

The College of Saint Rose



Having a Ball with Best Buddies

By KATE PIERCE
News/Managing Editor

Over 500 students from local middle schools, high schools, and colleges filled the ballroom of the Troy Hilton Garden Inn for the Best Buddies Friendship Ball on Friday, Feb. 2. In the crowd were students and members from the Saint Rose chapter of the organization.

"It's one of the biggest events of the year and the aim is to promote inclusion," said Amanda Schafer, the president of the Saint Rose chapter.

Best Buddies is an international organization and that facilitates friendships among

students with intellectual and developmental disabilities become friends and their peers.

"I get to express myself in Best Buddies," said Cory Wayman, who has been a buddy in the Saint Rose chapter for several years.

Students are paired up with members of the campus community that includes people with Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and other undiagnosed disabilities.

"It's all about community, and you get to spend time with some of the best of friends," said Mariah Pasinski, a member of the club. "Best Buddies is a place where everyone is

accepted and celebrated."

The ball was an opportunity for buddy pairs to join in with other chapters from around the capital region for a night of dancing and fun.

"I love dancing to the music and having a good time," said Wayman

Some students who are members of Best Buddies have never gone to a school dance, so the annual ball is a chance to dress up nice and spend time

SEE BALL /A2

Photo Caption:
Members of the Saint Rose chapter of Best Buddies at the annual Friendship Ball

Got Events?

Student Events Board Plans for Spring Semester

By KATE PIERCE
News/Managing Editor

Most clubs at Saint Rose plan a few events a semester to reach out to students. One club, the Students Events Board, is all about coordinating events, trips, and shows for students to

"If you can't make it to the meetings we'll work with you so you can participate," said Alexandra Gibson, the president of the club.

Looking ahead to next month, SEB will be hosting a Dodgeball Madness tournament on March 20, as well as

Get "Smashed" with Geeks

By KATE PIERCE
News/Managing Editor

With the stress of the semester weighing on students, The Geeks of the Round Table are providing an opportunity to destress by competitively playing Super Smash Bros 4.

"The goal of Geeks is to provide a relaxing environment to play board games and video games, or watch anime, with friends and fellow peers," said Nikos Assimakopoulos, the president of the club. "We want to provide a break from all the college stress."

The "Smash Tournament" will begin at 7 p.m. on Feb 14 in Albertus Hall Room 101. Players of any skill level are welcome to attend and participate in the tournament, as beginners can learn how to play

and experienced students can continue to enjoy the game.

"Newbies have nowhere to go but up when they go to tournaments," said Theodore Stabile, the public relations officer of the club.

Both the standard Wii controllers and Gamecube controllers will be provided to suit players' preferences. The tournament will running with a double elimination tournament bracket.

"When you lose your first round you go into a second bracket where you can have a second chance by fighting the other defeated players to climb back to the top," said Stabile. "The grand finals will be between the winner of the regular bracket and the winner of the defeated bracket."

The winner of the final

match will receive a prize of a \$25 gift card for Gamestop. Other upcoming events for the club include a chess tournament in March, a Studio Ghibli event in early April, and in late April they will be hosting their largest event of the year - a massive role playing game they call "the Mega Game."

"I think my favorite thing about participating in Geeks is getting to hang out with the friends I've made through the club," said Daniel Gauvin, a general member of the club. "There's a place for everyone in the club, and likely a game that caters to your individual brand of nerd."

The club was originally called the Board Games Club, but the members felt that the club name should reflect the variety of nerdy outlets the club provides.

"We decided to change the name to go with the Golden Knights theme, and Geeks of the Round Table became the name," said Assimakopoulos.

Regular meetings are held at 2 p.m. every Wednesday and Saturday. A typical meeting begins with announcements, which is followed by some kind of game play for a few hours. Some of the games they play are King of Tokyo, Cash and Guns, Battlestar Galactica, and anything else that club

SEE GEEKS /A4



Members of the Student Events Board executive board.

get more involved on campus.

"You meet so many people and make so many connections," said Danika Guerin, vice president of the club. "As a member of SEB you get to go out on amazing adventures on trips and go to great events to meet awesome comedians and musicians."

A few upcoming events from SEB include a Saint Rose version of Wheel of Fortune at 7 p.m. on Feb. 12 and a senior class ice cream social at 8 p.m. Feb. 21 in the main lounge of the Events and Athletics Center, a lip sync battle.

Events are open to Saint Rose students, and students of any class year and any major can join in on helping to plan events. There are over fifty members in the club of varying class years and majors.

To be an active member students have to attend weekly club meetings which are held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in Standish A/B, as well as be present for in the SEB office at a specified time each week. For general members, the total time commitment is a little over an hour each week.

a trip to a local bar for graduating seniors who are .

There are a few brand new events in the works for this semester, which will be announced as the dates approach.

"I'm excited to see the new events coming up," said Gibson.

SEB is broken down into committees to plan each different type of event. The novelties committee organizes events like trivia nights, brownie or cupcake bake offs, scavenger hunts, and other on campus activities. This committee requires a lot of hands on work the day of to make events run smoothly.

The musical entertainment chair organizes musical game nights, and on campus performances. Other comedic performances are arranged by the comedians committee, which brings about five well known comedians to campus each year.

One of the committees that is most hands on during prep work is the trips committee. This committee plans events

SEE EVENTS /A4



A typical meeting arrangement for Geeks of the Round Table.

BALL cont.

with friends, meet new people, and enjoy music and dancing.

"It's great to see everyone having a great time," said Cabana. "It's really special."

At Saint Rose, there are many parties throughout the semester to bring buddies and peer buddies all together to play games, eat food, and have fun with each other. Typically the parties have themes, like a superhero party where everyone dresses up, or holiday themed events.

Outside of the parties, buddy pairs meet up at least twice a month to hang out.

"We go to get chinese food together," said Kristen Cabana, a peer buddy.

The activities are up to each person in the pair, and it can take place on or off campus doing whatever it is they would like to do together.

"I go to the gym with my buddy," said Elizabeth Tornatore, a freshman and peer bud-

dy.

The next event to bring together the best buddies chapters of the capital region will take place in April. The annual Friendship The walk plays a huge role in funding the programs dedicated to friendships, leadership and integrated job opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities (IDD).

"We participate the friendship walk to help make it a possibility for other chapters like ours to be started," said Schafer. "All of the money that we fundraise goes to creating new chapters of Best Buddies."

Each walk provides an opportunity to see the organization grow as a whole.

"It gives people jobs, it gives people friendships, and it will give people with IDD an opportunity to do things that they would not have been able to do before without Best Buddies," said Schafer.

The Saint Rose Chapter is hosting a few fundraisers in preparation for the event.

They are hosting a Five Guys and TCBY Frozen Yogurt fundraiser from 4 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 15 at the joint restaurant at 512 Western Ave, across from Stuyvesant Plaza. To participate, all you need to do is bring a flyer from Best Buddies, and part of the proceeds from your regular priced food purchase will go to the Saint Rose friendship walk fund.

"Get yourself some dinner, then go next door for dessert," said Schafer.

The friendship walk in Albany has hosted thousands of people in the past few years. This includes members from Best Buddies chapters at the college, high school, and middle school level from around the state. Over 60 members of the Saint Rose chapter, including associate members and buddy-pairs, will participate in the walk on April 22 at Crossgates Mall.

"If you want to change your perspective on life - join Best Buddies," said Tornatore.



All Photos
Taken By:
Kate Pierce
News/Managing
Editor

Best Buddies
Friendship Ball
February 2nd
2018
Hilton Garden Inn, Troy

The Chronicle

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SAR recap

By KATE PIERCE
News/Managing Editor

Wednesday, January 31

Carolyn Stefanco, president of the College, attended the general meeting to hear students' stories on why they chose Saint Rose.

She first offered a message of thanks to all of the students at the meeting.

"My biggest message is thank you," said Stefanco. She added that successes such as the group of students who will be presenting research at a psychology conference and the mock trial team are just a few to be celebrated.

"We want your success to suggest to others that Saint Rose is a great environment," she said.

Stefanco said that the College has partnered with the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education to focus on ways in which the College can increase retention and graduation rates, among other concerns.

In the work with the Institute, she said that she would like to hear personal stories from students about why they chose Saint Rose.

"It's cool being able to see all aspects of the industry," said Conor Walsh, a student in the

music industry program. He also said that when he was applying to Saint Rose the campus reminded him of home.

Following discussions concerning students' decisions to attend the College, Matthew Eisner, the director of special interests, asked Stefanco what is holding back progressive changes like offering condoms on campus and creating gender inclusive housing.

"I wasn't planning to talk about birth control at this meeting," Stefanco said.

However, Stefanco claimed that condoms should be available in the Health Services office, and that the former policy of requiring an educational component or conversation before being able to receive condoms has either been removed, or is in the process of being removed.

"My belief is that should have happened already," she said. "I'm hoping that box is checked."

She spoke about how student suggestions to offer condoms in vending machines was not very plausible, giving the decreased use of vending machines.

Stefanco said that condoms should be available in the health services office for students to "pick up like a bowl of mints."

For the topic of more inclusive housing, Stefanco men-

tioned the Wellness themed housing that is being offered this current semester in Delaney Hall, and said that there are pilots being planned for a veteran themed house and a gender inclusive house for the upcoming fall semester.

"I believe in housing that supports interest and needs," she said.

Stefanco said that there are concerns with how these opportunities for housing will be named, as it is important that they convey safe and positive experiences.

She encouraged students to see her, and to have a conversation with her, even if they have "hard questions" like about condom availability on campus.

"I'm happy to meet with you, and I hope to see you again soon."

After club announcements and committee reports, during open discussion Chereva McClellan, director of student life asked about parking in the LaSalle parking lot off of Western Avenue. She said that several parking spots have been made unavailable for the entire past semester by Catholic Charities resources, which is inconvenient.

The next student association meeting will be held Wednesday at 2:45 p.m. in Standish A/B

In Brief

What's happening in the community

Deep River Dialogues

The Office of Spiritual Life is teaming up with the Integrity Committee this semester to bring a speaker series to Saint Rose. It will be called Deep River Dialogues, and it will take place in the Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary with a snack reception afterwards. The common themes of these dialogues will be meaning, purpose, and passion.

The first speaker will be Dr. Steve Birchak, a professor from the School of Education, at 12 p.m. on Wednesday,

Feb. 21. Dr. Birchak has been a keynote speaker at over forty conferences and has written five books. In 2015, he was also the recipient of the New York State Champion of Character Award because of the anti-bullying work he has done with schools and other organizations.

Contact Ashley Morales at ashleymorales57@gmail.com or Michael Brannigan at michael.brannigan@strose.edu or (518)485-3789.

Flu Prevention Tips

Influenza, commonly known as the flu, has been spreading rapidly across the state of New York this season. Symptoms include fever, cough, chills, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, vomiting, headaches, and fatigue. The NYS Department of Health urges people to stay home if they have any of these symptoms in order to prevent any further spreading of the virus. Below are some more tips to stay healthy this season.

Wash your hands with soap and water frequently, especially after coughing or sneezing. Further, cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, not your hands, and avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose. Talk to your health care provider about getting vaccinated for the flu. Anyone who is pregnant or has a chronic medical condition should seek medical attention immediately if any flu symptoms arise.

SEB Lip Sync Battle

The Student Events Board Musical Entertainment committee will be hosting a lip sync battle at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26 at Saint Joseph's Hall Auditorium. There will be a panel of three judges, and the winner(s) will get prizes.

Students can battle as a team or perform solo. Participants can jazz up their performances with costumes, props, and dance routines to stand out and increase their chances of winning. There will be posters around campus with a link for students to sign up.

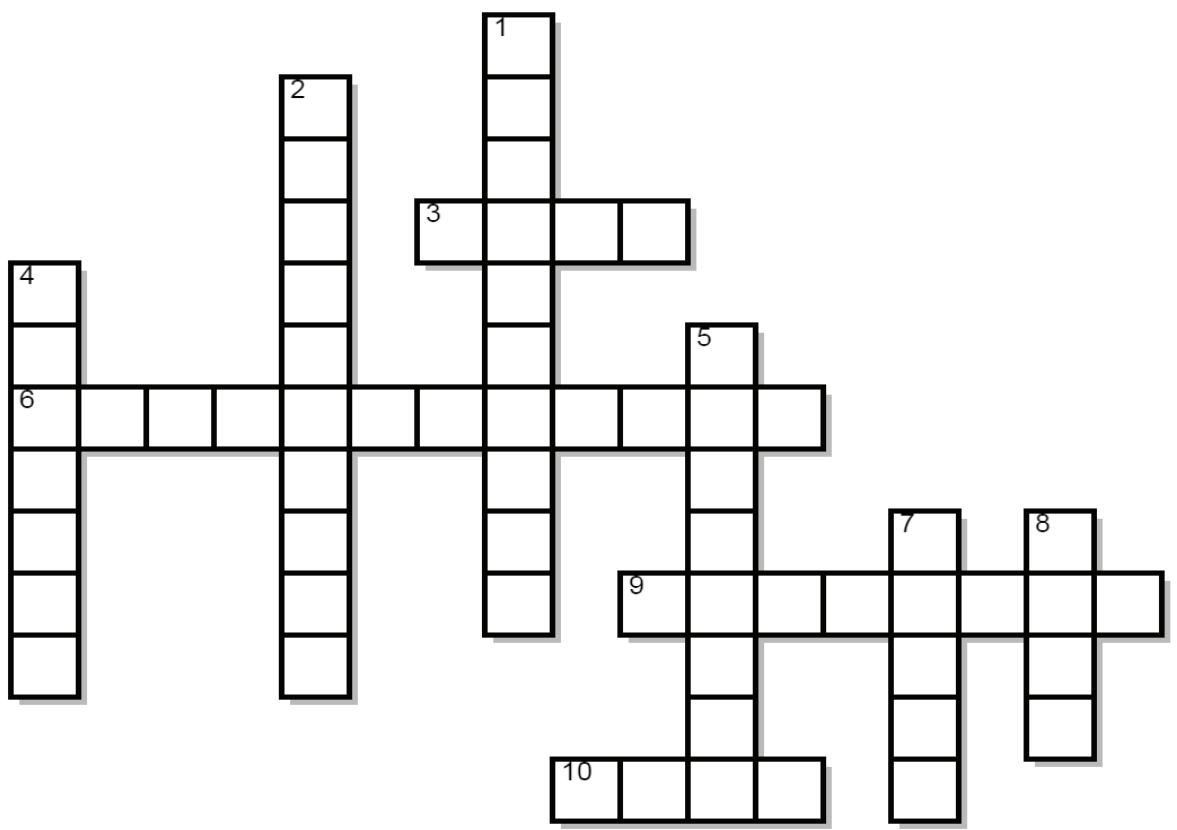
Game Corner Celebrate Mardi Gras!

Game

Take a break to solve some puzzles!

Answers posted online at strosecondronicle.com

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



Across

- 3. The official colors of Mardi Gras are purple, green, and _____.
- 6. Mardi Gras always occurs the day before which Christian holiday?
- 9. Mardi Gras marks the end of Carnival season, which is celebrated in countries with large populations of this religion.
- 10. Every person who rides on a float in the Mardi Gras parade is required to wear a _____.

Down

- 1. In 1837, this city hosted its first Mardi Gras parade.
- 2. Mardi Gras means _____ in French.
- 4. The first state to celebrate Mardi Gras in the USA. Hint: It's not Louisiana.
- 5. In Ireland, England, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada, people celebrate Mardi Gras by eating this delicious breakfast food.
- 7. People in the parades throw _____ called doubloons as well as beads to spectators.
- 8. The Rex is the person who is declared _____ of Mardi Gras.

PS I Love You

A new club hopes to spread awareness and support

By **JUANCITO MONEGRO**
Contributing Writer

Everyone, take a moment out of your busy lives to sit back, take a deep breath, and know that through everything to get to where you are now, no matter how easy or hard it has been, you are here. You are in a college with open arms, with people who accept you for you. This is the message of the P.S. I Love You Club, as a recent addition to the campus community.

The club recognizes that some people haven't had the best of rides. Depression, anxiety, suicidal tendencies, or other external mental fatigues such as bullying can plague happiness. These activists at Saint Rose believe in taking the extra step to show their open arms, including Samantha Viola, the founder and president of the bullying, suicide, prevention and awareness club on campus. She wants students to know that their struggle is one that is not taken lightly, and definitely shouldn't be traveled alone.

Viola is joined in by the executive board of the club, which

includes Hannah Vainio as secretary, Tess Schneider as Vice President, Deglan Reis as treasurer, and Marvin Jester as the PR and event coordinator.

The e-board is coordinating a "P.S. I Love You Day," which will be held on Friday, Feb. 9. There will be a carnival in the main lounge from 12 to 4 p.m. in the Events and Athletics Center, and there will be an open mic night from 7 to 9 p.m. in Jack's Place, the performance venue inside the Hearst Center for Communications. The events will represent bullying and suicide prevention and awareness.

"Everyone has been really supportive overall," said Viola. "There has yet to be one person to have a rejection towards what the club is going for."

The club e-board is appreciative of the support and assistance they have received from Ken Scott, director of community service, Joan Horgan, the director of campus ministry, and Allen Martall, assistant director of counseling and psychological services for making this day possible.

The event's inspiration to make it on campus came from


two sources in Viola's life. Not only did a similar club originate in Viola's hometown of West Islip, NY by a girl named Brooke DiPalma, but this event personally impacted Viola when her best friend passed away last year.

"I needed something positive to go on and I remembered that in high school we celebrated 'P.S. I love you day,'" she said.

The original intentions were to spread awareness and to give people an understanding that not only is it okay to be open and talk about these issues, but support is needed to be embraced in society.

"I felt like at this school it wasn't talked about as much as it should be" Viola said, of her experience in high school.

The club has some goals going forward, with some ideas such as "Suicide survivor day" coordinating with local high-schools for a letter campaign to help support students struggling with depression or other obstacles. Any Saint Rose students can join the club who would like to, and the club is encouraging everyone they know plus all of their friends to participate on Feb 9.



THE CHRONICLE
The Saint Rose Newspaper

CARTOONISTS WANTED

Email **Kate Pierce**
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KATE PIERCE



General members and chairpeople at the comedy show featuring Subhah Agarwal

EVENTS cont.

in the community and an overnight trip that have included Portland, Maine, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the past.

The semi-formal committee organizes a semesterly dance, held in an off campus venue.

"The best part about being the semi formal chair is the details that go into it," said Rebecca Zaleski, the chairperson for semi formal. She gets to bring together the whole night, from the centerpieces to the party favors, and everything in between.

"It's different from other chairs who are planning several events each semester," said Zaleski. "I am putting everything into one night, has be-

come my child by the time the event happens."

The venue is the most important factor when Zaleski plans the theme for semi formal.

"You don't want a Hollywood themed dance in a rustic barn," she said. "From there, it's all the little details, DJ, photo booth, centerpieces, party favors. These last two, you really want to work into your theme."

Events specifically tailored to the graduating class are organized by the senior events committee.

"I have been working with my committee to come up with innovative events and plan a super fun senior week that I hope many seniors will participate in," said Grace Giancola, the chairperson for the senior events committee.

Giancola joined SEB last year as a junior, and helped to plan events for the novelties committee. She decided to run for a position in the board after having a great experience working with the other members and chair people.

"The Senior Events Chair has been a really fun position so far because I have gotten to put on events for my classmates and peers," said Giancola. "It's really rewarding to see students enjoying events that we work so hard to put on, and to receive positive feedback from them. It's been a great way to spend my last year at Saint Rose."

At the ice cream social Giancola's committee will be raffling off spots on the senior cruise, which is one of the events during the senior week of events in the spring. There

will also be senior t shirts for sale, which are a tradition each year.

The chairpeople work together to plan events and provide opportunities for students on campus, which creates a collaborative environment.

"Working with people with different personalities, work tactics, and leadership styles is definitely something that is challenge," said Guerin. "But with SEB everyone wants to work together to get things done and make the best of it."

It's not always easy for students to attend and plan so many events, especially while balancing school work.

"For me, the hardest thing is balancing my time," said Zaleski, who is a graduate student. "We all support one another, and I want to be there for all of the other chairs, but have to find that balance between school work, my personal life and being a part of this club. If I could, I would go to every single event."

SEB also sells movie tickets to Regal Cinemas that can be redeemed at any Regal movie theater at any time. The tickets are \$5, are sold during office hours, and students can buy one ticket per week with a valid student ID.

Students are encouraged to stop by the SEB office anytime

during office hours to buy a movie ticket, and to see what events are coming up. The office is located in the EAC, across from the doors to main lounge as you enter the building from the quad. It can be a bit confusing to find if you don't know where to go, which has resulted in some humorous encounters.

"We've been mistaken for many other things," said Gibson. "Once, someone thought our office was a supply closet."

SEB is also open to collaborating with other clubs to organize events that will draw in more student participation. Working with other clubs allows SEB to plan for events that more students may be interested in as well.

"I really want people to know what SEB is a what it has to offer. There are so many opportunities that people can truly take advantage of. I just want to see this club grow into the best it can be," said Guerin.

Whether you are a member of SEB, a chairperson, or a student who just attends a few of the events the club provides, there are many opportunities to get involved.

"SEB is a community that will follow you wherever you go," said Guerin. "Not one day goes by that I'm not grateful to be apart of this entire experience."

KATE PIERCE



Grace Giancola, the senior events chair for SEB.

GEEKS cont.

members bring themselves. "We are one of the few clubs that don't require a certain amount of attendance days to become a full member," said Assimakopoulos. "We are happy to accommodate commuters and resident students alike."

One of the only challenging aspects of participating in the club is learning the rules for each game. However, in an

open environment where many people are learning at once, it is typically more fun than difficult.

"When you join geeks there's a couple things you can expect; fun and noise," said Gauvin. Depending on the game being played, it can get kind of rowdy.

"At the end of the day, it's a relaxing way to hang out and play whatever you want, so I suggest it to everyone, just for the fun," said Assimakopoulos

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Tuesday February 6, 2018

Glee Actor Mark Salling Found Dead at 35

By **SUNNY NOWACKI**
Staff Writer

Actor Mark Salling, best known for his role in the musical-comedy *Glee* was found dead on Tuesday, Jan. 30. His attorney, Michael Proctor, gave an official statement confirming his death and the cause on Feb. 1 after an autopsy was performed.

The cause of death was ruled asphyxia by hanging, and the death was ruled suicide. The actor's attorney declined to comment on if a suicide note was left at the scene or not. Los Angeles Police told several news stations that the actor's body was found in a wooded area near the Tujunga river in the eastern San Fernando Valley area. He was reported missing at approximately 3 a.m. on Tuesday, and his body was found hours later that same day at nearly 9 a.m.

Known as the character Noah "Puck" Puckerman on *Glee*, Salling was 35-years-old. In May of 2016, he was indicted on charges of receiving and possessing child pornography. Having plead guilty to these charges, and was scheduled to be sentenced on Mar. 7 of this year.

He agreed to a plea deal and was to serve four to seven years in federal prison, followed by a twenty-year supervised release and registration

as a sex offender. The actor was also to pay approximately \$50,000 in restitution to the victims involved and their families. However, Salling died before sentencing, so no payment is to be made. Troy Slaten, a criminal defense attorney who is not involved in the case, stated that the victims can potentially sue at civil court for the restitution. It is unclear at this time if the victims or their families will attempt to sue for this payment.

Salling isn't the first original cast member of *Glee* to have died at a young age. Cory Monteith, who played the character Finn Hudson, died from an overdose in 2013 at 31 years old. However, Monteith's death was ruled as an accident. Director Paris Barclay, who worked on *Glee*, tweeted a picture of himself and the two lost stars with the caption "It's a painful loss, again. Two young actors, lost too soon. RIP #marksalling."

Most of the other *Glee* alumni have remained silent so far, and have not commented on the actor's death. However, Iqbal Theba who played Principle Higgins, tweeted several times pertaining to the actor's death. One tweet has a picture of the cast receiving the SAG Award for their first season with the caption "At #SAGAWARDS @GLEEonFOX after we won.



Mark Salling was found dead after an attempted suicide after indictment of child pornography charges

1st season #MarkSalling with Cory." Another tweet by Theba went into how difficult this loss is, and how most people only saw him for his flaws.

He writes, "I also knew him as someone who was great to work with & was kind to my kids. I truly wish

he'd fought his demons & atoned himself & came out a winner. May we all find solace in some of his gentler memories."

His mother, father, and brother are the surviving members of his family, and asked through his attorney

that their privacy be respected in this difficult time.

If you or someone you know is in emotional distress or suicidal crisis, please call the Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255, or contact the Saint Rose Counseling Center anytime at 518-454-5200.

Will Ferrell's Return to SNL

By **LAUREN KASZUBA**
Contributing Writer

For the first time since May 2012, Will Ferrell took to the stage in Rockefeller Center's Studio 8H to host NBC's legendary comedy sketch show, "Saturday Night Live."

50-year-old Ferrell, who was a cast member on the show from 1995 to 2002, hosted the show for the fourth time on Saturday, Jan. 27. The cold open for the show featured his famous impression of former United States president George W. Bush, with one of his most significant lines being, "Please do not look back at my presidency and think this is how we do it."

Ferrell's monologue was not the first musical monologue to hit the stage in 8H (with Ferrell remarking toward the end, "There's too many song monologues, you know that?"). He approached his monologue as if he had never been on SNL before, citing a (fake) head injury that happened backstage during a quick change, causing memory loss. He attempted to perform "I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here" from Annie, but ended up using random lyrics his apparent scrambled mind came up with.

Shortly after, cast members Kenan Thompson and Cecily Strong loaded him onto a stretcher and Ferrell yelled out, "We have a great show for you tonight, Nelly Furtado is here!" However, Chris Stapleton was actually the musical guest that night. The witty monologue had truly set-up the tone for an



Will Ferrell appeared on Saturday Night Live

episode meant to fit Ferrell's comical personality.

Throughout the show, the sketches provided a nice variety of comedy while also tackling serious issues. With the exception of the cold open, all of the sketches lacked Ferrell's original characters/impressions. However, Ferrell had hosted three times prior to his most recent appearance, so it is quite possible that writers were looking to switch things up a bit and perhaps go beyond comfort zones.

Sketches for the night included, "The House Sonoma," a parody of MTV reality television show "The Real World, Reality Stars," where Ferrell and cast member Cecily Strong play a couple brainwashed by their life of being newly discovered reality television stars

and return to their hometown for a barbecue with friends (who find the transformed couple to be complete airheads), and "Office Breakroom," where Ferrell plays a company CEO that becomes overly frustrated when his employees correct him for mistaking Cracker Barrel for Crate and Barrel.

According to the Nielsen company, 7.47 million viewers tuned into SNL on Jan. 27 to see Ferrell, making his episode the most viewed episode of season 43. It seems as if this season has been hit-or-miss with mixed reviews, but Ferrell put the show back on its original track. With ratings like this, perhaps we'll see Ferrell, arguably one of the most iconic SNL cast members, on the stage again soon (with a possible cowbell, too).

"Winchester" Oh, the Horror

By **JACKSON MURPHY**
Staff Writer

When I heard that Helen Mirren was starring in a horror film, I thought: she's either doing this for the money or this could be a rare horror hit aimed at an older audience. After seeing "Winchester" it's now clear what her motivation was for taking this role.

Set in 1906 in San Jose, California, "Winchester" is based on the true story of one of the most notorious haunted houses in the long history of haunted houses. Sarah Winchester (played by Mirren) owns the home. She's the widow of William Winchester, the man behind the famous Winchester rifle company.

With William now gone, Sarah's niece and her son have come to stay with her in the 7-story, 100+-room mansion. Why so big? Because there are spirits that visit Sarah – many even have their own rooms as regular guests.

"Winchester" is less of a horror movie and more of a history lesson on firearms, the Civil War and this mysterious house. It would certainly make for an interesting half-hour special on the Biography Channel, but as a feature-length film, this effort from German directors The Spierig Brothers is dull and uninspired.

The scattered script is stretched to fill the time. Jason Clarke's Dr. Pryce, brought in to determine if Old Lady Winchester has gone cuckoo, does



Helen Mirren stars in "Winchester"

a lot of walking around the house, encountering creepy ghosts who randomly pop-out at him. And once we figure out, fairly quickly, that Mrs. Winchester isn't as crazy as others believe, there's really no suspense – including throughout the extensive climax.

Mirren doesn't show-up until about 20 minutes into the movie and has far less screen time than Clarke. Neither will be highlighting this on their filmographies.

And the scares aren't creative: I laughed more than I jumped. But unfortunately, there's nothing in "Winchester", including Mirren's flat dialogue, that elevates the film to guilty pleasure status. It simply misses the target.

Want to write for Arts?
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I Would Like to Challenge the Academy:

A Recap of the Grammys

By **BRIANA SPINA**
Assistant Editor

I did not watch the Grammys live, so I just checked the Internet for the winners. When I found out that Lorde's *Melodrama* didn't win Album of the Year, I was pretty bummed. Lorde is a role model of mine, and I was frankly surprised that her genius album did not win. My feelings escalated to incredulous anger when I read that Lorde was the only female nominee for AOTY and she lost to Bruno Mars. Now, I don't dislike Bruno Mars. In fact, I think he has an excellent voice and his songs have a great upbeat and retro kind of vibe. But this is not going to be about my music tastes. I want to explore the message the Grammys has sent this year, with so few female nominees for the top awards and even additionally favoring music that talks about sex, romance, and other such banal topics as opposed to music that addresses serious and timely issues.

To continue with the AOTY discourse, I already mentioned that Lorde was the only female nominee out of the five total candidates for the award; she was also the only musician out of the five who was not asked to give a solo performance. The Grammys are long, and it would be impossible for every single nominee to give a performance, but excluding the only woman nominated in this category is so foolish that it's almost laughable. Even if an organization as large as the Recording Academy does not want to support women, they should at least pretend to for PR purposes. Of course, it would be much better for the Recording Academy to actually support women and dismantle the patriarchal ideals in the music industry, but it just seems too obvious for them to at least appear as if they are taking steps

towards that. The choice to not give Lorde—I'll say it again, the only female nominated for AOTY—the spotlight for five minutes is such an evident indicator of the disrespect and prejudice faced by all women in the music industry, as well as the Academy's apathetic stance on fighting this problem.

According to Neil Portnow, president of the Recording Academy, these obstacles don't exist, and it is simply the fault of women for not "stepping up" and making themselves heard. He said that women need to come into the industry with "creativity in their hearts and souls" and the dedication to make it. Perhaps Portnow hasn't been watching the news lately or listening to the radio. Maybe he hasn't seen people unifying behind #MeToo and #Time'sUp. Maybe he didn't know anything about Kesha's years of fighting against the producer who sexually assaulted her, so maybe he did not feel profoundly moved when she stood up on the stage and sang "Praying" with the courage and resilience of a survivor.

Maybe that's why Portnow feels that there was nothing disturbingly sexist about Ed Sheeran's "Shape of You" beating out Kesha's "Praying" for Best Pop Solo Performance. As an aside, I adore Ed Sheeran and love his lyrics. This is not an attack on him or his music in any sense; rather, it is a presentation of the facts. "Shape of You" is playful and has a bopping beat. It's about a guy who meets a girl at a bar, they go on a date, and have apparently good sex. "Praying" is raw emotion that has been converted to music. It is Kesha's years of self-doubt, depression, fear, shame—the nearly unspeakable pain that comes with being sexually abused—all transformed into her rebirth. Kesha has come out of this horrifying darkness stronger than ever, and any anger she harbors towards that man, whose name



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Kesha doing a soundcheck for the MuchMusic Video Awards

doesn't even deserve to be typed, dissolves into the hope that he will repent and "see the light."

This theme of resilience is prevalent throughout Kesha's entire album, "Rainbow." She emphasizes recovery, finding joy in life, and embracing yourself no matter how hard the "bastards" try to tear you down. Kesha is nothing short of heroic, yet Ed Sheeran beat her again in the category of Best Pop Vocal Album. Not only did Sheeran beat out Kesha in this category, but his album also won over Lady Gaga's "Joanne" and Lana Del Rey's "Lust for Life."

Lady Gaga's album was titled after her father's older sister who passed away at the age of 19 from lupus. As Lady Gaga details in her documentary "Gaga: Five Foot Two," Joanne was a poet and a painter,

and she served as a significant inspiration to Gaga as she was thinking about her future in music. Though Gaga had never met Joanne, she describes feeling a deep connection to her through the stories her family told and the artwork and writing that Joanne left behind. Additionally, Gaga explained that Joanne left a legacy of tragedy and pain and had survived a sexual assault, but the toll it took on her body and mind was so distressing that it caused the lupus to escalate severely, ultimately and quickly causing her death.

Joanne's influence on Gaga has been visible throughout her career: one of her poems was included in the lyric booklet for Gaga's debut album "The Fame," and Gaga's 2015 song "Til It Happens to You," which was written for a documentary about sexual assault on college campuses, has Joanne's presence. Now, Gaga has decided to reveal a deeper part of herself, to reveal how much Joanne has impacted her. The title track alone is enough to leave listeners in an emotionally struck state, relating their own personal experiences with loss with that of Gaga and Joanne. To be fair, on Sheeran's album, simply titled "+," there is a beautiful song called "Supermarket Flowers" about his grandmother's death, but compared to Gaga's intricate narrative of Joanne which she weaves through her album, his song does not achieve the same poignancy.

Further, most of Sheeran's songs on "+" are pretty standard for him: acoustic guitar, violin, drums, piano, and some sort of woodwind instrument paired with lyrics touching on romance and heartbreak. And that's great. There's nothing wrong with that. But Gaga's "Joanne" has pushed boundaries that are quite foreign to the avant-garde Queen of Pop we have known. She uses her dy-

namic voice to sing with a more gospel, blues, and country flair on several of her songs. She also collaborated with indie rock goddess Florence Welch of the band Florence + The Machine. The sheer contrast of their two utterly unique voices yielded a fantastic duet called "Hey Girl," which, being about two women in a relationship, brought more visibility to the LGBTQ+ community.

Lana Del Rey also produced a record that is different from her usual style, showing quite a bit of growth in her songwriting abilities. I have been a longtime fan of Del Rey, but I fully acknowledge the problematic nature of much of her earlier works. I wrote a critical research paper about her music last year, prior to the release of "Lust for Life," in which I highlighted her dangerous romanticizing of partner abuse and illegal age-gap relationships and how this can negatively influence her listeners. But "Lust for Life" is all of Del Rey's sadness and strong views refined. She tackles issues of social justice and declares that she will live her life how she wants. Newest of all for her, she sings with the determination to fix the problems with her relationships and society at large rather than just crooning hopelessly as she did previously. Del Rey said herself that "Lust for Life" is more about her looking outward. She feels she has done enough personal searching in her previous records and has now decided to make a shift to looking at her place in relation to the rest of the world, a sort of blending of introspection and social commentary. Though much more muted and less emotionally charged than Kesha's "Rainbow," Del Rey's "Lust for Life," too, is her discovery of her own strength and resilience

SEE RECAP/C5



Lady Gaga performing at the Artpop Ball Tour.

Are We Headed Toward Another “Saturday Night Massacre?”

By **KYLE PRATT**
Executive Editor

Many members of the Republican Party clearly demonstrated last week that party and political expediency are more important to them than the people and nation they were sworn to serve.

House Republicans released a memo on Friday, written by Rep. Devin Nunes, chair of the House Intelligence Committee, alleging the FBI’s Russia investigation is riddled with biases and political allegiance. Ordinarily, a politically-aimed law enforcement agency would be cause for concern, but there’s one problem: the memo is crap.

The FBI itself, led by Trump appointees, expressed concern about the memo for its omission of the full truth, and its containment of classified in-

formation.

“As expressed during our initial review,” the bureau said in a statement, “We have grave concerns about material omissions of fact that fundamentally impact the memo’s accuracy.”

F.B.I. director Christopher Wray, again, a Trump appointee, pleaded with the White House to disallow the publication of the memo, The New York Times reported before the memo was released. Republican Senator from Arizona Jeff Flake also condemned the memo in a joint statement with Democratic Senator Chris Coons of Delaware just before it was released.

“President Trump should heed the warning of the Justice Department and FBI, and reverse his reported decision to defy long standing policies regarding the disclosure

of classified information,” the Senators said, “The president’s apparent willingness to release this memo risks undermining U.S. intelligence-gathering efforts, politicizing Congress’ oversight role, and eroding confidence in our institutions of government.”

So why then would House Republicans release an inaccurate memo with classified information that puts Americans’ confidence in the nation’s leading law enforcement agency? Simple: to protect a failed president who faces a real risk of impeachment.

Republicans, including the president, believe this memo discredits the F.B.I.’s investigation into the Trump campaigns connections to Russia, and the president’s clear attempts to obstruct that investigation. They see what is com-



Richard Nixon leaving the White House grounds after his resignation.

ing down the pike.

Arguably, there is more evidence of obstruction of justice by this president than against President Richard Nixon. The only difference is that Republicans then put their country before their party. This time, not so much.

This president fired his F.B.I. director, and then bragged to Russian officials about how it relieved “great pressure” on him, the New York Times reported in May of last year. He publicly ridiculed his own Attorney General after he recused himself from the Russia investigation. This memo paves the way to his next step: firing Special Counsel Robert Mueller in true Saturday-night-massacre-style.

The “Saturday Night Massacre” was when Nixon or-

dered his Attorney General, Elliot Richardson, and is Deputy Attorney General, William French Smith, to fire the special prosecutor that was investigating him during the Watergate scandal. Both men refused and resigned, but the prosecutor was eventually fired, prompting numerous articles of impeachment with support from both parties.

This is where we are headed.

In order to fire Mueller, Trump would have to go through Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed the special counsel. The president is setting the stage for another dangerous, treasonous massacre, except this time, the entire Republican party will be complicit.

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RECAP cont.



New Zealand singer Lorde at the ARIA Music Awards in 2013.

as well as her newfound “lust for life,” to quote her title track.

The dramatic shifts of these three women--Kesha, Lady Gaga, and Lana Del Rey--as reflected in their brilliant records is what should have distinguished them as the top contenders for Best Pop Vocal Album. Instead, the winner is a man whose record, while catchy and well-written, has not shown the growth, strength, and emotional depth of the other nominees.

This is very similar to the problem with the Album of the Year results. Lorde released “Melodrama” at just 19-years-old, and it debuted at number one in several countries and has received widespread critical acclaim, many even citing it as the best album of the year. She also wrote all of the songs on her own or with only one other person. Her first album, “Pure Heroine,” was released a few years ago when she was 16, and even it just listening to any one song from it and then listening to any one song from “Melodrama” will give you a clear and awe-inspiring picture of Lorde’s maturation as a truly gifted writer. “Pure Heroine” had its time and is still brilliant work, but “Melodrama” is all of the dark and wonderful emotions of that hazy yet distinct shift from your teenage years into adulthood.

That tremendous growth and purely personal authorship is not seen in Bruno Mars’s “24K Magic.” It’s his typical style of bopping electronic music and backup chorus with an old school kind of twist.

Themes included romance, sex, wealth, and fun. That’s all fine, but it isn’t a venerable artistic masterpiece that would warrant winning not only Album of the Year, but Record of the year as well.

Mars also claimed Song of the Year for “That’s What I Like” over the collaborative suicide hotline anthem, “1-800-273-8255,” sung by Logic, Alessia Cara, and Khalid. I cannot fathom how this could have occurred. “That’s What I Like” is a sexy and fun tune about Mars’s wealth and how much he wants to present his girl with lavish gifts. It’s a surface value song about the glamorous life of privilege and fame. “1-800-273-8255” has a tragic depth to it that leaves Mars’s song looking shallow and materialistic. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death for young people in America. It is an epidemic. Mental health is far too often ignored by mainstream media, but what these artists have done is phenomenal. They admitted that they, too, have felt depressed and suicidal, asking listeners “who can relate?” which brings them to a very human level. Listeners, especially teens, who do relate will realize that they are not alone in feeling out of touch. When the song shifts midway to the artists declaring that they “want you to be alive” and later triumphantly state that they “want to be alive” as well, listeners see the value in recovery and not succumbing to their dark thoughts. Of course, this song is not the new SSRI, but the media has a powerful role

in shaping people’s perspectives, so “1-800-273-8255” is a rallying cry for anyone who has ever been in the terrifying depths of depression. It’s telling them that working towards a better mental state is possible, despite what they might think. How could a song as powerful and bone-chillingly honest as this lose to a song as basic and inconsequential as “That’s What I Like?”

I am not raging against Bruno Mars or Ed Sheeran for making music how they want to and winning awards. Their music is not inherently evil, and they’re two artists who are more respectful than many other male artists. I am critiquing the Recording Academy for having such poor and frankly nonsensical judgement this year. Winning several Grammys is a fantastic achievement and I am not suggesting that Mars and Sheeran should feel guilty or return their awards. No, I am challenging the Academy, not thanking it as the winners typically say in their speeches. I challenge the Academy to diversify their panel and investigate the backstories and meanings behind music and its creators, not just their numerical spots on the charts.

*Want to write for Opinion?
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Golden Knights Rundown

By DAVID MEISTER
Staff Writer

The Saint Rose women's basketball team held its annual Capital District Chapter (CDC) of the Saint Rose Alumni Association Game against the Southern Connecticut State Owls on Saturday. They lost a heartbreaker, 60-59.

The team's last couple of attempts rimmed out which would have given the Golden Knights the victory.

The game did feature a career high in scoring from sophomore guard Takora McIntyre with 13 points, who was also named the player of the game.

"It was a big game today for the fact that the team we played beat us by 20 points last game so the team and I felt like we needed to redeem ourselves," said McIntyre.

"I was ready today to play

and have a good game. Last game I struggled and I wanted to make up for my performance."

Sophomore forward Leah Dollard also chipped in with 13 points of her own; and junior forward Karissa Birthwright added 12 points as well.

The loss puts the team at 9-12 on the season and they will look to snap this three-game losing streak today on the road against Adelphi.

"This game on Tuesday is going to come down to our execution and effort," said McIntyre.

"It's going to come down to playing hard and not giving up and staying together as a team."

The men's basketball team also had their own CDC Alumni Association game against SCSU and were defeated as well, 91-83.

This is only the second loss the team has suffered at home. The game was a back and forth affair with Saint Rose getting it to within one but couldn't hold on.

Junior guard Shane Herrity lead the Golden Knights in scoring with a career-high 26 points and three assists.

"We have been working on getting extra shots up when we're tired so when it comes game time we're ready to go," said Herrity.

Herrity not only scored the ball but pushed the tempo up and down the court.

Splitting the double team was a big factor in the comeback late in the second half.

"Coach was basically telling us as soon as that trap comes pass the ball quick," said Herrity.

"And someone will be open because of the two guys doubling."

Behind him was senior guard Mical-Ryan Boyd with 21 points and four assists and junior forward Matt Cerutti with a career high 14 points.

"Our assistant Shea Bromirski has been working with us all season

on our post moves and footwork and that's helped a lot," said Cerutti.

"I've just been trying to be more aggressive to put more pressure on the opposing team."

The team is now 16-6 so far this season with six games left to the season and will take on the Adelphi Panthers later tonight.

Herrity stressed the importance to guard out to the three point line because of Adelphi's ability to make shots for everywhere.

"Tuesday we need to control the ball and take away their rhythm and comfort offensively," said Cerutti.

But the bottom line for controlling the game tonight for Saint Rose is to follow their own game plan.

"We just want to play how we usually play," said Herrity. "Not worry about the opponent as much and let the results take care of the rest."

The men's and women's track and field teams were competing on Saturday at the DuCharme Invitational which was hosted by Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Saint Rose came away with victories in 11 different events between both the men's and women's teams.

Starting on the men's side, the Golden Knights swept the top 3 in the 55 meter dash with freshman Akeem King taking first, finishing 6.58 seconds followed by his teammates Florisson Dieujuste and Anthony Dawson with times of 6.63 and 6.65 seconds respectively.

Freshman Justin Runge had two wins on the day, first

in the 200 meters and then the 600 meters.

On the women's side, Jessica Zych and Dera Boone each won two events.

Zych took the wins in both 200 meters and the 400 meters and Boone won the 55 meters and the long jump.

The Golden Knights have one more meet left before the NE-10 Championships and that will take place at the Saint Joseph's Invitational on Sunday.

And finally, a look ahead to the spring season with the releases last week of the baseball, softball, and lacrosse schedules for 2018.

Starting in baseball, last year the Golden Knights finished 7-28.

Their season will kick off on the 23rd on the road in Virginia against the West Chester Golden Rams.

Their first home game is slated for March 24 against the Saint Michael's Purple Knights.

Next in softball, Saint Rose finished with a record of 11-24.

They'll start the season, like usual, in Clermont, Florida where they will play 10 games from March 2-7.

They'll return north for their first home game on March 24 which will be a doubleheader against the Franklin Pierce Ravens.

And in lacrosse, the Golden Knights finished at 4-11 last year.

They'll begin their season on February 24 at home against the Mercyhurst Lakers and will begin their conference portion of the season on March 17 against the Merrimack Warriors.



Logan Ripley
Jack Jones pulls up from the three line. Saint Rose lost 91-83 to Southern Connecticut State University last Saturday.

FLY - EAGLES - FLY

By DAVID MEISTER
Staff Writer

The drought is over. The Philadelphia Eagles have won their first Super Bowl in franchise history, 41-33, in a high-flying and nip and tuck game which featured over 1,000 yards of total offense between both teams, an NFL record.

Zach Ertz managed to seal the deal for Philadelphia after a catch that made many across America scratch their head and ponder a question that has nagged the NFL all season, "What is a catch?"

But that's something for the NFL and the officials to sort out and hopefully change for next season as this catch rule has reared its ugly head many times this season and has cost numerous teams victories.

Back to Philadelphia. They overcame losing their starting

quarterback, Carson Wentz, back in December and Nick Foles took the reigns and led the Eagles, who were underdogs in all three of its postseason game, a first for a #1 seed. Foles finishes the night with 373 yards and three touchdowns plus one receiving TD, which is a first for a QB in the Super Bowl. He also was named Super Bowl MVP.

Tom Brady was amazing. He threw for 505 yards, which is an NFL record, and three touchdowns.

The Patriots had a golden opportunity for Brady in the end just like last year's Super Bowl but Brandon Graham forced a strip-sack and Derek Barnett recovered it to give Philly back the ball which would later turn into a Jake Elliott field goal.

Brady regained the ball down by eight and hurled a Hail Mary but

it fell just short. Giving the City of Brotherly Love it's first Lombardi Trophy.

Looking forward, Philadelphia will celebrate its victory but one question will linger after the confetti has flew and that is, "What happens with Nick Foles now?"

He just became a world champion but this was Carson Wentz's team and he will most likely take back over next season.

Will Foles ride the bench and take a backup job?

Will he move onto another team where he can be a starter? Or will he retire and become a pastor like he says he will after football.

For New England, this loss puts the Pats at 5-3 in Super Bowls in the Brady/Belichick era.

Is this the end of an era of dominance? Brady is now 40 and while he had another great season capped

off with being the NFL regular season MVP, could this be it?

And for Bill Belichick, he is 65 and could potentially be on his way out in a few years.

Many questions linger about this two teams after the dust has settled.

And finally, for the league as a whole.

The first order of business in the eyes of many would be to amend that atrocious catch rule.

Jesse James and the Steelers were victims to it against New England earlier this season and there are many more before him.

So now let the predictions for next season begin. Who is the frontrunner? If the Eagles were to repeat, they'd have to fight out of a tough division in the NFC East next year. The Redskins have acquired Alex Smith from Kansas

City, which will become official on March 14 which is the start to the new league year. You also have the Dallas Cowboys who will be back in full force next year now that Ezekiel Elliott has served his suspension and team is now back in good health. And the Giants who are now under new leadership with Pat Shummer as head coach and Dave Gettleman as GM.

New England, they will have a challenging road through their with the Jets, Dolphins, and Bills. Miami will have Ryan Tannehill back at QB and Buffalo made the playoffs this year after a long drought and can make another run next season.

Outside of them there is another 30 teams who would like a shot at glory next season. The Jaguars and Vikings who were ousted in the conference championships and poised to try again next year after standout seasons.

The Rams are a young team who are on their way up and could make it back to the postseason next year. And don't forget established teams like the Packers who will have Aaron Rodgers back and will most likely improve on their 7-9 mark from this year.

And the Texans who will get Deshaun Watson back after having his season cut short due to injury.

But we're getting ahead of ourselves. The Eagles are flying high for the next few months until August rolls back around.

It's back to 0-0 where all 32 teams believe they have a shot to bring home the Lombardi Trophy in Super Bowl LIII in Atlanta.

The College of Saint Rose

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