



Into The Woods

Emily Chase
Life & Arts Assistant Editor

Pepperdine University's version of "Into the Woods," opens Friday, Nov. 11. Audiences will take a journey with these beloved characters for the annual fall musical.

See **WOODS** | B1



Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

Lucinda (left) and Florinda (right) yell at Cinderella as she tries to go to the king's ball at dress rehearsal Wednesday, Nov. 9. Lucinda is played by first-year Lucy Schene. The role of Cinderella is played by senior Penny Devlin. Florinda is played by junior Avery Beavers. Evil Stepmother (back) is played by junior Holly Jackson.

Borderline and Woolsey: Four-year anniversary

Samantha Torre
News Editor

Tanya Yarian
News Assistant

Four years ago, Pepperdine faced the dual tragedies of the Borderline Shooting and Woolsey fire. On Nov. 4, Pepperdine's Resilience Informed Skills and Education Program hosted RISE and Reflect to offer the opportunity for students to remember the event, with support.

See **BORDERLINE** | A4

Pepp athletes conflicted over NIL deals

Alex Clarke
Staff Writer

Name, Image and Likeness deals give college athletes the opportunity to gain sponsorships and receive large amounts of money in return, according to Fox Sports. Pepperdine athletes said there is disagreement on whether the University offers enough opportunities to its student-athletes.

See **PEPP** | B8

Opinion: Fitting in at Pepperdine

Jerry Jiang
Sports Editor

After transitioning from one bubble to another, the struggle of fitting in was tough, but not impossible thanks to clubs such as KCM. Sports Editor Jerry Jiang describes his experience as an Asian American at Pepperdine.

See **FROM** | A12



FALL-OW @MALIBUPARKATCROSSCREEK ON INSTAGRAM

Good News: Chai chats

Victoria La Ferla
Staff Writer

We had our first chai early in the morning at the airport while catching up. We discussed the happenings at school, the romantic entanglements of friends and funny TikToks.

In a D.C. cafe near our hotel, we had our second chai that was rich—with hints of vanilla and gingerbread swirling together with creamy oat milk. We are both adamant on oat milk because of the difference in taste and my growing intolerance to lactose.

A small walk away near the White House, our next chai was a "pump of flavoring" in our iced matcha, and upon my first sip, I declared it was my new favorite drink. I knew I was commencing on an important journalism conference with a lot to learn and people to network with, but I also wanted to spend my next few days in D.C. with Anežka and see the city around us while finding moments of spontaneity.

We had our next chai latte in a Georgetown coffee shop, and it had deep spicy flavors, was light on foam and had hints of oat milk. I did not like this one as much as the others due to the overload of spice, but taking small sips helped me appreciate the intricate flavors.

Anežka and I talked about politics in the U.S., my home country, and Anežka's in the Czech Republic, our educational systems growing up and some distinct differences of our ways of life in these two places.

As we walked we discovered a shared similarity in our view on human connection and moral values. Suddenly, a reporter stopped us to interview us on the steps of the Capitol building. He asked us about our thoughts on current events.

Anežka and I looked at each other and I thought, "Well this could make or break our friendship." Instead, we both verbalized publicly we find peace in the power of freedom of choice without judging others' differing opinions or beliefs. Our cultural-differences actually did not divide us.

I admire my friend Anežka wholeheartedly and find happiness in our growing friendship and future chai latte hangouts. How we connected seems to be a rare occurrence for many our age.

I feel too many people upon first meeting immediately look for something that divides them. These dangerous assumptions can then prevent us from befriending and learning from people.

Focusing on the inherent kindness of people in front of you can lead to an increased comfort admiring their qualities and reaching friendship. There is not a rule that each person you meet must be someone you wholeheartedly admire, instead find one thing to admire and find connection over this idea is key.

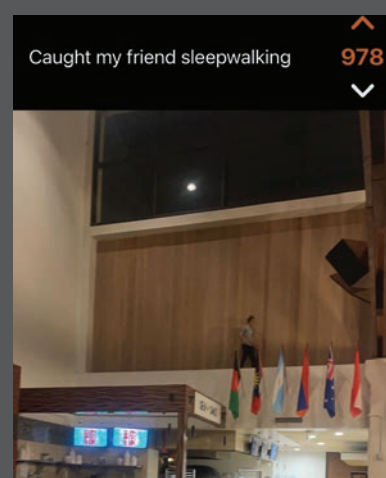
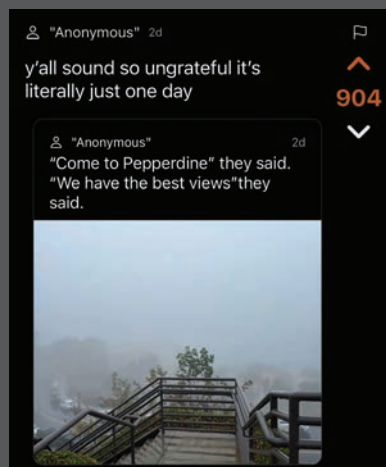
If we pour hot steam all over a potential connection and blanket a person's "spice" we silence their voice and never give them a chance to connect with us. Instead, we can highlight the "unique flavors" of each individual even if some may leave a stronger taste than others.

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PRESIDENT'S Briefing recap 11.02

- 1 Chief Operating Officer Phil Phillips said students could start parking in the new lot by the end of January, despite the lot not being fully completed.
- 2 Phillips said the parking lot will have 300 spots, 200 of which are a net gain, and 19 electric charging stations.
- 3 Phillips said construction for the Mountain will begin with smaller areas of Rho cordoned off and Towers parking lot will be closed the fall 2023 semester.

fizzes of the month



Midterm Election Recap

CA Governor Race
Gavin Newsom ✓



U.S. Senate Race
Alex Padilla ✓



TX Governor Race
Greg Abbott ✓



Proposition 1
YES ✓

Establishes the right to reproductive freedom in California's Constiution

Proposition 28
YES ✓

Increases funding for the arts and music in K-12 public schools



Proposition 31
YES ✓

Upholds ban on flavored tobacco



You Had One



Seaver Drive

Photo by Faith Siegel

[Parking] Job



Seaver Drive

Photo by Abby Wilt

Highlighting bad parking on Pepperdine's campus.



Seaver Drive

Photo by Will Falmer

IP decisions ignite student anticipation

Victoria La Ferla
Staff Writer

International Programs is continuing to receive student applications and send out decisions, which will continue throughout the fall semester.

Across six academic-year and 11 summer programs and terms, IP accepted two-thirds of students to their first choice program, which is consistent with the IP office's historical trend data, Greg Muger, director of International Programs, wrote in an Oct. 27 email to the Graphic.

"We will regularly admit students to programs twice per month until about three months prior to the program departing," Muger wrote. "Though, I prefer we get you into a program so that you can take advantage of the study abroad opportunities we have offered them."

Muger wrote there are more than 150 spots available for 2023 for all programs.

"Due to the larger size of the freshmen class, we offered more single semester study abroad opportunities to meet demand," Muger wrote. "As a result of this action, we have a lower than average number of students that received a waitlist decision."

First-year Elle Chapman said she is excited about her acceptance into the London program for the 2023-24 academic year.

"I visited the London Pepperdine campus over the summer and fell in love with it," Chapman said.

The IP office uses a system where students can rank up to six programs in their application, which gives students a greater chance of going abroad, Muger wrote.

During Chapman's application process, she said she met

"I am not apprehensive about much, only the cost of the trip and the fact that there is still a chance I may not be going, even though I am hopeful."

Savannah Sichelstiel
Junior



Mary Elisabeth | Staff Photographer

Students from the Lausanne Program in Summer 2022 sail on Lake Geneva. All International Programs offer students the opportunity to complete their P.E. unit for their GE.

with her academic adviser, and they compiled a plan for studying abroad together. Chapman said she began thinking about the process in the summer.

"Since I started early on, I could put my best foot forward," Chapman said.

Chapman said her parents raised her to value the importance of traveling. Chapman said she made the decision to come to Pepperdine because of its renowned international programs and chose London because it is a "hub for business," which aligns with her Business major.

Chapman said she is excited to visit her friends in their abroad locations next year as well, but she is concerned about being apart from her family — especially during the holidays.

The Japan program received nearly four times more applications than there are available spots, which are limited, Muger wrote.

Junior Savannah Sichelstiel applied for the Japan summer program because she is interested in Japanese culture and exploring the country.

Although Sichelstiel is waitlisted for Japan she said she is still hopeful.

"I am not apprehensive about much, only the cost of the trip and the fact that there is still a chance I may not be going, even though I am hopeful," Sichelstiel said.

Muger wrote the Florence program received the highest number of applicants compared to other programs. Florence has a typical enrollment of 50 students.

Some summer programs received fewer applications but Muger said this is a normal occurrence because the IP office accepts applications for summer 2023 until Jan. 30.

Sophomore Cate Cartier said IP accepted her into her first choice program, which is Florence for summer 2023. She also applied to London and Switzerland to maximize her chances of getting into a program. Cartier was supposed to go to London for fall 2022.

"I withdrew from this program because it felt too long away from my family and friends," Cartier said. "But I feel that going this time in the summer will be enough to get me out of my comfort zone, but not for too long."

Junior Summer Alsarraf applied to four programs but did not get into her first option — the Japan summer 2023 program. However, she said she got into the Lausanne summer 2023 program — her second choice.

"I am disappointed about not being accepted into the Japan program, but I am excited about being accepted into her alternate choice the Lausanne summer program," Alsarraf said.

Alsarraf said she has not looked much into the specifics of the program yet but is excited about learning the new culture and language.

First-year Bohuen Tong applied and IP accepted her into the Switzerland spring 2024 program. She will be staying at the brand new Chateau and said it would be her first time in Europe.

"At least apply, you will lose nothing, but can gain so much from the opportunity. Adventure awaits."

Greg Muger
Director of International Programs

"I took French in high school, and I want to expand on my French, but I am also excited to learn about all the history the new Chateau has to offer," Tong said.

Upcoming opportunities for students going abroad is the "Launch," where all new students celebrate their future adventures, enjoy food and get to know others in their future program, Muger wrote.

There will be a passport fair for students to get their passport renewed or apply for one for the first time, and the program ambassadors will host events for specific programs all in the near future. The orientation for the programs will occur in the spring, Muger wrote.

Alsarraf said she looks for-

ward to getting closer to people she hasn't yet interacted with at Pepperdine, learning a new culture and opening her worldview.

Tong said she cannot wait any longer to study abroad, a year from now is too long away for her to begin her adventure.

As a first-year, Cartier said it felt like there was only one opportunity to travel abroad and it was a lot of pressure for her, but she said there are so many opportunities to study abroad at Pepperdine.

"At least apply, you will lose nothing but can gain so much from the opportunity," Muger wrote. "Adventure awaits."

Programs that are still accepting applications are listed on the IP application page.

HOUR TO HOUR

BY MARIA VALENTE

Pepperdine Experiences 48 Hours of Horror

The Graphic staff published this hour-by-hour timeline in November 2018, right after the back-to-back Borderline and Woolsey tragedies.

N O V E M B E R

8th

NOON

Freshman Alaina Housley is confirmed dead to Pepperdine community by President Andrew K. Benton at a prayer service in Smothers Theatre.

2:00 PM

Fire ignites in Newbury Park/Thousand Oaks area (specifically in Hill Canyon in Santa Rosa).

3:02 PM

Authorities in Camarillo Springs area order mandatory evacuations.

11:20 PM

Call of shots fired at the Borderline Bar & Grill.



3:30 AM

Pepperdine confirms several students are at the scene.

8:18 AM

Pepperdine Public Relations releases second email. Stauffer Chapel is open all day for community to mourn.

5:16 AM

Pepperdine Public Relations confirms active shooter in email. Classes to meet as scheduled.

5:23 AM

Shooter and weapon identified. Confirmed fatalities rise to 13.

3:58 PM

Pepperdine Public Relations issues statement detailing 101 closure: closed in both directions from Ventura Park through Santa Rosa.

7:40 PM

Authorities announce mandatory evacuations for residents in Calabasas, Agoura Hills and Hidden Hills.

4:26 - 5:44 PM

City of Calabasas and Agoura Hills issue voluntary evacuations, suggesting evacuees head south toward Los Angeles.

10:28 PM

Malibu Canyon Apartments in Calabasas orders mandatory evacuation of residents (several of which are Pepperdine students).



Pepp community remembers the Borderline and Woolsey tragedies

From A1

Four years ago, the back-to-back tragedies of the Borderline shooting and Woolsey Fire devastated both Pepperdine and the surrounding communities Nov. 7 through Nov. 10.

On Nov. 7, 2018, the Borderline shooting took place at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks, killing 12 people — including Alaina Housley, a first-year Pepperdine student. There were 16 other Pepperdine students at Borderline that night.

Less than a day later, the Woolsey Fire spread to Pepperdine's Malibu campus, where students were sheltering in place.

Stacey Lee Gobir, assistant director of RISE, said the community holds onto the memories of both Woolsey and Borderline,

and RISE wants to support those who are grieving or healing.

"I think it's so important for us to continue to hold intentional space to grieve, to mourn, to acknowledge the pain and to give students, faculty and staff resources to be able to process through anniversary trauma, which we know is a real thing and continue to acknowledge just how impactful those two experiences were," Lee Gobir said.

The tragedy occurred on

From the late hours of Nov. 7 to the early morning of Nov. 10, the Pepperdine community experienced the back-to-back traumas of the Borderline Shooting and the Woolsey fire. Each hour brought more news and updates that students ravenously searched for, as they were confused and without viable information at times.

This is an hour-by-hour timeline of the roughly 48 hours during which Pepperdine mourned, sheltered and prayed.

9th









10th






11th

4:39 AM
Pepperdine Malibu and Calabasas cancel classes due to proximity of Woolsey fire.

7:07 AM
Malibu campus initiates shelter-in-place protocol, administrators call students to move to Firestone Fieldhouse and Tyler Campus Center.

12:12 PM
Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) closes in westbound direction from Webb Way to city limits.

10:13 AM
City of Malibu issues mandatory evacuation of entire city, including areas south of the 101 freeway, from Ventura County line to Malibu Canyon Road.

12:34 PM
Pepperdine releases students from shelter-in-place and allows them to return to their dorms.

1:12 PM
PCH opens all lanes eastbound for evacuees.

2:11 PM
Pepperdine reinstates shelter-in-place and calls students to return to shelter locations.

4:25 PM
Fire shifts southwest toward coast, not directly impacting Malibu campus.

6:03 PM
Students move from Firestone Fieldhouse to Payson Library. Students in Tyler Campus Center remain sheltered in place there or move to library. Shelter-in-place protocol extends to morning.

12:10 AM
Fire is on Malibu campus hillsides. LAPD fights fire from campus.

8:03 AM
All on-campus fires are extinguished, and shelter-in-place policy is lifted. Pepperdine cancels classes at the Malibu and Calabasas campuses and closes campuses for remain-

11:55 AM
Flames begin to intrude onto campus, but no permanent structures have been lost. Firefighters continue to fight fire from campus.

11:08 AM
Pepperdine cancels classes from Nov. 11 through Nov. 13 on Malibu and Calabasas campuses.

10:28 PM
Pepperdine cancels classes on Malibu and Calabasas campuses through Thanksgiving holiday.

college night in 2018, where Pepperdine students learned to line dance at Borderline Bar and Grill. Pepperdine students scattered during the tragedy and did not reunite until hours later, wrote Allison Lee, former Graphic executive editor and alumna ('20) in a recount of events for the Graphic.

“This isn’t happening right now. There cannot be a shooter. This isn’t happening,” Hattie [Pace] said, her voice trembling

with fear and anger,” Lee wrote.

In her first semester at Pepperdine, Housley was an active member of the choir and a fantastic listener, according to past Graphic reporting. Following the tragedy, Housley’s family started the Alaina’s Voice Foundation to usher in change through the arts and mental health programs.

“Alaina was a person who jumped right into things,” her suitemates wrote in a 2018 tribute published in the Graphic. “The

first day of NSO she marched into DeBell, Coffee Bean mocha in hand, ready to take on the year. We all knew from the moment we met her that this was a girl with a big heart and a fast mouth.”

On Nov. 9, the Woolsey fire approached Malibu. By 7 a.m., Malibu City issued an evacuation order, and residents had to make the choice whether to flee or stay and defend their homes, according to past Graphic reporting.

Students sheltered-in-place

on campus in both Payson Library and Firestone Fieldhouse, according to past Graphic reporting. From there, students watched the flames descend the hillside toward Pepperdine reaching the border of campus.

Officers were posted outside campus, and stayed until Nov. 16, 2018, to keep campus safe.

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Waves food cabinets support students

Tanya Yarian
News Assistant

Editor's Note: To protect the privacy of a source, the Graphic has used the name J. Doe.

Pepperdine's Student Care Team is offering Waves Food Cabinets to support students who have challenges accessing food, SCT Chair La Shonda Coleman wrote in a Sept. 28 email to the Graphic.

In the food cabinets, students can expect nonperishable meals and grab-and-go items such as cereal, soup and single-serve meals, Coleman wrote. Some cabinets have larger items such as boxes of pasta, sauce and canned goods. All cabinets offer vegan, gluten-free and nut-free options.

Students can find these cabinets at the Tyler Campus Center, TCC 282; the Student Accessibility Center on the Counseling Center side; Thornton Administrative Center, TAC 119; the ICA Student Lounge, HAWC 130; the Duane and Lucile Faw Student Lounge inside the DiLerto Dining Room, Caruso Law School Cafe; the School of Public Policy, Building 54.

Intercultural Affairs Director Rebecca Campos said she hopes students who are worried about their next meal will learn about this opportunity and feel ICA and SCT's support.

"It is hard to do anything if you're not sure where your [next] meal is coming from," Campos said. "It's hard to focus on a midterm. It's hard to focus on a paper. So ICA with the help of SCT and their food pantry initiative, is trying to play a small role in alleviating that concern."

Food insecurity is a lack of regular access to safe and nutritious food due to unavailability of resources, according to the Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The SCT manages the food cabinets and professional staff volunteers maintain the cabinets, Coleman wrote.

Campos said Britney Summerville-Brannan, senior case manager at SCT, and the rest of the team are trying to prioritize healthy options but cannot add perishable foods because the cabinets do not have a fridge.

Pepperdine junior J. Doe utilizes food cabinets throughout the week and gets what they are most likely to eat. They said they have one of the lowest meal plans, Waves 1285, and had to ration their meals before learning about the cabinets.

"It's more convenient and I don't have to worry about looking at my account, seeing numbers drop and trying to make the math to see if it'll last me until the end of the semester," Doe said.

Stacy Rothberg Montgomery — former associate dean

of Student Affairs — led the initiative of establishing the first four food cabinets on Pepperdine's campus in 2019, Coleman wrote. Montgomery partnered with The Food Insecurity Committee, SCT, student leaders, professional staff and Jazmine Zane — senior director of institutional research.

Pepperdine's Student Affairs and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness organized the Food Access and Resources Project which collected information on access and affordability with food among students, according to Pepperdine's website.

"Programs such as the FARE Project are in alignment with our faith mission and institutional values, and they demonstrate love and care for our students' well-being in all areas of their lives, beyond the academic," Zane wrote in an Oct. 7 email to the Graphic.

Zane wrote supporting this project was important and she has experience in nonprofit health research.

"From a departmental/OIE lens, this was a critical opportunity to foster student success and center students who have been impacted by systemic inequities," Zane wrote.

This year, the SCT opened two new Waves Food Cabinets in addition to the other four — one at the ICA Student Lounge in the HAWC and one at the Pepperdine Caruso School of Law Student Lounge.

Campos said ICA only controls the food cabinet at the HAWC. Along with nonperishable food items, the HAWC food cabinet also includes feminine hygiene products. ICA's food cabinet is open 24/7, and students who wish to use it do not need to check-in with anyone at the front desk or the SCT, Campos said.

"It's something that the price of those can be burdensome, and we wanted to really relieve the burden of items that are necessary for day-to-day living," Campos said.

Campos said someone from Pepperdine's Feminist Club asked a staff member at ICA if they would have feminine hygiene products as well, and Campos said this was ICA's way of supporting students and taking part of that initiative.

Some universities in other states utilize similar food programs to help students with food insecurity and other support by providing some basic need items, according to U.S. News and World Report. The University of North Carolina Asheville organizes a food distribution event where students can receive nonperishable foods, and Saint Xavier University provides a food pantry on campus with nonperishable foods, toiletries and feminine hygiene products.

Leaders of ICA said they hope to provide some

culturally familiar foods for some international students in the future, Campos said. Campos, who is Jamaican, said she came to Pepperdine as an international student in 2012 for her Master's Degree of Public Administration, Economics and International Affairs. She said she and Sharon Wakio, assistant director for international students at ICA, are excited to provide this for students soon.

"You already feel so homesick and to be able to have food that you grew up with can be such a comfort," Campos said.

Pepperdine's Resilience Informed-Student Education team created an Instagram Post to inform students about the food cabinets. Campos said ICA has not done much to advertise this resource yet because they only established the cabinet a few weeks ago. Campos and ICA plan to add this initiative in their bi-monthly newsletter.

Students can learn more about support programs such as WIC and CalFresh at the food cabinets and over half of the food at the cabinets are CalFresh eligible, Coleman wrote.

"I'm sure that there are students who have it way harsher than me and that doesn't know about the resources," Doe said. "So I think it's important for students who are struggling in that aspect."

While the SCT does not accept food donations for the cabinets, people can contribute financially to the Food Insecurity Fund which permits the SCT to purchase food items for the cabinets, Coleman wrote in an Oct. 24 email. If students are interested in volunteering to help stock the food cabinets, they can email studentcareteam@pepperdine.edu.

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Design by Sammie Wuensche | Assistant Photo Editor

Students embrace new Barcelona program

Anezka Liskova
Assistant News Editor

As Pepperdine's International Programs move into their second month, students are familiarizing themselves with the area, learning about the country's culture and forging new relationships.

For Pepperdine's new Barcelona program, things look a little different.

Instead of having a Pepperdine-only campus in Barcelona, Pepperdine is partnering with an organization called CAPA, The Global Education Network, and using their facilities as the program's campus. At other Pepperdine programs, students use Pepperdine owned facilities and Pepperdine professors teach them.

"Some people were like, 'Aren't you envious of the fact that other Pepperdine programs are literally living in their academic center and they just walk downstairs and everything's [they need is] there,'" sophomore Rianna Smith said. "And I'm like, 'No, I enjoy being a part of the city and taking the metro and doing all the things. That's how you actually get to know where you are.'"

The program is a limited-time study abroad location for the 2022-23 academic year, said April Marshall, faculty-in-residence for the fall semester. She said the program is off to a "wonderful start."

"The local faculty teaching with CAPA in our program have been impressed with our students' class participation and positive attitudes," Marshall said.

Students said CAPA facilities and professors have impressed them.

"Staff-wise, they're so organized, we get an email when something's going on," Smith said. "They're on top of everything. If we have dinner, they're emailing us. If something goes on at Lofttown, which is where we're living, they email us."

Smith said she appreciates the professors are from different countries, cities and universities because it feels like they are getting a cultural experience even when they are just taking a GE class.

Some classes available for this school year are a variety of Spanish, Religion, Humanities, Physical Education, Astronomy, Psychology and more. These classes go from Monday to Thursday. Students get Fridays off for extra time to travel.

Lofttown is walking distance from campus, Smith said. This accommodation hosts students from all over the world and different universities. It also



Photo courtesy of April Marshall

April Marshall (far right), faculty-in-residence for the fall semester, stands with participants in Barcelona in September. Marshall said she enjoyed touring the city with the group.

includes a dining area that serves breakfast and dinner, Smith said.

There are two resident advisors helping in Lofttown. Brooke Carter, sophomore resident advisor for the 2022-23 academic year, said other than being a student, she also needs to manage anything housing and student related. She acts as a "mediator between the faculty and students."

Being an RA abroad is almost the same as being one on the Malibu campus with a few differences, Carter said.

"Unlike in Malibu, I don't have any restrictions as to like, weekend travel," Carter said. "So I'm never like, 'Oh, on this weekend, [I] have to stay here.' I can do whatever on the weekend."

She also said the flip side of that is she never stops being an RA and doesn't have much time off.

When students are not eating at the dining area, they are free to go wherever they want for meals, Smith said. They receive a monthly disbursement for other meals, which Smith said is \$150 a month. In addition, every Tuesday the program has a group meal together at local restaurants.

Student said Barcelona's affordable pricing surprised them.

"Barcelona prices are not as bad as I thought they were going to be, compared to other abroad programs," Smith said. "We got really lucky. Coffee here is like \$1."

Carter said she has improved her Spanish-speaking skills living in a place where everyone else is also speaking the language.

"I was super worried about being kind of looked at because I don't speak that much Spanish," Carter said. "But anyone I've tried to speak Spanish to has been very helpful and like caring and not worried about it. So I've been practicing a good amount."

Most students said they are excited to explore Spain and surrounding countries and see what they have to offer.

"The Barcelona city tour we did as a group our first weekend in Spain together is one of my favorite memories so far," Marshall

said. "Just seeing the sights around Barcelona and catching amazing views of the city was a treat and the perfect way to start the program."

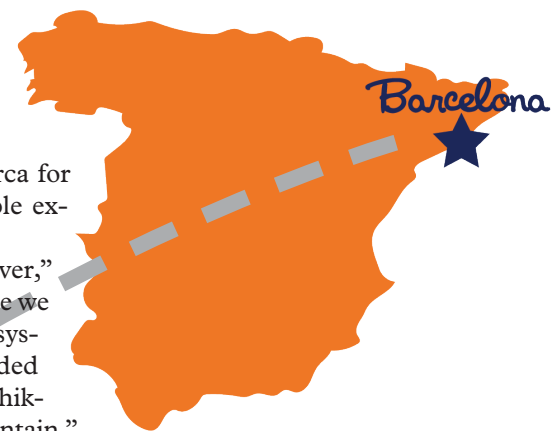
Smith said she visited Mallorca for a weekend and had unforgettable experiences.

"It was actually the best trip ever," Smith said. "But we didn't realize we didn't know how to use the bus system there. We were on a secluded island. Therefore, we ended up hiking a mile and a half of the mountain."

Sophomore Mark Campbell said he was planning on going abroad to the Heidelberg program but transferred to the Barcelona program. He said he always dreamed of Pepperdine offering a program in a Spanish-speaking country in Europe because "everyone loves Europe."

"Some [students] who were only planning to be here for the fall semester have expressed interest in coming back for spring even," Marshall said.

Participants were unsure of what to expect because Barcelona is a new



program, Smith said. Students could not get insight on the city, culture, campus, classes or even just the best restaurants and trips to go on.

"When we got here, everyone was kind of in the same boat and I think that's what made us come closer together, which I think is really good," Smith said. "I think we have a tight-knit program."

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Photo courtesy of Rianna Smith

Students pose in Germany for Oktoberfest on Sept. 17. Barcelona participants met up with Pepperdine students that are taking part in the Lausanne program.



Design by Betsy
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PERSPECTIVES

Staff Ed: The Graphic gets grateful

Graphic Staff

As Thanksgiving rolls around, the Graphic staff has compiled a list of things we are grateful for this semester, as cheesy as it may be. We encourage everyone in the Pepperdine community to sit down and

reflect on what they are grateful for this holiday season. The Graphic wishes everyone a happy November and Thanksgiving season.

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Food

We are grateful for the food at Pepperdine and for Bon Appetit's new dining for our community. From what we have heard as a staff, the student body is saying the food tastes better and is more nutritious.

Faculty & staff

We are grateful for the faculty and staff at Pepperdine, who work every day to teach us, feed us, lead us, guide us, keep us safe and make us the best students and people we can be.

Fall weather

We are grateful that campus is starting to feel a little like fall — with the leaves changing on the trees on Main, the Starbucks holiday cups back and the sun setting just a little bit earlier.

PGM staff

We are grateful for our staff at PGM — editors, writers, designers, photographers, artists, podcast and video producers, advertising representatives, social media team and advisers — who keep our publication factual, fun and timely. Speaking of — if you want to come join, applications are now open on our website until Nov. 28.

In- person reporting

We are grateful for the opportunity to report within our community in person — with this semester being the first where we haven't had to use Zoom interviews for most of our reporting. We are grateful to talk to people face-to-face and establish more human connections with them when we can.

The little things

We are grateful for the little things on campus that cheer us, and many other students, up — like the student who continuously plays the piano in the Caf or the Caf workers who tirelessly clean up after us.

Student wellness fee

We are grateful for the new Student Health Center student wellness fee, which grants students health care at the Student Health Center. In addition, all of the fitness classes for students are included with the fee, meaning we can take care of our bodies without having to pay.

Sports

We are grateful for the opportunity to play and watch sports at Pepperdine. Many members of our staff play intramural volleyball together every week — always sparking conversation in the newsroom. We are grateful for opportunities like this to be able to bond with each other and our peers.

Design by Abby Wilt | Managing Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor must bear the writer's name, signature, class standing, major, address and phone number (except in some circumstances determined appropriate by the Graphic). Letters must be fewer than 300 words and will be edited for syntax, grammar and brevity. Letters can be mailed to student publications or emailed to peppgraphicmedia@gmail.com.

Letter to the editor of PGM

Editor's Note: Opinions expressed in letters to the editor are those of the author, and publication in the Graphic in no way represent an endorsement of any opinions published. This space is provided to allow public response and commentary on articles and issues that are covered by the Graphic and important to its readership.

I'm a parent on the Parent and Family Leadership Council, and read your article on The Hub for Spiritual Life while visiting for Waves Weekend. I'm also a CEO who has built large businesses. Your description of Pepperdine looking for the right combination of people and roles, to fit the students and resources, seems fully consistent with a commitment to make The Hub thrive. Change is hard. Yet it is far worse when the first idea, or an original configuration, simply calcifies upon creation. Just as harmful, when ideas slowly calcify over a tenured career.

After reading the article, I took the time to talk with administration, students and parents across campus. Over a dozen conversations on Friday and Saturday, including with President Gash, I realized both the commitment and the momentum is there. I left Malibu excited about the direction and future of The Hub, and how it is embracing the breadth of the national Pepperdine community. Excited to see the atmosphere of spiritual growth around the students, both on and off campus. Excited enough to turn around and make a donation to Pepperdine to add to the momentum of The Hub.

Go Waves,
Christian Fong

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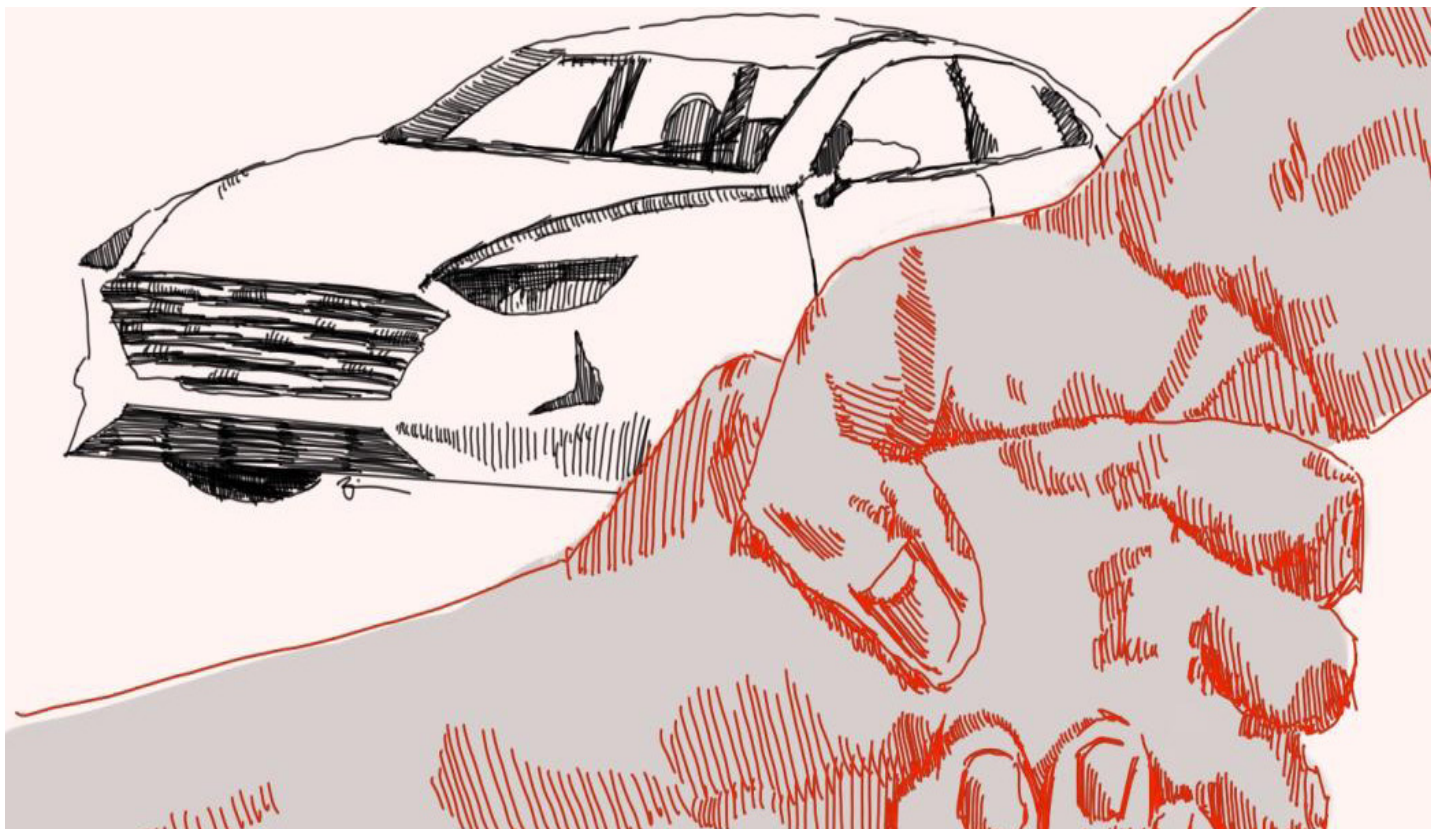
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*A star indicates a senior leader



Find gratitude without a car

Madison Luc
Staff Writer

As a car-less student at Pepperdine, it can feel like I am stuck on campus. If you are facing a similar situation, don't give up hope yet — I've found there are many benefits to living on campus without owning a vehicle.

As I navigate my first semester at Pepperdine, I've found countless opportunities to build relationships, tap into on-campus resources and cultivate overall wellness. Living on campus without a car has allowed me to use my time to build friendships and become part of a community.

I find community through spending more time on campus, and one of the most essential parts of maintaining mental health is finding belonging in a community, according to NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Staying on campus gives me plenty of opportunities to connect with others, and by cutting out a commute, I have more time to invest in people and activities I am passionate about.

Without having to leave campus, one can find numerous clubs, organizations and events on Pepperdine. There are also many student-led ministries that help foster spiritual growth, including Word Up, Celebration Chapel and Veritas Club.

Pepperdine also offers student leadership opportunities, such as the Student Government Association, Student Programming Board and Inter-Club Council. If a student is interested in getting involved, they can attend an event for the club or ask club leaders if they're currently open to new members. Instead of searching for activities off campus, students can check out available resources right on main campus.

The Student Success Center, Career Center and Hub for Spiritual Life all exist to provide students with support for their academic, career and life goals, according to Pepperdine's Student Life.

All of these activities and resources are conveniently located on main campus and students can access them by foot between classes.

In addition, all students have access

to free academic tutoring in Payson Library. These resources are especially helpful if one can't leave campus and needs extra help in their classes.

"Knowledge calls ultimately for a life of service," is a key part of Pepperdine's mission statement. Campus-wide opportunities to serve include past events like Step Forward Day or the American Red Cross Blood Drive.

Living on campus without a car has motivated me to be resourceful and investigate the many services available

Madison Luc
Staff Writer

To see current opportunities, Pepperdine provides a Google Doc. These events show one can absolutely serve their community without the need to drive off campus.

Pepperdine offers several different options for transportation for those without a personal car, including shuttles around campus, rental services through Zipcar, Lyft ride discounts and shopping shuttles to Whole Foods, Cross Creek and Ralphs. These options motivate some students, like me, to plan outings carefully and use their time wisely instead of having constant off-campus distractions.

Students can make use of these resources to travel more substantial distances. For many, walking can be a good mode of transportation on and off campus, especially for a shorter commute. Local shops like the Malibu Country Mart and Ralphs plaza are within walking distance and students can avoid parking issues.

HeeJoo Rho | Staff Artist

Not only is this option environmentally friendly, walking provides an opportunity for students who are able to walk and who have packed schedules and limited time to exercise. Walking around campus gives students a chance to enjoy nature, breathe fresh air and bask in the sun. It's refreshing to stretch your legs after sitting through lectures all day or between classes.

If students really want to take advantage of the surrounding scenery, there are many hiking trails in the Santa Monica Mountains, including the iconic Hike to the Cross, which is in walking distance from campus. Pepperdine's Outdoor Recreation also organizes excursions and weekend trips to explore nature with your Pepperdine family, according to their website.

Pepperdine is home to four fitness facilities on campus and offers free fitness classes throughout the week, according to Pepperdine's Fitness and Wellness website. For students interested in playing sports, intramurals and club sports are great options. Getting active is an excellent way to spend your free time without having to drive anywhere.

As a first-year student at Pepperdine, I'm thankful for an all-inclusive living situation. I have a place to sleep, three meals I don't have to cook myself and an on-campus job. For study options, I can choose between Payson Library, the Lighthouse, outside on Alumni Park or in the comfort of my dorm.

Students have access to many resources to support those who do not have a car, and I encourage others to search for something that works for them. Living on campus without a car has motivated me to be resourceful and investigate the many services available to me as a student.

This mindset has allowed me to find contentment in my current circumstances instead of pining after what I don't have. While there are times I might long to have my own car, I have come to appreciate what I do have much more over the past month.

Ashley York
Staff Writer

Though people often overlook kindness in day-to-day life, it can have long-lasting effects on the giver and the world around them.

Mother Teresa was the mother of kindness — she dedicated her life to serving others and built her life on selflessness, according to Nobel Prize. Through her, people can see the living, breathing example of the beauty in a kind heart and the impact it can have on humankind.

“Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless,” Mother Teresa said.

Cliché but true, kindness is contagious. In my experience, when one puts kindness out into the world, it continues to circulate and multiply. The beginning of change is kindness, according to Be An Inspirer.

I volunteered with Baby2Baby on Sept. 26, a nonprofit organization that provides third-party delivery of crucial supplies to children in need. A group of three friends and I ventured to their warehouse in L.A., where we packaged clothing for infants as young as 18 months to kids as old as 14.

After the service, my peers and I discussed the experience. We all agreed we left the warehouse feeling inspired and full of life.

Along with my wonderful friends and the welcoming staff at Baby2Baby, the entire experience emitted positive energy and curated a memory I will never forget. Various people came together to serve, and this was a reminder to me humans can be beautiful, selfless creatures.

Studies have shown giving kindness has physical health benefits as well, according to a Mayo Clinic study. When one performs an act of kindness, it can reduce blood pressure and decrease the number of stress hormones present in the body. Kindness can even help you live longer, according to the Mayo Clinic.

In addition to physical health benefits, performing a random act of kindness can have desirable effects on mental health. It can help balance chemicals in the brain, ease anxiety and even improve your self-esteem, according to the Mental Health Foundation.

Give kindness more often



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

Recently, I read the book, “Understanding Peer Influence in Children and Adolescents,” by Michael J. Prinstein and Kenneth A. Dodge. This book includes evidence supporting the idea that peer pressure results in one morphing into the people who surround you.

This is especially prevalent in young people, when one establishes self-esteem and the need to be accepted is more present than seen in older people. If we can implement the idea that kindness is the bigger symbol for strength rather than weakness in young

minds, we change the future of tomorrow, according to MCCS.

As a people-pleaser, I am very familiar conforming to feel accepted by peers. However, when my kindness and selfless nature gets lost in trying to please others — a bigger issue arises.

Through tools like meditation and journaling, I have started to recognize my people-pleasing tendencies and noticed when I stray from my core values.

Though at times challenging and uncomfortable, it is crucial never to give in to societal pressures and always stand up for what you know is right.

If we move through life with compassion and whole-hearted kindness, we will start to notice all the beautiful ways this kindness impacts those around us and how they continue to move these acts of kindness along.

I began to think about what I could do in my everyday life to bring more kindness here on Pepperdine campus. If I see a girl wearing really cool shoes, instead of giving in to the anxious thought, “Oh no, will she think I’m weird if I tell her?” What if I push past that uncomfortable feeling and tell her I like her shoes anyway? Perhaps that could bring a sprinkle of joy to her day.

As you move throughout your day today, I encourage you to smile at the person you pass on your walk through main campus. You may also ask your roommate how their day went, or introduce yourself to someone new.

These small acts can make all the difference.

If you need a smile today or some inspiration to continue being kind, I invite you to check out our “Good News” column on the Graphic website.

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Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

Flaunt your failures

Liza Esquibias
DEI Editor

A failure is a success in my eyes. Fear of failure is oftentimes less about the act of failing and more about the consequences of failing — it is a fear of criticism, embarrassment and looking like a “loser,” according to VeryWell Mind.

When people fail, they do not lose all chances at success, but they do risk changing how others perceive them, according to VeryWell Mind. In my experience, however, failure is nothing to be scared of — it is something to be proud of.

There are many reasons failure causes people not to succeed in the future. For one, society has placed a negative connotation surrounding the

idea of failure, according to the National Library of Medicine.

I have noticed that with failure comes judgment or pity, but with success comes praise and respect.

In reality, failure leads people to success, so therefore it is a success to fail.

Failing doesn’t mean one cannot ever achieve what they failed in, but rather they know what didn’t work so they can achieve if they try again.

I have failed countless times in my life. Just this semester, I failed at a fairly simple lemon and chicken pasta recipe. I failed at my goal to keep my screen time below three hours per day. I also failed an exam for the first time ever.

My instinctive reaction to all of those failures was to avoid putting

myself in that situation again — I even considered not studying for my next exam so, if I failed it, I could blame it on not studying rather than my level of intelligence.

Abraham Lincoln once said, “My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure.”

I noticed how afraid I was of being the reason for failing. I was worried the judgment from others of failure might be true — if I try and still fail, maybe I am a loser.

In order to prove myself a success, I overloaded myself with tasks I knew I could not handle all at once. I thought because I was piling things on, however, I would at least be able to succeed at one of them.

I quickly learned overwhelming myself was not the solution to my problem. I was sleeping less, exercising less and spending less time with people I care about to put effort into all that I had taken on. Instead of looking for how I could learn from my failures, I set myself up to fail even more.

By the middle of October, I reached my breaking point. All my efforts to make myself feel like I was “good enough” had failed.

Even the few undertakings I did achieve felt like failures, because I was sacrificing my mental, physical and emotional health for it. I realized amid working to create a positive image of myself in the eyes of others, I was degrading myself in the process.

I ended up dropping a class I was actually passing, with a W/P, so I could place more focus on the classes I was failing. I also scheduled free time into my Google Calendar — which I do not always follow to a tee — to keep

me in line when I want to edit Graphic stories at 2 a.m., after I finish my homework or volunteer myself to drive friends to run errands all around Los Angeles on my only day off.

Now, I have the time to read a few pages of a book before bed, cook dinner with friends or watch a movie with my roommates on the weekends. I did not belittle myself for withdrawing from a class, instead I applauded myself for making time in my schedule to improve myself, my grades and my relationships.

One of the biggest benefits of allowing my failures to lift me up rather than weigh me down is I am more encouraging to those around me. I am more able to lend them advice when they need it, and I proudly ask for their advice as well.

I am still failing. I have had days where that extra hour of sleep turns into three, and I miss a meeting. I recently failed another quiz, but this time I reached out for help — not out of shame but out of confidence in myself to do better — and got an A on the exam.

I am finding balance. I am finding peace and even celebration in my failures. Without this pattern of failure, I would not have realized how I needed to take care of myself in every way.

From now on, I am going to be proud of myself when I fail — that is the one goal I will not fail at achieving.

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Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

From one bubble to another — my time at Pepperdine as an Asian American

Jerry Jiang
Sports Editor

San Jose, Calif., is home to 382,815 Asian Americans, according to Data Commons.

At Homestead High School, the high school I attended, the demographic breakdown is pretty diverse — with Asians occupying 44.9% of the population, according to School Digger.

It's rare in the United States that the Asian minority would overtake the white majority, according to South China Morning Post.

The comfortable sense of familiarity at my high school made growing up in the melting pot that was the United States feel so welcoming. I grew up with friends and colleagues who experienced the same things as I did, for the most part.

The occasional Asian Tiger Mom outburst of not completing your homework in time, celebrating traditions like the Mid-Autumn Festival and going to Chinese Sunday school were all critical parts of my childhood.

I felt right at home in San Jose, and most importantly, I felt like I belonged. In my experience, the closest groups of friends form from shared experiences, and there's nothing quite like the Asian American community in the Bay Area.

Growing up with people who have

the same experiences as me meant I had people I could relate to. A sea of Asians were surrounding me, and facing every grueling day of high school with my people made life just a bit easier.

The best part? The closest boba shop was a five-minute walk from campus, and I had at least three options and people to go with.

Fast-forward to fall 2021, when I moved to Malibu to start a new journey. The culture shock that greeted me was evident — there wasn't an Asian American in sight.

Instead, a sea of blonde hair and blue eyes surrounded me.

There are only 218 Asian Americans in Malibu as of 2022, according to the LA Times.

At Pepperdine, it isn't much better. The University is 49.4% white and 12.2% Asian, according to Seaver College.

In the newsroom, I was often one of the few Asian Americans on the sports staff. This inspired me to start an Asian American Journalist Association student chapter at Pepperdine, but it wasn't enough.

That was my first real wake-up call. I had transitioned from one bubble to another, and I still haven't figured out how to pop that bubble.

The worst part? The closest boba shop was a 30-minute drive to Santa

Monica — no, the campus boba introduced in fall 2022 doesn't count.

I struggled dealing with the fact I was in a different environment for the longest time. I couldn't find many people to relate to, and with my already-introverted nature, fitting in was a dream at best.

I tried joining clubs on campus, such as the Chinese Theater Club — but it didn't really lead anywhere. I appreciated the people I met and the connections I made, but it just wasn't the same as San Jose.

I felt isolated — alone in my own trapped world. I couldn't grasp the fact I was no longer back home.

Then, I discovered Koinonia Campus Mission.

I heard great things about the club through my friends, but was hesitant to try it out at first. But, this year was different, and I wanted to challenge myself as much as possible.

So, I rushed in the doors of Stauffer Chapel ahead of the first general meeting Sept. 13, already late and panicking because of the fear of missing out.

When I finally checked in, I was taken aback by the scene — a group of Asian Americans in this small pocket on campus, praising the Lord and singing Gospel music on a Tuesday night.

I'm not a Christian — but I'd like to think I'm an open-minded individual. So, I nervously went to an open seat and tried my best to sing along.

I felt like I belonged and had finally found my group.

This wasn't because this group was only Asian Americans, it was because they had something in common — shared experiences that can only build on friendship.

I stood throughout the entire meeting, and although I was disappointed to find out I missed the deadline for dinner after the meeting, it was promising enough for me to come back a second time.

It took time for me to build those new relationships, but I forced myself to get out of my comfort zone and cherish the community KCM offers.

I made sure to sign up for the next outing, and the next and the next. I was extremely nervous, since I wasn't sure if I would even fit in. I'm still not quite sure if I do, if I'm being honest, but I'm making the effort — bursting out of the bubble that is Pepperdine and Malibu.

After a year of struggling to fit into this new life, and with only a couple of months remaining in my collegiate years, I want to experience everything Pepperdine has to offer.

Yes, it was difficult assimilating to Pepperdine, especially as a transfer and as an Asian American — and quite frankly, it still is. But, I'm trying to make the most of it, and so far, it's been going OK.

LIFE & ARTS



‘Into The Woods’ takes over Smothers Theatre

Emily Chase
Life & Arts Assistant Editor

“I wish, more than anything...” sings the cast in the opening number of “Into the Woods,” Pepperdine’s fall musical that opens Friday night. The show will take a visit to the King’s festival, a trip to Granny’s house, to the top of the beanstalk and more when Smothers Theatre is transformed into a bewitching wonderland for the Stephen Sondheim production from Friday, Nov. 11 to Saturday, Nov. 19. Hollace Starr, Pepperdine’s associate professor of Theatre, is directing the show.

Sophomore Jace Vendelin, who plays the wolf and Rapunzel’s prince, said for audiences to think about traditional fairytale characters — with a twist.

“Imagine all of the most popular fairytale characters you know, and flip their stories upside down,” Vendelin said.

“Into the Woods” tells the story of a childless baker and his wife as they travel into the woods to lift a curse a wicked witch places on them, which prevents them from having a child. Along the way, they run into other fairytale characters with troubles of their own they must navigate.

The woods prove to be a

magical and twisted place for all who enter, where Cinderella is always falling, and the baker’s wife is always fawning.

The production, which falls under the genre of a dark comedy, has many opportunities to showcase its cast and music. It covers themes of family, choices and the grim side of getting everything one wants. Starr said the initial vision for Pepperdine’s production was a collaboration of ideas — comparing it to Shakespeare’s works and being open for interpretation.

“You can set it in kind of the classic fairytale rendering of it with the woods and a similar approach to the Broadway version, but you can also do anything with it,” Starr said. “So, the playwright and lyricist and composer talk about a production where it was in a room with 12 doors; it’s just so malleable.”

Starr said she wanted to incorporate some elements of classic Disney fairytales, however, she wanted to add other elements as well. She said she wants the audience to walk away with a better understanding of the human condition.

“I think the play ultimately is about human community and how we are naturally driven to pursue our

individual wants, but we are better when we reflect on the ways in which our wants and needs intermingle with the wants and needs of others,” Starr said.

Alongside the director, the cast also said they have worked hard on the production — and for many, this is their final musical at Pepperdine. Senior Penny Devlin, who plays Cinderella, said the show and rehearsal process bring feelings of excitement and nostalgia.

“This has definitely been my favorite performance and experience of my college career,” Devlin said. “Not only is Cinderella a dream role of mine, but transferring from another college to Pepperdine has been a journey itself, and to be able to end that journey doing one of my favorite musicals in one of my favorite parts with people that I consider family — has been a dream.”

Devlin is not the only one enjoying their final performance to the fullest. Senior Sam Brock, who plays the narrator, said it has been a special experience to put on this show and work so closely with the rest of the cast with a good sense of camaraderie.

“I think it’s really nice to enjoy the moments you have with these people,” Brock



Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

The cast of “Into the Woods” performs for the audience Wednesday, Nov. 9, during dress rehearsal. The costumes and lighting helped tell a dark tale of adored fairytale characters.

said. “Everyone’s going to be going off and doing their thing, and some people are going to pursue this, and some aren’t. It’s very special to be in this moment with these people one last time.”

The cast and director alike said the audience should expect to travel into an adult’s fairytale story, with favorite storybook characters and twisted turns. Vendelin said everyone wishes for things just like the characters, although their stories end a little differently.

“We all wish for things, and so do all the characters, but do they really want what they wish for?” Vendelin said.

Senior Brykell Killingsworth, puppeteer for Milky White, described the show as a magical take on a realistic world.

“Being in a realistic world

where creatures can do magical things is amazing — it’s definitely a new experience,” Killingsworth said.

Brock said the show has a little something for everybody to enjoy, and the cast wants everyone to get involved with the characters’ journeys through the woods.

“It’s sweet, it’s funny, it’s serious, it pulls your heartstrings, it tells really beautiful stories, but also has times where you can just relax and enjoy,” Brock said.

Tickets are on sale now on the Pepperdine Arts website and at the box office. They cost \$10 for students and faculty and \$20 for the general public. The show leaves the audience when they sing the final words, “I wish...”

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Visit Harry's House: L.A. concert diary for students by students

Beth Gonzales
Life & Arts Editor

For the first time ever, singer Harry Styles is performing 12 sold-out nights during his residency at L.A.'s Kia Forum in Inglewood, Calif., which will end Nov. 15. Styles kicked off his residency leg of "Love On Tour," in August with two nights in Toronto and then played 15 nights at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Styles is now in L.A., and many students are stopping by and taking their ultimate tour of "Harry's House" on one or multiple days of his L.A. shows. Due to Styles' unexpected illness, three shows, Nov. 5, 6 and 7, have been postponed to January 2023.

"I love live music, and 'Harry's House' the album is perfect, so being able to hear those songs in person was awesome," junior Priscilla Gonzalez said. "He spreads the message of kindness, and it really showcases through his fans, and I think that is so special."

Sophomore Lauren Brajevich said she has loved Styles since the days of One Direction, and when she attended the Oct. 28 show, it was her first time seeing him perform live.

"He did not disappoint," Brajevich said. "He was so much better in person than I even thought he was going to be. His outfit was amazing, and I went with my really good friends, and we have been so excited about this since July."

Brajevich said her favorite song live was ballad "Love Of My Life," and she

recorded the entire song, with the audience shining their phone lights. She said she sent it to her mom — the love of her life.

For an artist to play so many live shows consecutively, Brajevich said each show feels different. She said Styles encourages the crowd to feel free to be whoever they want to be in the room, creating a certain positive energy.

"It does set the tone for everyone to be who they want to be, and everyone was so nice, complimenting each other's outfits and just having a really good time," Brajevich said.

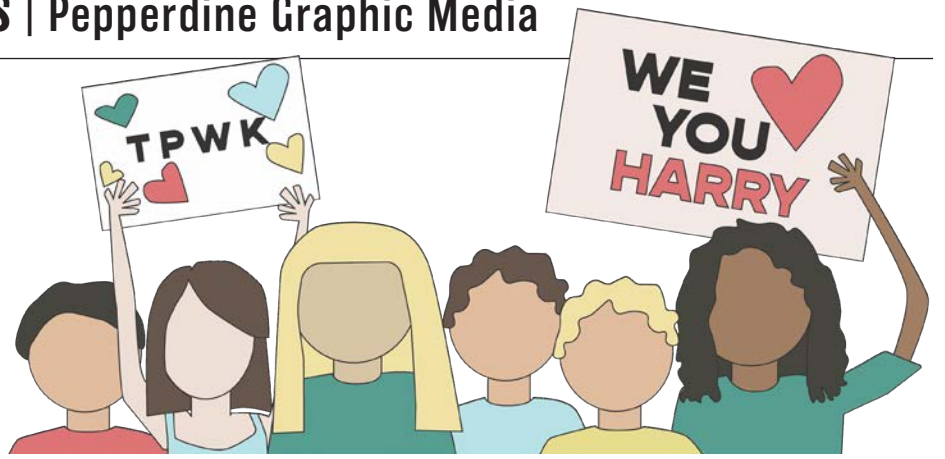
Senior Bella Jacobellis said she enjoys going multiple nights and anticipating what Styles will be wearing and admiring the high fashion of the crowd. Due to Styles' influence, she said fashion seems to play a massive role in the overall experience.



He spreads the message of kindness, and it really showcases through his fans, and I think that is so special.

Priscilla Gonzalez
Pepperdine Junior

Harry Lambert, British editorial and celebrity fashion stylist, styles Harry Styles, according to GQ. Styles recently released Gucci collection "HA HA HA" after a long partnership with



Gucci and after breaking into the beauty world with his nail and skincare brand, "Pleasing."

"It is fun to see everyone's creativity and the way they express themselves through their outfits, and everyone feels so comfortable at his shows to be able to dress up and just have fun," Jacobellis said.

Styles held his annual Halloween concert, "Harryween" in L.A. Last year for "Harryween" in New York, Styles was Dorothy from "Wizard of Oz" and a clown. Gonzalez, who attended the show, said she has loved Styles since 2010 when he first started with One Direction. She said she has followed his career ever since.

"He has been a constant in my life for a decade now, and I have so many great memories associated with him, and I feel so attached to him," Gonzalez said. "When I think of him, I think of all the great experiences that have come from him, the friends that I have met and places I have been."

Gonzalez said there were many fun Halloween activities at the show such as face painting, carnival rides, tarot readings and more. Styles and his band dressed up as the cast of 1978 musical "Grease." Styles was Danny Zuko and covered the song "Hopelessly Devoted To You."

"'Hopelessly Devoted To You' was his best song live," Jacobellis said. "He vocally sounded so good, and that is a tough song to sing, and he pulled it off so well. Every Harry fan in the audience who appreciates musical theatre died a little bit inside."

Many students and fans alike are venturing out to Styles' residency for multiple nights, and Jacobellis said, during every show, something different can happen. This can include his outfit, a fan interaction, the setlist or specific circumstances, such as famous online influencer, Chris Olsen, receiving recognition for his sign at "Harryween."

"Every show is unique in its own

little way, so I think if you can go [multiple nights] it is worth it," Jacobellis said. "But, going to one show is also amazing, and Harry makes all of his shows special for everybody because he knows, for at least one person in the audience, it is their first time seeing him."

Gonzalez said she attended "Harryween" alone and made new friends with people at the show — students said this attitude of camaraderie is due to Styles' motto, "Treat People With Kindness."

"He seems like such a genuinely good person, and he uses his platform generally for good — whether it's having people register to vote at his concerts or advocating for gun control," Jacobellis said. "I will continue to support him by listening to his music and advocating for good."

Senior Gina Duhovic, who attended two nights of the L.A. shows, said she has been a fan since 2018, and this was her first time seeing him live. Duhovic said her favorite songs are "Daydreaming" and "Satellite," and she enjoys them more now that she has heard them live.

"Harry Styles has been a big part of my life since I have been a fan, especially now and during COVID, his music has helped me through some things in my life, and I believe I will always be a fan," Duhovic said.

Duhovic said she loved seeing everyone's smiles, creativity and personalities shine through while attending a Styles concert. While many go for the music, students said the experience ultimately made them feel safe — and most will be ready to see Styles live once more when he returns to the golden state.

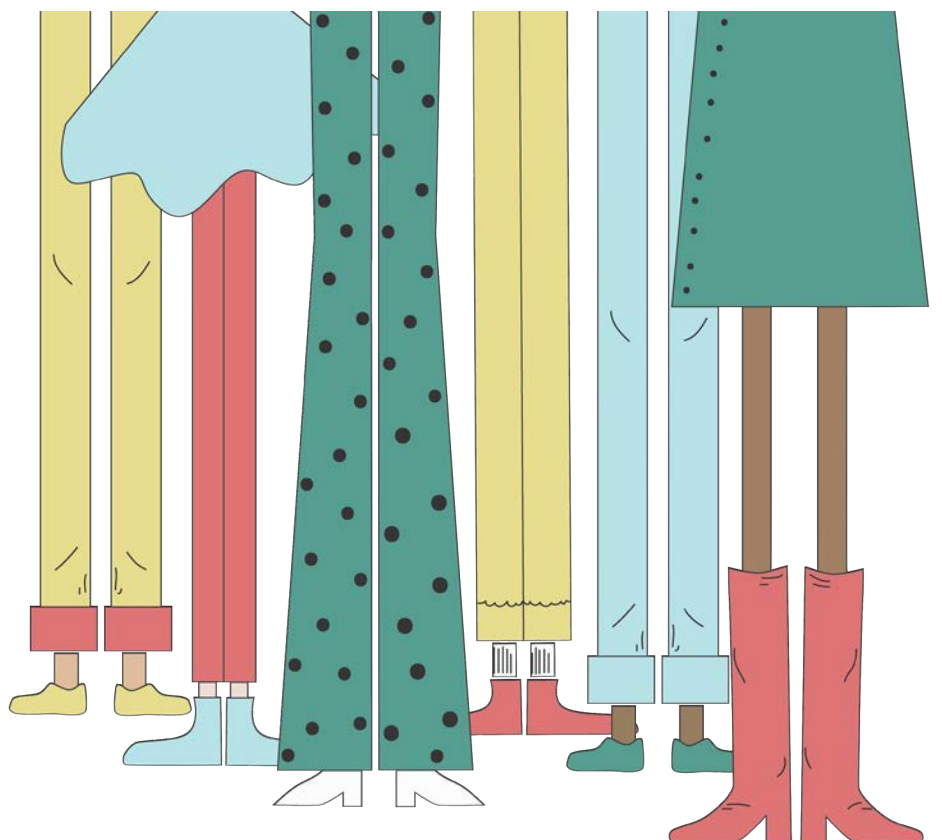
"Overall, Harry just represents joy," Gonzalez said. "The joy of growing up and girlhood — and I think that is so special."

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Photo Courtesy of Priscilla Gonzalez

Junior Priscilla Gonzalez smiles as she poses outside the Kia Forum right before a Styles show Oct. 28. Gonzalez has attended three nights of Styles' residency so far.



Design by Haley Hoidal | Lead Designer

Review: Taylor Swift breaks records at midnight

Samantha Torre
News Editor

Fiona Creadon
Staff Writer

Transparency Item: This review is the opinion of the writers.

Taylor Swift released her 10th original album, “Midnights,” on Oct. 21, at midnight ET. The album has 13 songs with an additional seven songs on the deluxe album, titled “Midnights (3am Edition).”

The album reached instant success, breaking two Spotify records — most-streamed album in a single day and most-streamed artist in a single day. Swift became the first artist to claim Billboard’s entire Top Ten in a single week, according to Billboard.

“Midnights’ is a collage of intensity, highs and lows and ebbs and flows,” Swift wrote in an Oct. 21 Twitter post. “Life can be dark, starry, cloudy, terrifying, electrifying, hot, cold, romantic or lonely. Just like Midnights.”

Swift’s 10th album — “Midnights” — showcases a wide range of genres and themes. While this range may make the album more enjoyable for different listeners, the overall cohesion of the album suffers as a result.

Many of the songs include ties to Swift’s life, referencing feuds, past relationships, deep-seated insecurities and a current romance. While the album is strong, there are certain elements that do not match up to these expectations.

The first song, “Lavender Haze,” is a strong opener. The song is upbeat and promises an album that speaks both about the pressures of Swift’s famed life and her journey toward love — setting the trend for the rest of the album.

The second song, “Maroon,” is a slower-paced song, in which Swift reminisces about a past relationship, but the faster pace resumes with “Anti-Hero.” This song is a look at Swift’s insecurities — however, certain lyrics ruin the illusion of the song like “sexy baby,” for example, which some have taken as a reference to “30 Rock,” is jarring in the song.

Track four, “Snow on the Beach,” promises a collaboration with Lana Del Rey, but Del Rey’s vocals are muted, and the absence left some listeners feeling cheated.

In the song “Midnight Rain,” Swift uses electronically-mixed vocals to create a distinct synth feeling, especially within the repeated chorus — “All of me changed

like midnight.” However, this mixed element does not return until much later in the song “Labyrinth.”

“Labyrinth” is a slower song, sandwiched between upbeat tracks like “Bejeweled” and “Karma.” However, it does continue the theme of referring to Swift’s life — in this case, an answer to public backlash, which has been intense since her public clash with Kanye West and Kim Kardashian in 2016.

In the songs “Question...?” and “Bejeweled,” Swift stays upbeat. While most of the songs on the album have become instant successes, “Bejeweled” seems to have garnered a lot of attention on TikTok, morphing into a trend called “The Bejeweled Strut.”

In the songs “Vigilante S***” and “Karma,” fans have expressed disappointment with the lyrics and theorize the songs to be about Scooter Braun. He is Swift’s former record executive and is currently in a feud with her. The song “Karma” has also sparked another TikTok trend with various groups acting out the lyrics.

“Sweet Nothing,” which is the slowest song of the album, talks about a blissful relationship. Swift co-wrote this song with William Bowery — an actor more widely known by



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

his pseudonym, Joe Alwyn — who is presumably her long-term partner. Swift revealed in her “Folklore: The Long Pond Sessions” film that “William Bowery” was Alwyn.

In her final song, “Mastermind,” the narrator tells the story of how she courted her significant other, continuing the references to previous relationships.

Three hours after the initial release, Swift announced the arrival of her 3 a.m. tracks via social media.

“I’m calling them 3 a.m. tracks,” Swift wrote on Twitter. “Lately, I’ve been loving the feeling of sharing more of our creative process with you, like we do with ‘From The Vault’ tracks. So it’s 3 a.m. and I’m giving them to you now.”

The songs, “The Great War,” “Bigger Than The Whole Sky,” “Paris,” “High Infidel-

ity,” “Glitch,” “Would’ve, Could’ve, Should’ve” and “Dear Reader” are less upbeat, and in many cases, more vulnerable than the original songs in the album.

These songs, with the exception of “Paris” and “Glitch,” tackle large issues. “With the exception of some of the 3 a.m. tracks — such as “The Great War” — “Midnights” is less lyrically complex than Swift’s previous two albums, “Folklore” and “Evermore.” However, the strong instrumentals and storytelling in many of the songs make “Midnights” an album worth listening to.

The album is available on Spotify, Apple Music and Amazon.

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Students predict Grammy nominations

Jace Evans
Staff Writer

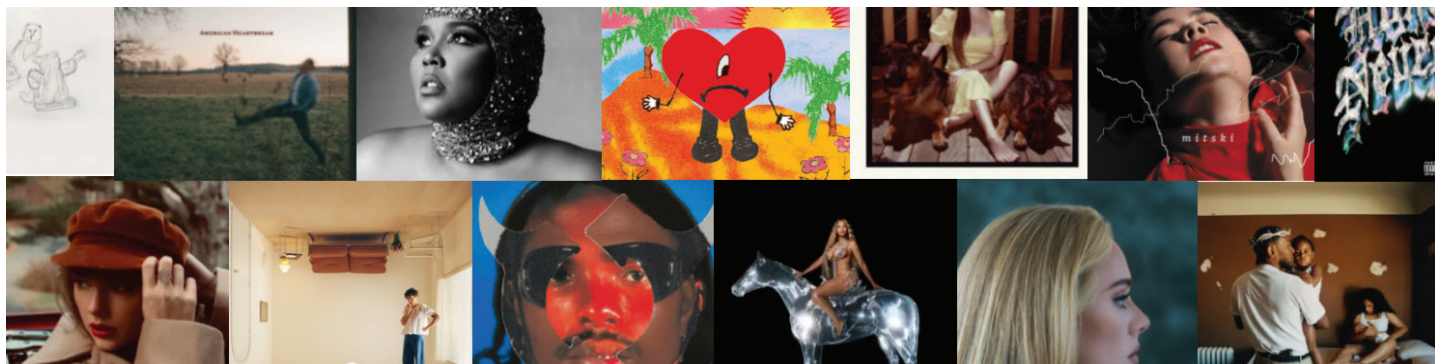
It’s almost that time of the year again when people gather around their televisions and watch to see who will take home a GRAMMY. As nominations come out Nov. 15, the Pepperdine community said they are preparing for the 65th annual GRAMMY Awards.

With so many options to choose from, sophomore Gabby Johnson said she is conflicted when predicting what artists and projects will be nominated. Music has become increasingly accessible, as worldwide streaming subscriptions grew by 26.4% in the second quarter of 2021 with an increase of 109.5 million from the year before, according to Variety.

“There’s so much music — it’s like I can’t even begin to think,” Johnson said.

First-year Aria Summers said “Mr. Morale and the Big Steppers” by Kendrick Lamar is deserving of Album of the Year, noting the rapper’s powerful messages behind each song he crafts.

“I just feel like he says so many real things,” Summers said. “You could tell it took a lot of time since he hadn’t released an album for years.”



Collage by Jace Evans

Switching from rap to country, other students said they believed “American Heartbreak” by Zach Bryan deserves a nomination for Album of the Year. First-year Brandt Weir said he has a personal connection to Bryan’s writing.

“That album kicked off the summer for me — it was lovely,” Weir said.

Weir said the album is an intimate body of music that is not just for country enthusiasts but for a wider audience who appreciate applaudable songwriting.

Many students said, due to his experimental sound and satisfying pop melodies, Harry Styles should be nominated for several GRAMMY awards. Styles released his album, “Harry’s House” in May. It rose in global popularity with many hits over the summer, first-year Grace Sardar said.

With Styles’ 2019 album “Fine Line” sticker on her laptop, Sardar said “Harry’s House” deserves a nomination for Album of the Year.

“It really was the soundtrack of the summer,” Sardar said. “He offered raw, beautiful, honest and dreamy songs that were touching and fun to listen to.”

When it comes to Best New Artist, some students said Steve Lacy deserves

the award. Over the summer, Lacy released his album, “Gemini Rights,” which topped the charts and went viral on TikTok with the song “Bad Habit.”

“It’s shocking that he hasn’t been nominated in the past, because his music has developed so thoroughly that you would think he’s been producing record-breaking albums for decades,” Brinkerhoff said.

Following Best New Artist, students said the GRAMMYs are divisive because their credibility on how they judge today’s musical talent is questionable. First-year student Katie Hsu said the Recording Academy is a reliable source and praised music’s biggest night in its promise for future musicians.

“There are millions of songs out there, and just being nominated does a lot for an artist’s career,” Hsu said.

Hsu said she sees the GRAMMYs as an opportunity for today’s musical talent to gain footing in the professional realm and to distribute their work to a larger audience.

First-year Daniela Cazares said she views the awards in a not-so-celebratory manner.

Cazares said she thinks people do not tune into the GRAMMYs as often

as they used to — and this has made the luxury of fame less appealing to many, making the GRAMMYs less prestigious in their grandeur and excellence, Cazares said.

After the GRAMMYs in 2021, the award show drew 9.23 million viewers, a 51% drop from the 18.69 million who tuned into the program in 2020, according to CNBC.

“With social media and other outlets, we can really see the reality of celebrities’ lives, and it isn’t as glamorous as it seems,” Cazares said.

Contrasting perspectives set aside, music is an art form that each person has their own relationship with, first-year Josh Wilson said.

“There’s really no way of telling [who will win] because there will always be biases — music is so subjective,” Durre said.

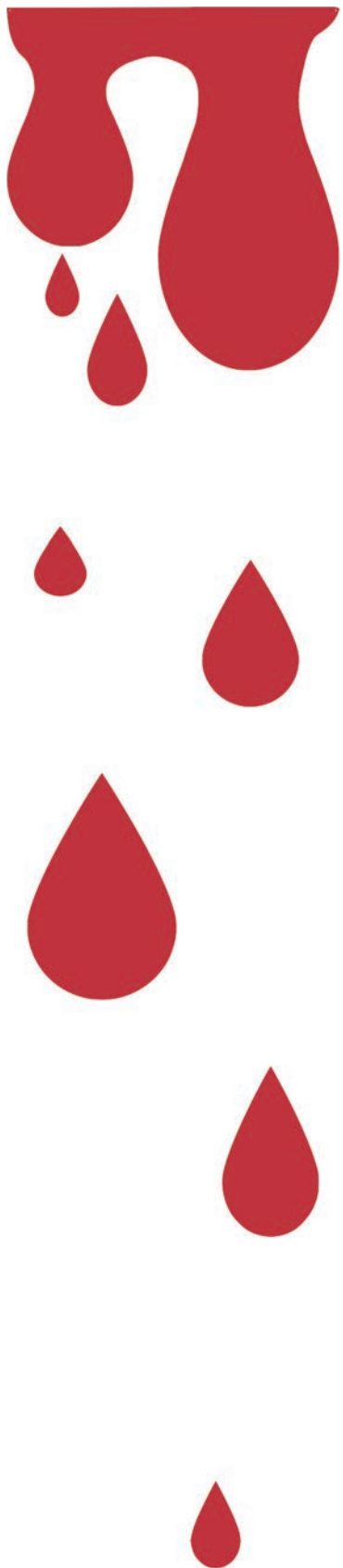
The 65th annual GRAMMY Awards are Feb. 5, 2023, at the Crypto.com Arena in L.A.

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Review: 'American Horror Story' the famous horror of Ryan Murphy



Collages by Emily Chase | Life & Arts Assistant Editor



Emily Chase
Life & Arts Assistant Editor

Transparency item: A review provides an informed and opinionated critique. These informed critiques are published to make a recommendation to readers. This review is the opinion of the writer.

Famous for his mastermind work behind the TV shows, “Glee,” “American Horror Stories” and “Ratched,” director Ryan Murphy has had a 23-year-long career in television.

Now, with Murphy’s new hit “Dahmer,” season 11 of “American Horror Story: New York City,” and the most recent season of “American Horror Stories,” it is clear he has not strayed away from his best-known genre of television horror.

“Dahmer”

The new Netflix drama, “Dahmer,” tells the biographical story of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer, who brutally murdered 17 people. The show illustrates Dahmer’s story through various lenses of the victim and the killer. Murphy’s directorial decision to begin the show with Dahmer’s arrest and backtracking to each crime in chronological order exemplifies his creativity and unique vision.

Evan Peters, who plays Dahmer, puts on an incredible performance, driving the entire series forward with his impeccable acting and believable embodiment of a terrifying person. Peters conveys the emotions profoundly, driving the audience’s blood to run cold — in a way that terrifies and intrigues the audience.

Peters has worked with Murphy for over 11 years, their first project together

being “American Horror Story: Murder House.” Since then, Peters has had a series of dark roles. For this role in particular, Murphy said Peters committed himself fully to the role of Dahmer, according to Variety.

“[Peters] basically stayed in this character, as difficult as it was, for months,” Murphy said in a Variety article by Emily Lonergetta.

The writing tells the story in a manner that keeps the audience intrigued throughout the entirety of the 10-episode series. Murphy showcases each character in the series, from Dahmer’s father to his neighbor, and they are not just supporting characters.

Additionally, the incorporation of real phone recordings and conversations from either Dahmer’s family and acquaintances or Dahmer himself, elevates the show to an even more unsettling state.

What was extremely distinctive about this interpretation of Dahmer’s story was the heavy focus on the victims’ stories and backgrounds. Each episode featured one or two of Dahmer’s victims so their stories and circumstances would be shared prior to their heartless killings. This allowed the audience to see the victims as not just statistics but as real people who experienced such tragedy, along with their families.

However, this storytelling received some backlash from the victims’ families. Rita Isbell, the sister of one of Dahmer’s victims, Errol Lindsey, said to Forbes Magazine the Netflix show only cares about money, and the company never reached her family.

“I was never contacted about the show, and I feel like Netflix should’ve asked if we mind or how we felt about making it,” Isbell said

in a Forbes article by Dana Feldman.

Despite this, “Dahmer” is receiving well-renowned applause for its execution and was Netflix’s top show for 21 consecutive days, Friday, Sept. 23 to Friday, Oct. 14, according to Deadline. “Dahmer” is a captivating show — but not for the faint of heart.

“American Horror Story: New York City”

Season 11 of “American Horror Story,” premiered Oct. 19, and the show has definitely lost some of its charm. AHS — as fans call it — has carried a certain mystique since its creation in 2011 with “Murder

Since then, it has held a precedence to be even more horrifying and compelling than the last — however, this season fell flat.

Emily Chase
Life & Arts Assistant Editor

House.” Since then, there has been an unspoken promise each season would be even more horrifying and compelling than the last — however, this season fell flat.

In this new season, a serial killer is on the loose, gruesomely murdering and targeting young gay men in 1981 in New York City. In the first few episodes, the story did not take off. The show reveals the suspected killer in the first three minutes of the first episode, without any kind of mystery.

From the start, the two “main characters,” Patrick and Gino, are not captivating. The leads in the first few episodes are a reporter and a cop, who are in a relationship, and their characters are extremely dry and lack interesting dialogue.

This season, the cast lacks the typical and seasoned, well-loved AHS actors fans enjoy seeing on screen, such as Sarah Paulson, Jessica Lange and Evan Peters. This, coupled with the average acting and, at times, cringe-worthy dialogue, makes the show hard to watch.

Season 11 also lacks female representation amongst the characters in the first few episodes, as the only woman who is portrayed plays a sad ex. It feels as though this season is not targeting a broad enough audience with the subject matter, character types and actors.

This season falls short of expectations, and all the fans can do is hope the creators will return to the classic terror they have all come to know and love.

“American Horror Stories: Season 2”

The AHS mini spinoff story series premiered this July, and each episode delves into a new, twisted story of horror, each different from the last — giving the audience individual mini-movies to watch.

As opposed to the cast of AHS “New York City,” this TV show featured some of the seasoned actors from classic AHS seasons, including Denis O’Hare (“Hotel”), Gabourey Sidibe (“Coven”), Max Greenfield (“Hotel”) and Cody Fern (“Apocalypse”), immediately raising the bar for this series.

The acting is natural and convincing — almost instinctive for the actors — which makes each episode’s story better. The writing is ingenious, allowing for logical ways to make a mystery or fantastical idea come to life.

Every episode is more bone-chilling than the last. From a creepy visitor on a house camera, to a human dollhouse, to a mysterious drowning in a lake, the concepts are amazingly depraved.

The twist endings of every episode tie up nicely, however, they also leave the audience wanting more. This series leaves the masses on the edge of their seat and completely entranced with the world of “American Horror Stories.”

Design by Will Fallmer |
Design Assistant



Students look forward to Thanksgiving celebrations

Milena D'Andrea
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and the smell of pumpkin pie and cinnamon spice will soon fill the air. Students said they are looking forward to a break, filled with their favorite holiday traditions and quality time with family and friends.

Pepperdine's Thanksgiving break begins Nov. 23, and students, like sophomore Kailey Echeverria, said they are planning where they will go for the day of gratitude, who they will celebrate with and what festivities they will take part in.

"Every year, I go to my aunt's house for a big traditional family dinner," Echeverria said. "For the rest of the week, I'm looking forward to going thrifting with my hometown friends."

Many students, such as sophomore Avery Encalade, said they use the break as a time to catch up with family as well as friends from home. Encalade said she looks forward

to her family's yearly kickball game.

"I have a big family at home in Texas, so our tradition is to come together for a game of kickball before our Thanksgiving dinner," Encalade said.

Along with fun festivities, sophomore Ava Moreno said she uses Thanksgiving as a time to reflect on blessings and share memorable moments with her loved ones at home in San Diego.

"My family and I always say what we are grateful for before the meal," Moreno said. "We also spend quality time together cooking and playing board games."

From big family games to small family dinners, sophomore Timbrelee Vick said she cherishes the time to rest her mind before finishing out the semester.

"I'll be going home to Hemet for the break," Vick said. "We just have a small family dinner, but it's nice to spend the time relaxing at home."

Along with celebrating Thanksgiving over break,

sophomore Lily Young said she is anticipating the start of the Christmas shopping season and is planning to shop Black Friday sales at her favorite local mall in Texas.

"My friends and I always go Black Friday shopping," Young said. "We make it a tradition to get there early so we can get the best sales."

Even if students can't go home to see family, some students, such as junior Delaney Ermshar, are finding ways to uphold traditions while making new ones with friends. Ermshar, said she will be cook her own "Friendsgiving" meal on campus.

"My friends will be coming to visit me at school," Ermshar said. "We are going to make our own dinner here and enjoy Malibu."

Pepperdine's Thanksgiving break is going to be adjusted to a full week in fall 2023, but, for this year, the break will still be three days. Due to the short period of the break, some students, such as junior Phillip Young, said they are staying on



Autumn Hardwick | Assistant Art Editor

campus for the holiday while finding ways to remain connected to home.

"I have a Friendsgiving meal with my high school friends the day before Thanksgiving," Young said. "We started the tradition in high school, and even though we are all at different colleges now, we have kept it going over Zoom."

For those who stay on campus for Thanksgiving, senior Garrett Le, son of University Registrar Hung Le, said his family hosts a potluck for all Pepperdine students. The dinner is held at the Le's on-campus residence on Thanksgiving day.

"If anyone needs a place to go, my family hosts a dinner

for Pepperdine students who don't go home," Le said. "Last year we had almost 50 students come for the potluck."

In addition to the Thanksgiving potluck, Le said his mother hosts a cookie gathering every Sunday of December leading up to Christmas and invites students to come and join his family's tradition.

"My mom spends hours every weekend in December making cookies for everyone," Le said. "So, if you're free, she would love for you to stop by."

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Students thrive through the power of podcasts

Lauren Goldblum
Life & Arts Assistant

In a world that thrives off of connection through social media and web-based interactions, students shared how podcasts provide a fun and alternative way to learn new information while connecting with like-minded people. Dave Winer and Adam Curry were the first to coin the term "podcast" in 2004, according to Dear Media, a major podcast network.

Since then, businesses and influencers alike now rely on podcasts as a source of revenue as well as a way to connect with their audience, according to Dear Media. From tactical advice to news, sports, health and lifestyle, students said they are receiving their daily dose of information from various podcast shows.

"[Podcasts] are a great talking point, and they're a really great way to mindlessly learn something — or if you're ever feeling lonely or bored, it's a fun way to make yourself laugh depending on the podcast," senior Katie Price said.

Price said she has incorporated podcasts into her daily morning routine to help start her day on a positive note. Her favorite podcasts include a combination of both sports and faith-based shows.

"Let God" is a Christian-oriented podcast hosted by Wanipa, Ayanfe and Mary-Hannah — three culturally diverse women sharing their unique experiences as Christians. Their discussions range from scripture and relationship advice to more controversial subjects such as colorism in the church, Christianity as a "white man's religion" and mental health.

Price said two of her favorite episodes include "I Aspire to be a Lady of Leisure" and "Guilt, Shame, Forgiveness, and Freedom." She also explained how

listening to podcasts gives her a boost of inspiration during her workouts.

"Part of why I mostly listen to Christian podcasts in the morning is because it's a way for me to have my personal quiet time alone with the Lord while also getting to move my body," Price said.

As a sports enthusiast, Price said she is also an avid listener of the show, "Snacks," hosted by Sam Mewis and Lynn Williams. As members of the National Women's Soccer League, Price said they offer insight into the competitive world of women's sports.

Through conversations with professional female athletes, their episodes cover everything from the best parts of sports and overcoming hardships to how they achieved their rank as professional athletes, according to Just Women's Sports.

"It's really cool getting to hear such inspiring women and being empowered by other women, especially just because women's sports have not always been looked up to," Price said.

Junior Emma Krehbiel said she is drawn to a blend of health, wellness and lifestyle podcasts, including "The Ed Mylett Show" and "The Skinny Confidential." As a psychology major, Krehbiel loves learning about health tips and hearing about how others have overcome struggles and discovered their passions.

"Sometimes it's nice to hear a person talking about their experience or thoughts on something rather than just reading it on Google," Krehbiel said.

"The Ed Mylett Show" is hosted by entrepreneur, performance coach and author Ed Mylett. His podcast episodes feature interviews with some of the world's most elite professionals specializing in sports, business and health. Featured guests include the Starbucks President Howard Behar, life coach and



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

author Jay Shetty and business strategist Tony Robbins, according to Mylett's website.

Krehbiel said "The Ed Mylett Show" helped her develop an intentional morning routine during quarantine with mindful practices, such as reading her Bible and hydrating first thing in the morning.

"The Skinny Confidential," co-hosted by Michael Bosstick and Lauryn Evarts, is a lifestyle podcast, featuring fun and tactical life advice. From beauty and wellness to tips on relationships and business, Krehbiel said this show is a one-stop shop for those interested in starting a company from the ground up or developing healthier mindsets.

Podcast hosts Michael Bosstick and Lauryn Evarts are the owners of two successful businesses, "The Skinny Confidential" and "Dear Media Podcast Network." Evarts founded "The Skinny Confidential" while obtaining her bachelor's degree at San Diego

State University in TV broadcasting.

Krehbiel said she is drawn to the show's emphasis on the connection between mind and body and cultivating a healthy microbiome through holistic practices. She also said she admires that TSC combines her two interests of health and psychology in many episodes.

The accessibility of podcast shows on popular streaming platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music connects communities cross-culturally while delving into specific topics of interest, according to Forbes. Podcasts not only provide a host of valuable information but offer a source of connection for individuals around the globe.

"Whatever you're interested in, I feel like there's always a podcast or other people who have done that or have tips," Krehbiel said.

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Women's swim looks to continue success

Tony Gleason
Staff Writer

The Pepperdine Women's Swim and Dive team won the first conference championship in the program's history during the 2021-22 season.

This year's team — with many new additions — said they are looking to repeat last season's success and remain competitive.

"Coming into this season, it was really all about seeing if we can do a repeat and not getting complacent," Head Coach Ellie Monobe said. "That's kind of been the attitude."

Monobe said she spent four years as part of the UC Santa Barbara coaching staff and was assistant coach during her final season. She became the head coach of the Pepperdine Swim and Dive team during the 2020-21 season.

Monobe has made history in only two full seasons, she said, as she led the team to win the programs first-ever conference championship and set seven school records.

"Coach Ellie has been amazing," senior captain Paige Tattersall said. "Not only is she an amazing swim coach, but she's an amazing friend, amazing person and amazing mentor. She is more than just a coach and has really inspired everyone into being the best versions of themselves."



Pepperdine senior Jasmine Williams competes in backstroke at Raleigh Runnels Memorial Pool on Oct. 8, against Cal State East Bay. Members of Pepperdine Swim and Dive said they are looking to repeat their success from last season.

Of the 29 swimmers on the roster, 14 of them are first-years. The newcomers to this team are freestylers Elliot Easton, Lexi Fok, Lexi Haymart, Maddie McLeay, Anna Ryan, Ava Wiley and Ariana Yeh, divers Ava Langheim, Delaney Pizaruk, Vivian Vallely and Amanda Wong, breastroker/flier Charli Sunahara, backstroke Kylie Taylor and backstroke/IM AJ Adams.

"I'm honestly really proud of how the freshmen have been handling themselves," Tattersall said. "They've been swimming super well and keeping on top of school. I think they've bought into our culture and the values we have agreed upon as a team."

Monobe said some of the standouts from the first-year class include Adams, who has been added to the Individual Medley group and is taking the spot of alumna Emily Morton ('22), and Mayhart, who adds a lot of depth to the team, Monobe said.

She also mentioned Sunahara, who



Photos courtesy of Roger Horne

The Pepperdine Women's Swim and Dive team gathers in a huddle at Raleigh Runnels Memorial Pool on Oct. 8. Last year's team won their first conference title in the program's history.

enhances the relays for the breast and fly, and Taylor, who Monobe described as a "backstroke stud" that will take the spot of alumna Kara Coughlin ('22).

"They have to step up right away and they've done it," Monobe said.

Junior captain diver Bri Cannon said the team is looking to continue their

and creating a strong team culture outside of practice.

Tattersall also said it is important to unite the team.

"Even though it's an individual sport, you always have to rely on your teammates in swimming," Tattersall said. "To get you through the harder days, to get you through the practices, it's so much more than an individual sport — it really is a team effort and everyone makes a difference."

The Waves lost their first home meet of the season to San Diego State, but then won back-to-back home meets, both against Cal State East Bay with scores of 106-59 and 167-95. Cannon said it is important to perform well at home at the start of the season, as it prepares them for success later in the season.

"Starting out strong while playing at home really just boosts the team morale," Cannon said. "When the team morale is high, we tend to perform better. It just makes us feel better to do better later in the season."

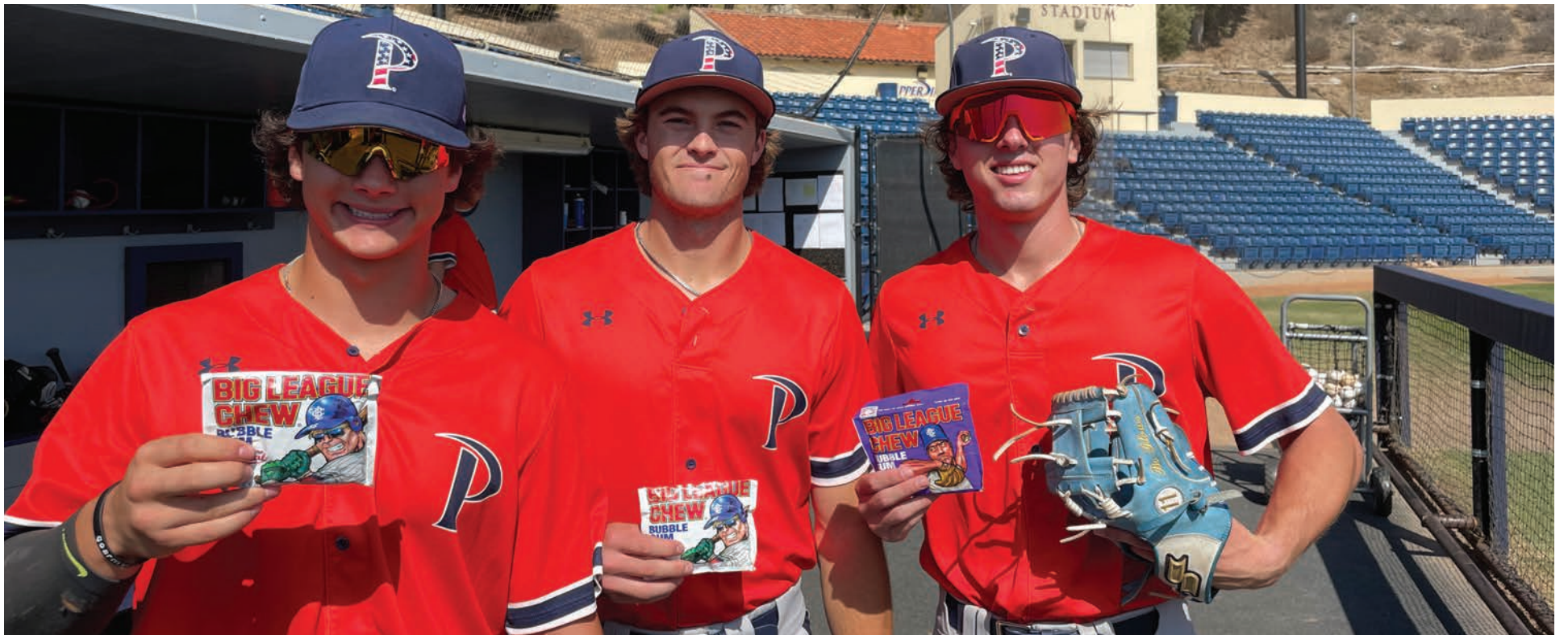
The Waves raced against Loyola Marymount on Nov. 4, at home and won 144-59. They also raced both UC San Diego and UC Santa Barbara on Nov. 5, at home, but lost both.

Monobe said she believes learning from each meet is what is most important to her.

"Each opportunity we have to race is important," Monobe said. "Not necessarily the wins — it's about taking advantage of those opportunities and learning from the races. Winning at home is important, but to me, it's about taking advantage of those opportunities, whatever that looks like."

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Alex Clarke | Staff Writer

Men's Baseball freshman catcher Matt Quintar (left) and junior shortstop John Peck (middle) help showcase freshman shortstop Jack Goodman's (right) deal with Big League Chew on Oct. 7. Goodman is one of four Men's Baseball players to report an NIL deal.

Pepp athletes conflicted over NIL deals

Alex Clarke
Staff Writer

Name, Image and Likeness deals give college athletes the opportunity to make deals with companies and receive large amounts of money in return for sponsorships, according to Fox Sports. Pepperdine student-athletes said there is disagreement on whether the University offers enough opportunities to its student-athletes.

Many student-athletes said they believe Pepperdine needs to increase its advertising efforts in order to compete with larger schools, but Women's Basketball sophomore guard Helena Friend and Alicia Jessop, associate professor of Sport Administration, said Pepperdine athletes already have the resources they need in order to be successful.

"Obviously Pepperdine is a small school — and we're not gonna have some of the advantages that bigger schools like USC and UCLA have," Friend said. "But, Pepperdine is an amazing school. We are in a great location, and we are really lucky."

On June 21, 2021, the Supreme Court ruled in a 9-0 landmark case against the NCAA — stating the NCAA could no longer limit the benefits a player received for their own NIL, according to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court ruling was a major change, as the NCAA had previously prevented student-athletes from profiting off of their athletic achievements while in college. In 2012, CBS reported New Mexico guard Jamal Fenton was suspended three games just for taking a discounted rate when renting out a ballroom for his birthday.

Amanda Kurtz, Pepperdine associate director of Athletics, said over 25 Pepperdine athletes have found success in achieving a deal with a company since the NCAA's ruling — a 2022 survey of eight Pepperdine athletes showed the majority of their deals are In-Kind, meaning the students are paid in merchandise only.

For Pepperdine, the amount of money attached to these deals shrinks in comparison to larger schools.

University of Texas achieved a deal that pays all 16 of their linemen \$50,000 apiece, according to a report by Yahoo Finance. Individual collegiate athletes,

such as Texas's Quinn Ewers and LSU's Olivia Dunne, have been able to reach million-dollar deals.

Pepperdine student-athletes said they are well aware their school falls in comparison to larger schools. Eight Pepperdine student-athletes said their University needs to do more to compete with schools such as UCLA and USC, according to the survey.

Men's Tennis graduate student Andrew Rodgers said Pepperdine needs to up its social media posting.

USD or followers than UCLA or USC, according to each team's Instagram.

All Pepperdine athletes will have to obtain sponsors while they are getting far less social media exposure than their UCLA and USC competitors, on a far less frequent basis than the neighboring schools of LMU and USD.

Although the odds may seem against student-athletes, Jessop — who teaches an athlete sponsorship class on Tuesday nights for Pepperdine athletes — said she is optimistic about the possibilities

number far less than UCLA's 45,900 students and USC's 49,000 students, according to U.S. News.

"I think the fact that we're a small school kind of brings our community together," Friend said. "I think the different events are really good and good for a sense of community."

Jessop said a strong community is heavily marketable, as people want to see people unite in the face of so much division in the world.

Multiple Waves are already attempting to find success through their community — Friend said that she worked along Women's Basketball graduate guard Marly Walls, Women's Soccer senior forwards Trinity Watson and Leyla McFarland, as well as Women's Golfers Reese Guzman and Kaleiya Romero, to take Pepperdine's sense of community and apply it to the larger community of female athletes.

Alongside USC and UCLA athletes, Pepperdine student-athletes said they worked with Puma to put on a clinic to teach skills in golf, basketball and soccer.

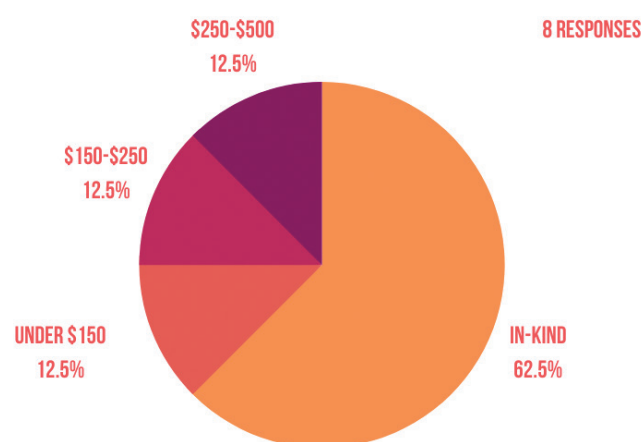
"I feel like [Pepperdine's community] has inspired me to give back to other people," Friend said. "The sense of community that Pepperdine offers is something that I want others to experience well."

Even more than a year after the Supreme Court's decision against the NCAA, athletes are still trying to figure out how to navigate through the NIL world, Jessop said.

Pepperdine has room for improvement as it continues to figure out what it can do to help its students, student-athletes said.

Possible changes — such as improving social media output — are no easy task and they may take a while before they come into effect, said Ashley Paulsen, Pepperdine Baseball social media team manager. In the meantime, student-athletes said they will have to make use of their academic determination and the close-knit community they live in to set themselves up for branding success.

HOW MUCH WERE PEPPERDINE ATHLETES PAID FOR NIL DEALS?



Designs by Alec Matulka

Alex Clarke | Staff Writer

"Look at how other schools do their social media," Rodgers said. "Look at what their sports do to be active, not only on campus but in the community."

Pepperdine's social media is lacking in comparison to its neighbors USC, LMU and UCLA — according to the number of posts each school's Instagram has.

On Instagram, Pepperdine Women's Soccer has 8,200 followers with roughly 450 posts. Comparable neighboring schools such as Loyola Marymount University and the University of San Diego average 675 posts with roughly 4,600 followers each for their Women's Soccer accounts. Larger neighboring schools such as UCLA and USC Women's Soccer teams both average 65,100 followers with roughly 2,150 Instagram posts each.

This trend holds true for all Pepperdine sports, as not a single Instagram page has more posts than LMU or

for Pepperdine athletes.

Jessop said Pepperdine student-athletes have enough resources to find success in the NIL field because most of an athlete's success in finding sponsors the personal brand that they build. Jessop said Pepperdine provides its athletes with a unique academic experience as well as a strong community.

Whereas many college athletes are able to find easy academic schedules, Pepperdine's extensive general education requirements and tough majors require its athletes to be ambitious on and off the field, Jessop said.

"I think the story that more [Pepperdine athletes] need to be telling is a story of balance and a story of well-roundedness," Jessop said. "I think that is very distinctive from a lot of big division one institutions."

Pepperdine also sets itself apart from many schools by its size. Pepperdine reports its total enrollment is 10,446 — a

Sommers shines on the Pepp soccer field

Max Pohlenz
Staff Writer

It's Pepperdine Women's Soccer junior goalkeeper Ellie Sommers' off day.

That's why she, along with one of her teammates, is only training for an hour or so. The Malibu sun beats down on them as they do.

Zoey Clevely, alumna ('22) and former goalkeeper for Pepperdine Women's Soccer, chuckles as she recalls similar off days with Sommers in years past.

"Ellie? She's always super spunky," Clevely said.

Last year, Clevely and the Pepperdine Women's Soccer team set a high standard, making it to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament. This year, with Clevely's graduation, Sommers is the starting goalkeeper — a position Sommers said is full of uniquely difficult challenges.

"As a goalie, you can't really make a lot of mistakes going into these matches, because they count your mistakes on the scoreboard," Sommers said.

For the past two years, Sommers played under previous starting keeper Clevely — both learning and improving, Sommers said. This year, Sommers said she draws from those experiences as she comes into the role Clevely once held on and off the field.

"She's a goalkeeper's goalkeeper," Head Coach Tim Ward said. "She studies the position, she understands it. She's really thorough."

Ward also said Sommers' work ethic — as well as her academic zeal and religious character — made Sommers stand out. Clevely said she benefited from this last year when Sommers trained with her.

"I don't have the year I had last year if I don't have Ellie," Clevely said.

Both Sommers and Clevely said the two years Sommers played under Clevely resulted in an invaluable relationship.

"When I was training, we would go hard," Sommers said. "But then we had the best relationship off the field."

Sommers said at the start of her first year, this was not the case.

"Coming in, Zoe and I had a tough start because I came in kind of a hot-head, and thought I was all that," Som-



Mary Elisabeth | Staff Photographer

Ellie Sommers (pink) gathers around with her fellow teammates during a match against the University of San Francisco on Oct. 15. Sommers is the starting goalkeeper for Women's Soccer this season.

mers said. "All of us come from where we were the best at wherever we were, and so then you come here and you're humbled a little bit."

Sommers said over the course of her first and second year, she was able to mellow out — growing, learning and becoming closer to Clevely as she did.

"I think definitely last year is when I got out of that and became more humble," Sommers said. "If I'm not on the field, if Tim [Ward] doesn't believe I'm the person to do that, then I'm going to put my entire backing behind the person that is on the field so that we can be successful."

This view is directly influenced by her Christian beliefs, Sommers said. Sommers is a member of the Churches of Christ and said she is a practicing Christian.

In her mental preparation for the often stressful situations a goalkeeper can face, she said if one is able to know their worth in the eyes of God, many of the

other anxieties around her performance disappear.

"If I can go out and glorify Him when I step out on that field, that'd be my goal," Sommers said.

Ward said it was partially Sommers' commitment to faith that made an impression on him three years ago while recruiting. Ward said Christian doctrines of sacrifice and service have influenced his coaching philosophy.

Ward said sacrifice is one of the key principles he emphasizes in coaching. Ward said he often likes to refer back to a certain quote when defining humility in the context of the team.

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less," Ward said. "Practice with somebody else, for somebody else. Serve somebody else. Sacrifice your own agenda to help someone else achieve theirs."

Ward said while it may sound counterintuitive, a player who prioritizes the goals of others ends

up elevating themselves.

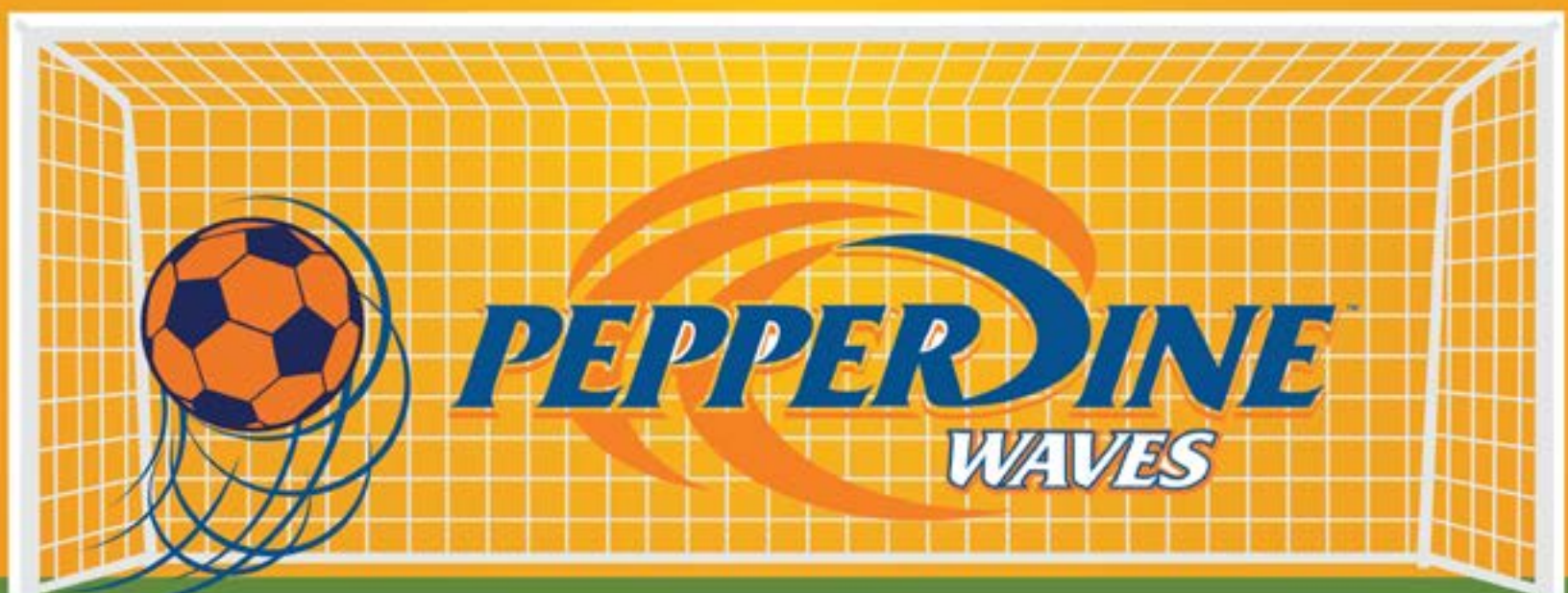
Ward said this year Sommers' fellow goalkeepers, redshirt freshman Taylor Rath and freshman Harlee Head, compete with Sommers.

"I think both Ellie and Taylor have taken Harlee under their wing," Ward said. "I think there's a real camaraderie, there's a real respect for the process."

Clevely said she is excited to see the season unfold not only for Sommers, but for the team and the group as a whole.

"I'm so proud of Ellie," Clevely said. "I see her as easily a strong leader on this team. Someone who's the rock, and I know that's something she's always wanted to be for this team and she always has been, and now she really is there, out on the field. She's just such an amazing leader."

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Paula Leigh focuses on sports and religion

Joseph Heinemann
Staff Writer

The Jewish community at Pepperdine is small, making up only 1.2% of the undergraduate student population, according to Seaver College. Despite its small size, many students said they find themselves able to keep their Jewish identity present while still attending a predominantly Christian school.

One of these students is senior Paula Leigh. Leigh said she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Sports Medicine with the goal of becoming a physical therapist.

Alongside her studies, Leigh has also been involved with sports at Pepperdine in the past. She ran cross country and track for two years but said she recently decided to take a step back for personal reasons.

"Most of my teammates were Christians or not religious," Leigh said. "So there wasn't really a big opportunity for me to dive deeper within my Jewish roots with the team. It also hasn't been isolating for me. I haven't been set apart."

Like many students at Pepperdine, Leigh said COVID-19 impacted her experiences before getting used to college life.

"I was injured my senior year [of high school], but I'd already committed to Pepperdine, so it was a little bit difficult for me to get back into it," Leigh said.

Alongside combatting coming back

from injury, Leigh explained the difficulties of coming back during COVID-19 and the isolation it brought. While isolation was a problem for many students at Pepperdine, Leigh said the student-athletes had further trouble with having to be on or near campus during the academic year. Leigh said she tried to take advantage of the situation and make friends with fellow athletes.

"There wasn't anyone else on campus besides athletes," Leigh said. "It was a little hard just because you feel isolated. I didn't know what was going on, and I was just a freshman in college. But, it was very encouraging to have a group of people to be mentors and friends for me."

Embracing many diverse identities can be a crucial aspect of unifying Pepperdine's community, according to the Office of Community Belonging. At Pepperdine, Leigh said she carries a unique identity that has influenced her time at college.

"I was raised Jewish, and my parents are actually both Messianic Jews," Leigh said. "So they're Jewish believers that Jesus is the Messiah. I feel very confident. I love my Jewish identity, and I feel very connected to that."

Leigh said it is meaningful for Jewish students to know there are other people like them on campus.

"We all somehow find each other, and it's like an instant family, which I love," Leigh said. "I feel like you find that with Jewish people everywhere."

Leigh said if you meet someone and

find out they're Jewish, it's like you have a bond that not many people understand.

"I think that's very hard to explain, but it's also very special," Leigh said.

Leigh said she was also relieved at the welcoming nature of the Malibu community when she first came to Pepperdine.

"They're familiar with the Old Testament, and Jewish history, which I think is really refreshing, because then people are interested in Jewish history related to the Bible, and they'll lean in and ask questions, and I love that," Leigh said. "So overall, it's been positive."

Despite Pepperdine being a welcoming place for Leigh, she said oftentimes, people see Judaism as less complex than it really is.

"Being Jewish is not only a religion, but it's a culture," Leigh said. "We're all one big family who has been through so many trials and tribulations throughout history."

After four somewhat out-of-the-ordinary years, Leigh said she has some important advice for new students and athletes at Pepperdine.

"Don't be afraid," Leigh said. "Just be yourself. Everyone's here to make friends,

so it shouldn't be intimidating to get to know new people. Just be authentic, and you'll find the right people."

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Photo courtesy of Pepperdine

Senior Paula Leigh smiles for her team photo. Leigh said she found it refreshing how welcoming the Pepperdine community has been.

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A competitive fall '22 season for Pepperdine Athletics

Jerry Jiang
Sports Editor

The fall 2022 athletic season brought much promise and hope to normalcy after a chaotic 2021-22 season so far this semester. Men's Water Polo, Men's Tennis, Men's Golf, Men's

Basketball, Women's Soccer, Women's Indoor Volleyball, Women's Golf, Women's Tennis, Women's Basketball and Cross Country and Track all started their seasons in the fall.

The Waves demonstrated their commitment, passion and competitiveness as the various seasons went underway.

The Pepperdine Graphic's photo and sports teams came together and designed a photo spread that included some of the highlights of the year so far. Be on the lookout for more sports in the spring semester!

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Photos courtesy of :
Caitlyn Garcia (Staff Photographer),
Colton Rubsamen (Staff Photographer),
Brandon Rubsamen (Assistant Photo Editor),
Lucian Himes (Photo Editor),
Mary Elizabeth (Staff Photographer)

The Graphic's photo team captures moments of excitement as Pepperdine's athletic teams celebrate and excels this fall. These photos showcase Men's Water Polo, Women's Volleyball, Women's Basketball, Men's Basketball and Women's Soccer.

SPORTS

Design By Dena Pitts

Houston Mallette looks to grow as a leader

Jerry Jiang
Sports Editor

The sound of sneakers squeaking and players shouting rang through the air on a Thursday afternoon practice at Firestone Fieldhouse.

Men's Basketball sophomore guard Houston Mallette sports a No. 95 jersey — a jersey representing what Mallette says are the team's core values of passion, accountability, toughness, humility and sacrifice.

"This jersey means a lot," Mallette said. "We wear it with pride because it means you help contribute to winning without having to touch the ball and having the ball in your hands."

Throughout the scrimmage, Mallette was vocal — calling out defensive assignments and encouraging his teammates on offense. The Alameda, Calif., native has slowly transitioned into becoming the team leader — so much so that graduate manager Ryan Williams said Mallette was an unanimous pick to be the team's captain this season.

JJ Prince is Viewpoint High School's Boys Basketball Head Coach and coached Mallette for two years at the 16U level. Mallette always had incredible leadership qualities, Prince said.

"He leads from his heart and those around him can feel it — it's tangible," Prince said. "He deeply cares about people, his teammates and his coaches. He's just a guy that people want to follow because of it."

Developing as a Leader

In basketball, some leadership qualities on the court

come from the defensive end, such as taking charges, according to No Borders Basketball. Mallette is slowly developing into a two-way player, as he led the team in charges last season while also being one of the team's top scorers — averaging 13.6 per game, according to Pepperdine Athletics.

Prince said he could pinpoint the moment he realized Mallette can go far in basketball when Mallette first played for Prince in the Under Armour Circuit.

Though Mallette was a good offensive player, Prince said Mallette needed work on the defensive end.

"When you're playing on the Under Armour circuit, you're playing against some of the best athletes in the country," Prince said. "What Houston did was, he asked great questions: 'Hey, Coach, what exactly can I do to get better with my own on-ball defense, my off-ball defense?'"

Mallette said he credits Keena Payton, NBA legend and guard Gary Payton's brother, for transforming his playing style. Mallette was originally playing like a center, but transitioned into a guard. Payton taught Mallette how to play with energy and toughness, Mallette said.

"That's when I thought, 'Dang, I can be good,'" Mallette said. "Then, on top of that, I really work hard. I watch a ton of film. I live, eat and breathe basketball. It's something that I feel like that helps me strive to be great."

A Leader's Mindset

Since he was a kid, Mallette said his mindset is he could always be better.

"Never in my life will I think

I have made it," Mallette said. "I'll never think like that. I'll always be hungry. I always have a chip on my shoulder. You can always continue to get better."

Mallette's discipline comes from what he called the "Breakfast Club."

In high school, Mallette said his team started practice at 6 a.m. The team had practice four times a week, and it showed character when you play that early, Mallette said.

"The reason why they call it Breakfast Club is — you got to bring some energy," Mallette said. "You've got to bring some intensity. It's fun when you wake up and the first thing you do in the day is play basketball."

Mallette said one thing he values the most is winning.

"I've never been the best athlete, the biggest guy, the strongest guy, the fastest guy, none of that," Mallette said. "But, I'm willing to work harder with you and do things that you're not willing to do."

Mallette said taking a charge and being able to sacrifice his body for the rest of the team translates to winning.

The effort goes both ways — whenever he sees someone dive for a loose ball, he's motivated to do it too, Mallette said.

How Mallette Ended up at Pepperdine

Mallette was a McDonald's All American nominee and a three-star recruit — receiving offers from Eastern Washington, James Madison, Long Beach State, Pepperdine and Penn State, according to 247 Sports.

Mallette originally committed to Penn State, but said he quietly withdrew his acceptance after Penn State fired their head coach due to racist comments made toward another player.

Mallette said he and Head Coach Lorenzo Romar have a strong relationship. Since his sophomore year of high school, he saw Romar throughout AAU tournaments. When then-Penn State Head Coach Pat Chambers got fired, Mallette committed to Romar, Mallette said.

"Coach Romar is one of the best humans ever," Mallette said. "A lot of people don't really understand what it's like to talk to him about anything. I'm not just a basketball player to him, I'm a person."

Mallette said he and sophomore guard Mike Mitchell Jr. played together in seventh



File photo by Lucian Himes
Then-first-year guard Houston Mallette rises up for a jump shot versus Brigham Young University on Feb. 12, 2021, at Firestone Fieldhouse. Mallette finished with a career high of 31 points.

grade, and seeing Mitchell Jr. commit to Pepperdine helped convince him to commit to the University, too.

As a recruit and player, the most important thing to Mallette was the relationship with the coach, Mallette said.

"I spend probably most of my time [at Firestone Fieldhouse]," Mallette said. "Having that relationship with your coach, not just as a player, but as a person, is so key."

Mallette said he really values the idea of community. Seeing Rianna Dizon, Pepperdine senior and NewsWaves sports anchor at Pepperdine, still following his own journey, brings value, Mallette said.

Reflecting on Last Season

The team struggled during the 2021-22 season due to a variety of reasons, including injuries, players leaving the team and starting four freshmen, Mallette said.

Mallette said it was a challenge to transition to collegiate basketball in training camp when he first arrived in Malibu his first year — everything was happening so fast.

It got so bad to the point where Mallette even considered redshirting his first year because he thought he wasn't ready, according to a Q&A he did with Pepperdine Athletics.

"Last year was the worst and best year of my life," Mallette said.

Though the losses weighed heavily, Mallette said it was still a valuable learning lesson.

"It's kind of like, 'Dang, how are we going to figure this out? How am I going to figure this out?'" Mallette said. "But, on the flip side of that, you're going through that and you're learning when to adjust to different situations."

Mallette said he recalled a quote from NBA legend Kobe Bryant and reminded himself it's totally OK to have emotions. "We're all human, but we have to be still in those emotions and don't let them affect the decision you make or your reactions," Mallette said.



Mallette said he remembers what it feels like to lose those games last year.

"Seeing those guys in the locker room cry — the blood, sweat and tears from last year — 'How can we, as a group, change that? How can each guy do their job to the best of their ability?'" Mallette said.

The one thing he looks forward to this season is how the team can improve as a unit, Mallette said.

"When adversity hits us in the mouth, we don't crumble," Mallette said. "We continue to fight, claw and just scratch back."

Mallette said although the scoreboard matters, what also matters is how the team is developing as young men, in the classroom and out there on the court.



File photo by Lucian Himes

Then-first-year guard Houston Mallette (No. 0) walks to the bench during a game against Gonzaga on Feb. 16, 2021, at Firestone Fieldhouse. Mallette scored 25 points versus then-No. 1 Gonzaga.

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