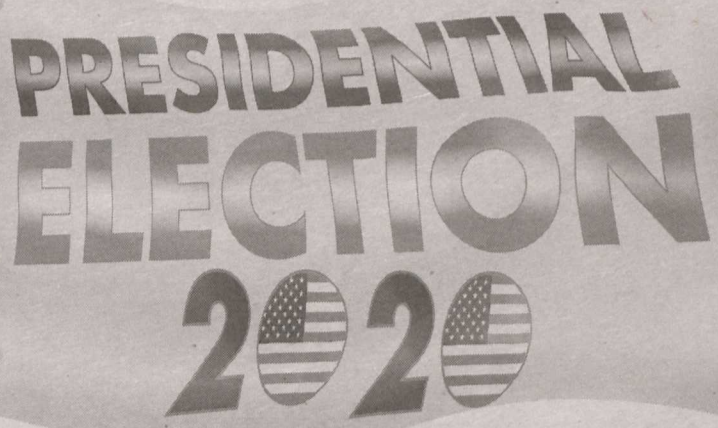
“We had specific events relating to the election, and we did address it head on [in some of our events], but we did other things on campus to provide a comfortable climate,” Gelber said, “From the lens of student engagement, I think that people were so anxious and felt that after they voted, there was not much else to be done... it was just a waiting game.”

In the tense air leading up to the election, OSE tried to provide a sense of normalcy while also giving students the opportunity to express thoughts and concerns. OSE also advertised the Wellness Center’s dedication to helping any student who wouldn’t want to air those thoughts publicly.

“[The Office of Student Engagement] wanted to create events for students where they felt their opinions were not suppressed, regardless of what those opinions were,” Gelber said, “We want to provide our students the ability to relieve [their] anxiety with our organizations and events.”

Some staff find that working within a campus community assists with the multitude of anxieties that may come with U.S. elections.

Rich Goodman, Associate Director of Career Development in the Center of Experience of Opportunity (CEO), found security in the collective student population’s response to the election this year.



((Photo courtesy of Pixabay user Annaliseart)).

Goodman said, “Four years ago, I saw the impact of the election on campus and in students [up close]... At the time it seemed like hopeless optimism that the world would shift back... I really appreciate that, though, that in the last few years even, [there is an] increasing amount of advocacy around these issues... I’m thankful for the work that the staff, students, and faculty are doing... it’s a collective issue and I’m really proud to see our students do the work to get there.”

Goodman works closely with students on their career paths, and directly witnesses the impact that politics and elections have on not only students’ anxiety but their potential careers as well.

Young people across the nation are more active in politics since the 2016 election, as can be seen in the voter turnout during the 2020 election, and there is no exception on McDaniel’s campus.

“I try to empower my students more than anything,” Goodman said. “I definitely encourage

empowerment but immediately follow it up with ‘This is not easy, it’s not simple, and it’s tough, so you have to take care of yourself.’”

Election years are a stressful and tense time for Americans and this year has certainly been no exception. However stressful and tense though, McDaniel College has offered many avenues for its staff, faculty, and students to comfortably and safely fulfill their civic duties.

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# Book review: Stuart Thurton’s debut novel

**Sophia Gilbert**  
Staff Reporter

Tonight, Evelyn Hardcastle will die. It’s up to Aiden Bishop to find out why.

The “7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle” by Stuart Thurton follows the story of Aiden Bishop, who wakes up in the body of Dr. Sebastian Bell in the middle of the forest. He quickly learns that he is trapped at Blackheath Manor, cursed to repeat the day until he discovers who kills Evelyn Hardcastle every night.

The catch is that if the night ends without him catching the killer, he switches bodies with another visitor to Blackheath. To up the stakes, he only has 8 days before the cycle resets and his memory is wiped. In addition, he isn’t the only one trying to solve the mystery.

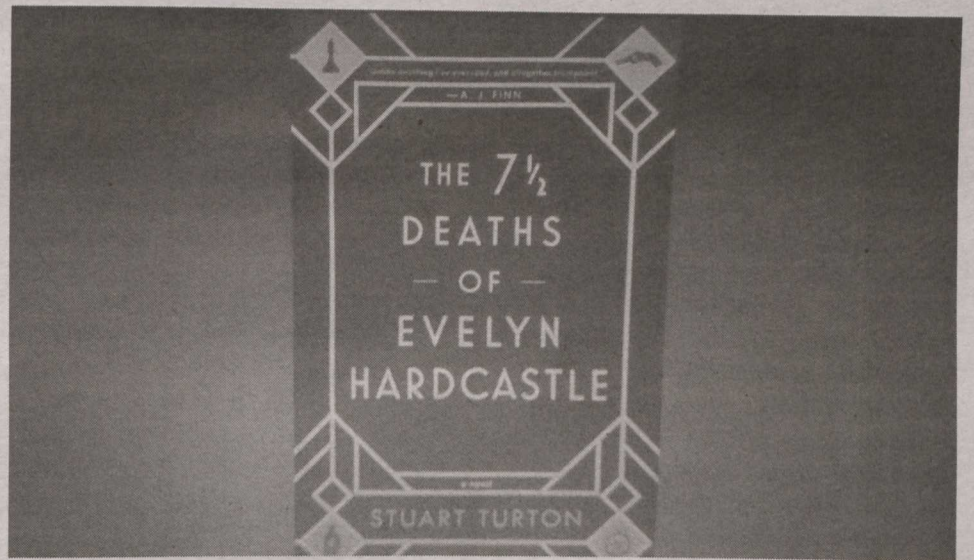
This book was a trip from start to finish. Just to start, if you’re a reader particularly sensitive to reading about fatphobia, sexual assault, and violence, this one probably isn’t for you. While these topics are covered, I personally found that they could have been handled far better by the author.

One of my biggest complaints

is in that of all the different hosts inhabited, there isn’t much to distinguish them other than names and the differences in their bodies and minds. All are adult men, most of them of some status, and nearly all of them intensely dislikeable. The author does a decent job in making physical and intellectual barriers unique to the host as well as personalities and motives. However, the book would have been far more interesting with a wider diversity of hosts.

With the constant jump not only between bodies but time-lines and days, the plot can also be incredibly difficult to follow at times. It is not the light read I was expecting in that it took a great deal of concentration to keep the throughline of the story. There’s also various elements that could use better explanation, especially as far as the rules of the realm and the background of the narrator. I don’t want to say that I hated this book; it had a rich atmosphere and the author clearly put a lot of effort into crafting the mystery. However, this is probably one I’ll only read once.

I will say though, this book had some hard-hitting lines. My



((Sophie Gilbert / McDaniel Free Press)).

favorite quote is a tie between “Too little information and you’re blind, too much and you’re blinded” and “How lost do you have to be to let the devil lead you home?”

The “7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle” is Stuart Thurton’s debut novel. It was published on September 18, 2018 through Sourcebooks Landmark and is available wherever books are sold. Sturton’s newest novel, “The Devil and the Dark Water,” was released last month if you’d like to read more of his work, or you could visit his blog at [sturturton.wordpress.com](http://sturturton.wordpress.com) for some of his travel writing and short stories.

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# The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 24, Issue 5 | February 25, 2021

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## McDaniel faculty members are being equipped with the COVID-19 vaccine

Ciara O'Brien  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

As the COVID-19 vaccine becomes more readily available, some of the McDaniel community is beginning to receive their first doses. Eric Immler, Chief of the Department of Campus Safety, first heard about vaccine availability as the campus representative with the Carroll County Health Department (CCHD). "In late December, as CCHD was planning the logistics of their vaccination clinic, the County Health Officer Ed Singer reached out to me, advising that they were preparing the schedule for the 1A group, which included all public safety in the county," said Immler.

After he was notified, he contacted other eligible staff members such as members of the wellness center and other departments. Tracy Fleming, secretary for several academic departments, human resources



Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press.

assistant, and mask-making champion was one of those staff members.

Both went to a clinic held by the Carroll County Health Department.

"It was the best experience! They were organized, professional, quick and I felt safe the whole time," Fleming said.

"We registered online and received very clear instructions

by email. From the time I walked in the door until I had the shot, it was less than five minutes! We had to wait after receiving the shot to make sure we had no adverse effects then we could leave. I have also been impressed with the follow up. I have received regular text messages asking me how I feel and any effects that I am having," she continued.

"Their online registration process with clear directions was easy to navigate. On-site, their process was smooth and efficient. They walked you through each step of the process as soon as you entered the facility, from initial registration confirmation, to receiving the vaccine, and being directed to the

See **VACCINE**, page 2

## Spring is calling and so are the birds: the Great Backyard Bird Count at McDaniel



McDaniel students John McEachern and Harrison Booth identifying a bird  
(Erick Lowe / McDaniel Free Press).

Erick Lowe  
Contributor

Spring is coming, and with that, the birds! Every year, Cornell Ornithology Labs hosts the Great Backyard Bird Count, and this year was no different. This bird count, spanning from Feb. 12 to Feb. 15, is a citizen study that focuses on seeing and hearing the birds in our area that come out this time of year. For McDaniel students, this brings the opportunity to join a national study, helping to list birds naturally found within our area.

For myself and a couple of

other students, this was one of the first bird counts we've ever been a part of. With such a great educational opportunity, there was a wealth of knowledge available for those who sought it.

Freshman Harrison Booth's favorite takeaway was the ability to make the distinction between American Crows and Fish Crows. "Fish Crows versus American Crows. I learned about fish crows and that was really exciting. To differentiate between the two we'd ask, 'Are you an American Crow?' and when they'd caw in response

'nyerh-erh', we'd know that we're dealing with Fish Crows."

The Great Backyard Bird Count paid off well for the McDaniel students involved, as our campus observed over 15 bird species. Among these were some stunning species, such as two golden crowned kinglets.

These kinglets love coniferous trees, so the pines of the campus golf course are perfect for this species. Typically, this bird is only found deep within the Appalachian mountains of West Virginia at this latitude. To find these anywhere else, you need to go to New York and beyond. Part of the reason seeing this bird was so special for McDaniel students was due to the unique nature of this species' preferred habitat.

Unfortunately, the golden crowned kinglet's habitat stands perilously close to the brink of disaster. As climate change warms up the natural world, it poses the possibility of losing 65 percent of the current habitat, according to the National Audubon Society's field guide for birds. With habitat loss being the primary driver of extinction in the Anthropocene period, these stunning birds sit as one of the most vulnerable species that we can find within our campus.

Another special species we found on the campus was a single red-shouldered hawk. This raptor, with an almost four foot

wingspan, is one of Maryland's most prominent birds of prey. What made this one great is that our campus is actually home to a nest of theirs. Red-shouldered hawks will typically return to their nest year after year, so these raptors are probably going to be here for a while. You can find their nest behind Englar dining hall, so make sure to get a look, but don't get too close during breeding season.

That isn't all that there was to see, for some McDaniel students. Ornithology, the discipline of zoology that focuses on the study of birds, is an inspiration for some to get even more involved. A few students from the Green Life environmental student organization on campus were particularly motivated and inspired by ornithology.

They made the most of this bird count and took initiative independently, traveling just outside of Westminster to report more bird species. Journeying to Wakefield Valley Trails, they endured the heavy snowfall to participate. The

See **BIRD COUNT**, page 2





## COVID-19 vaccine cont.

VACCINE, from page 1

after shot waiting area. Total time was about 20 minutes. In addition to the medical staff providing the vaccine, there are emergency medical personnel on-site to monitor those waiting 15 minutes after the vaccine is administered to ensure there are no immediate side effects that require medical attention. Logistically, they have established a very hands on and efficient process for those receiving the vaccine," Immler said.

Although Immler and Fleming have received both doses at this point, Fleming only received the first at the time of this interview.

"My arm was sore for about three days. The needle was bigger than I thought! I was lucky and did not have some of the bad side effects that I have heard from others," Fleming said of her first vaccine experience.

"I did have a few mild side effects after receiving the second dose. The following day, I developed a low grade fever for a few hours and fatigue for about one day. In connecting with friends and colleagues that recently received the second dose, I have found that mild or little to no side effects is most common," said Immler.

Despite receiving the vaccine, Fleming and Immler are still taking precautions to fight COVID-19.

"You still have to wear a mask, you still have to sanitize, distance and be safe. You still need to make smart and safe decisions," said Fleming.

"We all will continue to follow all CDC guidance of distancing and wearing masks to avoid the potential spread of covid-19, especially in our close environment and congregate living on campus," said Immler.

When it comes to concerns about the vaccine, Immler and Fleming have the same advice: do your research. "I took the time to learn about the specific Moderna vaccine that is available in our area. For me, and many of our staff, the information provided was reassuring for us participating in the vaccination process," said Immler.

"Do your own research! Look at reliable, science-based sources. Ultimately, do what you feel is best for you," Fleming adds.

"Educating yourself and having open communication with your doctor or health officials is key to understanding how the vaccine may impact you. Locally, the Health Department has provided specific information about the vaccine they are administering. Seeking out accurate information to make this personal decision for what is right for you. I encourage everyone to educate themselves and get the vaccine when it becomes available to help prevent the spread of the virus," said Immler.

## Sunrise Movement shining on campus and in the legislature

Molly Sherman  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Fighting for a brighter future, Sunrise Movement McDaniel has come together with Sunrise Movement hubs across Maryland to endorse an array of Green New Deal aligned bills they believe will take steps to make Maryland the state people need it to be.

The Sunrise Movement is a youth movement taking charge across the country to create a future where everyone has access to good jobs, clean water and air, and a livable future. In the collective pursuit, they are inspired by the Green New Deal – a bold vision to create millions of jobs while addressing the climate crisis.

In the midst of a pandemic, climate crisis, and massive exposure of systemic injustices, the movement tackles more than just issues of the environment. They seek to holistically tackle and change the inextricably woven system of economics, social conditions, and environmental realities. The Sunrise Movement Maryland coalition has assembled to pass bold and transformative legislation in Maryland by supporting a host of bills in the 2021 state legislative session.

In the bills they have endorsed, they strive to capture state-level legislation that responds to economic injustices and opportunities, healthcare accessibility, issues of transit, waste management, police reform, and prison abolition.

The agenda is broadly grouped into bills that make strides towards a livable future, fight for abolition, pursue the right to good jobs,

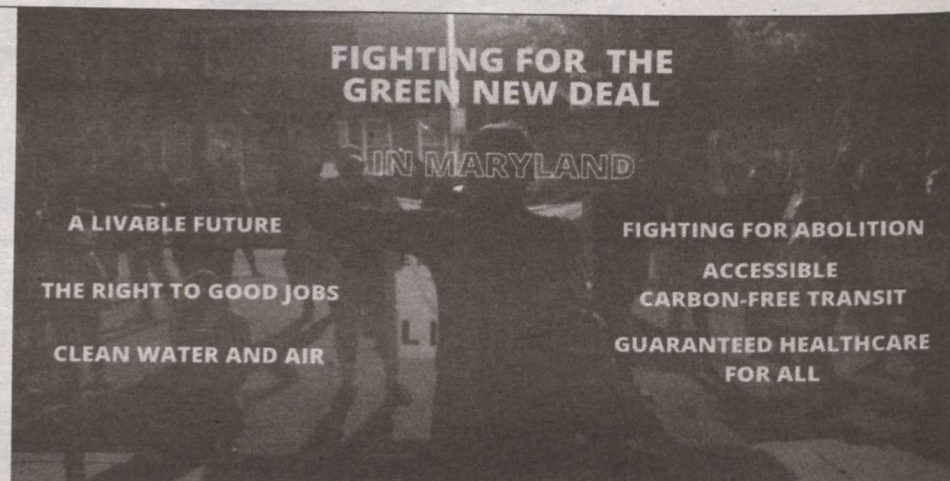
establish clean and accessible transit, secure clean air and water, and seek healthcare for all.

The endorsements result from the consensus of Maryland hubs currently active in the coalition. Hubs are Sunrise Movement groups that respond to national issues as well as ones focused locally. The bill package is informed by those hubs and endorsed collectively by the Sunrise Maryland coalition. The bills are also endorsed by the hubs as individual entities to reflect the support of their local area as well.

The coalition has some key bill priorities including the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights; American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) police reform bills, including Anton's Law to increase police transparency and an initiative to repeal the Law Enforcement Bill of Rights; Essential Workers Protection Act, Healthy Farmworkers Act, and ending predatory medical debt practices; public transportation investment and transition to electrified buses; and removing trash incineration from renewable energy funding.

Sunrise hubs that have signed on to support the full package of bills include Baltimore, Annapolis, Frederick, Rockville, Silver Spring, University of Maryland, McDaniel College, Einstein, Carroll County, and Howard County.

Together, the hubs and the coalition are supporting the endorsed bills by sharing information, reaching out to legislators, providing testimony, taking and creating actions, and supporting the work of partners who have spearheaded the bills.



The Sunrise Movement Maryland Coalition's legislative agenda pulls inspiration from guiding principles of the Green New Deal (Graphic courtesy of Sunrise Movement Maryland).

They have partnered with grassroots left-wing climate groups and social justice movements to grow their power and talk to communities.

The coalition and connected hubs have identified an opportunity for Maryland to lead our nation as we head into the decade of the Green New Deal. The legislation endorsed takes steps to pursue solutions and infiltrate the structures that enable harmful and negligent waste practices and create new ones that advocate and respond to the needs of Marylanders.

The Sunrise Movement hub at McDaniel College is one of the 10 hubs that have signed on to this legislative agenda. They will be taking actions passed down from coalition leadership and creating specific ones to uplift the issues of biggest interest to the members and the Carroll County community.

A newly formed student organization as of last semester, they have already taken action nationally and on campus. Leading up to the 2020 presidential election, members of Sunrise McDaniel wrote postcards to swing-state voters, phone-banked across the country, and participated in voter protection actions. During the McDaniel College presidential selection process,

they worked with faculty groups and student organizations to represent community interests by circulating a letter template with anti-racism demands for selection consideration and creating a sign-on letter demonstrating the desire for climate action, inclusion efforts, and transparency in the selection process.

In this new endeavor, they are aiming to involve McDaniel College students in the nuanced endeavor of advocacy work at the state level. Members will have the opportunity to lobby, attend hearings, provide testimony, engage in communications work and more through Sunrise connections to sister hubs and partner advocacy groups across the state and nationally.

Students attending McDaniel College who are interested in uplifting the legislative agenda, educating about the Green New Deal, and representing community interests can come to meetings on Microsoft Teams weekly on Thursdays at 7 p.m. The link is available on their Instagram (@SunriseMcDaniel) or can be provided by emailing [sunrisemcdaniel@gmail.com](mailto:sunrisemcdaniel@gmail.com). To add your name to the fight for a Green New Deal in Maryland you can sign on individually at [bit.ly/3tLbubV](https://bit.ly/3tLbubV).

## The Great Backyard Bird Count at McDaniel cont.

BIRD COUNT, from page 1

local park was home to a slew of feathered friends. At this location, which is about half forested trail and half abandoned golf course, over 50 birds were counted, spanning across 17 different species!

"Seeing the northern flicker was cool! I was really nervous about that site, but we got some amazing birds" said senior John McEachern. As a senior and chief ornithologist for our crew, he helped educate everyone at the site about the variety

of calls, songs, and visual cues to identify any bird.

About a fifth of the birds found within Wakefield Valley were song sparrows, a bird that in the Spring will sing over 2,300 times a day. The males have been known to sing anywhere from 6 to 20 songs for either defending their territory, mating, or signaling to others.

All my single folks out there on the prowl, listen up! The female song swallows have been known to respond significantly better to males that know a larger repertoire

of songs. They have a higher reproductive rate compared to their male counterparts with less of an array of music, so you better start working on those pipes!

All in all, this was a great year for the Great Backyard Bird Count and the students of McDaniel.

If you're interested in joining a community of folks that are environmentally-minded, consider joining Green Life! These meetings are biweekly, on Tuesdays at 6 P.M. Email [ec1006@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:ec1006@mcdaniel.edu) for more information.

### Spring 2021 Editorial Team

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Jake Fine '21  
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# Searching for the missing pieces of the GameStop puzzle

**Molly Sherman**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Over two weeks into Jan. 2021, regular investors turned Wall Street on its head when efforts by Reddit users sent Gamestop stock soaring over 2,000%, creating a shockwave through traditional investors.

While Reddit traders flexed their power, hedge funds and Wall Street were losing billions of dollars. Melvin Capital, an investment firm that bet on the GameStop stock going down, nearly went bankrupt. Regular investors had seemingly proved to Wall Street, fancy bankers, and hedge fund managers that they are capable of manipulating and upending the system.

Senator Elizabeth Warren, often known for her populist rhetoric, raised concerns about the casino-like swings in the stock. She wrote a letter to regulators sharing her concerns about the little guy being swallowed by the wave of gamesmanship and flash flood of money.

Small investors who used their rent money and stimulus check to jump on the GameStop bandwagon risked the money they need. When the stock inevitably lessened in value, the impact was felt disproportionately by these retail investors. Opportunists who piggybacked on the people's revolution to flip extra profit were not nearly as susceptible to harmful losses when the stock fell.

At first glance, it appears the GameStop events gave voice to the populist concerns of many Americans. There is no denying that this shone a light on the many who believe the system is broken. They see Wall Street investors bailed out by the government and consistently cared for most in financial interactions. They think the little guy doesn't have a shot.

That feeling was compounded when Robinhood restricted

GameStop trading. Then came an eruption of conspiracy theories and allegations. Suspicions rose to the surface wondering if regulators or hedge funds had told them to shut this down. At that moment, the company, whose entire brand is about democratizing investment, looked like they were helping the big guy.

However, there is another explanation. Clearinghouses, financial intermediaries, exist to link buyers to sellers. When volatility goes up, as it did with the GameStop stock, clearinghouses need brokers to provide more cash, as they are essentially sharing the risk of trades being made not actually happening. Brokers, like Robinhood, could not immediately provide all the cash clearing houses demanded, so they had to limit new purchases.

Robinhood is still under an onslaught of speculation, facing more than 30 civil lawsuits and ponderings of a liquidity problem within the company. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is looking to determine whether the decisions of brokers to curb trade at the peak of the frenzy to meet alleged clearinghouse needs complies with trading regulations.

Additionally, the SEC is reviewing the Gamestop stock's volatility, the Department of Justice has launched a probe, and the Commodity Futures Trading commission has launched an investigation into rally circumstances.

The House Financial Services Committee organized a hearing on Feb. 18 at noon to hear from the major players in the GameStop debacle. The hearing, entitled, "Game Stopped? Who Wins and Loses When Short Sellers, Social Media, and Retail Investors Collide," was organized to review the actions of brokerages, consider



(Image courtesy of Anton Porsche from Pixabay)

whether online communities require more oversight, and explore questions of market manipulation.

Market manipulation results from a scheme to create an artificial price. Players enact different strategies and tactics to pump up the price of a stock and then benefit by selling into their manufactured frenzy.

"Your typical market manipulation case involves false statements by people who somehow want to manipulate the stock price for their own gain" said Keri Curtis Axel, a former assistant US attorney and former staff attorney at the SEC.

Consider the Stratton Oakmont 'pump and dump' scheme of the early 90s, dramatized by the film *The Wolf of Wall Street*, wherein the brokerage firm convinces investors to bet large amounts of money on essentially worthless stocks, inflating the price. Stratton brokers then sold shares held by the firm and its partners to flip a large profit.

While this seems to eerily mirror the happenings of the GameStop debacle and the actions of Keith Gill, a retail investor that spearheaded the pile-on trading of GameStop stock in Reddit forums, lawmakers in the hearing did not suggest that he is a broker engaging in such market manipulation.

In the question of brokers infiltrating Reddit forums, Steve Huffman, Reddit's CEO, recounted that there is no evidence of "bots,

foreign agents or other bad actors" playing a significant role in the inflation of GameStop stock that could have suggested manipulation by brokerage firms.

Ultimately, understanding the potential remedies for and implications of the actions of Reddit users, brokerage firms, and regulators, will take time. This "meme stock" saga directed attention toward the widespread concern for the inequality built into our financial institutions, the integrity of the U.S. stock market, and the capabilities of retail investors.

"There's gonna be this initial flurry of activity. Congress will hold hearings, they will want to assuage the public by taking some initial testimony and looking like they're doing something, but the hard work of making any change in this area will likely take some time" said Axel.

As the pieces begin to fall into place, what the picture reveals to us will hopefully change the course of trading to be fair to players of all sizes.

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## Students feel the effects of COVID-19 restrictions on campus

**Rachel Allen**  
Assistant Editor

As the spring semester approached, McDaniel students were faced with the decision of whether to reside on campus. Students had to take into consideration the cost and the experiences being on campus provide.

While many students chose to live on campus, there were many students who decided to stay home. A common reason students decided not to reside on campus was because of the restrictions McDaniel has in place due to COVID-19.

"I felt like I would be more comfortable living in an environment without strict restrictions on what I can and can't do," said senior Joey Conklin. Conklin resided at home last semester as well. He says a huge reason he stayed home is because of the rule in place preventing visitors on campus.

Freshman Brianna Cole stayed home both fall and spring semester as well. She also says it is not worth being on campus.

I decided to stay home this semester because of the restrictions that COVID-19 still hold at the campus itself, it did not make sense for me to move in," said freshman Brianna Cole.

Another factor students took into consideration was cost. With a hybrid learning environment, some students felt the cost to live on campus was too much.

"The only change that would have made me want to stay on campus more would have been a reduction of the cost for living on campus, especially with having a majority of my classes online or hybrid," said freshman Morgan Crouse.

Apart from the academics, students feel a big part of college is the social aspect. Students found that the rules resulted in them having to spend a lot more time in their dorms.

"I lived on campus last semester but decided not to come back," said freshman David Kokora.

Kokora says it was hard to be in a dorm all the time where you could not have anyone in the dorm other than your roommate.

"There is barely anything to do on campus. It is even harder when I can't have my own friends or even floormates in my dorm to hang out with me," said Kokora. "If there were more events and activities on campus, it would have made me want to stay more."

McDaniel students know COVID-19 is serious and understand why rules and restrictions are in place. However, they wish staff would take into consideration how the rules affect campus life.

"I think the breaking point for me was not being allowed to have people from outside in your apartment or in your room. While I understand the need for these rules, I also feel that it is unrealistic to keep college kids from following this rule and it has created a more rebellious and secretive culture on campus," said Conklin.

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## COVID-19 Campus Tracker

13

Total number of newly confirmed positive COVID-19 cases of our on-campus population over the previous seven days.

13

Total cumulative number of positive COVID-19 cases of our on-campus population, since Feb. 15.

493

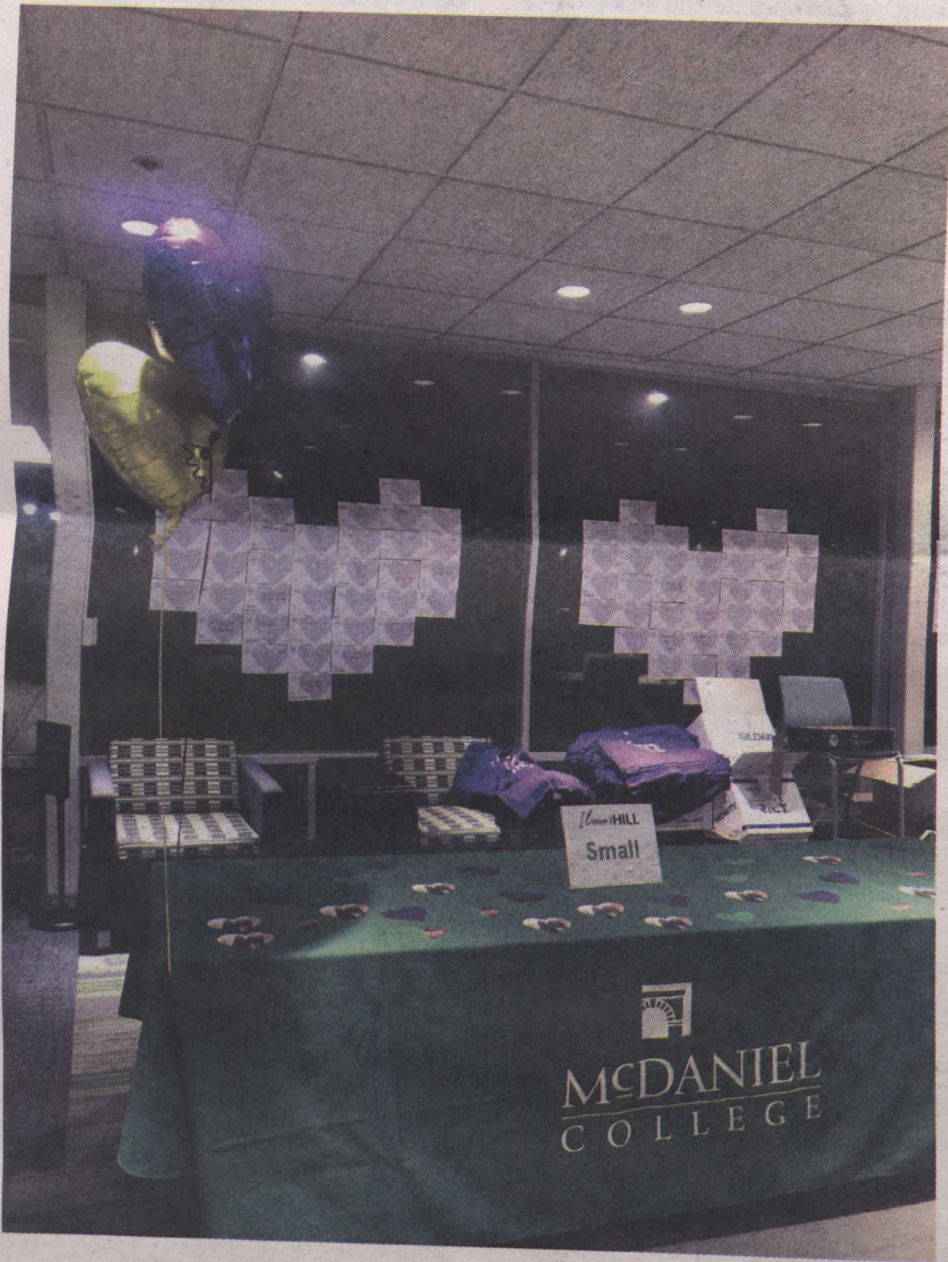
Total cumulative number of Wellness Center administered tests, since Feb. 15.

This information was obtained from the COVID-19 Campus Notification System. It was updated on Feb. 24, 2021, and will continue to be updated every weekday by 9 a.m. To learn more, please visit the Return to the Hill (RTTH) webpage.



# I Love The Hill Day

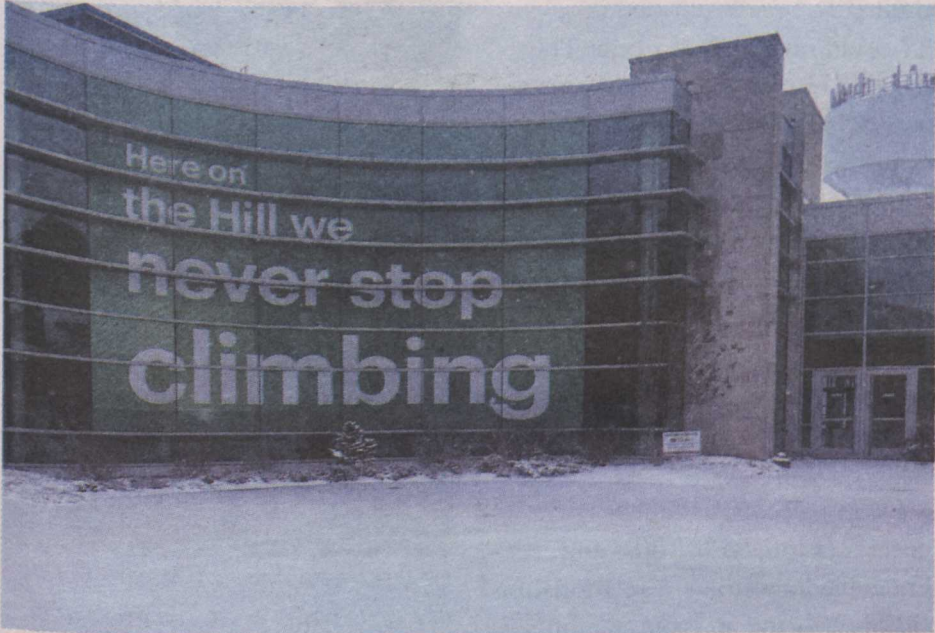
Ciara O'Brien, Co-Editor-in-Chief  
Jake Fine, Assistant Editor





# Snow Days in Westminster

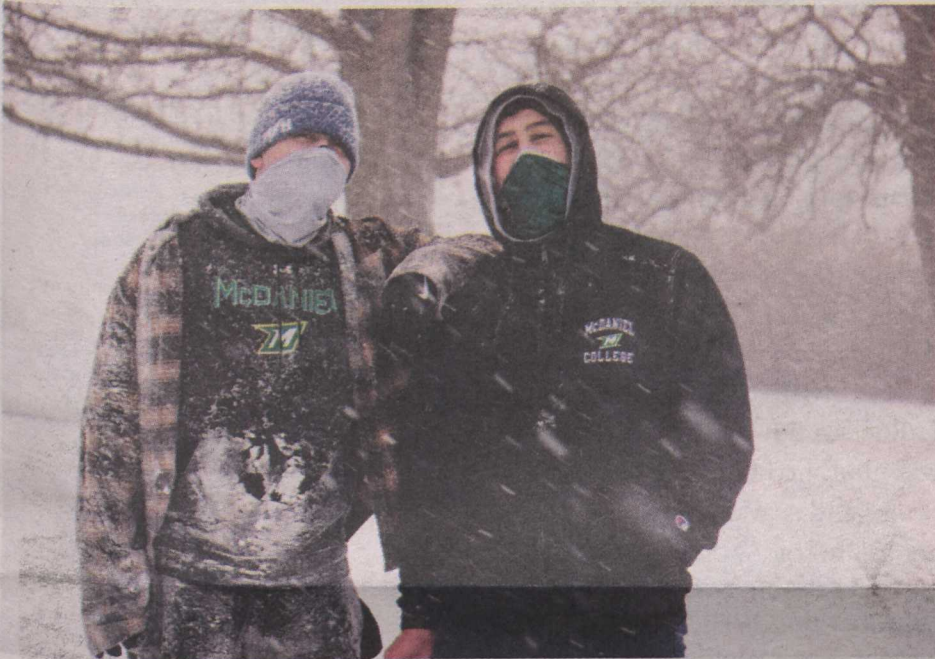
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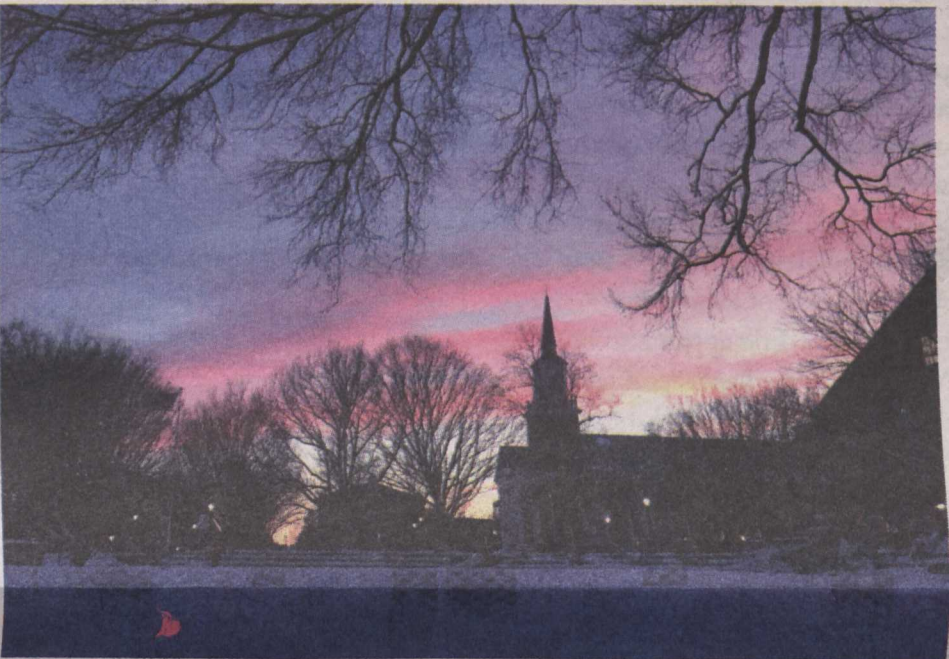
(Rachel Allen / McDaniel Free Press)



(Rachel Allen / McDaniel Free Press)



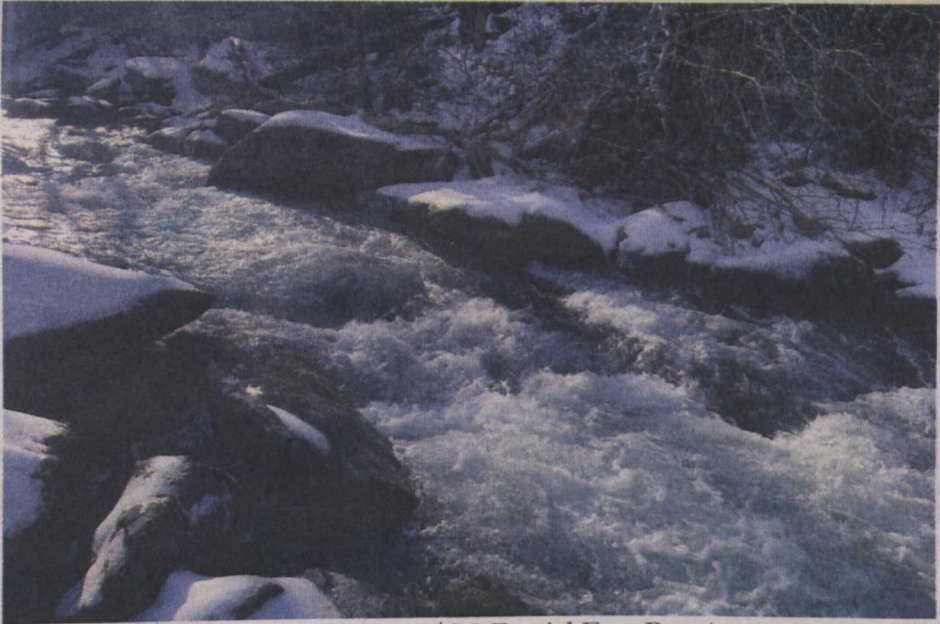
(Jeremy Hasson / McDaniel Free Press)



(Ciara O'Brien / McDaniel Free Press)



(Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press)



(Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press)



(Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press)



(Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press)



## Book review: The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue

**Sophia Gilbert**  
Staff Reporter

"His hand slides through her hair, comes to rest against the back of her neck, drawing her close. 'Tell me instead what you want most.' She looks up. 'I want a chance to live. I want to be free.'"

The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue by V. E. Schwab tells the story of Adeline, a girl who makes a Faustian deal for her freedom on the night that she is to be wed. In exchange for her soul, she gets the chance to experience life to its fullest without aging or dying. The catch is that she is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. The story follows the course of 300 years, starting with the French town of Villon in the year 1698 to present-day New York as Addie attempts to make peace with being unable to leave her mark on the world.

Things change, however, when she meets Henry Strauss, a boy working in a bookshop that isn't what he first appears to be. Meanwhile, she has to contend with the fact that the old god she made a deal with centuries ago might not be willing to let her go.

As someone with a well-loved copy of The Picture of Dorian Gray on their bookshelf, I was excited to dig into The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue.

Admittedly, it had a slow start, beginning both before the deal and

before she meets any of the other characters. The story moves in two directions, both forward from her childhood and in the present with the timeframe changing from chapter to chapter. It would be confusing if not for the fact that each chapter gives both the location and year in which the scene is taking place.

Without giving too much away, there is also a secondary narrator for bits and pieces, though this too is made clear by the book itself. I didn't find that these changes between the speaker, time, and place took too much away from the story as the book does a good job of helping the reader keep it all straight. For the slow start, I didn't expect to become entranced once again by the characters and descriptions of the world through Addie's eyes. "Blink, and half your life is gone," she says, and it's true. It's a gift, then, that the reader gets to experience so many times and places within the novel's pages.

The novel is broken into books, and before each one is a profile on a piece of art nearly all inspired by Addie. Each one was made by prior lovers without any memory of who the muse for the work was, but were inspired nonetheless by the idea of her.

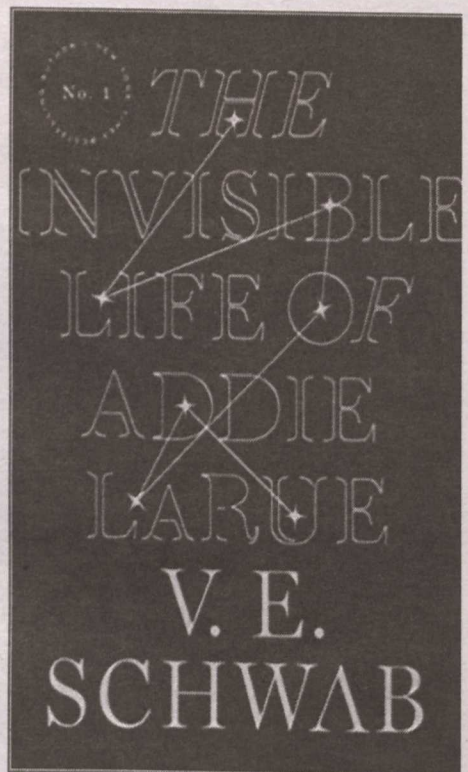
A repeated sentiment throughout the book is that ideas are so much wilder than memories, that they long and look for ways of taking root.

It's fascinating to see the art Addie inspired and then, in the following book, read about her encounters with each artist and how she left her mark on the world with each one. It isn't something I've seen done and, admittedly, I really enjoyed it.

I could say far more about The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue, but most of why this book drew me in so much was because, for about a fantastical story about an immortal girl, so many scenes felt so relatably human. From Addie feeling torn between her love for her family and her desire for independence, to Henry leaving a party because of a sudden depression he can't seem to shake.

There's also casual queer representation, with Addie and others having same-sex relationships without it being an issue or a huge plot point, which is refreshing. I can also say with complete certainty that if you think you know where the story is going, you're probably wrong. All of this, along with its length, made it a perfect book to escape into on a snow day, and if you too are looking for a fictional getaway for a few hours, I would highly suggest The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue.

The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue is a novel by V.E. Schwab. It was published Oct. 6, 2020 by Tor Books and is available wherever books are sold. You can also find more about V.E. Schwab or explore her other novels and comics on her website, [www.veschwab.com](http://www.veschwab.com).



Do you have a new book or novel you'd like me to review next? Feel free to drop a suggestion via email at [freepress@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:freepress@mcdaniel.edu) or message the Free Press Instagram page @mcdfreepress.

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## Restore your mind and body with yoga on the Hill

**Brianna Vaughn**  
Contributor

It's no secret that life can be stressful. Having an outlet can make all the difference! If you've been looking for a way to decompress between classes, jobs, and all the other stressful things life can throw your course, look no further! Yoga might be the practice for you.

This ancient practice is as old as civilizations have existed. Yoga is a fun way to stimulate the mind and body by using postures and breathwork. By taking a few moments of awareness throughout the day, we can see countless benefits in not just our mental wellbeing but our physical health as well.

Whether it's school, work, or family, stress finds a way to creep into all of our lives. Stress has been proven to directly impact our health, causing issues such as heart disease, cancer, and stroke, on top of a variety of chronic illnesses. In turn, stress management is the key to helping prevent a lot of these illnesses.

Yoga is viewed as a holistic approach to stress management. The practice of yoga generates feelings of wellbeing, relaxation,

lower irritability, and typically a more positive perspective on everyday life. This balanced energy that yoga stimulates is vital in the immune system and stress response within the body. This results in lower heart-rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, and cardiac output in students who practice yoga regularly. Not only is yoga a fantastic source for stress relief but a preventative measure for many illnesses that stem from high-stress levels!

Have you ever gone through a long day, and your body feels stiff, sore, or tired? Try some stretching poses such as "cat-cow stretches" or "downward facing dog" in a sequence to feel your muscles loosen up after a hard day at school or work. Doing these fun, simple poses stimulate the body for a short period, helping you feel more relaxed and in tune with your body. Still, it increases your flexibility and mobility over time.

Doing these poses is also known to help with back pain. It promotes better posture! You'd be surprised how challenging lengthening your back can be as a beginner yogi. Regular practice will have you standing up straight and tall, preventing back pain in your later



(Image courtesy of Leninscape from Pixabay)

years.

Building your muscles and toning your body has never been easier when you can search up a quick YouTube video or join us at McDaniel Yoga. Many of us can relate that going to the gym has its own set of challenges. What if it snows and I can't leave my room? What if it happens to be closed that day? The gym can even be overwhelming for some people to go to regularly. Lucky for you, yoga is accessible anywhere and anytime!

Channeling awareness to our mind and body makes a change in our perception of life. Taking 30 minutes a day to sit with your thoughts and get in touch with your

body can help better understand ourselves.

If any of these benefits sound like something you're interested in, I challenge you to join the McDaniel yoga club this upcoming Thursday for a virtual yoga session!

McDaniel Yoga meets weekly and virtually on Thursdays at 6 p.m. For more information, follow their Instagram @mcdanielyoga.

[www.mcdanielfreepress.com](http://www.mcdanielfreepress.com)



# Self-care and environmentalism never felt so good: treating yourself and the planet

Jessie Titus  
Contributor

Did you know that one billion toothpaste tubes are thrown out each year? Or that 100 million animals suffer in cosmetic, drug, and food testing each year? Or that 300 million tons of hair product packaging ends up in landfills each year? Or that two billion disposable razors are thrown out each year in the U.S. alone. Now I don't know about you, but that seems absurd, and I think it is about time to change.

I started my journey to a zero-waste routine about two years ago – freshman year of college. At first, a zero-waste daily routine seems daunting. Having to research different products, finding what is best for your body, and then of course, the price.

But fear no more, it is easier than ever to make quick and easy switches that will keep you from personally contributing to the thousands of plastic bottles ending up in landfills, in just your lifetime alone. Not only can switching to a zero-waste routine have an immensely positive impact on the planet, but on your body as well. Many zero-waste products have an equal focus on human health and have nixed any harsh chemicals that have lasting effects on your body's health.

Starting the day off right is the first step to self-love. Imagine knowing your morning routine had little to no impact on the environment. I can't wait to show you how to make that dream a reality. My journey went a little like this:

**Reinvent your brushing routine with Bite Toothpaste – Bite. Brush. Smile. Repeat.** Bite Toothpaste is cruelty-free, vegan, and all-natural toothpaste that comes in the form of a small bit. These bits come in a compostable pouch and a reusable glass jar and are delivered right to your door in 100% biodegradable packaging (don't forget your bamboo toothbrushes with your

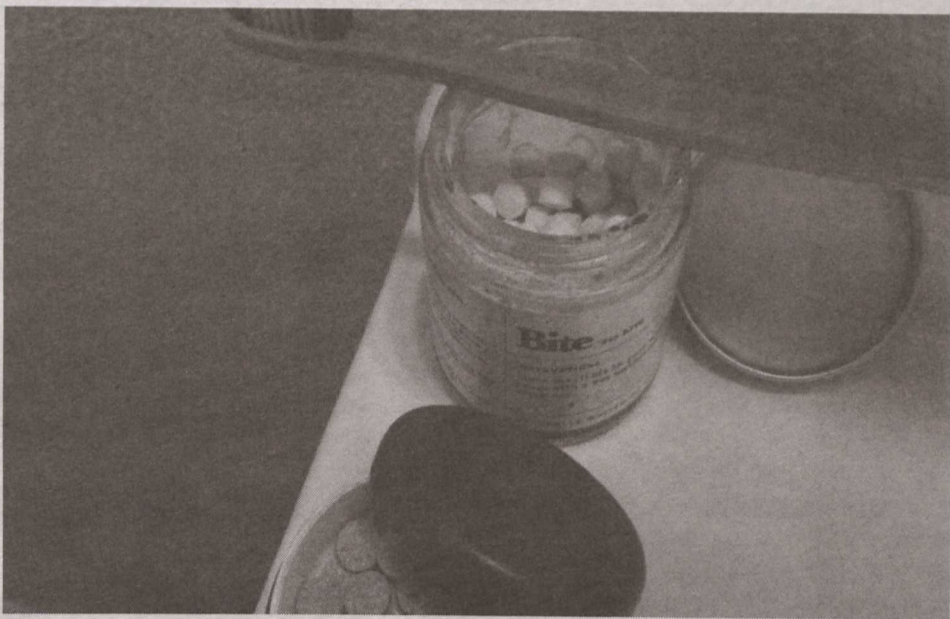
first purchase at a two for \$12 deal). Each delivery will last you four months at only \$30. Once you run out, they send a refill in, yet again, biodegradable packaging, so you can refill your little jar! Not only does Bite have toothpaste but they have expanded to provide mouthwash and floss as well. All their products come in a variety of flavors like fresh mint, mint charcoal, and berry twist.

**Wash away the waste with by Humankind**

Mouthwash was my next step as a traditional mouthwash like Listerine were too harsh for my mouth. Mouthwash from by Humankind comes in the form of little tablets that are stored in a small reusable container. How it works is you put about 2 oz. of warm water in a glass, drop a tablet in, watch it fizz, and then it is like normal mouthwash! Your first purchase of mouthwash is \$15 and comes with a free reusable container. After that, every 8 weeks you pay \$15 for a two pack refill. The company has expanded over the years to sell tons of other products like toothpaste, floss, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, hand soap, body wash, hand sanitizer, and even cotton swabs. All of which are available as subscriptions or one time purchases. I personally have only tried the mouthwash and the deodorant subscriptions (both of which I am very satisfied with).

**Reduce waste and gain volume with HiBar**

Shampoo and conditioner were my next search. I had tried many different brands of shampoo and conditioner bars before finding HiBar. I had found that most of them left my hair feeling rough or like it was coated in plastic, so continued my search until finally finding HiBar. Their bars are absolutely amazing. They come in easy-to-hold shapes that are perfect for rubbing into your hair and they have different types of bars for different types of hair and hair goals. I personally wanted to improve the volume of my hair so I chose to try the volumize bars



Bite toothpaste and bamboo toothbrush plus by Humankind mouthwash tablets  
(Jessie Titus / McDaniel Free Press).

first. They come in boxes just small enough to fit the little bars and are, of course, biodegradable. A subscription for a shampoo and conditioner set is \$26.50. You can customize the frequency of the deliveries if you don't wash your hair every day. I typically get a delivery every two months, so only \$26.50 for 60 days.

**Leaving the waste with LeafShave**

Plastic razors have always been hard for me to give up because of the simplicity of just using one for a little while, then throwing it away, and just getting a new one. Then I discovered LeafShave. It is a metal razor that comes with replaceable blades. While a metal razor can be expensive to initially buy, I think it is an amazing investment. At LeafShave, the initial razor is \$84 and it comes with a 10-blade starter pack. You can also get the blade recycling tin which you can put your worn razors in and send them back for recycling. These razors have a lifetime warranty, so this is a one-time purchase and then occasional small purchases of blades which is much cheaper than buying plastic razors every month or so.

Those are all the switches I have made so far! There are countless other small businesses looking to make an impact on the environment. From cleaning supplies to paper towels, someone has thought of a solution for the epidemic of waste. Here is a list of companies and products that I am still waiting to try:

has foods such as frozen meals, cheese and meat trays, yogurt, chips, candy and more. Scotty's also has many options for drinks such as energy drinks, coffee, teas and smoothies.

With COVID-19, McDaniel encourages students to stay on campus as much as possible to avoid outside exposure. Scotty's provides a great place with many options which were not available before. Students can find many items in Scotty's that were not found on campus before.

With the simple swipe of the McDaniel ID, students are granted access to tons of food and drink options. Apart from the 24/7 convenience, Scotty's also allows students to scan items and pay through a self-checkout. It has provided members of the McDaniel community with a new and safer alternative than needing to go to the grocery store for certain foods or drinks.

**Super Natural – All natural cleaning products**

Reusable and refillable cleaning products made from all natural essential oils.

**EC30 – Enlightened Clean**

Waste-free cleaning products that come in the form of small swatches that, when mixed with water, turn to cleaning supplies, face wash, hair products, and more.

**Wild Minimalist – Zero waste kits**

These kits range from beauty to kitchen essential in any home.

**Zero Waste Store – Variety of zero waste products**

The coolest of their products is reusable paper towels that wrap up like a roll of towels and can be washed and reused. They have anything you could need in your home or travel living a low-to-zero-waste lifestyle.

**Earthbreeze – Laundry**

These are zero plastic laundry sheets. The sheets look like dryer sheets but they are actually made of detergent and will dissolve in the washer and turn to soap.

A journey to a zero-waste care routine is not about perfection. Taking action for the planet is never about perfection. It is about doing what you can, with what you have, to make any kind of difference. All it takes is a bit of commitment and a lot of self-love. Together we can make a difference, in our daily lives, for a better future for all.

## Scotty's is the new 24/7 food spot on campus



Scotty's offers a wide array of snacks (Rachel Allen / McDaniel Free Press).

Rachel Allen  
Assistant Editor

McDaniel has opened a new food spot named "Scotty's Convenience Store", located in the middle entry

of ROJ student center.

This is the only 24/7 shop for food on campus. Scotty's offers a large variety of snacks and drinks. It is a grocery store styled shop which

## Crime Log

The Daily Crime and Fire Log is available for public view in the Campus Safety office, located at 152 Pennsylvania Ave. The most current 60 days of information is available from the dispatcher; archived records up to seven years can be requested. Unless otherwise noted, the incidents listed here are closed. "DOCS Office" refers to the Department of Campus Safety office on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Reported 2/1	Stadium Drive
Malicious Destruction of Property	
Reported 2/16	314 Uniontown Road
Malicious Destruction of Property	
Reported 2/17	Merritt Hall
Harassment:phone	
Reported 2/20	Harlow Pool Parking Lot
CDS:Student Conduct Violation	

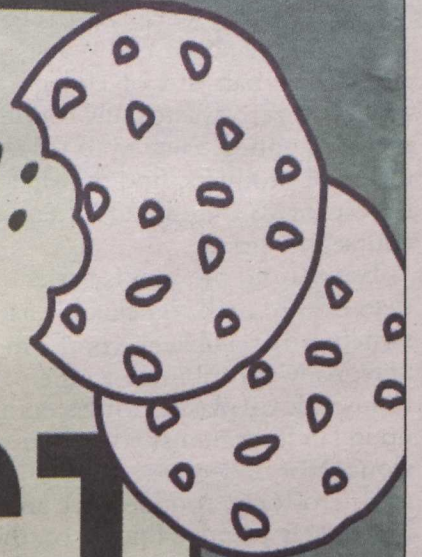




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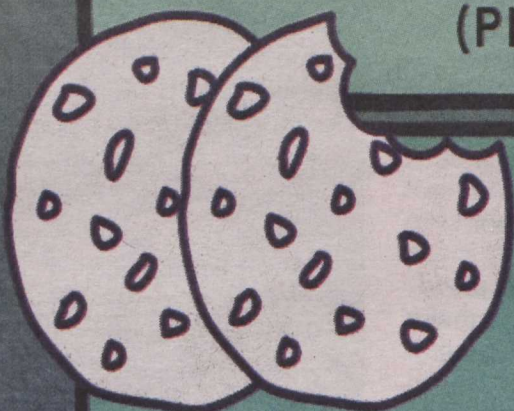


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# THE McDans Free Press

Volume 24, Issue 7 | April 1, 2021

INSIDE: Nice :) | McDaniel Purity Test (pg. 5) | Something you are uninterested in (pg. X)

## Campus safety to enforce COVID-19 surveillance testing

Molly Sherman  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

It was a day that started like any other. I woke up at 11 a.m., shared a maskless meal with my friends from across campus over a lukewarm, Glar meal of vegetarian marked meatloaf, and enjoyed my trek through the corridors of Roj Student Center.

It wasn't until I had gotten back into the confines of my dorm and opened the door of my suave Rouzer single that things took a turn for the worst. Standing side-by-side were two of McDaniel College's finest campus safety officers. They exhaled confidently, puffs of air drifting out of masks nestled comfortably below their noses.

As their sharp eyes pierced my Glar nourished soul, dread panged my stomach as I considered what they were there for.

My nasal passages suddenly felt too comfortable, too unprobed, too untwirled by an extended cotton swab. I looked down at my phone quickly. And just as I had feared, it



(Image courtesy of Pixabay).

was a Thursday.

I had missed my COVID-19 surveillance test.

My eyes darted from one set of average shoulders to the next, considering my escape. Knowing that shoulder shrugs weren't in their workout regimen, I knew my odds were good.

I sprinted for the officer on the

right (an easy target for addressing centuries of oppression without sincerely contemplating my own role and responsibility as a person with more privilege who has been blissfully ignorant to all that it entails for my societal engagement) before juking him out and flying beneath his subpar shoulder muscle.

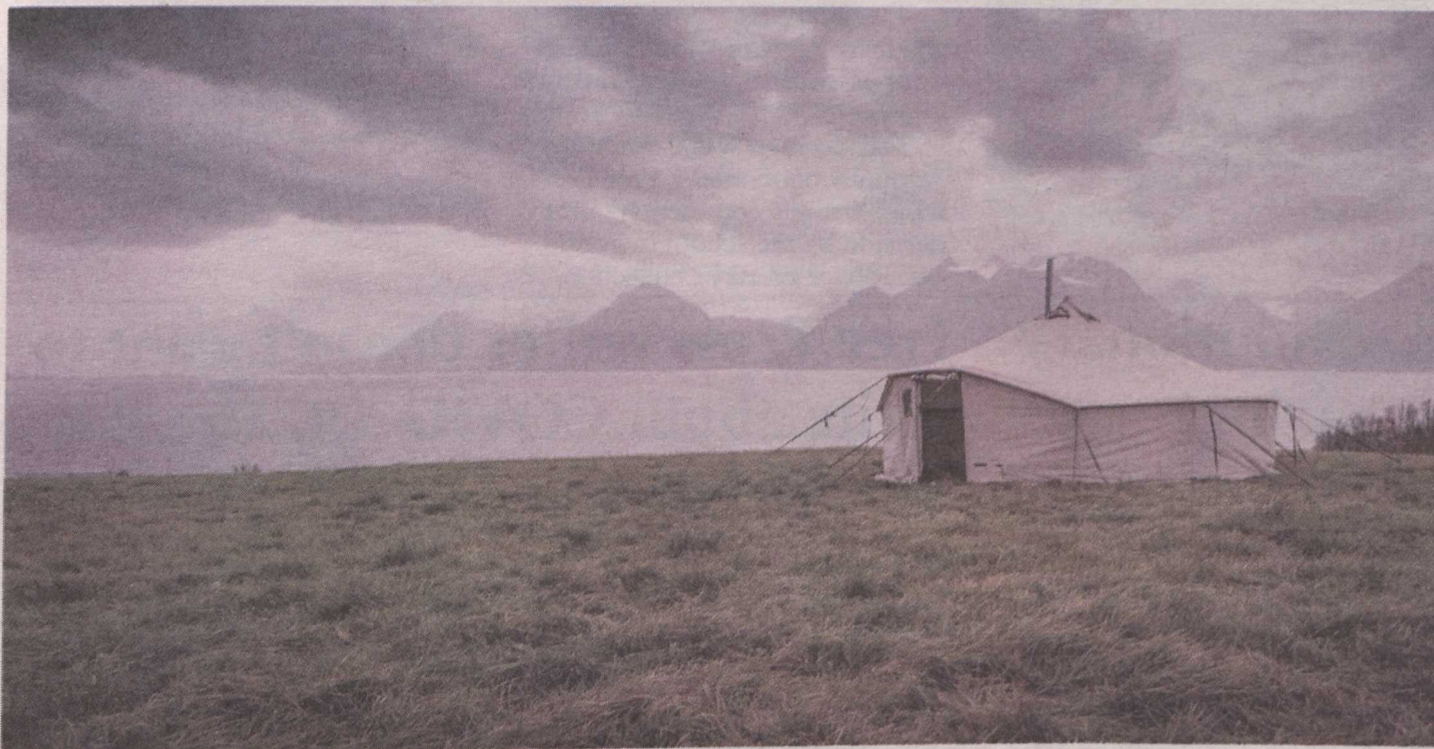
Now, out in the hallway of

Rouzer, I made my way to the elevator. I frantically hit the button, 'hurry up and wait' being my life mantra.

After humming to the soothing sounds of a poorly oiled elevator for 5-10 minutes, what, on another day, would've been the difference between an on time and late meal

See **SURVEILLANCE**. pg 2

## BREAKING: The tent outside of Gill Center has blown away



(Image courtesy of Pixabay user terjeaeriksen).

Ciara O'Brien  
Technically had to write one of these

On March 31 in the late hours of the evening, the white tent located next to Gill Center allegedly blew away. An extremely strong gust of wind picked up the entire thing and landed it in a nearby parking lot.

It is reported that the tent blew away swiftly, similar to any student's hopes for a single day off this semester.

"When I woke up this morning, there was just an empty spot where it used to stand," said Daisy Starley,

a junior. "I usually peak over to see if my ex is in there before going through the single, unavoidable entrance, but today I could see his bitch-ass clear as day."

Eric Home-Depot, a senior, says he saw the scene unfold. "The whole thing was crazy. At first, it just kind of flipped on one side, but eventually it flew like an airplane and landed clean across campus. I'm glad no one was hurt."

At first, it was unclear where the stray tent landed. When a campus announcement went out to the entire McDaniel community to be

on the lookout for it, several eager first year students reported finding it, only for Campus Safety officers to discover that it was just the *other* tent, perfectly upright, located outside of Roj Student Center. Eventually, it was confirmed to be in the stadium parking lot.

Several students expressed concerns over the missing structure. "Where else am I supposed to find an eating area with the chairs handcuffed to the tables?," asked Grace Ceilinger, a sophomore student.

In the short time it has been

missing, a "Bring back our Tent" Instagram profile has been created, boasting several followers.

"We have so few places to hang out on campus," said the profile's creator. "It's like we have the comfort of the indoors, but all of the safety of knowing that we don't have to wear masks because one of the sides of the tent is open. We need that tent back."

"It is our highest priority to recover and replace the tent," said one Campus Safety representative. "First, we just have to do this series of really important, definitely real, set of things and then we will follow up in a few months."

*This is a breaking news and backs story and will be updated as new revelations are revealed.*

## Hey

Name-You-Forgot  
But Really Wish You Could Remember

Hey you! I've seen you around. I'm so glad you are here. It's really great to see you again!

I've been meaning to tell you something.... I can't quite remember drat, just stick with me here.

Did you do the homework for that class we are in? Oh, I remember now!

See **HEY**, pg 3



# Roger Casey resigns with Spongebob Squirepants “Ight imma head out” meme

Eamonn Fay  
Yeah

Many single people across the wA small number of students received an email on September 23 from President Casey containing a single image of the popular Nickelodeon character Spongebob Squarepants rising from his seat with the caption “Ight Imma Head Out”. There was no further context given, sparking mass confusion on campus.

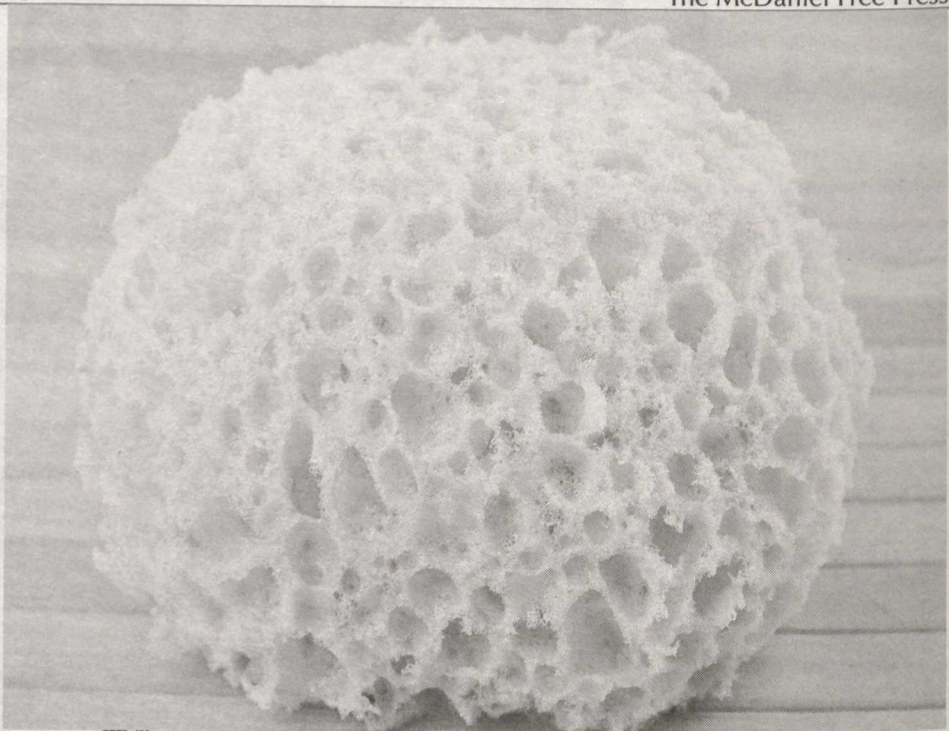
The email most likely had to do with Roger Casey’s resignation which was properly and formally announced the next day, September 24. However, this has not been confirmed. McDaniel has yet to

officially acknowledge the incident. “I don’t know,” one affected student said. “Maybe he was trying to be hip with the kids or something.”

“This is the only email I’ve ever gotten from him that did not make me immediately angry,” said another.

The reason for the email, and why only certain students were affected, remains a mystery. Some students and staff have speculated that it was some sort of accident while others believe hackers are to blame.

President Casey could not be reached for comment.



We'll start paying for image rights when you start staying on the site to read full articles (Image courtesy of Pixabay user Robfoto).

## Surveillance testing cont.

**SURVEILLANCE**, from pg 1  
appointment at Glar, I hopped on, resuming my urgency.

Pacing the elevator, I nervously glanced up at the camera stationed in the upper right corner (bottom right corner camera has been removed for what SOME might call obvious reasons), knowing that someone might be recognizing me

from a drunken, kinky, Covid safe make out on the elevator weeks prior.

As the doors opened, I broke out in full sprint, blasting through doors and jumping down the row of stairs in the lobby in the cinematic explosion of a lifetime.

Running to Red Square, campo officers joined me left and right,

flanking my sides. The world stutter stepped into slow motion, and I looked dramatically from side to side, my in-trend side bangs flipping wildly.

I arrive in Red Square, out of breath and slowly transitioning out of slow motion, to see Wubbzy, of the hit TV show Wow! Wow! Wubbzy! dangling from the bell. With the strength of a thousand post-apocalyptic-female-teen-lead archetypes, I screamed out to him,

my long lost...

I woke up at 11 am. I turned over and grabbed my phone. An email from the Wellness Center shone up at me from my screen, “COVID-19 Surveillance Testing Program...” I swiped it away, along with the Campus Clear notification, with no intention to get a test before 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday. What’s the worst that could happen?

# Those meddling Free Press reporters sent to Budapest for a semester to give administration “a break”



I have no affiliation with these people (Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press).

**John McDaniel**  
Definitely Not Administraiton

Semester after semester, the Free Press staff has criticized the decisions of the Administration and asked for more and more communication. But no longer! The Administration has sent the entire Free Press staff on sabbatical to McDaniel Budapest to write about whatever goes on at our satellite campus, because frankly, who knows?

This decision was declared by Administration after a Free Press writer wrote a commentary on a decision by the school to get rid of Hoover Library’s collection of

physical books and media at a yard sale.

“Enough is enough” said the Administration after reading this article and declared the entire writing staff be sent to banished sent to Budapest on sabbatical. There, the Free Press can write about other issues in Budapest and “give the Administration” a break for once.

More details will not be coming out about this story.

## Fraternity employs revolutionary “passive aggressive hazing”

**Chad Cheggstand**  
Gettin’ My Resume Boost

In response to university crackdowns on fraternity hazing, local fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi has begun to employ “passive aggressive hazing” techniques, said fraternity president TJ Valentino.

“Yeah, the college getting really serious about hazing, so we thought we’d switch things up. Instead of making Freshman streak and binge drink, we’ve started to use psychologically devastating techniques to make our recruits feel small.”

Valentino went on to say, “We’ll tell our recruits we’re having a party, but when they show up, we’re all like ‘oh shit, I texted you by mistake, you weren’t supposed to come.’ That really breaks them down.”

Freshman pledge Daniel Gordon said, “During Hell Week, every time I passed two or more members, they would say ‘hey’ and act really friendly, but as soon as I walked away, I could hear them whisper and giggle. My brother’s frat just filmed him having sex with a pumpkin and posted it to YouPorn. That was much more humane.”

At press time, Alpha Kappa Psi members were witnessed complimenting their newest member on his bravery for throwing on “any old thing.”

This is a breaking tables news story and will be updated whenever someone on our staff feels like procrastinating other work.

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## Free Press writer doesn’t want to write about COVID-19, afraid it would date the article

**Max Engle**  
Vaccinated Anti-Masker

Free Press Journalist, Max Engle, declared in a staff meeting earlier this week that he “doesn’t want to write about COVID-19” and he is afraid it will “make the paper unappealing to readers in the future.”

When Assistant Editor Jake Fine pointed out that “it’s a newspaper... it’s supposed to about current events.” Staff Reporter Engle just responded by shrugging his shoulders. “The date is literally on the top of the paper, readers would understand what the context was if they were to look back at past publications...” added Fine, to no significant response from Engle.

This is a breaking story. Look to

the Free Press about all news McDaniel, and no news COVID- 19.



### Spring 2021 Editorial Team

**Ciara O’Brien ‘22**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

**Molly Sherman ‘22**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

**Jake Fine ‘21**  
Assistant Editor

**Rachel Allen ‘24**  
Assistant Editor



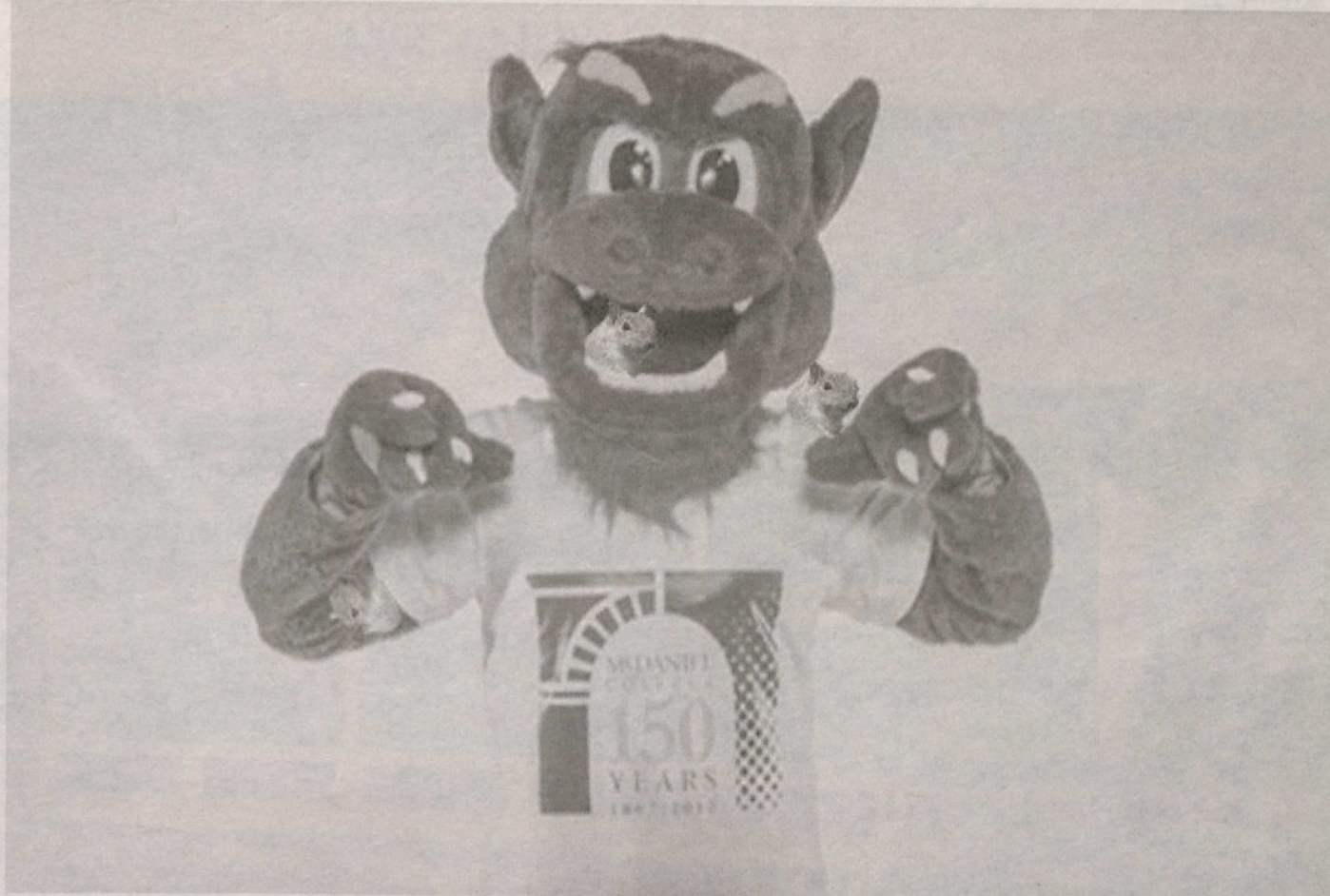
# OPINION: The Green Terror Mascot is Operated By A Legion of Evil Squirrels

Eamonn Fay  
Amateur Investigator

Every college swears they've just got the quirkiest little squirrels. On any tour on any campus where there are squirrels, a preppy guide will be sure to mention how these oversized, bushy-tailed rats dive into trash cans and eat garbage just a teeny tiny bit different than everywhere else. But they're all full of it. You want the actual proof that McDaniel has the most unique squirrel variant around? I'll give it to you.

You know how the Green Terror Mascot will be walking around sometimes? You know, posing for pictures, waltzing through Glar like he owns the place, generally making everyone uncomfortable? Let me ask you something: have you ever seen a single squirrel outside while the Green Terror is on the prowl? I sure haven't. I follow that green knucklehead around from a safe distance every time he comes out, and every time somehow I have seen ZERO squirrels. Either the squirrels fear the Green Terror, or – bear with me- the squirrels ARE the Green Terror.

My suspicions began just a few months back as I was sitting at the



*The Green Terror's beady staring into your soul (Eamonn Fay / McDaniel Free Press).*

fountain eating some fries from the Pub when this squirrel came up just giving me this god-awful glare. Our eyes were locked for an uninterrupted three minutes before I finally gave into intimidation and threw a fry to it.

It looked at the potato stick flung at its feet then back to me before taking a menacing step forward. I could tell that it meant business. Now, I looked away for one second to grab another fry to throw, and when I looked back up the squirrel had vanished. I looked around to see where it went, but I found no squirrel. What I did find was the Green Terror passing by, giving me

a friendly wave as he passed.

I swear to you: I saw a squirrel tail for a split second retreating into the mascot's head.

I've been investigating this ever since. My evidence has been substantial in my opinion, but still inconclusive. I considered pulling the head off Scooby-Doo-style to figure out if he's really being operated by squirrels or not, but I haven't had the courage to get close. Can't have him knowing I'm onto him. Even writing this article might be a horrible idea. Is the school in on it? Can anyone be trusted? Believe me or don't, call me whatever you'd like.

But to you brave, ignorant souls who still find innocence in that big, green oaf: I challenge you to go near the beast. Get your picture taken with him, lean in close for a selfie and listen carefully. Tell me, do you hear the squirrel chatter?

## Hey cont.

HEY, from pg 3

Yes! So, I saw you leaving... wait I lost my train of thought! We'll get back to it.

I didn't do the homework reading, so I hope - OH! I got it! See HEY. pg 6

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## Fast-food thinking slow: food items that just don't belong

Jeremy Hasson  
@jmoney.irl

Countless fast food restaurants continue to push food items that no one asked for.

Let's start here. Chick-fil-A's wrap has no place on the menu because literally nobody orders it.

When you go to Chick-fil-A, their scrumptious Chick-fil-A sauce is a must, but they have an item on the menu that would impossibly be just as gross with their best sauce on the menu – the Chick-fil-A Cool Wrap.

Why does someone feel the absolute need to order a healthy option at a place that is known for delicious unhealthy food? I'll tell you who, young moms whose kid really wants chicken nuggets.

In a way, yeah I get it, the mom does yoga and tries to avoid fried food; that's why mom gets a wrap, a whole grain wrap. But come on, mom should treat herself. Get actual bread. Live a little.

Items that have no place on

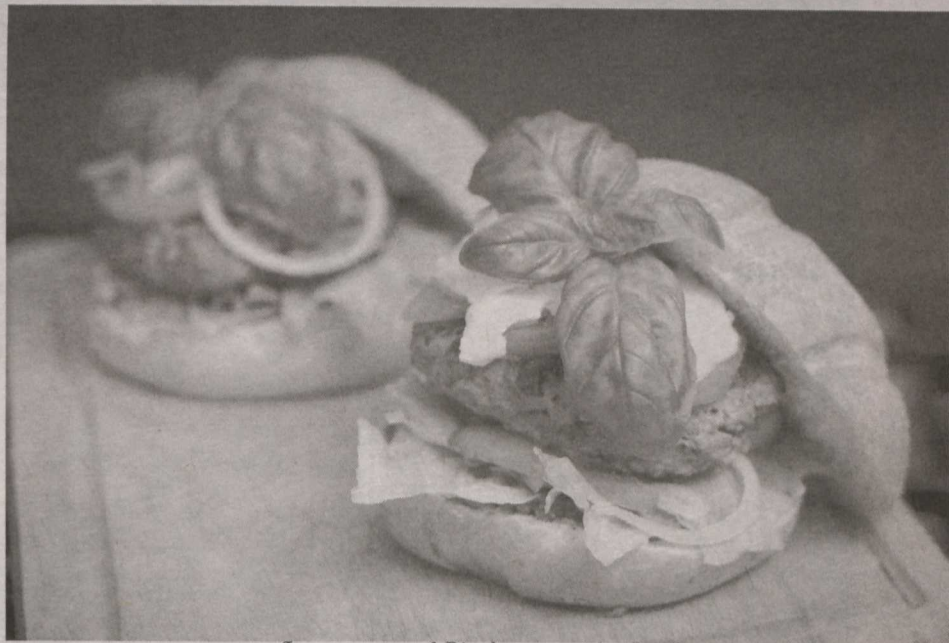
restaurant menus don't stop at Chick-fil-A. There are quite a few more.

If you have ever been to The Cheesecake Factory, you know the portions are abnormally large, and they have just too many options.

One item on The Cheesecake Factory menu that really gets me riled up is their Carolina Grilled Salmon. This item has barbeque sauce glazed on the salmon. No type of sauce that is at a summer cookout belongs on salmon. At all. That's like putting ketchup on a very expensive \$70 steak, you just don't do it.

Let me ask a question, if you were either offered a Big Mac or a McDonald's salad, what would you choose?

That was a redundant question, of course the Big Mac, it's what McDonald's is known for. You can get a salad at a normal restaurant. You always got to go with a Big Mac.



*(Image courtesy of Pixabay user niekverlaan).*

I cannot get started on how much these items really disappoint me. Nobody orders them, and quite frankly, these restaurants all have better options.

What about other restaurants?

What other food items? How deep does the well run? How many restaurants actually sell items that just don't belong? Well, there are just too many.

## Good enough for me: headline scorer gives this a 68

Jake Fine's overalls

The WordPress update introduced a headline analyzer. It specifies that a good score is between 40 and 60. And to be the best, which seems a little bit unnecessary for a student-run newspaper at a small liberal arts college but whatever, you should strive for 70 and above. I've had

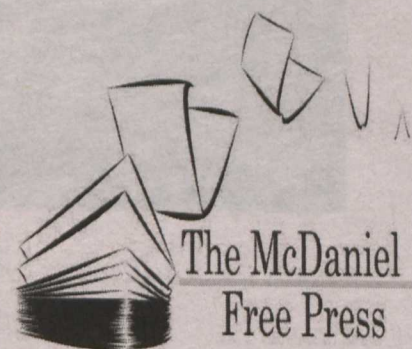
a pretty stressful week, and I'm willing to settle, 68 is plenty good for me. Hi mom!

*It gave it a 68, on a headline that says it gave it a 70. So silly!*

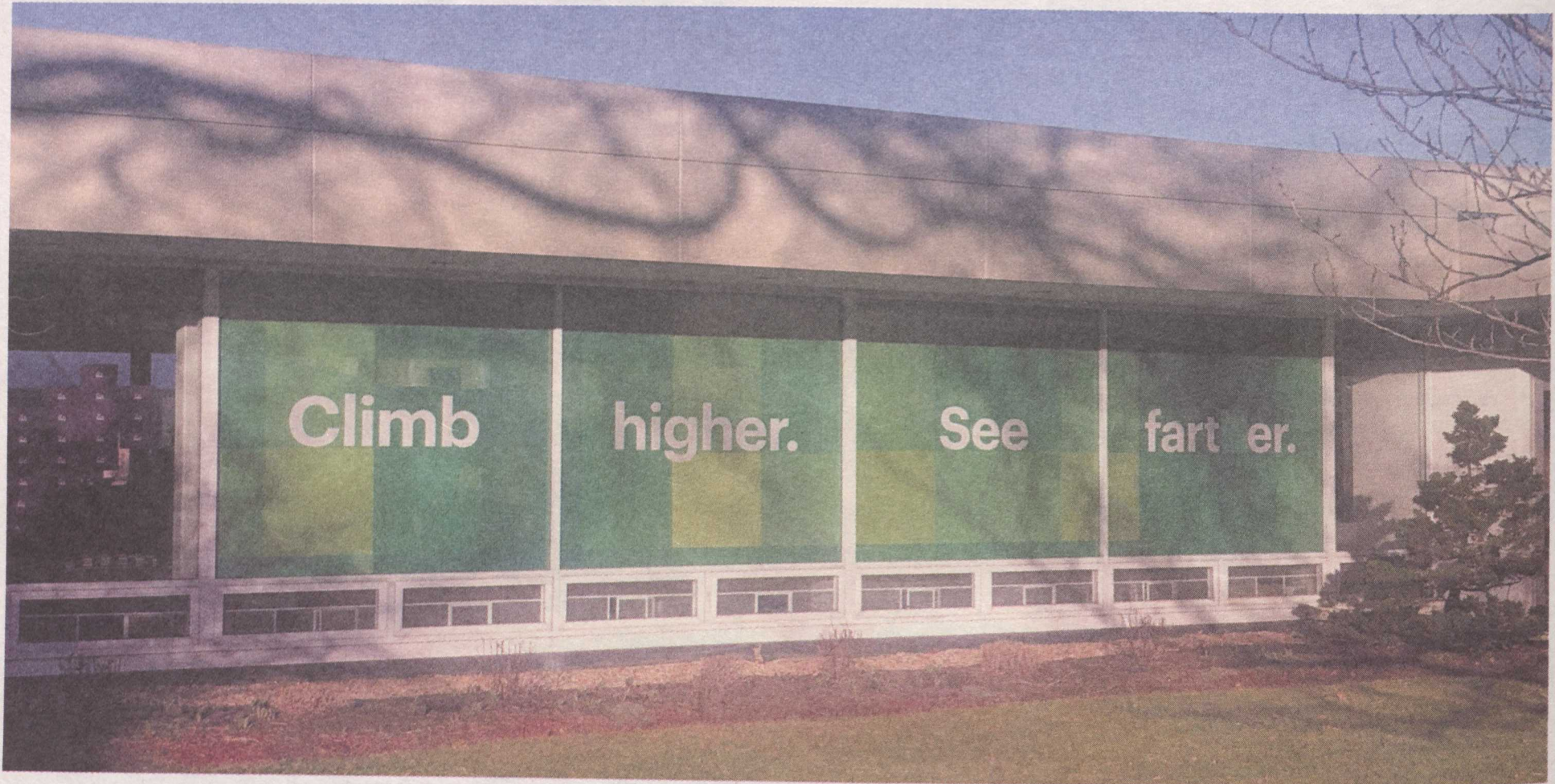
"Good Enough For Me: Headline Scorer Gives This A 70"



A good score is between 40 and 60. For best results, you should strive for 70 and above.







McDaniel’s new marketing initiative. (Jake Fine / McDaniel Free Press).

**McDaniel student gets dog, loses all personality**



Written by Who Cares, Gus’s Owner  
Pictured above: Gus, a well-known dog popular with McDaniel students.



# *The Official* **MCDANIEL COLLEGE** **Rice Purity Test** *Have you ever...*

*The McDaniel Purity Test has historically served as a way for young people to gain a deeper understanding of other young people and establish healthy, supportive comparisons. It's a way for students to bond with each other and to discover if their perceptions of their peers are as accurate as they seem.*

**Caution: This is not a bucket list. Completion of all 99 items on this test will likely result in you being a total fucking slut or really fucking cool, depending on your social standing.**

Keep a tally for every item you have done. MPS stands for Member of the Preferred Sex.

1. Held hands romantically?
2. Been on a date?
3. Been in a relationship?
4. Been in a relationship with a partner that knows they're in a relationship with you?
5. Kissed a non-family member?
6. Kissed a non-family member on the lips?
7. Kissed a family member on the lips?
8. Which one? Was it your dad?
9. French kissed?
10. Kissed on the neck?
11. Accidentally drooled on a MPS while kissing?
12. Kissed horizontally?
13. Debated with a MPS about the meaning of 'kissed horizontally'?
14. Given or received a hickey?
15. Ignored people staring at the hickey?
16. Created an elaborate cover-up story to hide the hickey?
17. Kissed or been kissed on the breast?
18. Kissed someone below the belt?
19. Kissed someone above the belt but below the belly button?
20. Inserted a finger into a belly button of a MPS?
21. Apologized to a MPS after inserting a finger into their belly button?
22. Kissed for more than two hours consecutively?
23. Used a stopwatch to measure how long you've been kissing?
24. Played a game involving stripping?
25. Masturbated?
26. Masturbated out of boredom?
27. Been caught masturbating?
28. 'Accidentally' been caught masturbating?
29. 'Accidentally' caught someone masturbating?
30. Cried after masturbating?
31. Cried while masturbating?
32. Had the pleasure of masturbation overshadowed by the shame of what you masturbated to?
33. Seen or read pornographic material?
34. Gone through the motions of intercourse while fully dressed?
35. Undressed or been undressed by a MPS?
36. Showered with a MPS?
37. Showered recently? (You smell)
38. Had or given "blue balls"?
39. Manipulated a MPS into feeling guilty for giving you "blue balls"?
40. Had an orgasm due to someone else's manipulation?
41. Failed to conceal a sign of arousal in public?
42. Been given a nickname for failure to conceal a sign of arousal in public?
43. Sent a sexually explicit text or instant message?
44. Sent a sexually explicit text or instant message to someone who actually wants to receive one?
45. Sent or received sexually explicit photographs?
46. Cheated on a significant other during a relationship?
47. Been cheated on by a significant other during a relationship?
48. Are you okay?
49. Do you want to talk about it?
50. Gave oral sex?
51. Received oral sex?
52. Been walked in on while engaging in a sexual act?
53. Kicked a roommate out to commit a sexual act?
54. Committed a sexual act with a roommate?
55. Regretted committing a sexual act with a roommate?
56. Stopped communicating with a roommate?
57. Switched roommates?
58. Ingested alcohol in a non-religious context?
59. Ingested alcohol in a religious context, getting way too drunk at Shabbat services in the presence of Rabbi Goldstein?
60. Flirted with Rabbi Goldstein's daughter, Rachel Goldstein, while drunk at Shabbat?
61. Faked sobriety to parents or teachers?
62. Been a designated driver for an alcoholic parent?
63. Had severe memory loss due to alcohol?
64. Had severe memory loss due to alcohol?
65. Used marijuana?
66. Used a drug stronger than marijuana?
67. What was it?
68. Where did you get it from?
69. Does it get you fucked up?
70. How much should I take?
71. Had severe memory loss due to alcohol?
72. Seen a stripper?
73. Had the police called on you?
74. Had a stripper called on you?
75. Run from the police?
76. Run from the stripper?
77. Had the police question you?
78. Had the police handcuff you?
79. Had the stripper handcuff you? Nice!
80. Been arrested?
81. Had sexual intercourse?
82. Lied about having sexual intercourse?
83. Sounded like more of a virgin than you do right now?
84. Had sexual intercourse with a stranger or person you met within 24 hours?
85. Had sexual intercourse with a motor vehicle?
86. Had sexual intercourse with Rachel Goldstein?
87. Had sexual intercourse while you or your partner's parents were in the same home?
88. Had sexual intercourse with your partner's parents?
89. You're feeling like a dirty little whore right now, aren't you?
90. Traveled 100 or more miles for the primary purpose of sexual intercourse?
91. Lied to yourself about why you took that spontaneous road trip?
92. Had a threesome?
93. Suggested a threesome and walked it back after misreading the room?
94. Been uninvited from the threesome that was your idea to begin with?
95. Questioned your sexuality after a devil's threesome?
96. Attended an orgy?
97. Committed an act of incest?
98. Engaged in bestiality?
99. Sat in stunned silence, reflecting on the depraved piece of filth you are?



# Corbit's Charge: A look into the not-so-well known Civil War battle fought right on this campus!

**Jake Fine**  
**Took 6th Grade History Class**

So you may be wondering, "What is Corbit's Charge?" Well, here is a look into the not-so-well known Civil War battle fought right on this very campus! Even though we know the Hill to be safe now, you will soon learn that McDaniel was not always as peaceful as it is today. On June 29, 1863, America was in the middle of the Civil War, and Westminster right in the middle of it all. On that day, the cavalry from the Confederate General J. E. B. Stuart and two companies of Union Cavalry from Delaware met each other in battle. You may not have heard of the battle, but it actually was a major battle known for helping the Union win the battle of Gettysburg a few weeks later. The Union army came from Baltimore to Westminster to guard the railroad, also Western Maryland Railroad, and that McDaniel was once named after. They had to

ride and march over. The Delaware cavalry companies were commanded by Major Napoleon B. Knight, and the troopers were taking care of their horses' shoes on the south side of the town while Confederate soldiers arrived and then captured the Union soldiers that were in the Delaware cavalry on the South side of town. Charles Corbit was a captain, who the battle is named after, Corbit's Charge, and he rallied the other Union soldiers, and then charged down main street, and was defeated by the Confederate army. Captain Corbit was captured by the confederate soldiers, and the Lieutenant was also captured. Then more than half of the other Union troopers were captured, and 11 were wounded, and two even died. 10 Confederate troopers were wounded, and two died also. The battle was also called the Battle of Westminster. The Union also lost, but they ended up contributing to a much larger win: The Confederate



Boom  
(Image courtesy of Pixabay user shaman).

troops chose to stay the night in town, and that made the troops late to the battle of Gettysburg. Because the troopers were late to support the other Confederate troops, General Lee lost information about the Union troops. Whoops! Even though the battle seems small, and the Union soldiers lost to the

Confederate Army, this battle was a major contributing factor to the Confederate army losing the Civil War. In conclusion, even though the Union troops lost the battle to the Confederate army, Westminster still honors the history of Corbit's Charge by holding a reenactment every year after, starting in 2003.

## Thank you! Student whose head literally burst into flames after thirteen hour study session gets a reading of 97.5 degrees from the no-contact thermometer outside of Glar

**Eamonn Fay**  
**Spring No-breaker**

Earlier this week, a student whose head caught fire after studying for thirteen hours straight got a reading of 97.5 degrees from the no-contact thermometer outside of Englar Dining Hall. Annie Torch, a senior, allegedly hadn't even noticed the flames.

"It was a little over twelve hours of constant stress and anxiety before everything sort of went black," Torch said. "When I came to I was in the middle of Glar and

some kind soul was trying to douse the flames with watered down Diet Mountain Dew."

One student who was directly behind Torch in line, Jared Pinsir, was reportedly outraged by the incident. "I tried putting out the fire with my jacket," he said. "But she just kept walking like nothing was happening. Then she stopped to get her temperature taken which made me think 'oh, there's no way'. Then she gets a reading of like 98, scans her phone, and walks right in. I get mine checked right after and it's



(Courtesy of Pixabay user Gerd Altmann)

116. How is that even possible?"

Others are touched by Torch's story. In McDaniel's official response, the incident was called 'a testament to the dedication and grit shown by our students'. One anonymous witness was impressed and remarked that Torch could "really keep a cool head."

Torch is currently at home recovering from her burns and should be returning no later than

next week to take her exam. There has been no word from the school about replacing the thermometers.

## Hey cont.

**HEY, from pg 3**

Could you send me your answers to number 4? Oh... floor... hmmm

OH! I think you have some toilet paper stuck to your foot... Bye!

## Ambitious student filmmaker opens short film with shot of alarm clock

**Rotten tomatoes guy**  
**in middle seat**

Sophomore film student Chet Abrams made history this week after writing, directing and starring in a short film that opens with a shot of an alarm clock.

Abrams says the clock is, "Meant to show a character waking up and starting his day." He would return to this shot later in the film to, "show that the character's routine has not changed."

Abrams has also been praised for his bold decision to cut to a character's ambiguous expression after lingering on a photograph of the character with an older man.

Who is that guy? Is it his father? His uncle? His stepfather? These are all questions one might ask.

The film, titled The Tire, which Abrams describes as "a metaphor," has already won several prestigious awards, including the Toronto film festival's coveted "Most fades to black" award, and Cannes "Promising young artist prize for best use of Coldplay's Yellow."

Never one to shy away from a challenge, Abrams is already planning out his next project, where he will reportedly be shooting in black and white, "To make it look old and shit."

## Quarantined student interviewed at the grocery store

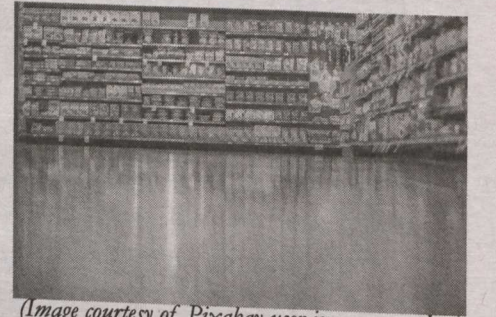
**Rachel Allen**  
**Escaped Quarantiner**

McDaniel student was seen in the yogurt aisle of Safeway and asked how her year was going at McDaniel.

"It kind of sucks right now, I am actually quarantined in my dorm building," said the unnamed student. "I was exposed to COVID-19."

This student explained she did not like the food she was getting during her two-week quarantine period. She decided to take it upon herself to get food.

Although students are supposed to stay in their dorm 24/7 during quarantine, students do not seem to feel like they need to.



(Image courtesy of Pixabay user igorovsyannykov).

Students seem to be taking advantage of how they are quarantined in dorms and can easily blend in with other non-quarantined students.

"Yeah, it's pretty easy to just leave when I get bored," said unnamed student.

It is unclear whether this student was ever caught.



# Controversial lobster in hot water again

**Carl Jung's deep deep lover**  
Staff Reporter

Moments before his departure onto a discounted plate at LongHard Steakhomes, I had a couple of moments to report on the final words of Loeb Leopold the lobster, his full title.

"The postmodern-neo-Marxist will have you believe life is suffering because you are part of an oppressive patriarchy," said Leopold, "But I think it's the asshole on the boat overfishing in my neighborhood."

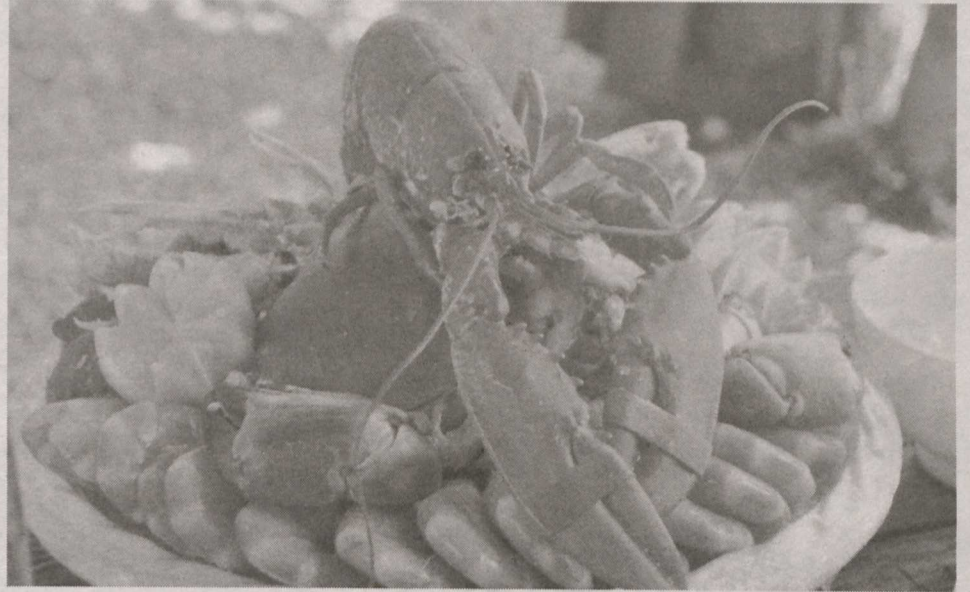
"It's just morally reprehensible, truly," added Leopold. "I simply ask of them: consider the lobster."

Upon asking the lobster if he

thought this overfishing on waters (using his words here) 'un-regulated by the sticky fingers of the government', would cause a tragedy of the commons, he responded, "There ain't nothing common about me, man."

I said that wasn't really the question, he might have misunderstood, and he started crying about his father, citing the time he ran over his participation trophy in the driveway, asking if he understood the consequences of snow-flake culture.

The lobster screamed "life is suffering" as the pot lid closed over his waving claw, steam squeaking out the sides as it came to its final resting place.



Leopold served a family of four shortly after our interview concluded (Image courtesy of Pixabay user NadineDoerle).

## A vibe-centered approach to dating

**Kylie Baker & Rachel Gunnerson**  
Ultimate Vibers



For added vibes, reporters Rachel and Kylie regularly seek the advice of frogs (Image courtesy of Julia Robinson).

With college students, dating is all the same— apps, hookups, and booty calls. It's like we've forgotten what really matters: vibing. Luckily, we found the expert: Dr. B. Ong. Not only does Beatrice Ong hold a doctorate in the field of psychology, but she also is well-researched in a field that is (soon to be) storming the nation, "vibeology."

"I'm made for this job because I've always been super chill," said B. Ong. "My parents said that before I had my first word, I had my first vibe."

Now, some of you may be wondering: what exactly is vibing? To which Beatrice states,

**"Iykyk,"** followed by "Iydyd."

Unfortunately, some of us just dk. That's why Dr. Ong came up with six tips for you and your spe-

cial someone to catch the train to vibe-town.

1. If the ocean comes a' knocking, you better ride the wave
2. When you come face to face with a problem, turn around!
3. If your boo ain't fulfillin', you better start chillin'
4. When things are lacking in the bedroom, try the kitchen!
5. You must relinquish the idea of the superego, in order to fulfill self-actualization on the hierarchy of needs. Remember, you are but a cog in the machine— a wandering soul in search of true purpose.
6. Release desire and embrace the knowledge that no one truly has control.

Vibes only

*Author was unable to finish article. They quit their job and moved to Vibe-City, USA. Maybe they'll see you there? ;)*

## Random 30 Year Old's Car Troubles Lead to his Discovery Of ROJ

**Rick Roland**  
Missing A Cookie Dough Smoothie

Every student has an ID card that grants them access to about everywhere on campus. You need them to get into buildings that hold classes, the library, dorms, etc. But how about one of the largest gathering locations on campus for students that holds many offices, the pub – a major food spot for students, and TONS of seating, welcoming students to hang out? Nope. There is no ID needed to get

into ROJ.

With the preaching done to students about having student IDs on their person at all times, one may think it would be simple to require a swipe to get into ROJ.

"I think it is pretty rad I did not need identification to get in here," said a random man in their 30s who was enjoying a cookie dough smoothie from the pub.

He was asked how he even got

the smoothie since he was not a student or staff member.

"I don't know, all I did was press a few buttons on the screen and it allowed me to use my credit card, they didn't even need to know who I was!"

He did not provide any insight as to how he knew where the ROJ student center was. He said his car was breaking down on the "busy road right over there" so he figured

someone could help him on a college campus.

Although he never got his car fixed, he got a great smoothie and had a relaxed time on one of the couches in ROJ after wandering around campus looking for a place to get a break.

At the end of his interview, he walked away and sat with a large group of students. He bonded with someone wearing a lanyard around their neck with a Penn State ID.

The last thing heard from him was "Oh no way I went to Penn State about 10 years ago too." Then, they proceeded to talk about the football team.

## My girlfriend doesn't kiss me anymore? These quick tips might fix your relationship

**Max Engle**  
A Great Listener

Many single people across the world are always looking for advice on how to get to a first date, how to woo the person they love, and how to find their footing in the first steps of a relationship. But many people are continually looking for advice even well beyond the initial first stages.

Like myself. I am five years into a relationship with my high school sweetheart and I'm just now realizing she doesn't even like the same movies that I do. What the heck is up with that?

Now that I mention it, we haven't even held hands in the last year. Granted, we've been separated due to her living 2 towns over and

neither of us committing to getting a driver's license. I find it extremely suspicious that her mom "doesn't feel like driving" almost anytime I ask if she can come over.

The last time I saw her, actually, was when we ran into each other at the local Walmart, digging through the clearance aisle. "Oh, hey Demarcus," she said. What does that even mean??? 'Oh, hey Demarcus' like I'm someone she's not supposed to see at the local Walmart??? We both live nearby and you're my girlfriend, why is it surprising or upsetting that she sees me? This IS my girlfriend we're talking about!

I just checked her Instagram to see if she's posted anything recently, and I can't find it. I search her name and her account just doesn't come

up. I reset Instagram, uninstalled and reinstalled the app and her account just doesn't pop up. Does anyone know what's up with this? There must be something wrong with Instagram. I tried calling Instagram Support and when I explained what was going on and added the fact that my girlfriend hasn't kissed me on the mouth, ever, and the guy over the phone just laughed at me. How rude!

I'm suspecting this is all just one big prank, but if anyone has any romance advice or tips, please send them my way. I just... I don't know what to do. Janette, can you please talk to me? If you're reading this, you're tearing me apart! I can't take it anymore!



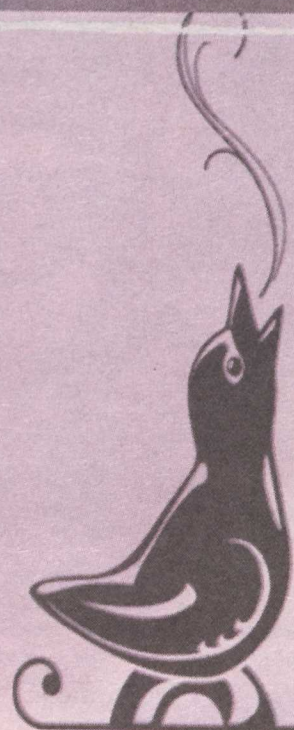
Oh! Hey again Gus! Good to see you again buddy. (Max Engle / McDaniel Free Press).

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# The McDaniel Free Press

Volume 24, Issue 8 | April 28, 2021

INSIDE: Admissions During Covid (pg. 3) | Take Back the Night Photos (pg. 5) | Hiking Spots Near Campus (pg. 7)

## COVID-19 clinic on campus & vaccine frequently asked questions

Rachel Allen  
Assistant Editor

"Fall 2021 is going to look much more like the fall of 2019 than it did 2020," said David Lakey, vice chancellor for health affairs and chief medical officer at the University of Texas System in an interview with The Washington Post.

The dependency of returning to somewhat normalcy is all about vaccinations.

### McDaniel Vaccine Clinic

McDaniel students received notice of a vaccine clinic coming to campus. Carroll County Health Department partnered with McDaniel to provide students an on-campus vaccine clinic. The vaccine offered on campus will be the Moderna vaccine.

The first dose of the vaccine will be given on Tuesday, April 27 and the second on Tuesday May 25. McDaniel urges students to only sign up if they will be available to receive the second dose on May 25, as they will not be able to participate if they are not available



(Image courtesy of Pixabay user jaytaix)

for both doses.

The semester ends before May 25 and students will have moved out. Therefore, students will need to travel back to receive their second dose. McDaniel will not have housing available for students who are coming back for their second dose.

**What are the benefits of getting vaccinated?**

Getting the COVID-19 vaccines protects yourself and those around you. "Based on what we know about vaccines for other diseases and early data from clinical trials, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine also helps keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19," said the CDC.

### How does getting vaccinated help others?

Herd immunity is a major benefit that comes out of the mass majority of people getting vaccinated. Herd immunity is a step to returning to normal. Getting vaccinated allows you to not only protect yourself, but others too.

See **COVID-19**, page 2

## Pull up for Roll-Ups: Chasing passions at Wisdom Court Entertainment



Billy Lyve and J Cam pose outside of the A Yo Boutique store front. Wisdom Court Entertainment is housed in the back of the establishment (Jake Fine / McDaniel Free Press).

**Molly Sherman, Co-Editor-in-Chief, and Jake Fine, Assistant Editor**

"We are, in street terms, some real ass people."

Billy Lyve (given name Billy Dee Williams), CEO of Wisdom Court Entertainment, sat down with us to discuss his aspirations for downtown Westminster. Along the way we connected with two rappers and vision-sharers in the studio, Jason "J Cam" Campbell and Brandon "Cue" Smith.

Both Lyve and Campbell are from Carroll County. They attended Gateway High School, one of Carroll County's alternative

educational environments, during its first years. During those years, the Gateway School served as a disciplinary school. "A lot of the kids that we deal with, that do have problems, they go there too. So that's another way that we relate to them," said Campbell.

They hope to find and mentor young people who might be struggling with their education or heading down a negative path. "When we were growing up, there were no mental health crises, so people were just crazy and we had no idea what was wrong with them. They never got help, they never

got assistance, and they're just lost [...] we're not counselors per se or whatever but we're just trying to give people an outlet we didn't have," said Lyve.

"One of the things we're trying to do with our nonprofit is to catch the kids and stir them and show them there's different things to do," said Lyve.

Wisdom Court Entertainment strives to reach young people and provide them the tools to take creative expression into their own hands. The crew stresses the importance of a range of skills, reaching far beyond the expected role of an on-stage performer, including songwriting, video production, recording, studio etiquette, photography, graphic design, and more.

"We want to show people that there's a thousand other things to do other than just being a superstar," said Campbell. "Everybody, every race, every creed, every sexuality, you can go to College, you can succeed. You can become something. There are people out here that do better than people out here, if that makes sense."

Wisdom Court has a strong desire to continue to network through community events and connect with artists in the community and get them connected to opportunities

they wouldn't otherwise have.

"It's scary, it's exciting, it's overwhelming, it's... it's lovely. I love it," said Campbell.

Through his booking agency, Lyve has booked gigs for up-and-coming bands and rappers' shows at venues like the Ottobar, 8x10 and Baltimore Soundstage. These gigs are often unreachable for unsigned artists, but Lyve makes it possible.

Lyve, a hip-hop artist himself, felt the impact of the pandemic acutely on his lifestyle as a touring artist, but he viewed the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to slow down and focus on his priorities.

"It gave you a chance to think," said Lyve. "The process of having time to think about your next move and planning your stuff out is the most crucial thing, and that's what I didn't do all these years. I was running the treadmill, I wasn't going anywhere. My Instagram numbers looked cool, but it was doing nothing for me. So we slowed everything down."

See **WISDOM**, page 6





# COVID-19 vaccine cont.

COVID-19, from page 1

## Why do people get side effects from the vaccines?

"You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects," said the CDC.

Side effects are said to only last a few days. If you do not get any side effects, it is completely normal and does not mean your vaccine is not working.

## Are vaccines safe?

"While more COVID-19 vaccines are being developed as quickly as possible, routine processes and procedures remain in place to ensure the safety of any vaccine that is authorized or approved for use. Safety is a top priority, and there are many reasons to get vaccinated," said the CDC.

Vaccines would not be open to the public if the CDC did not believe they were safe for everyone eligible.

## What can you do differently after you are vaccinated?

Once you are fully vaccinated, the CDC says you can start doing more. The CDC has confirmed fully vaccinated people can gather indoors without masks with other people who are fully vaccinated.

There are also benefits of being fully vaccinated when it comes to travel. "Fully vaccinated people can resume domestic travel and do not need to get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel," said the CDC.

## When do you become fully vaccinated?

You are not fully vaccinated as soon as you get your shot.

Moderna: Two weeks after second dose

Pfizer-BioNTech: Two weeks after second dose

Johnson & Johnson: Two weeks after single-dose

Pause on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine: "Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine: CDC and FDA have recommended a pause in the use of Johnson & Johnson's J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine in the United States out of an abundance of caution, effective Tuesday, April 13," said the CDC.

## Do you have to pay to get vaccinated?

No. The federal government is providing vaccines with no cost to anyone.

## Who can get vaccinated?

Everyone who is 16 years or older is eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccination.

## How do you get vaccinated?

Visit this link for information about where vaccines are being offered near you:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/How-Do-I-Get-a-COVID-19-Vaccine.html>

## Why aren't children under

## the age of 16 allowed to get vaccinated?

Trials are taking place but the vaccine has not yet been approved for anyone under 16. "A vaccine is not authorized by the federal government or by the state for children under 16 years of age. Studies are ongoing," said Johns Hopkins Medicine.

## Is McDaniel requiring students to vaccinated?

McDaniel will make the decision about whether students need to be vaccinated for Fall 2021 by June 15. Many other colleges have announced they plan to require their students to get vaccinated.

"Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed," said the CDC.

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# Blooming up & out: An interview with Josh Ambrose

Max Engle  
Staff Reporter

Sometimes there are people behind the scenes that work to make the world turn. Whether it's in politics, businesses, or even on a college campus, there is always a nameless person we have to thank every once in a while. Here at McDaniel, however, former Dean Josh Ambrose broke that norm.

Some people know Ambrose as the Director of the Center for Experience and Opportunity, some know him as the Associate Dean of Campus and Community Engagement, and some may only just remember him as 'the strange wizard-man at my McDaniel Local,' a title he surely wouldn't be disappointed in.

Ambrose worked diligently in the many offices and positions he's served throughout his years at McDaniel, and yet still maintained growing connections with groups of students year after year despite his busy schedules.

Ambrose's impact on McDaniel College's campus was greater than some people may initially realize. His work on signature programming and entrepreneurship helped shaped McDaniel into the institution that it is today and even lead him to the career he has now at Johns Hopkins University as Director of Student Ventures, a small office that focuses on networking and entrepreneurship opportunities with Johns Hopkins' students, faculty, and staff.

Ambrose said, in an interview over zoom at the beginning of the semester, that "his work at McDaniel directly lead into [his] new position at Johns Hopkins," and said that Johns Hopkins reached out to him asking him to "do the same thing he did in Westminster, but in Baltimore," a compliment to the work he did for the community at and around McDaniel.

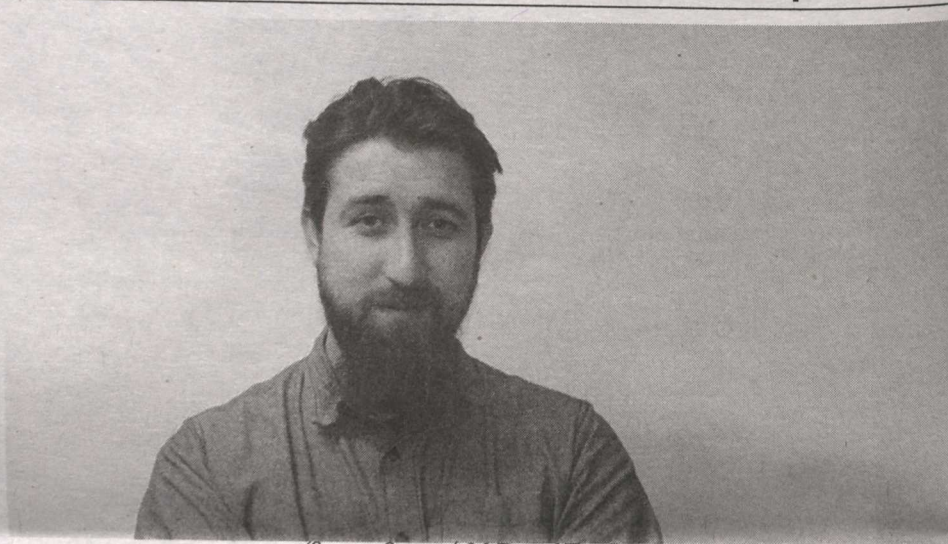
Ambrose's work in Westminster consisted of relaying communications between

businesses in the Westminster community and McDaniel's campus community as well as serving as an advisor to many student organizations and meeting with students to discuss their future professional endeavors during and after their time in higher education.

On campus, Ambrose's work quite literally changed and shaped McDaniel into what it is today. One of his most notable achievements and teams he has been a part of is the team that designed the McDaniel Commitment platform that all McDaniel undergraduate students follow during their time on the Hill. Most notably, Ambrose's involvement in McDaniel Local, the 'My Place' piece of the McDaniel Commitment, is where Ambrose shined the most. "I have lots of gratitude for that team and that project," Ambrose commented about the aforementioned McDaniel Commitment program. "I'm excited to see where that project goes, how it evolves," he added later on.

Ambrose's commitment to the Liberal Arts stems from his past, where he noted both he and his father "had switched jobs" regularly, but were both aided by a liberal higher education, preparing them for different opportunities and positions in the working world. "I like wearing many different hats... everyone should be ready to change," he said.

When asked about the liberal arts at small schools like McDaniel, Ambrose commented on how entrepreneurship could play a larger role in a liberal arts program. Ambrose was the faculty advisor for the Entrepreneurship Club on campus, where students aimed to go forward with business ventures and taking risks. Ambrose said that programs like the Entrepreneurship Club allows students "to solve problems creatively" and "actually do things related to their majors and interests," rather than just study them in the classroom. Ambrose asserted that this idea is "integral



(Spencer Secrest / McDaniel Free Press)

to [his] entire career," and that the "whole point of learning something in the classroom, the whole concept of it, is that it can and will apply to the rest of your life."

Ambrose is happy with where McDaniel College is at right now and is excited to see where and how it takes off. "I'll always be a member of the community, even now my home is still here in Westminster," he said. His time at McDaniel with the writing center, the free press office, McDaniel Local, and the Center for Experience and Opportunity all brought him to where he is today, learning from each job and experience to bring him further and further along his path, not dissimilar to that of a college student's experience.

In his final remarks, Ambrose noted that he "has traveled all over the country and the world... and everyone complains about and asks the same two things: How do we make a community and how do we make jobs?" He continued by saying that the work he did at McDaniel and the work he does

now at Johns Hopkins are all dedicated to answering these two questions. "At McDaniel, people have the opportunity to change the world around them, more than they probably know," Ambrose asserted.

Ambrose recalled a conversation when he first got hired at McDaniel with former professor and Common Ground on the Hill founder, Walt Michael, who spoke fondly of another important actor in where McDaniel College is today, Ira Zepp. "[Walt] recalled something Ira had said while he was here," Ambrose continued,

"that people must 'bloom where they are planted'.... I've always endeavored to bloom and took advantage of every opportunity I had since."

That very same aspiration to strive can be seen in the legacy of Josh Ambrose at McDaniel and his story of success, teamwork, and community can serve as lessons to all students at McDaniel College and maybe even the faculty and staff as well. Here on The Hill, amongst hardship, and hurdles, and pain, we can recognize that the ground we stand on is nutritious and healthy, and we must plant ourselves firmly to not be amongst the weeds or the grass or the mud, but to bloom upwards and outwards, to stretch beyond who we are or what we thought capable and become something better.

Josh Ambrose saw this potential vitality that laid dormant below the surface of McDaniel and thus created programs and organizations that took full advantage of this recipe for success. Students, faculty, and staff at McDaniel are at the precipice for change that the world needs, and the opportunities in student organizations, jobs, community meetings, and more are just the starting point for that change. Josh Ambrose is just one of many stories that took advantage of McDaniel's true potential, something he wishes to see the community here on The Hill take advantage of as well.

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# Maryland legislative session in review

**Molly Sherman**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

After a busy legislative session unlike any we've ever seen, defined by key moments in video calls, resonance between attendees in private online chats, and hearings from our living rooms, legislators and activists now reflect on their victories and losses in the session in the debrief weeks to follow.

Sunrise Movement McDaniel supported a collection of bills through the 2021 Maryland Legislative session, which came to an end at Sine Die, on Monday, April 12. Sunrise McDaniel members residing in Maryland contacted their legislators by email and phone, signed petitions and sign-on letters, and spoke at rallies and events throughout the session along with many other Maryland Sunrisers.

This review of the legislative session will focus on portions of the bill package they endorsed, sorted into sections used by the Sunrise Maryland coalition in their communications.

## A Livable Future

The work of Sunrisers across the state secured the Public Service Commission Climate and Labor Test and Community Choice Energy in Montgomery County. However, early on in the session, the legislature denied the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Human Rights, a headliner bill for the Sunrise Movement that would have created forward-looking language in the Maryland Constitution that enshrines all Marylanders have a fundamental right to a healthy environment.

Another popular piece of legislation that Sunrisers battled on till the very last day of the session, the proposed Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA), failed as a package. Notably, the act would have increased Maryland's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals to 60% by 2030 and net-zero by 2045, in line with recommendations by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research. After moving out of the Senate with that goal intact, the House Environment and Transportation Committee, under Kumar Brave, lowered emission goals to a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in the bill.

Other aspects of CSNA were passed as part of separate bills, like the initiative to plant 5 million trees by 2030 was included in "Natural Resources – Forest Mitigation Banks." 500,000 trees will be set aside for historically underserved and redlined communities and grant funding will be provided to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, amongst other community groups, to support these goals.

The legislature also passed an Environmental Justice Commission, originally part of the CSNA, to assess environmental injustices in Maryland. Unlike its original form in CSNA, the commission will not have any power of its own and will only advise the Maryland Department of the Environment, nor will it have youth representation.

"A just transition will require deep, direct, and immediate redress of environmental harms committed



*Sunrise Frederick members and aligned advocates fight for good jobs for all outside of Frederick City Hall (Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press).*

against frontline communities," said Stephen Leas, an organizer for Sunrise Baltimore and the Sunrise Maryland coalition that facilitated the legislative package endorsement.

"This is a very small step in that direction that does not meet the scale of the climate crisis and ongoing injustices," said Leas, on the pieced parts of CSNA that were passed.

## Good Jobs for All

Parts of the Essential Workers Protection Act, if passed in its original form, would have guaranteed protections for workers deemed essential during the COVID-19 crisis. The version of the bill passed will implement an Emergency Temporary Standard to ensure basic hygiene precautions are taken to protect workers. However, the bill will not guarantee paid sick leave, bereavement leave, or hazard pay.

The Food and Farmworker Protection Package failed in session, but would have guaranteed an expansion of paid sick leave to farmworkers and seasonal workers.

## Abolition

Maryland Sunrisers endorsed a package of bills from American Civil Liberties Union. The Maryland Legislature passed Anton's Law,

allowing the public to request disciplinary records; Use of Force Standard, requiring that force be necessary and proportional and creating new penalties for excessive use of force; and returned the control Baltimore City Police Department to local control from the state. Maryland repealed the Law Enforcement Bill of Rights in a watered-down version of what it once was, not implementing empowered community oversight in its passed version.

**Continue reading this article and more content like this at [www.mcdanielfreepress.com](http://www.mcdanielfreepress.com)**

*Students attending McDaniel College who are interested in uplifting future legislation or candidates, educating about the Green New Deal, and representing community interests can come to meetings on Microsoft Teams weekly on Thursdays at 7 p.m. The link is available on their Instagram @SunriseMcDaniel or can be provided by emailing [sunrisemcdaniel@gmail.com](mailto:sunrisemcdaniel@gmail.com). To add your name to the fight for a Green New Deal in Maryland you can sign on individually at [bit.ly/3tLbvV](http://bit.ly/3tLbvV).*

*Stephen Leas, Sunrise Movement organizer, contributed to the reporting of this article.*

# The new normal of admissions events on the Hill

**Andrew Witten**  
Contributor

Throughout the month of April, McDaniel Admissions, along with the help of staff and students, hosted admitted students for an informational and interactive on-campus experience.

These "On your own two feet" events got potential students on campus and presented them with opportunities to interact with students, staff, and even alumna who came back to campus to share stories about their time on the Hill.

Though admissions has been able to continue giving guided tours for individual students and their families throughout the past two semesters in accordance with COVID-19 safety protocols, this event was many admitted students' first time on campus.

This event is much different from admissions events in years past, where there were thousands of people on campus. Now, there are only 100-200 total visitors per event. This comes from a guideline that allows only one guest to be

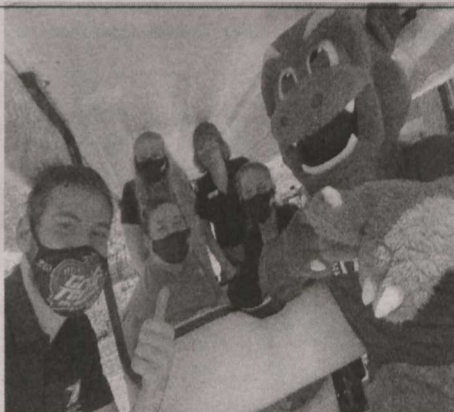
present with the admitted student for the visit.

There were two sessions for each event, in the morning and afternoon, with roughly 25-50 students per session. These students joined small groups that were led by either an alum of the college, a Student Alumni Council volunteer, or one of the many Student Ambassadors who have been patiently waiting for the return of more students to campus.

Staff from admissions and others representing departments and services on campus interacted with admitted students to share why they love the campus and answer any questions.

Students were greeted by many faces familiar to students on campus, like Jose Moreno from the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Michael Robbins from Residence Life, and McDaniel students representing different areas of campus life like the Environmental Studies Department.

Representatives at these seven or



*Student Ambassadors pose with the Green Terror during "On your own two feet" event (Andrew Witten / McDaniel Free Press).*

so stops across campus talked about pillars of campus life like classes at McDaniel, the importance of our culture (a moment at the McTeer Zepp Plaza), our connection to the community down by the arch, and, our soon to return gamedays on the Hill.

Beyond acquainting students with stories of campus life, admissions introduced visitors to other beloved novelties like cookies from Jeannie Bird Baking Company and provided pom-poms for attendance at football games in the fall.

This was all put together under the leadership of McDaniel's Admissions Visit Leader, Abbi Hayden '20, who has been taking

the lead on bringing tours to McDaniel's campus as well as these now approved admitted student day events, as well as by admissions staff.

This event to me helped bring back that feeling of somewhat normalcy again as we were able to see these still masked but happy faces who may end up joining us in this upcoming 2021-2022 school year.

This past year has been challenging, but in the long run these types of events along with the events that our Office of Student Engagement have been hosting for students seem to provide that extra motivation to want to be involved in the safest way possible, while having a good time with our family on the Hill. Though the pandemic is still going to be around, and we do not have an exact answer of what a few months down the road may look like, this event to me was the start of what to expect from our upcoming school year.





# Free Press Word Search

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

Legislative  
Consent  
Malice

Roll Ups  
Ambrose  
Woods

Moderna  
Vaccine  
Wisdom

Two Feet  
Raygun  
Lyve

## Crime Log

The Daily Crime and Fire Log is available for public view in the Campus Safety office, located at 152 Pennsylvania Ave. The most current 60 days of information is available from the dispatcher; archived records up to seven years can be requested. Unless otherwise noted, the incidents listed here are closed. "DOCS Office" refers to the Department of Campus Safety office on Pennsylvania Avenue.

- Reported 3/18 Hoover Library  
Malicious Destruction of Property
- Reported 3/22 Roj Student Center  
Malicious Destruction of Property
- Reported 3/25 Campus Wide  
Harassment:sexual
- Reported 3/26 McDaniel Hall  
Malicious Destruction of Property
- Reported 3/27 North Village 189  
CDS: Student Conduct Violation

- Reported 3/30 Stadium Drive  
Malicious Destruction of Property
- Reported 3/30 North Village 189  
Harassment (Count 1,2)
- Reported 4/2 Campus Wide  
Harassment
- Reported 4/4 Red Square  
Malicious Destruction of Property
- Reported 4/7 Whiteford Hall  
Sexual Assault: Rape
- Reported 4/8 Whiteford Hall  
Sexual Assault: Fondling (Count 1,2)
- Reported 4/12 Blanche Ward Hall  
Fraud and Deceit: By Scam
- Reported 4/13 ANW Upper Parking Lot  
Malicious Destruction of Property: Vandalism (Count 1,2)
- Reported 4/13 GA 161  
Sexual Assault: Fondling

- Reported 4/14 Campus Wide  
Harassment: Sexual
- Reported 4/20 Rouzer Hall  
CDS: Student Conduct Violation
- Reported 4/21 Daniel McLea Parking Lot  
Malicious Destruction of Property
- Reported 4/24 Hill Hall  
Malicious Destruction of Property

## Spring 2021 Editorial Team

- Ciara O'Brien '22  
Co-Editor-in-Chief
- Molly Sherman '22  
Co-Editor-in-Chief
- Jake Fine '21  
Assistant Editor
- Rachel Allen '24  
Assistant Editor

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## COVID-19 Campus Tracker

- 4  
Total number of newly confirmed positive COVID-19 cases of our on-campus population over the previous seven days.
- 91  
Total cumulative number of positive COVID-19 cases of our on campus population, since move-in started.
- 5483  
Total cumulative number of Wellness Center administered tests, since move-in started.
- This information was obtained from the COVID-19 Campus Notification System. It was updated on April 27, 2021, and will continue to be updated every weekday by 9 a.m. To learn more, please visit the Return to the Hill (RTTH) webpage.



# Take Back The Night

Molly Sherman, Co-Editor-in-Chief

Read more about Take Back the Night on p. 7



Take Bake The Night organizers of the McDaniel Consent and Sex Education student organization.



McDaniel Consent and Sex Education student organization E-board.



McDaniel Consent and Sex Education student organization co-presidents, Rachel Gunnerson and Mackenzie Hunt.



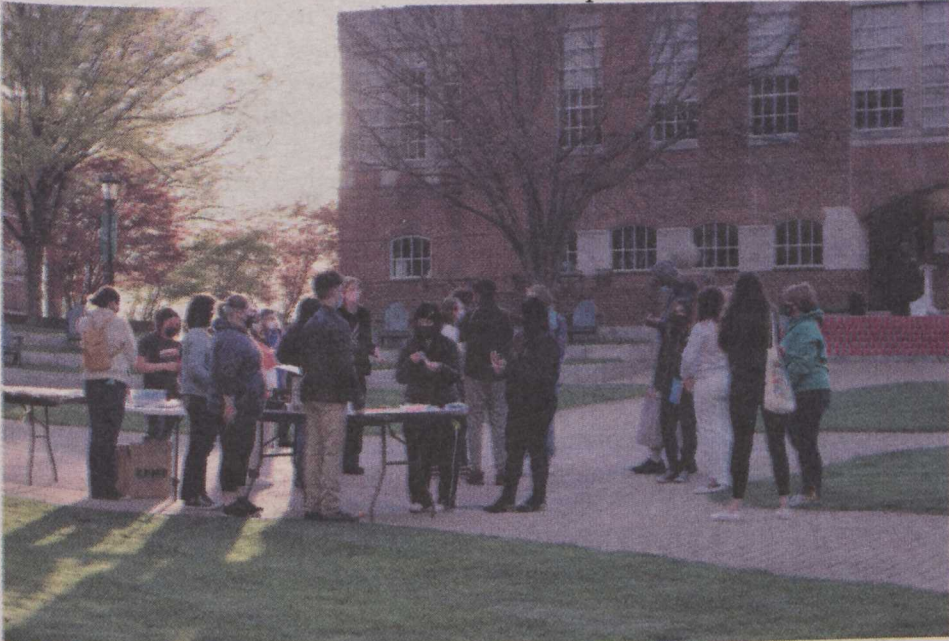
Mackenzie Hunt and Calea Gelnett.



Red cups represent the McDaniel College survivors, as speakers share their stories and others' at the podium.



Rachel "RayGun" Gunnerson sings her original song inspired by her own story of survival.



Event attendees connect with each other before the event.



Organizers distributed signs, bracelets for survivors and supporters, and offered nachos to attendees.



# Book Review: Malice by Heather Walter

**Sophia Gilbert**  
Staff Reporter

“Aurora could have created a new world. A realm worth fighting for. They do not deserve it.”

I’ve always loved fairytales and all their different retellings ever since I was a kid. *Malice*, written by Heather Walter, falls explicitly within this category as a sapphic retelling of *Sleeping Beauty*.

The story centers around Alyce, a girl with magic unlike any other of those in Briar. In the book, Graces are humans able to use their golden blood, gifted by the fae, to do small acts of magic in the form of potions and elixirs. However, Alyce is part-Vila, an extinct race able to do dark magic without the loss of vitality that Graces experience as their magic sources are used up. Because of this, she is feared and despised, and while people pay for her skills, she is known only as the “Dark

Grace.”

However, after developing an unlikely friendship with the crown princess Aurora and receiving a chance to train with another of her kind, Alyce is given new hope to change her fate forever. The catch is that the royal bloodline Aurora is part of is cursed: all female descendants, unless they receive true love’s kiss by the age of 21, will die.

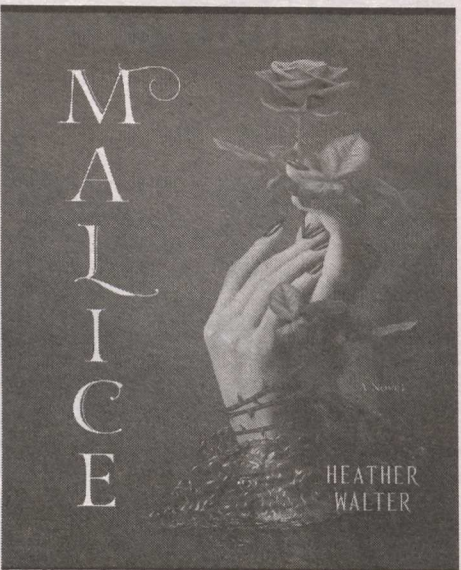
Alyce needs to find a way to break the curse, learn the true extent of her magic, and find a way to free herself from her status as the Dark Grace, all while dealing with and evading the three tiring Graces she lives with. Not to mention, there seems to be an evil far more insidious within the palace walls themselves..

There’s a lot that can be said about the delightfully dark fantasy that is *Malice*. This story has a slow start, but it makes sense (as well

as the abruptness of the ending) considering this is the first book of a duology.

There were also some plot holes that I wished had been better explained and some details that I hope will come up in the second book. However, I loved the world-building and became so enthralled with the story that I read nearly the whole book in a single afternoon! It’s worth noting that there are A LOT of different subplots going on, from the politics of the world designed in the book, to Alyce’s own story, and otherwise. It’s not a book that you should sit down and skim. However, if you love fairytales as much as I do, and morally grey main characters, I genuinely think you’ll enjoy *Malice* as much as I did. I know I’ll be patiently waiting for the sequel!

*Malice* is Heather Walter’s debut novel and the first book in the



*Malice* duology. It was published April 13, 2021 by Del Rey, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, and is available wherever books are sold. You can find more about Heather Walter on her website, [www.heatherwalter.com](http://www.heatherwalter.com).

*Do you have a new book or novel you'd like me to review next? Feel free to drop a suggestion via email at [freepress@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:freepress@mcdaniel.edu) or message the Free Press Instagram page @mcdfreepress.*

## College offers support in a gathering following Chauvin verdict

**Jake Fine**  
Assistant Editor

On Tuesday, April 20, at around 2:30 p.m., it was announced that the jury on the Derek Chauvin trial had reached a consensus.

In anticipation of the results of the Chauvin trial, McDaniel’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion administrative task force held a call to deliberate on responses to the trial’s potential outcomes. While on the call, they got the news that the verdict would be read in court. They departed from the call to hear the results live.

Derek Chauvin has been convicted on all three charges: unintentional second-degree murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter.

McDaniel’s DEI task force reunited for a meeting to decide what to do in response to the results of the trial.

Elizabeth Towle, Dean of

Students, said “We came back on knowing that everyone has processed and has a different reaction to this whole George Floyd tragedy. We thought, okay, we know it’s short notice, but let’s just give students a safe place to come and process their feelings or be with other people who are maybe feeling the same way, just to be around others in case that would help them to feel better and feel more supported.”

After the Chauvin verdict was announced, Towle called Aaron White, SGA’s president, and they decided to postpone the Ask McDaniel Anything event that was originally scheduled for Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. and encourage students to attend the gathering at the fountain.

At 5:35 p.m., students received an email from the President’s Office. President Casey wrote “All of us at McDaniel must view today’s guilty verdict as yet another call to action

as we continue to make McDaniel a more just and equitable community. As members of that community, we can find solace in one another and the principles that bring us together.”

Casey’s email invited students to the McTeer-Zepp Memorial Plaza in front of Big Baker chapel to find comfort with one another and support from staff.

Towle said “in our journey as a community, how we deal with tragedy like this, it feels like we need a commonplace to do that. People have talked at different times about the fountain being that place.”

The small crowd at the gathering consisted mostly of staff members and administrators from residence life, the office of student engagement, the office of diversity, equity, and inclusion, the first stop office, academic life, the wellness center, campus safety, admissions, and the provost’s office. There were

few students present.

The atmosphere was quiet and consisted mostly of casual conversation between students, staff, and administrators. Some administrators shared their experiences of being on campus during the O.J. Simpson trial, where the nation was similarly gripped to news outlets, waiting for the results of the intense trial.

“While there hasn’t necessarily been a lot of conversation about Derek Chauvin and the verdict, it seems like it’s still a good opportunity for members of the community who want to, to be together. And that’s what the point was,” said Towle.

“The part of the verdict that I think is the hardest is the emotion of it, and I think is the hardest is the emotion of it, and I think some people expressing that or talking about it, I don’t think as a country we’re very deft at. I think sometimes this is what you see. I think if there were more students just the act of being together is the important element,” said Towle.

## Wisdom Court Entertainment cont.

**WISDOM**, from page 1

Lyve “felt hopeless before we got this place. I was trying to figure out what to do. I was kind of lost.” Live music was shut down, so there were few opportunities for Lyve to make money down the avenues he normally turned to.

“Everything stopped, so I was getting really really hopeless. We had zero dollars. We had no money,” said Lyve.

Carroll County community members were graciously able to offer Wisdom Court Entertainment the support they needed to get off the ground. “Every wall, every piece of paint, carpet, door, is from people in the community,” said Campbell.

Wisdom Court turned to the Westminster Online Community

Facebook group, GoFundMe, the Mid-Atlantic Gigabit Innovation Collaboratory, Studio-E, and the individual support and donations from other community members to get off the ground.

Due to the helping hands of community members, who volunteered anything they could, from time to money to labor, Wisdom Court Entertainment has found the backing they need to have a stable foothold in the Westminster community.

Now, Campbell describes the organization’s mission to reciprocate the support the community has given them. “There have been multiple different ways that we have taken from this community over the past two and a half decades. Multiple ways. And back then it was

like, that’s the only way to survive. Now it’s like let’s give everything back plus 100% more.”

“If more people know what we’re doing and get a chance to see how real people that we are, we’ll get more help and more assistance so we can help more people and do bigger and better things,” said Lyve.

“Our overall goal is to showcase a side of Westminster that a lot of people don’t think exists.”

Evident by the community’s support, from financial contributions to putting up studio walls during their lunch break to attending a hopping Easter egg hunt downtown, the town of Westminster is ready to embrace the studio and its mission.

“This definitely is home away from home, it’s ours. I’m talking

the whole community, this is ours. Let’s enjoy it, let’s get together, let’s set up things. Whatever. Let’s get together, let’s celebrate, let’s learn, let’s do it together,” said Campbell.

The crew at Wisdom Court unanimously expresses excitement and intrigue about McDaniel students getting involved.

“My message to McDaniel College is: Pull up. What’s your ideas, let’s talk. I’m pretty sure I can help you with your ideas,” said Lyve.

And if that wasn’t incentive enough, Lyve offers in classic swagger only a true hip-hop artist could possess, “You come here? You get offered a Fruit Roll-Up.”



# So, you want to go to the woods...

Erick Lowe  
Contributor

It's finally the point of the year when Spring feels like Spring and life is starting to emerge from every nook and cranny. Now, walking through the woods feels as magical as ever, as you see new life literally blossoming before your eyes. The emergence of wildflowers and trees creates the most vibrant colors, naturally. The smells around the area are equally as intoxicating, as every plant competes for pollinators. Sensory moments like these really make you envious of the bees of the world, spending their time in the flowers.

One of the most exciting sensations is how loud these woods get when teeming with life. With spring comes the thunderous noises of mating seasons. The development of the frogs' various mating sounds is one of the most natural gauges of time. When clocks and calendars may fail us, wood frogs chirping in the forests and the mighty bullfrog croaking deep into the summer nights will not.

This article is here to help you immerse yourself in and experience the natural world around the McDaniel campus. Whether you're someone who wants to stroll through natural wildflowers, or a thrill seeker that's in it to swim it, here are some trails with your name on 'em.

Here are a few of my favorite spots around the area:

## Hashawha & Bear Branch Nature Center

The first of these parks is just outside of the Westminster area, less than a 10-minute drive from the campus. Going north on Pennsylvania Avenue, drive until a right turn onto John Owings Rd. Once on this road, you can either park by two ponds, great for fishing, or you can drive a bit further ahead and turn left onto Hashawha Road. Bear Branch nature center and Hashawha nature center work with local organizations, such as

Weed Warriors, to guarantee native growth and a boon to biodiversity. Personally, this is where I've found the most wood frogs and red-backed salamanders. The strengths of this area are its stream, known as the Bear Branch, and the lake, known as Lake Hashawha. This area's greatest qualities are the ease of hiking and the abundance of wildflowers. Spring Beauties, violets, bloodroot, and wild mustard spread far and wide.

## Morgan Run

Honestly, you could write a book about Morgan Run and its many strengths. This river is directly south from Westminster on 97, with each spot being about a 20 minute drive. I'm going to break it down by parking area, since each one offers something different in biome and utility.

**Jim Bowers Road:** This trail is accessible by heading south on 97, then left on Nicodemus Road, and the next right onto Jim Bowers Road. This trail will take you to the thick of Morgan Run, near a fallen bridge. Some of the most trout I've ever found in Maryland reside here! This area excels for hiking with a fun trail running south and north. It presents many opportunities for recreation like swimming, (two great spots: by the bridge and a fallen log downstream) climbing, and aesthetic beauty.

**Klees Mill Road:** This parking lot is best known as Morgan Run Boulders, and for great reason! When initially parking here, you're met by some amazing boulders. This area is amazing for rock climbing, as well as appreciating the natural beauty within the old growth forest. Whether going upstream or downstream, there's an opportunity to connect to the land.

**London Bridge Road:** This final area doesn't have a parking lot, only a pull-off on the side of the road, just past the bridge. Here, you'll find the best swimming opportunities, as well as an opening to a massive forest next to Liberty Reservoir. This spot has various rocks to jump off and a lake crowded with trout.



Pine trees greet you at one of the entrances to Hashawha (Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press).

The area is also known for morels and its massive pine forest that alternates between coniferous and deciduous. You can even set up by the lake and watch the beavers spring out of the water!

## Patapsco River – McKeldin Area

This massive park is on the Patapsco River, a river flowing from Liberty Reservoir all the way to Loch Raven. This is the closest state park to us of the Patapsco, just over 30 minutes away from campus. This park requires two dollars to get into, but is worth every penny!

Located off Marriottsville Road, this forest has just about everything. Hikes here range in difficulty, from walks along the river in a field, to switchbacks among giant boulders. My favorite section here would be the tall Poplar trails, with trees dwarfing the rest of the vegetation. There are several streams all throughout the park, making the woods lush. This area is also home to one of the few Class IV rapids in Maryland, for all of you kayakers or rapids enthusiasts.

Another secret spot here just beyond the confines of the park is the Liberty Dam, one of the best swim spots in Maryland, as well as an architectural masterpiece. To discover it, you'll want to go North on Marriottsville Road, just past the McKeldin Area, and then take an immediate left after a large bridge. Park anywhere on this road and head on the path upstream, for rocks you can sunbathe on, vernal

ponds, and the Liberty Dam! **Prettyboy Reservoir**

The last area we have to talk about is the Prettyboy Reservoir, which is half an hour North of McDaniel, and consists mostly of coniferous trees. To get to the reservoir itself, park alongside Beckleysville Road, where there's pullouts on either side and a fire road to your right. There is a gigantic monoculture pine forest that feels ancient. There will eventually be a trail that will lead down to the water.

The Prettyboy Reservoir is illegal to swim in. However, there are anecdotes of folks cliff jumping into the water, including a chalk silhouette on a rock beyond a hill's edge. If you aren't to follow these unverified stories, the park has a slew of trails and streams that are sure to fascinate!

This article only presents a few spots, there are a ton more hidden gems all throughout the county. You just need a little bit of gas and a lot of drive!

*If you're interested in biking and enjoying the outdoors with others, consider joining Green Life, a student organization on campus that has ventured to all the spots in this list, please reach out to Erick Lowe at ecl006@mcDaniel.edu!*

[www.mcdanielfreepress.com](http://www.mcdanielfreepress.com)



# CASE hosts third annual Take Back the Night walk



Rachel "RayGun" Gunnerson does a sound check (Molly Sherman / McDaniel Free Press).

Ciara O'Brien  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On April 15, students, faculty, and members of the McDaniel Community gathered on a chilly Thursday night in Red Square to Take Back the Night.

The walk was organized and hosted by members of Consent and Sex Education (CASE), a student organization on campus.

Members of CASE and those sharing their stories gathered on the steps in front of Hoover Library

around 225 cups, representing the approximate amount of survivors of sexual violence at McDaniel College.

"One in five college women and one in 16 college men are sexually assaulted...it is a pandemic too, and I wish people knew its importance," said Raachel Gunnerson, co-founder of CASE.

"Take Back the Night is a night where survivors of sexual assault and allies can come together to speak out against these injustices, demand change from McDaniel and our society, as well as find solidarity with each other," said Mackenzie Hunt, Co-founder of CASE.

"People, often women, feel unsafe walking alone at night because of the risk of sexual violence and how we have to live in fear, and the idea is that there is a community there to support you," said Gunnerson.

The night kicked off with

speeches from CASE's co-founders, as well as a musical performance from Gunnerson herself.

"I sang a song called 'In the Dark' that I wrote about my sexual assault. It is part of an EP that I released with four songs that all pertain to love, loss, and my experience with sexual trauma," said Gunnerson.

Throughout the night, approximately 15 survivors shared their stories, both in-person and anonymously.

"It was amazing to see people come out to the event to speak out against violence and support the survivors who were present," said Hunt.

"I did really love to hear people speak, and I thought it was really powerful to hear everyone's stories. That's what it's all about for me: being able to hear those stories, support those survivors and let them know that they're not alone," said Gunnerson.

Although turn-out wasn't as high as predicted, attendees agree that it

was still a very powerful event.

"I think the event went well, but I was a little bit disappointed with the turnout. I know it can be difficult because it was cold and it's during covid, but I still wish more people would have stood up and showed their support," said Gunnerson.

"To me, Take Back the Night means that change is happening. It allows us to come together and find solidarity with one another in the fight against sexual violence," said Hunt.

"Whether they think they know someone or not, they do know someone who has experienced sexual violence. I do believe it is everyone's responsibility to do what they can to prevent and speak out against sexual violence," said Gunnerson.

*If you are interested in getting involved with CASE, reach out to Mackenzie at mrh014@mcDaniel.edu, or you can follow their Instagram @mcdanielcase. Rachel's EP is called Old Loves and is available on all streaming platforms under the artist RayGun.*



# McDaniel Green Life Photo Competition Winners

Various Contributors

Winners of Green Life's weekly photo competition were awarded gift cards to an establi



(Harrison Booth)



(Madison Dehais )



(Madison Dehais)



(Carl Feibusch)



(Bella Walston)



Smol boy  
(Molly Sherman)