CONTRIBUTORS

EDITOR IN-CHIEF
GRACYN REED

MANAGING EDITOR
BRIANNA PERALTA

SPORTS EDITOR
RYAN MEYER

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR
MOHAMMED ALABDULLAH

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITORS
JESSICA ALBINA
JOY BRANCH

ADVISOR
DR. J ANTHONY SNORGRASS

TALON TEAM
JOY BRANCH
LEXI CLARY
JESSICA ALBINA
LEXI YANEZ
SCOTT BOWER
TREY BALES
BRIANNA PERALTA
MAHDI ALFOTIAH
HESHAM ALBADR
MOHAMMED ALABDULLAH
HANAE ISHIKAWA
MOHAMMED BAGHDADI
AHMED ALZARAHNI
AJ OVIEDO
CHRIS GRISSOM
RYAN MEYER
DYLAN DOSS
GRACYN REED

STAY CONNECTED
Download the QRReader app to stay connected with the Talon. Scan our QR Codes to take you directly to our Website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

ON THE COVER & BACK:
FRONT AND BACK COVER: Photos From Jessica Albina

ISSUE 88 | 3
The Talon News Magazine is produced by students of Avila University. Opinions expressed are
those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the Talon News Staff, the Trustees, administration, faculty, or staff of the University. The Talon News Magazine encourages letters to
the editor. These may be submitted electronically or in writing and should include the writer’s name, address, and telephone numbers for verification purposes. Letters can be mailed to the Talon
News Magazine Editor, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64145. The Talon
reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of space, clarity, or inappropriate language. Copies
of the Talon News Network Operational Guidelines may be requested by writing to the above referenced address.

EDITORIAL POLICY

April 27-29 AT 7:30 p.m. • April 30 AT 2 p.m.
GOPPERT THEATRE AT AVILA UNIVERSITY
11901 WORNALL ROAD • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
FOR TICKETS CALL 816.501.3699 OR VISIT AVILA.EDU/TICKETS
Urinetown is presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International.
If you’d like to become a contributor, we’d love to hear from you! (Photos, articles, poems, etc. We accept it all!)

talonnewsmagazine@gmail.com

FROM THE EDITOR

I am so grateful to release my second issue of The Talon as Editor-in-Chief. This has been another amazing issue from everyone. We did decide to produce a shorter issue for the one so we can produce a larger issue for the final one of the semester, in May, and it was extremely hard to narrow down the stories in which we were going to use.

This issue is themed Organized Chaos, as it was voted on by the writing staff. To define organized Chaos would be to say it’s like looking into someone’s messy room but the owner knows exactly where everything is. At this time of the semester, everything seems to be chaos. Teachers tend to decide that all your projects are due in the same week, or even the same day, we lose motivation due to narrowing the days left until summer, and we tend to freak out because it’s advising time. Just remember to always take some time for yourself and relax because you deserve it.

We would also like to announce that in the last issue of the Talon, Hanae Ishikawa’s translation of her story was cut off due to technical difficulties and to read the end of her story you should refer to her blog, which you can find on Talon360.net.

Don’t forget to check out other content on our social media pages. We love to interact with our readers!

UNTIL NEXT TIME

Gracyn Reed
Editor-in-Chief

ISSUE 88 | 5
Do you suffer from excessive absenteeism? Lack of motivation? If the answer is yes, then you are possibly suffering from Senioritis. Senioritis can be defined thanks to Urban Dictionary as “a crippling disease that strikes college seniors.” Symptoms can include napping in public places, laziness and wearing an excess of sweatpants. Every. Single. Day. Many last year students only see graduation as the cure, but there are many other solutions.

On a more serious note, 4 years of constant studies often leads to a notorious “crash” senior year. This crash is often interpreted as Senioritis. Students can only work diligently for so long until they give out. Adding to the stress are other outside factors such as work and personal life.

So how can you realistically avoid or the spring semester rash? Communications professor Linda Strelluf offered a few tips she shares with her students. “When you get to that point in your life that you’re a senior, you’re just tired,” she says. “Just see that goal and keep pushing and running harder, like a horse, towards that goal.” Strelluf also ends with a warning. “Part of what an employer is going to be looking at is your tenacity over time.” So for students to say Senioritis won’t affect you in the long run, would be unwise. Some tips to fight Senioritis include: Setting small goals, staying organized, improving study habits and making sure to find time for yourself. Once you get your diploma in hand, you’ll suddenly find your Senioritis is cured. If you let it defeat you, you’ll instead find yourself suffering from a different crippling disease: regret.
A BETTER YOU

Feeling great once again

Lexi Clary

As people everywhere prepare for the hotter months the thought of getting back into shape springs to mind. March is national nutrition month, which was created by the academy of nutrition and dietetics; they focus on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. As college students, it can be hard to get started and balance working out and eating healthy with our busy school and work schedules, and running to and from practice for those who are athletes. It is important to realize that all body types are very different and unique from each other and require different things. So something that may work for someone else may not work for you. Although frustrating, this is the fun part. Discovering what works for you. Below are a few tips to help you achieve your goals.

What Gym?

Here at Avila we have a fitness center that is open for anyone to use. But for those who are gym shy, I want to first say that it is so awesome to see new people at the gym trying to better themselves and I know that gyms can be scary. BUT seriously, if you are struggling with something or you just want more advice, just go ask somebody you see that has the look you want and more times than not they will be honored that you even asked and be more than happy to help. Here are tips for the gym shy that you can do in your room:

Yoga: most of the time you can find 25 minute videos on You-tube.
Cardio: you can also find short cardio workouts online, some as long as 10 minutes
Legs: Lunges, squats, side leg raises,
Abs: Leg raises, flutter kicks, scissor kicks, mountain climbers, Russian twist, planks

Staying Motivated

It is easy to lose motivation for working out and eating healthy, especially when you don’t see results or if your schedule just doesn’t allow it. To help motivate yourself and stay on track here are a few tips.

Log your workouts: what you did that day and what you eat (even snacks) and calories. This will help you stay aware of what you are consuming.
Once the month of March rolls around, most people look forward to spring time, Snake Saturday, and Saint Patrick’s Day. For others, they might look forward to the month of March because it’s a month dedicated to honoring women as part of Women’s History Month.

This year the theme of Women’s History Month, according to their website, is “honoring trailblazing women in labor and business.” The National Women’s History Project chose their honorees for this month by focusing on women from all different backgrounds who really pushed the limit and challenged the social and legal boundaries that have kept women’s work under-appreciated and underpaid. Each woman who was chosen as an honoree is extraordinary and helped pave the way for better wages and working conditions while simultaneously shattering any social norms of their time. They’ve proven that women belong in every leadership role and inspired generations of women to never be afraid to go after their dreams.

Although the NWHP has chosen a theme for this year, I think this year’s Women’s History Month also holds an extra special meaning to those of us who attended the Women’s March in January. Women all around the world have been building each other up, forming a giant team, and continuously pushing forward. We’ve got the ball rolling and this women’s history month is reminding us of how far we’ve come and how much farther we have to go. We’re inspired and we’re not going to give up on the fight for equality.
The mistake of the century

Jessica Albina

If you were one of the 32.9 million people who tuned in to watch the 89th Oscars ceremony, you were probably left wondering how a mess up that monumental is even possible. Imagine that your film that you have put your heart and soul into was announced as the winner of the most prestigious award, Best Picture. A few acceptance speeches later, and you are informed that it was in fact a mistake. Although it might be hard to believe, this actually happened.

Despite speculation that of publicity stunt academy it was later found out that one of the accountants, Brian Cullinan, was distracted and mistakenly handed Warren Beatty the wrong envelope before going onstage to announce the winner for Best Picture. Leaving Faye Dunaway to read with the card from the Best Actress category, falsely naming the film “La La Land” as the winner.

After the mistake was corrected the cast and creators of the drama “Moonlight” were in complete disbelief when they were announced as the true and deserving winners of best picture. “Moonlight” director Barry Jenkins was stunned stating, “Very clearly, even in my dreams this could not be true, But to hell with dreams, I’m done with it, cause this is true. Oh my goodness.” Even though “La La Land” lost Best Picture they didn’t leave empty handed. Out of their 14 nomination they took six Oscars including Best Actress, Director, Cinematography, Music, Song, and Production Design.

Photo From Jessica Albina
The fight continues

Lexi Yanez

Unless you’ve been living under a rock, you’ve probably heard about the ongoing fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline. Throughout last year, members of the Sioux Tribe at Standing Rock began fighting against big oil when they planned to begin construction on sacred land. On top of it’s construction violating a treaty, it also threatens to contaminate for what millions of including us potentially clean water could be, people in Missouri. Sioux Tribe eventually began to peacefully protest which garnered the attention of thousands of people worldwide. Many people started traveling to Standing Rock to join protests, a hashtag #NoDAPL launched online, and celebrities began pouring out their support for the Sioux Tribe. As the peaceful protests continued, Nork Dakota Police Departments came to Standing Rock and things turned ugly. This led to a campaign that called on our then President, Barack Obama, to step in and shut down the construction of the pipeline. Eventually, and thankfully, President Obama listened and put an end to it. Or so we thought. On January 24th of this year, Donald Trump signed an executive order that approved the continued construction of the Dakota Access pipeline. This decision didn’t stop the Sioux Tribe or their supporters from continuing the fight. Another hashtag, #BankExit, has come to social media and it’s working. Tens of millions of dollars has been divested from Wells Fargo, which is the big bank that’s funding the construction of the pipeline. There are even investors urging for the pipeline to be rerouted. The fight won’t stop there, in fact, I think it’s getting stronger. From March 7th-10th Native Nations March and Camp on DC takes place. This is their way of showing Washington and all those watching, that they refuse to give up.

This isn’t just a fight against big oil companies but a fight for our environment, a fight for clean water, and a fight for a better world for generations to come.

Photo From Lexi Yanez
Before Sean Spicer was picked to be Donald Trump’s White House Press Secretary on (insert date picked), he served as RNC Communications Director since 2011. Spicer also lead the negotiations and implementation of the new presidential primary debate structure before the 2016 presidential debates. He coordinated with broadcast networks and conservative media partners and served as a liaison to the Republican candidates and their campaign as well. However, Spicer now spends his time doing the best he can to defend Trump and his cabinet.

If Donald Trump hasn’t made the left angry enough, look no further than a Sean Spicer press conference. Spicer’s conferences have generated a lot of controversy because of his cut-throat approach to dealing with reporters asking him questions. However, for his first White House press conference, Spicer didn’t take any questions. Instead, he held a briefing to criticize the media for trying to downplay the size of the crowds at Trump’s Presidential Inauguration. That briefing was a call to let everyone know that things are going to be vastly different for the new administration.

Recently, the outrage has been that people don’t think Spicer is actually answering any of the reporter’s questions. Specifically when it comes to claims that Russia influenced the U.S. election. However, I would make the point that there has never been a White House Press Secretary that ever really answers a question. It’s the same thing that happens during debates and political talk shows, everyone dances around the question. I think that it is also important to understand how challenging it is to be in his position. After all, his job is to defend whatever Donald Trump says and back it up with logic.
What is minimalism? Isn’t it that documentary everyone is raving about on Netflix? Or is it that weird section at the nelson where a black canvas hang as “art”? Well in retrospect, it’s both. Minimalism first is an art movement that uses pared down design elements. Minimalist art is simple and elegant, much like the art of Donald Judd. Untitled (Stack), 1967, is one of his famous minimalist art installations. It is an elegant stack of single colored square metal. This is one of Judd’s favorite pieces because of its “lack of symbolic meaning.”

Minimalism can also classified as a lifestyle that is swiftly gaining popularity. People who adopt the minimalist life give up their excess possessions. Much like Donald Judd, material items have a significant “lack of symbolic meaning”. Minimalist strive to take feelings of ‘happiness’ or ‘worth’ out of clothes, furniture, trinkets and other material items while putting those feelings back into relationships, passions and life in general. Avila University Professor Dotty Hamilton describes the time she came to know the Minimalist lifestyle. After her sons graduated and moved out, she and her husband decided to sell their home and downsize to an apartment. “Many of my friends thought, ‘How can you go from 3500 square feet to 1200? How are you going to be able to do that?’ We gave away van loads and van loads of stuff. I’ve never missed any of it.”

For the average person, giving away all of your possessions sounds like a huge feet. There are a few simple ways to begin living a minimalist life. “Choose one thing first,” Hamilton advises. Whether it be your 5th grade soccer participant trophy or that one sweater you swear you’ll wear one day. “Start on one thing, not everything, because that just seems overwhelming and that defeats the whole purpose of trying to make your life better.”

It’s not just about living minimal it’s about living life.
PROJECT LINUS

Blankets for babies ▼ Jessica Albina

When the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet founded Avila University they had certain principles and community values in mind, one of them being Interaction and Service to Others.

Project Linus was created by Avila students nearly five years ago in the name of service. This is a campus event where students come together to make blankets for the local children's hospital, Children’s Mercy in Downtown Kansas City. Senior nursing student, Monica Hudson coordinated the event the past two years with assistance from Courtney Tabish.

When asked what this project meant to her, Hudson responded saying, “I work at Children’s Mercy right now, and being in nursing school this project means a lot to me personally because I see the kids at the hospital getting these blankets and how much it makes them happy and puts a smile on their faces. It’s priceless to see them get this present that someone took time making.”

Not only does Project Linus help spread happiness to children who need it the most but it’s also a competition for the students that participate. The students competed in small group and the team that made the most blankets in two hours won a free hour at Topgolf. This year ASNO, Avila Student Nurses Organization, took home the prize in a very close race. Hudson went on to explain that she wishes there could be more campus involvement in Project Linus for the future and the best way to achieve that is by word of mouth.
On Monday, March 20th, the Kansas City Chiefs announced their new cheerleading team for the 2017-2018 season. One of those hopefuls awaiting the news was Junior Advertising and Public Relations major, Maci Hodges.

Hodges had auditioned for the Chiefs Cheerleading team once before in 2016 but was cut after being named a finalist.

“I was just hoping that this year would be different,” Hodges said, and different it was. This year Hodges made the Cheer team as a “Field Rookie”. “They announced the team on the Chief’s Instagram page, and Hodges said, “I just had to keep refreshing to see when they were going to announce it. The anticipation was killing me, but finally I was announced and I just started bawling.”

Hodges has been dancing for over 8 years at The Movement dance studio. She danced for all 4 years on her Varsity dance team for Raymore-Peculiar High School and now teaches at FEARless Dance Center with 5 retired Chiefs Cheerleaders.
SLEEP DON'T CREEP
How to eat like an adult

Brianna Peralta and Gracyn Reed

Being a college student on a budget, it’s hard to eat healthy and it’s even harder when you’ve got a busy schedule. Learning to shop, cook, and eat like an adult is harder than you think, but no worries, we’ve got the tips.

Learn how to Buy groceries

Before you learn how to cook, your first step toward eating like an adult is buying the right type of groceries. Keep your dorms stocked with basics like bread, sandwich stuff, cereal, and milk, etc. Avoid going overboard on the snacks.

Buy some basic tools and utensils

If your living in the dorm all you will need are a couple essentials that you will use everyday. You can get by using paper plates and bowls but I also recommend that you get a couple microwave safe bowls and some real cutlery. You will almost definitely need it.

Start with an easy recipe

Did you know that you can make easy 2 ingredient pancakes using only bananas and an egg. There are so many easy 3 step recipes that you can start with. From scrambled eggs in a mug to easy no bake cookies. You can work your way to top chef in no time.

Eat more Vegetables

If you were the type of kid that ran at the sight of anything green, try drowning it in sauce.

Try something out of your comfort zone at restaurants

Impress your dinner mates by eating food that is commonly unheard of! If you don’t like it, you don’t like it. But hey, at least you tried it.

After you try these great things, let us know how your cooking went! Feel free to interact with us on social media; we would love to hear from you!
You tube became more popular than television due to its numerous advantages over the latter. First, television has many commercial breaks. These breaks are quite annoying. You tube on the other hand allows an individual to watch a show or movie online continuously with only a few clicks. Even though the internet is increasing the number of ads, still it cannot be compared with television ads. This majorly contributed to the popularity of YouTube.

Second, YouTube gives an individual the priority to watch whatever he or she wants at whenever she or he feels comfortable. On the contrary, television gives programs that depending on what the cable company wants. we either watch is being presented or look for something else to entertain us. This has made many people to prefer YouTube to television. YouTube gives an option for finding your favorite star. The lives of many teenagers are influenced by personalities in YouTube who like sharing their life experiences that motivate teenagers. This ease of access to stars teenagers look up to has made YouTube more popular than television. YouTube is more available than television. when traveling or on breaks from daily activities, one can access YouTube provided there is an internet connection.

Moreover, one can make a comment on YouTube after watching a video or comment during fan meeting. This ease of availability and power to give the audience room to express their thoughts after watching a video has made YouTube popular. The young have influenced the old in the family to shift online instead of television. Therefore, as time elapses, the popularity of YouTube will further increase as television popularity decreases.
I CHOOSE TO LIVE AUTHENTICALLY ONLINE

Do You?

#TheFinalTakedown
INSIDE:

FEATURE
GLASS BALLS DON’T BOUNCE
PAGE 23

FEATURE
IN ANOTHER UNIVERSE
PAGE 26

FEATURE
VISION FOR THE FUTURE
PAGE 30
How can organized chaos can be handled? You have to take a deep breath, and then resolve each obstacle even though sometimes it may feel as if there isn’t enough time for that breath to be taken. It’s like trying to reason with a headache! If you ask yourself what would it take to organize it? The answer always will be “All you got!”

Mohammed Alabdullah, International Editor
The National Festival of Heritage and Culture organized by the National Guard in Janadriyah each year is a historic occasion in the field of culture and a deep indicator of the attention of our wise leadership in heritage, culture, and traditions and Arab values. As is appropriate national activities mixed in with fragrant fruit of our history glorious present prosperous. It is loftier goals of this festival is to emphasize the Arab and Islamic identity and consolidate the various aspects of the national heritage and to try to maintain and preserve it to be borne for generations to come.

Gulf Cooperation Council in the Middle East, they all get together at one place which is “Janadriyah.” In Janadriyah there are so many sections that when you walk around you will see, and each section is a different country in the middle east such as United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain. Each country has their section, and each country represents their tradition such as food, clothes, etc. Janadriyah is well known of a wild nation because people come from everywhere to attend it and discover the other tradition.

All in all, Janadriyah is a well-known place, and it only happened once a year, and each year is different. This place totally worth to go each year because every year you attend it you will discover something new.
GLASS BALLS DON’T BOUNCE

Juggling life and responsibilities

Mohammed Alabdullah

Imagine, just imagine, that you are a juggler and you can handle many balls and keep them flying through the air without missing a step or dropping them on the ground. Sounds amazing, right? A juggler’s work is to keep the balls in the air, the more balls the better and all it’s needed to show talent is by juggling three or more balls. It needs 1% luck and 99% practice, precision and control.

A glass ball is a metaphor that symbolizes life’s responsibilities, and the difficulty of recovering from them; each one of us has a certain responsibility. We are in college and we learn about working with others, how to collaborate with peers of different personality types, how to balance learning, and how to think outside of the box while also adhering to precise guidelines. We do this all and keep up on assignment due dates, some of us have to work and take care of families outside of school as well. All of these different aspects are the glass balls. The rubber ball is what occupies most of our time: entertainment. As much as it is important to keep that glass ball safe, we tend to let it become fragile and crack under pressure.

There might be a little trick in order to constantly keep the glass ball from breaking. Just like the seatbelt, it keeps you safe. Prioritizing your tasks is one way to rubberize the glass ball, for instance; finishing next Monday’s assignment this Monday, and always be ready three days ahead. It may seem impossible, but some students are on survival mode where they do the assignments just before class, that means that they can be done before with the correct order. Last minute work leads to imprecise work. And how many times do you get an Email about more assignments to do that should be prioritised and you are stuck with more? There are only so many hours in one day. Unlike when working on it early, you can handle the additional assignments and still have time to relax before it is due.

There is a child inside of us that wants to play around and be occupied with nonsense, but we cannot do that all the time. There are times where unexpected tasks drop on us and trying to finish the work early can absorb the shock.
The United States is a big continent that includes many cities, and there are in each city an enormous number of immigrants and international students. Immigrants in the United States are from around the world, but do you imagine the day that America without immigrants or international students? This topic is interesting for me because I’m an international student, and I have many friends who are immigrants from different countries.

I am a Saudi student, and there are more than 60,000 students have a scholarship from Saudi Arabia, also many students who have different nationalities. The United States, without international students, will affect the critical points in the USA. For examples, the economy will reduce in the universities in all states and the real estate will reduce in university cities or small towns that depend on the students. Also, students prefer to travel around the USA, especially in the short vacations or break rather than return to their country, this affects the economy for domestic airlines and hotels in the tourism cities.

On the other hand, immigrants in the USA have different religions, cultures, languages, races and backgrounds. All these have a positive effect because they help to spread their cultures through their restaurants, festivals and other rituals of each country. Each of these points makes Americans learn different cultures without traveling outside of America, but if the United States without immigrants and international students, it will lack to learn the cultures and backgrounds so quickly, because of the international students and immigrants are sharing their cultures seamlessly. Finally, despite the vast number of immigrants and international students, but America enjoyed in peace and freedom of opinion for all who live there.
يوم بدون المهاجرين

خطوه القادمة لي امريكا؟

محمد بغدادي

المتحدة الأمريكية قارة كبيرة تضم عدد كبير من المدن وفي كل مدينة يوجد عدد هائل من المهاجرين. المهاجرين في امريكا من مختلف انحاء العالم ولكن هل تخيلنا في يوم ان امريكا بدون مهاجرين او لا؟ هذا الموضوع مثير للاهتمام بالنسبة لي لانني طالب دولي ولدي اصدقاء كثير مهاجرين من دول مختلفة.

انا طالب سعودي وهناك اكثر من ٠٦ الف طالب مبتعث من المملكة العربية السعودية ايضا عدد كبير من المنسيات المختلفة. فإذا كانت امريكا بدون طلاب دوليين فسوف يؤثر على نقاط مهمه في الدولة من اهمو تتصاد الجامعات في جميع الولايات. ثانيا: خفض العقارات في المدن الجامعية أو المدن الصغير التي تفضل الطلاب السياحة في امريكا خصوصا في الاجازات القصيرة بدل العودة الى بلادهم فهذا مختلف الطيران الداخلي والفنادق في المدن السياحية.

ثالثا: الطلاب يفضلون السياحة في امريكا خصوصا في الاجازات القصيرة بدل العودة الى بلادهم فهذا مختلف الطيران الداخلي والفنادق في المدن السياحية.

وأي اخرى، المهاجرين في امريكا لديهم ثقافات واديان ولغات وخلفيات مختلفة. وهذا له تأثير إيجابي ـ ثقافات المهاجرين من خلال مطاعمهم واعيادهم، وغيرها من الطقوس الخاصة لكل دولة. كل هذه الأشياء تعلمنا ثقافات مختلفة دون السفر لخارج امريكا. ولكن إذا لم يكن هؤلاء المهاجرين والطلاب موصوف يفتقر emphasizes the importance of learning cultures and languages in America, especially through cultural events and festivities. The existence of these diverse communities in the country enriches the cultural tapestry of the United States and provides opportunities for Americans to learn about different cultures without leaving the country.

The article concludes by emphasizing the importance of maintaining diversity in American society and the role that immigrants and students play in shaping the cultural landscape of the country. It highlights the positive impact of having a diverse population on American society and the importance of preserving cultural diversity through education and outreach programs.

In summary, the article raises important questions about the role of immigrants and students in American society and the impact of their presence on the country's cultural diversity. It argues that maintaining diversity is crucial for the continued vitality of American culture and the enrichment of the country's social fabric.
Comic-Con was started in 1970 in Southern California, particularly in San Diego. Comic-Con continues for three days in August, and people are wearing clothes disguised as fictional stories and the fact inspired by the movies. This is a big event in San Diego where they are preparing for it in the presence of the musical band, and some of the celebrities.

For the first time in Saudi Arabia especially at Jeddah, comic-con set up in February 2017 for three days from 16 to 18. It was the special event where participated some musical bands and Saudis’ celebrity who enjoy the humor as a kind of innovation; also, there were new cultures on the Saudi people. On the other hand, the global comics expo was held under the auspices of the Saudi General Entertainment Authority, which has hosted a series of festivals, comedy shows and concerts at this event.

The event was called “Saudi Comic-Con.” All participants were different costumes related to a Saudi culture and heritage. Also, they blended between the comic-con ideas and fashioned or culture Saudi. So, they made the “Saudi Comic-Con” unique and unusual for other countries. Besides, this event has helped in the dissemination of new ideas and cultures in the world of fantasy and comic films. These points have a positive impact of the event which has acceptance and broad audience. There were more than 20,000 visitors and participants at those three days from all cities in Saudi Arabia. Saudi General Entertainment Authority seeks to create new ideas fit-Saudi society in the coming years in this event.
الكوميك كون في السعودية
ثقافه جديدة في السعودية

بقلم: محمد بغدادي

بدء الالتراتك بلكوتونية عام ١٩٧٠ في جنوب كاليفورنيا تحديا في سان ديغو. ويستمر هذا الوافرة لمدة ٣ أيام من شهر أغسطس ويلبس الناس ملابس متتورة عن قصص خيالية وحقيقية مستوحاة من أفلام وقصص مصورة. يعتبر هذا حدث كبير في سان ديغو حيث يتم الاستعداد له بحضور فرق موسيقية وبعض المشاهير.

ولأول مرة في المملكة العربية السعودية في مدينة جدة اقامت الكوميك كون في فبراير ٢٠١٧ لمدة ٣ أيام من يوم ١٦-١٨ وكان حدث

مميز حيث شارك فيه عدد من الفرق الموسيقية أيضا المشاهير السعوديين الذين يمتعون بالكفاءة كنوع من التحدي وادخال ثقافات جديدة على السعوديين. من ناحية أخرى، عقد معرض كاريكاتير العالمي تحت إشراف سلطة الترفيه العامة السعودية التي استضافت

سلسلة من المهرجانات والعروض الكوميدية والحلقات هذا العام.

كان اسم الحدث "سعودي كوميك كون" أيضا كانت جميع الناس المتتكتين يعشقون عليه الطرق السعودي. إذ أنهم مزجوا بين فكرة الحدث والطراز أو الثقافة السعودية مما جعل "سعودي كوميك" مميز وغير عادي بالنسبة لأي دولة أخرى. بالإضافة إلى ذلك ساعد هذا الحدث في نشر ثقافات وأفكار جديدة كما في عالم الخيال والأفلام المصورة. وكل هذه النقاط لها تأثير إيجابي حيث لاقت الحدث قبول كبير من السعوديين وحضر أكثر من ٢٠ الف زائر مشاكل. وتسعى سلطة الترفيه العامة السعودية إلى خلق أفكار جديدة تشارك

المجتمع السعودي في السنوات القادمة.
When I sit in Dallavis lobby, I’ve heard so many students said things like “this class gives me an anxiety,” and “I just sat in the car and cried because I needed it.” Of course, I’ve had those moments too. When I’m overwhelmed or stressed, I cry at home alone. I’m sure that so many college students have experienced this overwhelming feeling. In fact, this anxiety thing is pretty common between athletes.

Since February, there has been a news that comes under the spotlight in Japan. One of the Japanese soccer players, Gaku Shibasaki who has high hopes for has started his new career in Spain. Everyone thought everything would go well, however, he has suffered anxiety disorder since he’s joined the new team. The symptoms are pretty serious. Shibasaki has not been able to be well adopted to environment and eating habits. He’s suffered from gastroenteritis, and hasn’t been able to join the practice yet. He has been staying in the hotel. People in Japan are concerned about him.

There is some research that shows that one in four college athletes show signs of depression. Most of college students live without parents for the first time, and they could have same trouble as Shibasaki. It is not easy to adopt everything when you are alone. If you or someone you know is struggling with depressions and anxieties, please don’t hesitate to reach out to people who can help. There is school counseling at Avila, so use it. Just know that you are not alone and people around you.
アスリートに影響を与える精神障害
助けを求めることを躊躇しないで。

Dallavis のロビーに座っているとき、"このクラスは私に不安を与える"とか "精神的に辛んでくて、車の中で泣いてしまった"など、多くの学生が言っているのをよく見ます。もちろん私もプレッシャーを感じたりストレスを受けたとき、家で一人で泣くこともあります。多くの大学生がこのしんどい感情を経験したことがあると確信しています。実際、この不安はアスリートにとってはよくあることなのです。

2 月以降、日本で注目されているニュースがあります。日本のサッカー選手の一人である柴崎岳が、スペインで新しいキャリアをスタートさせました。誰もがすべてがうまくいくと思ったのですが、彼は新しいチームに加わってから不安障害に苦しんでいます。症状はかなり深刻です。柴崎は環境や食生活にうまく適応できませんでした。胃腸炎に苦しんでおり、まだ練習に参加することはできていません。彼はホテルに滞在し続けており、日本の人々は彼を心配しています。

大学アスリートのうちの 4 人に 1 人がうつ病の兆候を示していることがわかっています。ほとんどの大学生は両親の元を離れて生活をしていて、柴崎と同じ問題を抱えています。一人でいるときに環境に適応していくのは簡単ではありません。あなたやあなたが知っている人がうつ病や不安に苦しんでいる場合は、気軽にお手伝いできる人に手を差し伸べてください。アビラには学校のカウンセリングがありますので、それを利用してください。あなたは一人ではなく、周りの人々は喜んで助けてくれることを知ってください！
Saudi Arabia, like many wealthy and developed nations around the world, plans ahead and looks towards its future. Using 2030 as a benchmark for the immediate future, it’s important to outline ways to achieve Saudi Arabia’s long-term goals and hopes; all of which are based on the nation’s strengths and abilities.

Saudi Arabia’s vision of 2030 is based on embracing the nation’s cultural and geographical identity and history. One focus is Saudi Arabia’s historic influence in Arab and Islamic regions. The kingdom seeks to take advantage of the fact that it is home to two major mosques and has demonstrated its international influence, partially because of its large oil supply. As a result of its influence among Muslims, Arabs, and all people and places in the world that need oil, Saudi Arabia can continue to act as a bridge between different cultures and visions of the future.

Its cultural influence plays into its desire to become a more powerful economic base for diverse nations and investors. Saudi Arabia’s geographic location, basically in the middle of Asia, Europe, and Africa, also helps its ambitions to attract money and investments from an international community. Saudi Arabia’s location makes it easy for investors and other key financial players to travel to and from the Kingdom. It’s a convenient place for trade through waterways especially as well, because of its close location to bodies of water such as the Arabian Sea, Red Sea, Bay of Bengal, and Indian Ocean.

Underlying its strategy to become an even more important international player, is Saudi Arabia’s abundant natural resources. Saudi Arabia wants to take full advantage of its oil, uranium, gold, and other valuable minerals. Yet Saudi Arabia does not want to be dependent on only its oil supply, and therefore wants to diversify its future. Too many Saudi Arabians and immigrant workers now depend on jobs related to the oil industry. One step towards becoming a more developed nation is to become a more diversified...
Stability and growth are the two major principles of Saudi Arabia’s vision for 2030. Without growth for members of society from all classes, there may be more chances for unrest and instability. Thus, economic growth that is more evenly distributed within Saudi Arabian society is important for keeping Saudi Arabia competitive in 2030 and beyond.

nation in terms of its industries, job opportunities, and sources of wealth. With more and different opportunities for workers, Saudi Arabia would be able to take full advantage of its human resources. Allowing people to feel more secure and more invested in the future of Saudi Arabia also help its government by indirectly unifying people around the government and all that it’s provided.

ما لا تعرفه عن المملكة العربية السعودية

روية المملكة العربية السعودية

٠٣٠٢رؤية المملكة العربية السعودية
بقلم: أحمد الزهراني

المملكة العربية السعودية على غرار العديد من الدول الغنية والمتقدمة في جميع أنحاء العالم، وتحتضن مستقبل ويتطلع نحو مستقبلها. باستخدام 2030 كمعيار للمستقبل القريب، من المهم أن تحدد السيول لتحقيق أهداف وأنماط الحياة في المملكة العربية السعودية. تستند جميعها على نقاط القوة والفرص في البلاد وتنانتشار المملكة العربية السعودية على رؤية 2030 التي تبني هوية المملكة الثقافية والجغرافية والتاريخية. وتجمع المملكة العربية السعودية عدة نقاط القوة والمزايا للتمييز في المنطقة العربية والإسلامية، وتعتبر المملكة العربية السعودية من المملكةات في جميع أنحاء العالم التي تحتاج إلى الاستثمار في المستقبل. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، نجح النفط في إضافة امتدادات النفط الأخرى. ولذلك المملكة العربية السعودية لا تريد أن تعتمد فقط على إمداداتها من النفط، وبالتالي تزود مستقبلها. يعد الكثير من السعوديين والمهاجرين لعمل في الواجهة لصانع الاستقرار في دولة أخرى تطوراً هو أن تصبح دولة أخرى تطوراً من حيث مصادرها، وفرصها الفريدة، ومعملها المتنوعة. ولكل تلك السباقات، أن المملكة العربية السعودية أن تكون قادرة على الاستدامة الكاملة من مواردها البشرية، كما أنها تحتاج أيضاً إلى استقرار في مستقبل المملكة العربية السعودية أيضًا ومساعدته المحدد من قبل الشعب. وهو ما تقدمه الحكومة لدعم الوضع المالي والاقتصادي للمملكة العربية السعودية في عام 2030.

وما بعد إن شاء الله حفظ الله المملكة العربية السعودية.
The beginning of April means the beginning of baseball season for the Kansas City Royals and the other major league teams. Temperatures are starting to change, and summer is just around the corner. Basketball season is wrapping up, and the NBA playoffs are about to begin. In this issue, you will read about Avila baseball as they try to repeat as conference champions, the masters and many other things. And what MLB changes are coming up for this season? Check it all out in this issue.

Ryan Meyer, Sports Editor
In an effort to speed up the pace of play in regular season games Major League Baseball has implemented some rule changes for the upcoming 2017 season. The most notable change is the implementation of the no-pitch intentional walk, which will now allow a team to send a batter to first base without four pitches being delivered. In addition to the new intentional walk rule Major League Baseball also tweaked its replay challenge system, now giving managers only a 30-second time limit to decide on whether to seek a review and the replay officials themselves a two-minute guideline in-order to make a decision on a replay. Lastly teams are now being banned from using markers in the outfield in-order to help with positioning throughout the game.

While this seems like an odd rule it became a controversy last season when the Dodgers were on a trip to New York to play the Mets, the Mets grounds crew complained of the Dodgers players making cleat marks and dropping a card in the grass which listed how they were supposed to play each batter in the field.

These rule changes, with the exception of the markers rule, have the emphasis of speeding up the pace of play. The slow pace of play of MLB games has been cited as a reason as to why levels of viewers have dipped in recent years.
However the frequency of the intentional walk is actually quite rare as it only happens usually once or twice every couple games so in the end it is not going to do much in terms of the average time of game in the 2017 season. However the rule change on time of replay comes as a welcome site for fans who feel the frequency and duration of replays is the real cause of slow games.

These rule changes come with an opposition from old-school baseball minds who see the changes of the rules as a systematic changing of the game, for the worst. I myself believe that there are certain necessary changes that have needed to occur such as the implementation of replay, & the outlawing of collisions at the plate, which was also met with heated opposition even if the rule was designed to protect certain players. The game needs to evolve in order to survive but at a certain point the game of baseball has to decide when it needs to draw the line of how many changes to the rules that they are going to allow. At a certain point people need ask does the game really need to change? Or does the audience need to change to learn to love the rules of a game that millions of baseball fans have enjoyed the way the game has been played for over a hundred years.
Aiming for the Gold
Avila Track & Field update

Chris Grissom

2016 was a good year for the Avila Eagles Track team. The team was only in its second year of existence and in that year it saw that the eagles were represented at the NAIA National Championships by then freshman Kayvona Bragg and sophomore Sarah Krig. Bragg finished 33rd in the long jump and Krig finished 7th in the high jump getting the eagles there only points. Then in July assistant coach Je’kel Smith was promoted to head coach of all four of the programs. Since then things have been going very well for the Eagles who are in their third year of completion for track and field. It continued later on in the year when the 2016-2017 indoor track season started in which at the Bob Timmons challenge in Lawrence, KS the eagles had five top-15 finishes and the following day at the Dutch Holiday Preview in Pella, IA where the eagles had a very impressive six top-5 finishes to go along with thirteen top-10 finishes that day. The eagles have ended an impressive indoor track season with Jeremi Barnes currently competing in the triple jump at the NAIA Indoor National Championships making him the first eagle to do so. He did it after qualifying at Heart Indoor Track and Field Championships. Four other eagles, Ivori Hood, Tenka Stringer, Penny Fenn and Kayvona Bragg finished those championships as All-Heart recipients. With that ending the season on a high note the attention turns to the upcoming outdoor season which looks to be a good one for the eagles. With preparations beginning now and the outdoor season beginning the eagles will look to compete and hopefully send more people back to nationals for the second year in a row. The outdoor season begins March 18 at Central Methodist University.
As spring quickly approaches and weather starts to change and as we turn our clocks forward, it is now time for hibernating golfers to step back out on the course.

Although the Avila Golf team is struggling to keep afloat, that is not stopping them from preparing for their first spring tournament on March 13-14 in Lawrence. The men’s and women’s team started preparing for their spring season as of early February, and although coach-less, the Eagles have proved to be self-willed, disciplined people with an excellent work ethic. Both teams have rallied together to continue to challenge, thrive, and grow as golfers together as a team. One of the hardest and best things about golf is that it is an individual sport, so you don’t necessarily need a coach, they are just there to provide structure, but what this team is doing is adding a team aspect to golf, which is something that is never seen.

As a team who has had to face a lot of adversity over the past years, for example having five coaches within the last four years, this team of underdogs has proved to be no quitters and quite frankly an example of persisting in the face of adversity, both teams attain a sense of self pride and motivation to continue to prove to other programs that if you are willing to put in the work, you will continue to see positive feedback.

Even though the men’s golf team consists of one player, Taylor Livingston, he still plans to go out and give it his all.

The women’s golf team consists of Corey Cochran, Grace Goodhart, Abby Clark, Kaleigh Fraer and Lexi Clary.
The NCAA Men’s Ice Hockey Championship refers to one of two championships in Men’s ice hockey contested by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). This tournament has been around since 1971 to determine the top team in NCAA’s Division III and I. The NCAA Division II Men’s Ice Hockey Championship was running from 1978 to 1982 and from 1993 to 1999, but it was discontinued due to a lack of Division II conferences sponsoring the sport of ice hockey. The semi-finals and finals of this tournament are known as the “Frozen Four”. This name echoes the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament referred to as the “Frozen Four”. The final two rounds of the ice hockey tournament were first referred to as the Frozen Four in 1999 and the name held on since then.

This years Frozen Four of 2017 will be held in Chicago, Illinois at the United Center. The 2017 Division I Men’s Ice Hockey “Frozen Four” will display the National Semifinals on April 6th at 6:00 PM, and the National Championship on April 8th at 8:00 PM ET (Eastern Time). Before the Semifinal and Championship, Regionals for the Frozen Four will be held March 24-26 at four separate locations in the East, West, Northeast, and Midwest region. At each location, four teams will compete in a single-elimination round. Lastly, the two teams remaining play to become one of the final four. The first and primary process of the “Road to the Championship” is called the selection process. This is made up of 16 teams to compete in a single elimination tournament within each region. After the selection process, and before the regional stage, comes the selection show. The selection show refers to NCAA’s announcement of their Division I Men’s Ice Hockey Championship bracket on Sunday, March 19 at Noon ET on ESPNU.
Avila baseball has gotten off to a fast start in 2017. With a current record of 12-9, the Eagles sit primed for a conference run. Avila is currently 2-2 in conference play after dropping a set of games to Peru State, but were able to bounce back to sweep Grand View in a game two series to get their conference mark up to .500. The Eagles have been lead by senior shortstop Chase Watt who is currently hitting .345 on the year. Fellow senior Tyler Raymond is off to a hot start as well batting .319 out of the two spot in the lineup. Junior Brandon Chandler and Senior Chad Butler are tied with the team lead for home runs at five thus far. On the mound, Junior Saul Nunez has lead the way with a few stellar performances on the bump. Nunez is currently 2-2 with a 4.43 ERA but currently has a 16 inning shutout streak at home after tossing two complete game performances against Briar Cliff and Grand View and entering in relief situations in other contests. Junior Drew Dowd has been a force out of the bullpen thus far. Dowd who is a transfer from Three Rivers community college, is sporting a 3.65 ERA in 12.1 innings pitched with eight strikeouts. Senior hurler Cage Cascone has arguably been the best arm in the rotation for the Eagles through the first 21 games of action. Cascone currently sits with a 3.49 ERA through 28.1 innings pitched and sports a 4-2 record. The Eagles look to be road warriors this season, as they begin the brunt of conference play away from Kansas City. The Eagles will take on Central Methodist in Fayette, Missouri before making a trip to Missouri Valley a week later for another four game series. The Eagles will be faced with tough competition this year as newcomer Clarke (IA) is currently sitting with a 17-2 record and is 4-0 in HAAC play. Although the Eagles do not play Clarke, they will likely have to go through them in the conference tournament to reach postseason play.
All Conference Honorable Mention at Ruskin High School in Kansas City, three time All Heart of America Athletic Conference Honorable Mention in college, and not to mention Preseason All American in 2015. If you ask me this is a pretty impressive resume for somebody trying to play pro ball. But for Aaron Wiggins who is trying to make it happen he is going to need a lot more. Coming from Avila University who is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) the grind to the top is a lot more challenging due to the level of competition the athletes play at which is considered slightly below but equal to NCAA Division 2 athletics and also the size of the athletes. This applies to Aaron directly because at Avila he played linebacker but will have to make the move to safety when he gets evaluated. All this does not affect Wiggins, who is no stranger to adversity, as he missed the 2015 season due to an upper body injury. But in the 2016 season, he came back strong starting all 11 games for the eagles. He finished All-HAAC Honorable mention at linebacker and was the second leading tackler in the conference behind his teammate Wyatt Beebe. He finished 16th nationally in tackles per game and 12th in forced fumbles per game. Even with that though just like other small school players Wiggins still has to have a great showing at his upcoming combine just to get the attention of pro scouts. But he his motivation and confidence stays high despite that. “It’s possible for anybody man, the sky’s the limit.” At the D2 vs NAIA bowl game Wiggins was a starter for the NAIA team and remembers part of a speech given to him by one of the coaches.

“It’s not going to make a difference if you’re at Alabama or Avila, as long as you’re working like you’re at Alabama and you put in the time and hit the weights like you should be you’re still going to improve the same as they are.” Wiggins will compete at a combine for smaller school players hosted by Missouri Western University on March 24.
MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

March Madness at it again

Trey Bales

With the beginning of March comes the beginning of a whole new, crazy season of college basketball, March Madness. March Madness is one of, if not the most exciting sports spectacle of the year. It doesn’t matter if you fill out a bracket or are just invested in a certain team, the big dance is always exciting to tune in to. March Madness is a tournament filled with highs and lows, and tears of joy and tears of devastation, which in my opinion is what makes it so great – despite months of “expert analysis” you never really know what is going to happen.

The field in this year’s tournament seems as balanced as ever. As of right now the projected number one seeds are Gonzaga, KU, North Carolina, and the defending National Champs Villanova. It seems like a year that could go either way for a lot of teams, they could make it to the final four or they could lose in the early rounds of the tournament. It wouldn’t surprise me if teams like KU, Kentucky, UCLA, and Duke all saw early exits in the tournament. These teams have all shown brilliance throughout the year but have also shown a lot of inconsistent play. Also, these teams rely heavily on some freshmen so the lack of experience could hurt these teams down the stretch as well.

Upsets are always the most exciting things about March Madness. Everyone loves to see a David and Goliath matchup and see David come out on top. Some sleeper teams to watch out for could be Oklahoma State, Iowa State, and Butler. Also two of the better teams that will be in the field but won’t necessary get the respect they deserve, West Virginia and Florida State could do some damage and make it pretty far in the tournament. Given favorable match ups, these are all teams to watch out for.

Making it to the Final Four is no easy task, especially in such a balanced field as it will be in this year’s tournament. It all depends on the seeding and who’s in who’s region but the four teams who I feel have Final Four potential are North Carolina, Oregon, Gonzaga, and Louisville. I feel these teams have all of the weapons and could end up hitting their streak come late March.

North Carolina is my pick to win the big dance for a couple of reasons. First they have all of the pieces and talent to compete with anyone in the nation. They without a doubt have the best frontcourt in the nation with Isaiah Hicks, Kennedy Meeks, Tony Bradley, and Luke Maye. They also have two great guards in Joel Berry and Justin Jackson who could be up for player of the year. My last reason for picking them is the way they lost last year in the title game to Villanova. I think they have a chip on their shoulder and will come out with a lot to prove come tourney time.
THE BOYS ARE BACK
MLB season preview and predictions

AJ Oviedo

Will the Cubs be able to repeat? Is this the year the Dodgers huge payroll finally produces a title? Will the Royals find a way back to the playoffs with the potential loss of some fan favorite star players hanging in the balance? These are just some of the big storylines to look into coming in the upcoming MLB season.

NL West

The 4-time defending champion Dodgers appear to hold a slight edge to capture yet another division title. Led by veterans Clayton Kershaw & Adrian Gonzalez mixed with young talent like Joc Pederson who slugged 27 HR & 2016 Rookie of the Year Corey Seager and the Dodgers will be the team to beat in the regular season. Look for the Bruce Bochy led Giants to push the Dodgers late into the season, with an experienced team who knows how to win the Giants remain a contender for yet another World Series.

NL Central

All the key parts of last year’s title remained unmoved from last year. The Cubs lineup will perhaps be even more potent than it was last year as the team will look for Kyle Schwarber to remain healthy and for Jason Heyward to produce more than he did last season when he hit in the low .200’s. The Cardinals will challenge for another division crown and a playoff appearance after missing the playoffs in 2016. Look for Dexter Fowler to be a key contributor after the team decided to part ways with Matt Holiday.

NL East

The Nationals led by Bryce Harper and Max Scherzer appear to be one of the favorites to repeat as NL East champions. However this division has a lot of intriguing teams one of those teams is the New York Mets. When the Mets young staff of Harvey, Syndergaard, DeGrom, & Matz is all healthy the Mets

Photo From Youtube
have the potential to be one of the most dominant staffs in all of Major League Baseball. The young Miami Marlins led by Giancarlo Stanton & Dee Gordon will also look to remain in the hunt all season. However on the mound they will need to replace the production of the late Jose Fernandez.

**AL West**

The Texas Rangers will be led by Adrian Beltre & Yu Darvish in the pursuit of another division title. The Seattle Mariners have come close to playoff appearance in the past few seasons however this year they will look to end their 16 year playoff drought. The Astros led by Carlos Correa will be an interesting team to watch this season. The Angels & A’s appear to be in rebuilding modes however never count out both of these clubs from contenting deep into the summer.

**AL East**

The toughest division in the American League this team has a few teams who many baseball writers believe can contend for a World Series. The Red Sox are the favorites to capture another division crown. The acquisition of Chris Sale will certainly put the pressure on Boston to deliver a title. The Orioles & Blue Jays will be teams to keep an eye on as both return key parts of playoff teams from last season. The New York Yankees will be an interesting team to watch as many of the games young stars reside in the Bronx.
Will Avila switch conferences?

The Avila University baseball team finished out the 2016 Spring season going 33-26 and winning conference. After a solid season, and having key returning seniors, the baseball team looks to turn around and do it all again.

Many teams have the struggle of finding a groove and becoming one as a unit for the next year. That’s not the problem with this year’s team. The problem is many people don’t understand it. All they see is the loud music, crazy personalities, and wild hair. What they don’t see is how the baseball team uses it to fuel them while staying loose and focused. The ball team keeps it rolling and lets it flow.

Flow can be defined in multiple different ways. For the baseball team, it’s a lifestyle. Whether that’s how they act on the field or the wavy hair underneath the hat, Avila baseball has flow. Of course the baseball team is all about winning. Everyone on the team agrees that winning games is the goal, but that doesn’t mean they can’t have fun doing it. “Our team’s personality is this. We don’t give a damn what anyone thinks. We like to have fun and stand out. If we are going to lose games, we are going to do it the way we play as a team”, stated Senior catcher Trevor Norbury. “Our team is able to find that balance of staying loose and focused, and that makes us intimidating.” Intimidation is key and it can make any team dangerous before they even step on the field. Avila baseball works as a unit and that allows them to stay connected on and off the field. This team prides themselves on their ability to get things done in a style that others can’t.
Drew Mead is a senior at Fort Osage High School in Independence, Missouri. At two weeks old Drew was diagnosed with an ASD and a VSD which is Atrial Septal Defect and a Ventricular Septal Defect. This means that Drew has holes in 2 chambers of his heart. These holes leak oxygen from one side of his heart to the other, something that is very life threatening. These holes don’t really affect Drew’s daily life, but they do lower his stamina quite a bit. This is not a rare condition and it usually occurs at birth or as a side effect after heart surgery. These holes usually close on their own but sometimes they can continue to grow in size, like in Drew’s case.

Drew and his mom Krista went in for their last regular 3 year check-up and expected it to be the last one. Drew and Krista were hopeful that Drew’s heart was in great condition and he wouldn’t have to deal with so much concern for a while.

Little did they know that the doctor was going to tell Drew he needed open heart surgery. Drew said “During the echocardiogram, they said the holes had gotten more moderate in size and they needed to go in and fix [them].” On February 17th Drew had open heart surgery. He spent 4 hours in the operating room, 2 days in the ICU and 4 more days in the hospital hooked up to drainage tubes and other equipment. Drew’s recovery process is very slow as he can’t lift more than 10 lbs, can’t drive, can’t ride in the front seat, and cannot continue baseball until he is cleared by the doctor. Drew will remain slowly working back into playing baseball and should be cleared on or around April 4th and should make a full recovery.

In the future, Drew wants to continue his baseball career in college and he’s excited to see how everything will play out for his future, and his heart.

Gracyn Reed

Photo From Krista Mead
GREEN JACKET ANYONE?
The Masters

Trey Bales

Augusta, GA is home to the PGA’s biggest and most iconic tournament of each season, The Masters. The biggest tournament of the year seems to come at an odd time with the beginning of the golf season pretty much just under way. The Masters is set to tee off on April 6th going through the 9th. This will be the 80th Masters tournament dating back to the very first one in 1934. The tournament was canceled in ’43, ’44, and ’45 due to world war two.

Augusta National is known for its breathtaking beauty, most notably their famous azaleas down by amen’s corner. Many golfers have described the golf course as a perfectly painted picture. Unfortunately, this year’s Masters could have a bit of a different look. With the warm weather, down in Georgia, the azaleas are already beginning to bloom. This could mean no azaleas for The Masters; although there is speculation that the grounds crew is doing everything they can to keep them from blooming until the tournament starts. Either way, azaleas or not, the golf course at Augusta will be as breathtaking as ever.

Last year’s winner, Danny Willett looks to be the first repeat champion at The Masters since Tiger Woods did in ’01 and ’02. Speaking of Woods it will be interesting if he will be able to compete in this year’s Masters after battling a number of injuries for the past year and a half. Jordan Spieth has himself one green jacket already at the age of 23 and was close to repeating last year coming in second. Spieth, who has played well at Augusta in the last two years could be a favorite to win it again. As far as who I’m rooting for, I want “lefty” Phil Michelson to win one more Masters adding a fourth green jacket to his resume.

Golf may not be the most exciting sport, especially to watch. But there is just something about sitting on your couch relaxing while The Masters is on, especially on championship Sunday.
So far this season, Saul Nunez has shown what it takes to compete on the mound. Nunez, a junior pitcher from Lee’s Summit, Missouri has solidified this role as a weekend starter for the 2017 campaign. He has lead the way with a few stellar performances on the bump so far. Nunez is currently 2-2 with a 4.43 ERA but currently has a 16-inning shutout streak at home after tossing two complete game performances against Briar Cliff and Grand View and entering in relief situations in other contests.

“Having a starting role on the staff is the best, every series you [get] one job and that’s to win a ballgame for the team. My goal is simple, help the team as much as I can and hang another [conference championship] banner.” Nunez said when asked about his role on the staff. What’s the biggest thing that has helped you reach the success you’ve had this year he said “I set out to learn as much as I could from coaches and teammates to see what I could do to better my game, especially our pitching coach he has helped out a lot, a ton of credit goes to him.”

The Avila Eagles baseball team will look to Nunez to keep up the consistency as they look to repeat as conference champions. With most conference series consisting of four games, starting pitching is arguably the most crucial to a team’s success in conference play. The eagles are currently 2-2 in conference play and 12-9 overall.
“SOMETIMES YOU CAN’T SEE YOURSELF CLEARLY UNTIL YOU SEE YOURSELF THROUGH THE EYES OF OTHERS.”

ELLEN DEGENERES