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# The Diplomatic Envoy

### "Mon Corps, Mon Choix": France Makes Abortion a Constitutional Right

**Ashley Yomtob** Staff Writer

On Monday, March 4, 2024, France made history by becoming the first nation to guarantee abortion as a constitutional right. Lawmakers in France passed this revolutionary amendment with a 780-72 vote. According to the BBC, The Palace of Versailles erupted in a standing ovation following the announcement of the results. President Emmanuel Macron described the move as 'French pride' that had sent a 'universal message.'

Abortion is widely supported across the political spectrum in France, and The Associated Press noted that abortion has been legal in France since 1975. This special vote was hosted at the Palace of Versailles, and CNN reported that prior to the vote "The French Senate"

and National Assembly each overwhelmingly approved the amendment earlier this year." Lawmakers were eager to pass legislation to protect reproductive rights in France, as CNN also noted that the vote was an opportunity for "France to send a clear signal of support on reproductive rights, with abortion under threat in the United States, as well as in parts of Europe, like Hungary, where far-right parties have come to power."

This was the first amendment of the French constitution since 2008. The Associated Press reported that the measure explicitly explains that "the law determines the conditions by which is exercised the freedom of women to have recourse to an abortion, which is guaranteed."

Following the vote that night, the Eiffel Tower

was illuminated with the message: "My body, My choice." Al Jazeera says that "...Macron last year pledged to protect reproductive rights better after the United States Supreme Court in 2022 overturned the half-century-old right to the procedure, leaving it up to individual states to decide." It is said the French were influenced by the former Yugoslavia who had "a person is free to decide on having children" explicitly protected in its constitution, furthers the Associated Press. Also



Women attend an abortion rights protest in Paris. Courtesy of Jeanne Menjoulet (flickr)

ed Press was a recent poll, which showed French support for abortion rights to be at more than 80 percent. The same poll stated that a majority of people support enshrining abortion protection in the constitution.

While the nation is a pioneer in protecting women's rights, there are plenty of entities that oppose this legislation, most notably the Vatican, according to the BBC. It was explained that The Pontifical Academy for Life, the Vatican body that focuses on issues

related to bioethics, said in a statement that "in the era of universal human rights, there can be no 'right' to take human life," according to CNN. Furthermore, a meeting was to be held the following Thursday by French bishops who also reiterated "the church's opposition to abortion ahead of the vote." Additionally, it was reported by CNN that Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said before the vote that "lawmakers had a 'moral debt' to women who were, in the past, forced to endure illegal abortions and above all, we're sending a message to all women: your body belongs to you."

France's vote is also an opportunity to incite new European reforms; as Al Jazeera notes that Neil Datta of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights

said France could serve as an example for progressives across Europe.

On Friday, March 8, a formal ceremony was held on International Women's Day to celebrate this victory. The Guardian reported that in an emotional speech delivered by President Macron, he proclaimed, "If France has become the only country in the world whose constitution explicitly protects the right to an abortion in all circumstances, we will not rest until this promise is kept throughout the world."

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# Moscow Concert Hall Attack Claims More Than 130 Lives; ISIS Claims Responsibility

**Andrew Travis** Staff Writer

On Friday, March 22, multiple assailants opened fire in a concert hall at Crocus City Hall, iust outside Moscow, killing more than 137 people and injuring hundreds more as of Saturday morning, according to The Associated Press. The attack left the concert hall in flames, which can be seen in video posted by The Associated Press following the incident.

ISIS took responsibility for the attack via its Amaq channel on Telegram, according to Newsweek. The deadliest attack on Russian soil since 2004 comes two weeks after Putin won his sixth term as Russian president unopposed.

The shooting started minutes before a soldout performance by the Russian rock band Piknik was scheduled to start, according to The New York Times. The venue, on the outskirts of Moscow, can

hold up to 6,900 people. Russia's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova called the incident a "monstrous crime," and called on the international community to condemn the incident, according to Al Jazeera.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres late Friday condemned "in the strongest possible terms today's terrorist attack" in a statement released by his deputy spokesperson, Farhan Haq, according to CNN. The UN's Security Council also called the attack "heinous and cowardly."

Both Russia and Ukraine have released statements on the attack, with neither side fully accepting the claim of ISIS responsibility. In a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, the defense intelligence of Ukraine blamed the attack on the Russian special services on orders from Putin himself. Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of the Security Council of Russia, suggested that Ukraine might be behind the attack, according to Newsweek.

This is not the first time Putin has been accused

"false-flag" operations against his people. In 1999, deadly bombings in multiple apartment buildings enabled Putin to reign in enough power to propel him to the presidency, says Radio Free Europe. The bombings, resulting in over 300 fatalities, were attributed to militants from Arab countries and Chechnyan dissenters against Russian authority. These incidents facilitated Putin's



Crocus City Concert Hall following terrorist attack. Courtesy of Пресс-служба Губернатора Московской области(Wikimedia Commons) CreativeCommons 4.0

ascent to leadership and initiated an extensive conflict in Chechnya.

The U.S. had secretly warned Russia in early March about intelligence that there was a plot to attack large crowds in Russia, according to the Wall Street Journal. In addition to the warnings, on March 7, the U.S. Embassy and Consulate released a cryptic message notifying Americans in Russia to avoid large gatherings.

The rivaling claims by Russia and Ukraine officials seem to be arbitrary, as U.S. intelligence officials confirmed the claim by the Islamic State group's branch based in Afghanistan that it was responsible for the Moscow attack, according to The Associated Press.

The Islamic State has traditionally been limited to the Middle East and North Africa region, with the Taliban acting as their biggest rival in the last five years. However, the group has now laid claim to the attack on Russia. ISIS seems to be fixated on Russia, with a vengeance for Moscow's interventions in Afghanistan, Chechnya, and Syria, according to Colin P. Clarke, a counterterrorism analyst at the Soufan Group, who discussed the attack with The New York Times.

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### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 18 PERUVIAN ARMS TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

Joseph Brennan Associate Editor

On March 13, 2024, around 700 authorities raided houses and apprehended 18 individuals in Peru, reports Reuters. This raid marked a significant step in dismantling an illegal weapons operation, but its potential reach extends far beyond Peruvian borders. Reuters continues that investigators are currently probing a possible link between the seized weapons and the unsolved assassination of Ecuadorian presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio in 2023.

Peru has a long and troubled history with gun violence. Strict gun control laws exist, but their effectiveness is hampered by the easy availability of illegal firearms on the black market, explains the Library of Congress. The country's borders, particularly those adjoining Ecuador, are known for facilitating the smuggling

of weapons, fueling a persistent problem. This recent raid aimed to disrupt a major arms trafficking ring was believed to be a significant contributor to this violence, writes the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

The authorities confiscated a significant arsenal during the operation, including rifles, pistols, and ammunition. The focus of the investigation has now shifted to a possible connection between these seized weapons and the unsolved murder of Villavicencio. It remains

unclear whether the weapons were intended for use within Peru or if they were part of a smuggling operation destined for neighboring Ecuador. Determining the origin and intended recipients of these weapons could be crucial in unraveling the conspiracy behind Villavicencio's assassination.

The ongoing investigation is expected to involve close collaboration between Peruvian and Ecuadorian authorities. As the investigation progresses, it holds the potential to not only dis-



Arms bust holds possible link to assassination of Ecuadorian presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio. Courtesy of Asamblea Nacional del Ecuador (flickr) CreativeCommons 2.0

mantle this trafficking ring but also shed light on the unsolved murder of a prominent politician. The outcome of this case could have significant repercussions for both Peru and Ecuador. Improved border security, a more comprehensive approach to tackling the illegal arms trade, and potentially even answers about Villavicencio's death could all be potential consequences. This case serves as a stark reminder of the dangers posed by unchecked gun violence and the importance of international cooperation in combating it.

Ecuadorian politics were left reeling after the shocking assassination of leading presidential candidate Villavicencio in August 2023. The Guardian says that Villavicencio was a vocal critic of corruption and organized crime. He was gunned down just days before the election, plunging the country into a state of uncertainty and fear. The

motive behind his killing remains a mystery, but the recent Peruvian arms bust has injected a new element into the investigation, raising a troubling possibility.

assassination The itself had a significant impact on the 2023 election. Cevallos was strong contender, and his death fractured the political landscape, reports NPR. Voters were left scrambling to choose from the remaining candidates, some of whom were seen as less credible alternatives. The violence also cast a shadow over the entire democratic process, raising concerns about the safety of candidates and the ability to hold free and fair elections.

The ongoing investigation in Peru offers a glimmer of hope for resolving Cevallos' murder. If a connection to the seized weapons is established, it could lead to a significant break-

through in the case. Ecuadorian authorities will likely be eager to collaborate with their Peruvian counterparts to track the origin of the weapons and identify any potential accomplices within Ecuador. However, the impact of this investigation transcends the Cevallos case. It highlights the broader issue of how the illegal arms trade fuels violence and undermines democratic processes in the region. If Ecuador and Peru can work together to dismantle this trafficking ring, it could serve as a model for future regional cooperation in combating organized crime and ensuring the safety of their citizens.

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### GANG LEADER BECOMES HAITI'S MOST POWERFUL LEADER AFTER PM RESIGNS

**Andrew Travis**Staff Writer

Jimmy "Barbecue" Chérizier, Haiti's most prominent gang leader and former police officer, has reportedly filled the power vacuum left behind by Prime Minister Ariel Henry's resignation. Henry took power in 2021 without an election following the assassination of then-Prime Minister Jovenel Moise, but CNN reports that Haiti has not held elections since. Barbecue's ascension to power comes after almost a month of a state of emergency following an attack on Haiti's largest prison that CNN says allowed nearly 3,500 inmates to escape.

Chérizier, who heads a gang federation made up of former rival gangs, claimed responsibility for the attack and other attacks around the country, CBS reports. He claims that he wants a revolution in Haiti. In an interview with Al Jazeera, he declared, "Now our fight will enter another phase – to overthrow the whole system, the system that is five percent of people who control 95 percent of the country's wealth."

The humanitarian situation on the Caribbean island is dire and is the direct result of gang-fueled chaos, according to the South China Morning Post. In a talk with CBS, Catherine Russel, UNICEF's director, described the situation as "horrific" and a "scene out of Mad Max." She said that getting aid to those suffering from severe hunger and mal-

nutrition is currently impossible. Gangs now control swaths of Haiti's capital, Port-Au-Prince, and roads leading out of the city.

Left unchecked with Chérizier's rise to power, the rampage of the gangs has led to destruction, including power substations that led to extreme power outages, according to The Associated Press. Slums and other communities, as well as hospitals, are left without power as gangs loot and pillage at will.

The increase in gang violence also has led



Former Haitian PM replaced by gang leader Jimmy Chérizier. Courtesy of Prensa Presidencia, Gobierno de Chile (Wikimedia Commons)

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to the displacement of over 15,000 Haitians fleeing neighborhoods that have been raided by gangs, according to The Associated Press. Critical supplies are low, and as the main port in Port-au-Prince remains closed, the supplies cannot reach those in need.

Many U.S. Citizens remain in Haiti as gangs now control the airport in Port-au-Prince. ABC News reported that the U.S. State Department returned more than 30 Americans on a chartered flight on Sunday, March 17. The State Department announced that U.S. Passport holders should register on an intake form. By Monday, almost 1,000 Americans had filled out the "crisis intake form," according to Fox News.

Prime Minister Ariel Henry's resignation came as he was on a diplomatic mission to Kenya seeking peace-keeping support to regain control of Haiti. Henry's leadership has been locally under question, and MSNBC reports

that in February, Haitians took to the streets to demand his resignation.

Before Henry's resignation, the UN Security Council had green-lit the deployment of foreign troops to reinforce the Haitian police and assist in confronting the Haitian gangs. However, The Associated Press reported that Kenya halted its plans for assistance following the dramatic flare-up of violence and Henry's resignation. It intends to wait until the Transnational Council has formed to decide on a new president.

Politicians tapped for the council backed by Caricom, the Caribbean Community, and Common Market have backed out recently, making progress towards a new government nearly impossible, according to France24. Jean Charles Moïse, an ex-senator and presidential candidate, and Guy Phillipe, a former rebel leader, held a news conference Wednesday to announce the rejection of the proposed council backed by the international community. Chérizier also announced in an interview with Al Jazeera that he would reject any decisions made by a transnational council set up by CARICOM.

With gang violence continuing to increase and the fight for control of Haiti intensifies, the poorest Haitian people are suffering the most. Displacement, decreasing access to necessities, and fear of gang attacks have become a reality for the majority of Haiti's population, the same people Chérizier claim he wants to help.

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### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### FORMER HONDURAN PRESIDENT CONVICTED IN THE US of Working with Drug Traffickers

**Sofia Diaz** Staff Writer

Juan Orlando Hernández, a former 2-term president of Honduras, has been indicted on drug-trafficking and firearm charges and was extradited to the United States for trial. Hernández has been accused of conspiring with infamous drug lords such as Joaquín Guzmán Loera, the former leader of the Sinaloa Cartel also known as El Chapo, to import copious amounts of cocaine into the U.S and of possessing destructive firearms.

On March 8, jurors in a Manhattan federal court found Hernández guilty on three counts of drug-trafficking and firearm charges after a two-week trial and two days of deliberation, according to The Guardian. The sentence for these charges is at least 40 years in prison. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Hernández is to

be sentenced on June 26.

Hernández is a wellknown political figure in Honduras, serving as president from 2014 to 2022 and previously as a member of Congress. The New York Times reports that in 2013, during his first presidential campaign, Hernández appealed to the public because of his desire to be representative of a new law and order for Honduras. His candidacy as a member of the right-wing Honduran National Party aimed to combat the crime and drug epidemic that enveloped the country. A 2013 article from InSight Crime, for example, was entitled 'Honduras President-Elect Pledges "Iron Fist" to Combat Chaos.'

Despite the former president's initial campaign that aspired to combat the crime and drug epidemic, U.S. prosecutors claim Hernández was in alliance with the same forces that he was initially opposing, says The New

York Times. Prosecutors stated that evidence shows proof of Hernández receiving millions of dollars from trafficking organizations, from both inside and out of Honduras. The prosecution added that Hernández also allowed substantial amounts of cocaine to be transported through Honduras and make its way to U.S. territory, claiming he boasted to 'stuff the drugs right up the noses of the gringos,' reports The New York Times.

The trial illuminated dark truths about Honduras's history of corruption and its connections to crime and drug-trafficking. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) claims that Hernández and his conspirators trafficked over 400 million tons of cocaine that was intended to be smuggled onto U.S. grounds during his tenure in Honduras, according to ABC News. Hernández was also alleged to have been in possession and conspiring to possess "destructive weapons," such as machine guns. The DOJ reports that more recently, Juan Carlos Bonilla Valladares or "El Tigre," the former chief of Honduran National Police, pleaded guilty to his involvement and association with the charges for cocaine importation.

Although the magnitude of the charges brought forth against Hernández are augmentative considering that convicted several traffickers testified to have bribed him, he continued to plead not guilty to drug-trafficking conspiracy and possession of weapons charges, Reuters says. Hernández was noted to have responded to the testimonies of the witnesses by stating "they all have motivation to lie, and they are professional liars," and denied allegations of meeting with or taking bribes from the traffickers, including Guzmán, according to The Associated Press. Some of the spectators in the courtroom were noted to have laughed at the former president's not guilty plea.

The team of lawyers defending Hernández affirmed that the prosecution was relying on testimonies from criminals who have motive to falsify their statements to reduce their sentences and to avenge their reputations as traffickers by reciprocating the "crackdown on cartels" onto the former president, Reuters says. Hernández's defense attorney, Sabrina Shroff, stated that he intends to appeal the conviction.

Hernández is the first former head of state to be found guilty in U.S. courts for drug-trafficking since 1992, says The Guardian, when General Manuel Antonio Noriega, former leader of Panama, faced a similar situation. Noriega was found guilty in a Miami federal court on charges of accepting a bribe to allow the Medellín

cartel to transport drugs through Panama with the intention of smuggling it to the U.S., according to The New York Times.

After the guilty verdict, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland stated, "Juan Orlando Hernández abused his position as President of Honduras to operate the country as a narco-state where violent drug traffickers were allowed to operate with virtual impunity, and the people of Honduras and the United States were forced to suffer the consequences," according to the DOJ.

The former president has been jailed at the Brooklyn Metropolitan Detention Center since the date of his extradition and will remain there until sentence day in June, reports Reuters.

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### SWEDEN FINALLY JOINS NATO

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Staff Writer

Effective as of March 7, 2024 the Kingdom of Sweden has officially joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, becoming the 23rd member state to do so. The Swedish entry into NATO has been a gradual process encompassing the change in national diplomatic policy regarding military alliances as well as the shifting popular domestic sentiments which placed their country in neutrality, apart from the conflicts seen in the rest of Europe.

National security interests on the continent continue to draw themselves into attention as Russian expansionism and militant aggression encourages many countries to seek the assistance and assurance of the United States and NATO. According to Al Jazeera the Swedish Prime Minister, Ulf Kristersson, reportedly said, "Unity and solidarity will be Sweden's guiding lights as a NATO member," in

response to Washington. With the expansion of NATO in Northern Europe, as seen in the Republic of Finland on May 18, 2022 and now as well to be seen in Sweden, the strength of the mutual defensive alliance in the 21st century has become ever more assuredly affirmed.

This recent turn of events displays that the longstanding paradigm of Swedish neutrality has ended. After the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars, it became the policy of the Swedish state to abstain from major international conflicts as seen later in the world wars. There have indeed been beneficial mutual relations between NATO and Sweden in the past as according to NATO, "Cooperation began when Sweden joined the Partnership for Peace Programme (PfP) in 1994 and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (a multilateral forum for dialogue that brings together all Allies and partner countries in the Euro-Atlantic area) in 1997.

For many years prior to its accession, Sweden had been one of NATO's most active partners and a valued contributor to the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in Kosovo and NATO Mission Iraq (NMI). Within these acts of collaboration following the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the conclusion of the Cold War, Sweden has been growing out of its previously held neutrality in response to new geopolitical pressures.

Among the changes in contemporary European politics and the general security of the continent has been the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Continuing the previous campaign of territorial expansionism which had been observed previously in the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014, the presidencontroversial cy of Vladimir Putin has encouraged the countries of Europe in reasonable proximity to the Russian Federation to seek the assurance of defense. The potential Russian capacity for warfare in Eastern Europe is noted by several states in the region as according to CNBC, Finland became an official member of NATO in response to Vladimir Putin's decision to invade Ukraine. Both nations, Sweden and Finland, felt that the Russian invasion threatened their safety, which prompted them to apply to join the alliance. With the present threat of invasion from Russia being recognized by the Nordic nations who have maintained abstention from international alliances, the future of the region will now be determined by their willingness to cooperate with the other fellow liberal democracies of Europe.

previous years, when Sweden had been in the process of joining NATO, there had been considerable opposition from several of the participating member states such as Hungary and Türkiye. According to CNBC Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban had at once pushed back on allowing Sweden into

the alliance due to their criticism against the state of democracy in Hungary while Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, was against the admittance due to Sweden recognizing organizations in opposition to Turkey's current government to be a security threat such as the Kurdistan Workers' Party and People's Defense Units. Internal criticism of

Sweden entering NATO has arisen both from the left and right wing of national politics as nonalignment was popular for various differing sociopolitical reasons. The Green Party (Miljöpartiet de gröna) and the Left Party (Vänsterpartiet) of Sweden remained in opposition to cooperation with NATO, viewing this as the country entering into international military conflicts which had little to benefit the general population and more within the interest of foreign corporate interests. The Swedish Democrats (Sverigedemokraterna) represent the opposite end of the political framework due to their far-right beliefs, nationalist populism, and antagonism of immigration, yet maintain a similar skepticism of NATO as they uphold that Sweden must remain sovereign and apart from foreign military assistance.

As the newly established member state of Sweden coordinates with NATO in defensive strategizing and military training it can be observed that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has worked to further connect European nations into a Western power bloc. Having a large coastline with the Baltic Sea and having the particularly nautically advantageous island of Gotland, Sweden stands as an important feature of the new member if NATO and its allies seek to counter the Russian naval presence in the port facilities of Kaliningrad Saint Petersburg.

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### SPORTS, BUSINESS, AND CULTURE

### GIRL MATH: REDEFINING SPENDING HABITS

**Ashley Skladany** Staff Writer

means that social media the momentary cost. Nor- money and viewing cash as platforms like TikTok recognizes the fun in Girl necessary purchases. Rathplatforms continue to play ton also highlights the transactions as purchas- perpetuate consumerist Math while maintaining er, by fostering a culture an integral role in shaping practice of calculating the es that do not "count," narratives and unrealistic a balanced approach. She of mindful spending and societal norms and behav- cost per use, where expen- because they appear to financial expectations. acknowledges the impor- informed decision-maktrends that have emerged, ken down to justify their accounts. All of these ap- creators often promote gences alongside respon- can navigate the complexhas gained traction, particularly among millenni- nowned financial expert, of finances being used impulsive purchases to Ultimately, als and Gen Z. Though its critiques the tendency to justify indulgences. alleviate anxieties or gain must be able to discern joy of an occasional coffee. name may seem unserious to overspend on non-esat first glance, this phe- sential items like coffee, not exclusive to gender, as Crowder, a 34-year-old prioritizing financial stanomenon offers insights framing it as "peeing \$1 noted by Dan Egan, vice digital marketer, told bility over fleeting desires. into the complex relation- million down the drain" president of behavior- NBC News, the allure The phenomenon of ship social media influ- and highlighting the finan- al finance at Betterment, of instant gratification Girl Math sheds light on ences towards people's ap- cial impact of seemingly emphasizing the broad- may lead individuals to the mental accounting

in a LinkedIn post by Me- in O'Leary, star of ABC's graphics. Egan believes term financial planning been used time and time gan Norton, refers to a "Shark Tank," emphasiz- that "what's at play is trend where individuals jus- es the need to prioritize psychology," and a lot of 32-year-old pharmacy habits. However, there tify their spending habits financial goals overindul- the mental accounting be- technician, shares her has been a rise in its recthrough methods perceived gent purchases, refusing ing deployed is the result experience with this di- ognition as social media as "relatable," often em- to spend money on take- of companies using gim- lemma, navigating career continues to shape socieploying mental accounting out coffee because of micks on consumers, as changes and financial tal norms and behaviors, techniques. One concept its exuberant costs com- reported by The Washing- instability while striving as well as increased presshe underscores is the idea pared to brewing at home. ton Post. Gift cards and to maintain a feeling of sure. Thus, it is imperative of anything "[u]nder \$5" being "basically free." This further dives into these hu- shoppersfeel more pre- NBC News, "we want to financial literacy and primindset encourages splurg- morous yet insightful an- pared to justify purchas- enjoy our lives, but we're oritize long-term financial

as miniscule purchases, Math. Examples include The prevalence of to drop." Ramit Sethi, best- does not mean that one Living in a digital age isfaction gained outweighs profits or extra spending bates these challenges, Teach You To Be Rich," the joy of indulging in un-Suze Orman, a re- tal compartmentalization haviors,

proach to personal finance. trivial expenses, according er application of mental prioritize Girl Math, as discussed to CNBC. Similarly, Kev- accounting across demo- indulgences over long- mentalization that has The Washington Post other promotions make financial security She told for individuals to cultivate

These behaviors are social validation. As Rue between needs and wants,

short-term practices and compart-Hala Easmael, a again to justify spending

ing on goods that are seen ecdotes surrounding Girl es or spend impulsively. always waiting for the shoe well-being. However, this emphasizing that the sat- considering refunds as social media exacer- selling author of "I Will needs to completely cut out iors. Among the myriad of sive purchases are bro- not take away from bank Influencers and content tance of occasional indul- ing, younger generations the concept of "Girl Math" value and use over time. proaches reflect the men- "doom spending" be- sible financial planning, ities of modern finances encouraging as reported by CNBC. with confidence and resilindividuals ience, as well as with the

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### BEGINNING OF FORMULA ONE'S 2024 SEASON REVS **UP CONTROVERSY**

Juliana Mori Staff Writer

The race to be the 74th Formula One (F1) world driver champion has commenced and the start of the new season has brought many controversies - principally, Red Bull Racing's team principal being accused of inappropriate behavior, changing Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) regulations, Lewis Hamilton's first title is at risk of being overturned, according to the New York Times.

F1 is one of the most prestigious racing series in the vast world of motorsports. In recent years, F1 has attracted a new generation of spectators due to the "Netflixization" of the sport - a marketing phenomenon that occurred with the release of the popular Netflix series "Drive to Survive." The sport's drama and controversy did not just begin with the Netflixization of the sport, it did amplify it by creating a new lens for audiences.

Red Bull, the sport's most dominant team, is often the subject of controversy. Recently, team principal Christian Horner has been accused of "inappropriate behavior" by an unnamed female employee who has since been suspended, says Sports Illustrated. Horner has denied all reports of misconduct and encouraged the media's focus to be on F1's racing and not the sport's internal issues. After an internal investigation was conducted by a senior independent lawyer for the team, the was dismissed.

The complainant has appealed the dismissal and escalated this accusation to the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the global governing body of motorsports, reports Reuters. The FIA released statement neither confirming nor denying the continuation of the investigation, stating that reports of this

and the Ethics Committee where appropriate," says. This controversy reigning World Champihis father Jos Verstappen. Verstappen's father apart. The World Champion plays a key role in sponsorships and success of the team, and the events occurring offtrack have created uncertainty about whether he will renew his contract with Red Bull in 2028. Many have called for the resignation of Horner because of multiple reports of misconduct.

While internal conflicts create tensions in regulations the sport, additional factors make this 2024 season unique, especially the new regulations instituted by the FIA. Review, increased fines, more

nature are "managed by severe penalties, and mithe Compliance Officer nor adjustments to the Sprint format are among the most controversial. The review time periods has split the opinions have been shortened, so of many, including the if a team would want to appeal a decision made on, Max Verstappen, and by the race stewards in a previous race, they will only have 4 days to do so; stated after the Bahrain a significant difference Grand Prix that if Horn- from the previous 14-day er continued to be team period. There is a poten- cause of his willingness during the safety car was principal, the team would tial for more severe pen- to expose certain aspects botched, resulting in him be at risk of being torn alties and fines. Penalties of F1 culture. The FIA failing to score a point are served during the race, and the stewards are authorized to increase the time penalties, so drivers can be at risk for more 10-second penalties than 5-second penalties. The previous cap for fines of €250,000 has since been increased to €1,000,000. These are all decisions that will continue to influence F1 on and off track.

More changes to the instituted by the FIA will surely change the way the races are performed. One driver who is attributed to attracting many viewers to the sport, Lewis Hamilonship title. Hamilton is Driver and people of color in "Crashgate" the controversial move to switch teams from Mercedes, where he has won 6 championships, to Ferrari, a mid-field team. However, since Mercedes has not able to construct a competitive car recently, Hamilton made the controversial move.

Moreover, Felipe Massa, a former Formula One driver, is suing the FIA in

ton, is at risk of losing his a London court because first-ever World Champi- he lost the 2008 World Championship a fierce advocate for hu- due to an event called man rights and the Black "Crashgate" in the Singa-Lives Matter movement, pore Grand Prix, accordthe inclusion of women ing to Racing News 365. motorsport, a proponent when a driver on the of LGBTQIA+ rights, grid deliberately crashed and a phenomenal driver. his car, causing the safe-This advocacy has led him ty car to come out onto to be in controversies be- the track. Massa's pit stop made a rule restricting and losing the championdrivers' ability to speak ship. In the lawsuit, Masabout social and politi- sa is seeking \$82 million cal issues, according to minimum damages from CNBC. However, his ad- the FIA because there vocacy made him a pop- is a significant financial ular figure that spectators loss from not having support. Hamilton made the Championship title.

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### SPORTS, BUSINESS, AND CULTURE

### It's Just a Tip: How Gratuity Culture is Changing

Andrea Gonzalez Sports, Business, and Culture Editor

Before the widespread use of the Square checkout system, tipping, like a bad test grade, was a private matter. Leaving a tip a hidden principle transactional interactions, like being served at a restaurant. Studies showed that more attractive female servers earned bigger tips than their male counterparts, says Busiprice pharmacies in Aus-

bright blue options. As the years, the practice has spun Clover, the two biggest and workers who live off

legally defined as individ- different uals who receive more than \$30 a month in gra- the world, small businessthe Starbucks worker at compensation for workers customers must

guilt trip begins, the po- out of control, as establite thing to do is press a lishments where it is not ment processing business. on the losing end. Intip amount, and everyone customary to tip have beelse looks away. However, gun to ask their customers consumers face tip op- to leave an amount already tions at almost every es- predetermined in the paytablishment they visit, and ment processing device. some are expressing dis- Forbes reported that in comfort at the expectation 2023, Americans tipped 16 of a tip for someone who percent on average, but a is merely doing their job. sense of resentment is be-Tipped employees are ginning to cultivate among age groups.

As the pandemic swept tuity cash wages, accord- es and gig workers faced ness Insider. Now, cut- ing to the U.S. Depart- total disruption. The serment of Labor. Tips are vice industry, especially tralia are being slammed a tool to ensure prompt- dining and group experion social media for asking ness of service. The cus- ences, saw staggering revtheir customers to show tom comes from Europe, enue declines, kickstarttheir support with a 15 where coachmen would ing a wave of additional percent tipping option, toss coins to ensure the fees and gratuity options reports Yahoo Finance. safety of passage on the available on food delivery Should customers tip road. After the abolition and even travel apps. Surthe cashier at a salad bar of slavery in the United charges are automaticalfor ringing an order or States, tips were used as ly added to the bill, and drive-thru window? in trains and dining. Work- to them. During the pan-People used to scribble a ers had to share the earn-demic, tips became a lifegratuity amount under the ings with their bosses, as it line for thousands of small dim light of a restaurant, was considered a privilege businesses that wished to but now they do it while to have a job that could keep their workers afloat others wait in line with a be given to a white per- while making ends meet. glowing screen displaying son, says CNBC. In recent Thus, enter Square and aggravating to customers, CEO of Carl's Jr, told the

success stories in the pay- tips can find themselves

the payment management in 2023, and millions of services business by Block Americans saw the price (SQ), and Fisery (FI), pub- of necessities rise rapidly. licly traded financial ser- Tips and surcharges at evvices companies that are ery turn left many feeling both rapidly growing, reports CNBC. Their devices exist in thousands of small to 19.4 percent, the lowand chain businesses for est average since the start payment processing, pro- of the pandemic, reports viding smaller processing CNBC. People who relifees and analytics. During giously left extra dollars the pandemic, the software was essential to keeping small businesses afloat options. The effect hurts and reducing contact by allowing people to pay for orders on the platforms. Today, the tablets provide clearer gratuity options than past models. These nally debate their tips, a devices allow merchants to customize the tipping amount presented to customers, causing anxiety among customers at the register and prompting experts to examine how tips might continue to increase.

As these companies expand, tips become more

Square and Clover are flation rose 3.4 percent sour. Last year, full-service restaurants saw tips fall for a delightful experience are reconsidering their some of the most vulnerable workers in the economy, such as the typical

waiter at local restaurants. While customers interfight is happening between activists, corporations, and Organizations like Worker Center Library believe that abolishing the subminimum wage would help restaurant workers improve customer service and live better lives. However, Andy Puzder, Wall Street Journal that increasing wages would reduce employment opportunities for people who need them most. At the same time, other tipped workers believe that a minimum wage at a restaurant would take away the generous tips that help them earn between \$200 to \$250 daily as bartenders and servers, according to NBC News.

To tip or not to tip? The one quasi-discretionary area where customers and employees could partner has been stained by the increased presence of third parties.. Nevertheless, customers must remember that even when the tablet wasn't there, employees at the local coffee shop always hoped that we would put a tip in the jar.

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### STARBUCKS BOYCOTT RAISES QUESTIONS **OF ETHICAL INVESTING PRACTICES**

Pamela Pajuelo Staff Writer

Starbucks has recently faced backlash due to its perceived stance and position on pressing social issues tied to the Israel-Gaza conflict. Protests Starbucks locations can be traced back to the company's lawsuit against Starbucks Workers United which seemingly bestration of solidarity with Palestine, as reported by The Associated Press.

Through this tumultuous social and geopolitical event, Starbucks has experienced direct observable consequences. These have been diverse in nature, from targeted boycotts by consumers following "the chain's drawn-out battle against employees' unionization efforts" as reported by Bloomberg, to The Strategic Organizing Center (SOC) withdrawing its director nominations, naming Starbuck's response to its employees attempt to unionize as "misguid-

Starbucks actions had "materially damaged the value of the Company's brand and negatively impacted its shareholders, partners and customers," reports Business Wire

Since the filing of the lawsuit in October 2023, the company's performance has been on a downward trajectory, with its stock price declining 8.96 percent. This transgan in opposition to the lates to a staggering loss union's public demon- of \$11 billion, as reported by The Economic Times. Such impact on the company's performance is part of a broader conversation worth having. With respect to investing, how should one balance financial and ethical considerations? Balancing financial and ethical considerations is a key challenge for investors.

Starbucks CEO, Laxman Narasimhan, disclosed during an earnings call that the coffee chain was reporting slower sales in the first month of 2024, causing yet another hit to its share price. He attributed this negative impact to the volatile situation in the Middle East, adding that this was primarily driven "by misperceptions about our [Starbucks'] position." The impact of these events on Starbucks' performance invites a broader, more nuanced conversation. How does one strike a balance between financial returns and ethical considerations when investing?

Grappling with the framework ideological that influences investents an intriguing par-This dichotomy underscores the purpose of investors who have a responsibility to the performance of their portfolios, but who also may benefit from the opportunity to purchase Starbucks shares at a discount. In branding, Starbucks

is a formidable entity that has cultivated consumer loyalty through user-generated content and customization. The company has also harnessed blockchain algorithms in its digital advertising. As Marcen van Oost stated in a LinkedIn post, Star-

bucks has positioned itself as a non-banking entity through their rewards program, thereby "amassing significant customer deposits" and leveraging consumer behavior. The company is undervalued due to the ongoing controversy. However, it is reasonable to anticipate a rebound once the issue subsides. This expectation is tied to the rapid rise and fall in activism, a trend that lacks depth and fails to effectuate true change. Such reasoning poses as a catalyst to integrate the company in a portfolio., Despite the current downturn, formida-Starbucks is ble and large enough to navigate the downturn, thus, investors may benefit from the opportunity to purchase Starbucks shares at a discount.

While one may expect ethical concerns to have a play in investing, one of the first lessons taught in Intro to Finance is "leave [your] activism at the door." In settings such as finance courses and even in discussion at Seton

Hall's Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF), the notion to prioritize financial returns over the social and ethical implications of a company's actions is encouraged. This approach, while prevalent, is not without controversy. Nonetheless, some investors use strategies like Socially Responsible Investing (SRI), which encourages them to consider the social and environmental impact of the ompanies they invest in.

Using the example of investing in a controversial company like Starbucks serves to showcase the importance of considering the potential longterm benefits of being a socially responsible company. In academic settings such as finance courses and even in discussions within SMIF, there is often an emphasis on prioritizing financial returns over the social and ethical implications of a company's actions. This approach is reminiscent of the concept of shareholder primacy, which posits that an investor's primary

goal should be to maximize shareholder value

While trade-offs are inevitable, the vision of corporations being both profitable and socially accountable requires action. The growing trend toward ethical investing, as reported by The New York Times, shows institutions committing to ESG initiatives. For instance, some Texas schools have withdrawn funding from BlackRock over its ESG As traditional ideologies like shareholder primacy are challenged, it is vital to advocate for socially responsible investing principles. Corporations exist because of their consumers, and consumers must influence them to improve their ethical practices to ensure consumer well-being. These events serve as stark reminders of the importance of awareness and corporate transparency.

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# ISRAEL/GAZA

Melissa Myrtaj Staff Writer

After October 7, when Hamas militants entered Israel, killed about 1,200 people, and took 250 other hostages, according to Associated Press, Israel's military offensive responded by killing more than 29,000 Palestinians—a majority women and children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. UN News data from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) shows that the "entire population" of Gaza, about 2.3 million people, is experiencing high levels of "acute" food insecurity and 1.11 million are experiencing "catastrophic" food insecurity. Furthermore, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) anticipates that 79 percent of Gazans will fall into catastrophic hunger by mid-March. This begs for humanitarian aid, however the numerous United Nations-supported resolutions for a humanitarian ceasefire in the Gaza Strip have been vetoed.

The U.S. has vetoed a UN Security Council meaOctober 18, 2023, Decem- Gilad Erdan criticized the would not be legally bindber 8, 2023, and again on use of the word "cease- ing like the UN Security February 20, 2024, states fire" used by the Security Council resolution would Al Jazeera. The most recent veto was anticipated before the vote. The cur- "as if it is a silver bullet, scheduled for a vote on rent Arab representative to a magical solution to all the U.S. resolution, but the council, Algeria's UN of the region's problems." Ambassador Amar Bendjama, addressed the U.S a cease-fire interfering text. For example, the iniright before voting, stating "A vote in favor of this has remained unpopu- in the resolution now calls draft resolution is a support to the Palestinians' right to life. Conversely, voting against it implies an endorsement of the brutal violence and collective punishment inflicted against them," The Associated Press continues.

The U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield respond-States understands the urgency of the situation, but they believe that the resolution would have a "negative impact" on the U.S.' sensitive negotiations regarding a hostage deal and a six-week pause in fight-

an "immediate humanitar- ciated Press continues that to a two-state solution. ian ceasefire" three times - Israel's U.N. Ambassador Council, the General Assembly, and U.N. officials,

> with hostage negotiations tial "temporary cease-fire" lar as 13 out of 15 the for "an immediate ceasemembers of the Securi- fire of roughly six weeks ty Council voted for the in Gaza together with ceasefire and the United the release of all hostag-Kingdom abstained, The es," according to Reuters. Associated Press adds.

sure that concentrated on said. Moreover, The Asso- wavering commitment"

The U.S. resolution be, according to Vox. Currently, there is no date officials have made some The U.S.' concerns of updates to the resolution's

Jon Alterman, director The Arab-backed resolu- of the Middle East protion called for the imme- gram at the Center for diate release of hostages, Strategic and International rejecting the forced dis- Studies, said that the U.S. placement of Palestinian didn't want to use the word civilians and humanitarian 'immediate' because "that ed by stating the United access throughout Gaza. would undermine discus-The U.S. proposed a rival sions about hostages," ac- includes an agreement to resolution also calling for a cording to Vox. There is exchange captives held by ceasefire, marking the first a major focus on securing both parties. However, Istime they used the word, a hostage deal, as an esti-However, this resolution mated 132 out of the 250 tion to these negotiations, called for a temporary hostages taken by Hamas while Hamas "pledged to cease-fire as soon as all during the October 7 at- continue the negotiations." hostages were released and tack remain captive or are No substantial resolutions ing. If that happens, "we for barriers to be lifted for presumed dead. However, have been made, but the can take the time to build a humanitarian assistance, the Algerian ambassador need for humanitarian

UN waited for hostage rhetoric and may prove to measures to protect Palestinian civilians and provide humanitarian aid ruled by the International Court of Justice and the region is absent of improvements and results, as Vox adds.

As of March 7, 2024, ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas mediated by Qatar and Egypt in Cairo over the course of four days in attempts to broker a 40-day ceasefire in time for Ramadan concluded with no substantial result, according to Al Jazeera. Senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said Israel was rejecting their demands "to end its offensive in the enclave, withdraw forces, and ensure freedom of entry for aid and the return of displaced people." This rael did not send a delegamore enduring peace," she Both resolutions urge "un-reminded officials that the aid has changed the U.S.'

talks to progress and waited motivate a consensus withfor Israel to take stronger in the Security Council.

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## SUDAN

#### Sophia Alicea Staff Writer

The complexity of Sudan's civil conflict, driven by entrenched grievances among the warring parties, religious divisions, ethnic struggles, competition for oil, and mistrust, lead the country to have a steep uphill climb to peace. The implementation and maintenance of peace have been impeded by breaches, insufficient monitoring systems, and conflicting interests among involved parties. Even with continuous foreign mediation attempts, achieving enduring peace in Sudan has proven challenging due to the lack of thorough reconciliation processes and the brittleness of political accords.

It's been nearly 10 months since the lives of Sudanese people changed forever amongst a resurgence of the country's civil war. The Council on Foreign Relations reported that over 10,000 people have been killed and 5.6 million have been displaced by the conflict; of these, 80,000 are in-

ternally displaced and hundreds of thousands have fled to dangerous regions in South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Chad.

Sudan, which was once one of the continent's most prosperous nations, is now on a one-way crash course to becoming a failed state. The conflict started as a political discourse between two generals. After rising hostilities between state military head Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, the two rival forces broke out in open combat in mid-April in Khartoum and other parts of the country. Since, Sudan has descended into instability, as noted by NPR. The conflict has left millions of civilians in what many scholars have coined as a "senseless war" and one of the biggest displacement crises globally, according to UN News.

Although the conflict between the two generals catalyzed the current crisis, the conflicts the countries have faced go back to December 19, 2018, when Gen. Burhan and Gen. Dagalo answered the public's cry for democracy and joined together to stage a coup against the former President of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir, for his violent military regime. According to a report by VOX, the two generals' involvement only resulted in a broken promise for democracy and left millions of Sudanese people in the crossfire of the generals' political goals.

Sudan's history has been defined by coup after coup from military personnel. Knowing that history, former President Bashir tried his best to avoid that same fate. He turned to General Digalo, one of the leaders of Sudan's most violent militia Janjaweed, to secure more lucrative oil goods in the farther regions of Sudan at any cost. This led Janjaweed to be given official paramilitary force status as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Al Jazeera reported that the RSF has been deemed a paramilitary group because of its involvement in violence, crimes, and violations of human rights in Sudan. General Dagalo has been charged with organizing violent campaigns against civilians under RSF's operations, including extrajudicial executions, sexual assault, torture, arbitrary detentions, and targeting of ethnic minorities in war areas such as Darfur. Much of this force's unfavorable reputation both locally and abroad is a result of its ethnic genocide of the Darfur people, which has led to an investigation by the International Criminal Court.

Soon after the investigations began in 2019, CBS News reported the RSF killed over 100 sit-in pro-democracy protestors, leading the United States, their Arab allies, the United Kingdom, Ethiopia, and the African Union to begin to step up against the injustices in the region and promote democratic efforts. The

cooperation of these nations and organizations raised awareness of the Sudanese issue on a global scale. They put diplomatic pressure on the Sudanese government to deal with abuses of human rights, enact democratic changes, and hold peace talks with rebel organizations. Despite international players additionally supporting initiatives aimed at bolstering democratic institutions, advancing human rights, and enabling free and fair elections, the two generals have continued to militarize the nation placing hundreds of thousands of armed soldiers in every village imaginable.

Reuters reported on January 2 that the RSF is now open to talking about an immediate ceasefire; however, ceasefires in the conflict have routinely been broken. Negotiations between the two parties have essentially gone nowhere. It is hard to discern the legitimacy of their ceasefire attempts given the lack of cooperation historically, especially after the U.S. has accused them of committing war

crimes and crimes against humanity. The likelihood of a long-term ceasefire and enduring peace in Sudan is still unclear and dependent on several variables. Even though there has been a lot of progress—signing peace agreements and forming a transitional governmentthere are still many obstacles to overcome, including the presence of rebel groups, security concerns, economic strain, and the impending necessity for political transformation.

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## Russia/Ukraine

Kasia Kostraba Staff Writer

The Russo-Ukrainian War has been waging on for over 2 years with no end in sight, capitalized by the recent reelection Russian President of Vladimir Putin. While many scholars believe the Russian campaigns in Ukraine will only stop if Putin is ousted, increasing calls for ceasefire, both in the warring nations and from the international community have surfaced in recent months. These calls come from a multitude of angles but have given some hope about the war coming to a close.

French President Emmanual Macron recently that a ceasefire "will be requested" during the upcoming Paris Summer Olympics, according to Reuters. Ceasefires during the Olympics Games are traditional, due to the symbolic unity of nations during the competitions.

Putin has signaled he is open to Macron's request, stating "we are for peaceful negotiations, but not because the enemy is running out of ammunition. We are for it, if they really seriously want to build peaceful, good neighborly relations between the two states in the long term, instead of taking a pause for one and a half or for two years to rearm," according to Euronews.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) condemned Russia's all-out invasion in February 2022, which occurred just a few days after the conclusion of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games. While Russian and Belarussian athletes are not completely blocked from competing at this Summer's Olympics, they must compete as Individual Neutral Athletes (AINs), and their eligibility is to be reviewed by the IOC's Executive Board.

Additionally, Pope Francis was recently criticized for saying that the Ukrainian people should have the "courage to raise the white flag" and negotiate with Russia, as reported by The Guardian. Many believe these words signal a pro-Russia rhetoric from the Pope,

despite the extreme human rights abuses and kidnappings carried out by Russian in Ukraine. While Ukraine's struggle on the battlefront is widely recognized, so are the moral and international sovereignty issues of Russia's attempt to absorb Ukrainian land. Many feel leaders shortly after a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymr Zelenksyy in Istanbul. While Zelenskyy welcomed the offer, he stated that he believes that peace between the nations will not include any loss of Ukrainian territory to Russia, as well as the



Putin has signaled that he is amenable to a traditional ceasefire during this year's Olympic games. Courtesy of nicolas michaud (flickr) CreativeCommons 2.0

that seeing a figure who is supposed to advocate for peace and unity telling Ukraine to give up and negotiate on Russian terms is disheartening.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan announced an offering to host a summit between Russian and Ukrainian

withdrawal of all Russian troops from Ukrainian territory and the allowance of the nation to restore its own state borders. Unsurprisingly, the Kremlin has ruled out any peace talks that consider Kyiv's proposed terms, according to Reuters. In February, however, Putin sent signals to Washington that he was ready to consider a ceasefire on the condition that the conflict freezes on the current lines, refusing to cede any territory to Ukraine, says Reuters Washington rejected these signals, stating that they refuse to discuss ceasefire negotiations without the participation of Ukrainian officials. Former Russian President, Prime Minister, and close ally to Vladimir Putin, Dmitriy Medvedev considers Ukraine a part of Russia, ruling out any peace talks that consider Zelenskyy and Kyiv's input. Medvedev now serves as the Deputy Chairman of Russia's Security Council, adding to his long resume serving the Russian government and Putin Regime. At a youth festival in Sochi, he stated that Russia would continue to carry out "special military operations" until the other side capitulated, Al Jazeera reports.

While the volume of talks regarding ceasefire in the Russo-Ukrainian War have increased, their effectiveness has been

limited. The Kremlin's unwillingness to negotiate with Ukraine upholds the reality that Russia will continue to threaten the sovereignty of other nations until they are barred from doing so. In the coming months it will be worth looking towards the Olympics, which are often globally recognized as a time of peace, to see if and how negotiations play out.

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### YEMEN

Madeline Kruszczynski Digital Editor

The World Bank has identified Yemen as the most impoverished Arab nation, as the country grapples with one of the most severe humanitarian crises in history. This crisis stems from a prolonged civil war that began in 2014 and has resulted in the Houthi militant group maintaining control over the region. With the recent escalation of the War in Gaza, the future of the region's security and continued peace in Yemen hangs in uncertainty.

In 2000, President Saleh of Yemen initiated a border agreement with Saudi Arabia, aiming to disarm the Houthi group. However, this strategy only escalated tensions between the Houthis and the Yemeni government, fueling a rebellion spearheaded by the Houthi leader, Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, as documented by The Arab Center in DC. Violence persisted intermittently until 2014, when the Houthis launched another rebellion, seizing control of Yemen's capital, Sanaa. Despite facing criticism, international the Houthis proclaimed themselves as the leaders of the Yemeni government. The United Nations Security Council condemned this declaration, stating that the proclamation "undermine[d] the political transition process in Yemen, and jeopardize[d] the security, stability, sovereignty and unity of Yemen."

It wasn't until an estimated 377,000 lives were tragically lost, as documented by the Council of Foreign Relations, that discussions of a peace truce emerged. In December 2023, Hans Grundberg, the United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen, heralded a breakthrough in peace talks that the United Nations relayed as "a significant step... towards a future that fulfills the legitimate aspirations of all Yemenis." These negotiations called for the reset of vital aspects of life and economy, such as resuming the payment

of public sector salaries, the resumption of oil exports, the facilitation of internal transportation routes, and the lifting of restrictions on land and seaports in the region.

Through collaborative efforts with the UN and neighboring nations, the prospect of peace within Yemen seemed within reach. However, amidst devastating el-Hamas war, the Houthis have initiated military actions to control the Red Sea, launching missiles and attacking boats they claim have connections to Israel, according to Reu-

ters. The Houthis justify these attacks as support for both the Yemeni and Palestinian populations. In a released statement, a leader of the group attributed responsibility for the aggression against Yemen to the United States Britain, asserting the Yemeni armed forces' readiness to defend the nation's sovereignand independence.

Despite the Houthclaims that they act in the interest of their people, experts highlight significant flaws in their argument. The Houthis, now functioning as a de



Hans Grundberg speaks to delegates at the Palace of Nations to negotiate the Detainee Exchange Agreement. Courtesy of UN Geneva (flickr) CreativeCommons 2.0

in tax collection and currency printing but struggle to provide basic services such as food and clothing governance deficiencies manifest in the poor quality of life, with nearly half of the population lacking access to drinking water, as estimated by Human ing a state of non-violence. Rights Watch. The Council on Foreign Relations adds that an estimated 60 percent of the conflict's deaths between 2015 and 2022 were a result of a lack of food and medical care. In light of these realities, the conflict in Gaza presents the Houthis with an opportunity to sway the population's opinion through their expertise in military rebellion.

The escalation of rebellion along the Red Sea is significantly undermining the prospects for peace in the region. This is further exacerbated by a surge in young Houthi fighter recruits, with reported numbers reaching tens of thousands, according to Al Jazeera. As military activi-

facto government, engage ties intensify within Yemen and attacks on the Red Sea provoke aggression from Western powers, including reported strikes on Houthi to the Yemeni population, targets by the US and Britas reported by Vox. These ain, as noted by, the situation only points towards a further escalation of violence. Such actions risk pushing the region even further away from achiev-

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### **OPINION**

### THE US SHOULD PRIORITIZE CYBER DEFENSE IN ITS **BUDGET**

**Katherine Dorrer** Communication Liasison

exponential growth of digital technologies and the pervasive reach of the Internet have revolutionized global communication, commerce, and information exchange. In today's interconnected world, where a substantial portion of daily activities occurs online, maintaining robust cyber security standards is not just advisable but imperative. The United States, faced with escalating cyber threats from foreign adversaries and the pervasive digitalization of critical infrastructure, must prioritize cybersecurity in its budget allocations to safeguard national security interests and ensure resilience in the face of evolving threats.

The Fiscal Year 2025 Department of Defense budget request of \$849.8 billion, reflects a recognition of the urgent need to bolster cybersecurity measures. This allocation not only serves to provide immediate protection against cyber-attacks but also lays the groundwork for the nation's future security. A senior defense official at the Pentagon states that "the FY23 cy-

ber activity budget focuses investments in three portfolios, covering cybersecurity, cyberspace operations, and cyber research and development." With this, cybersecurity is no longer confined to the realms of government agencies; it has become a national obligation affecting every facet of society including finance, healthcare, transportation, and energy. The proliferation of interconnected devices and the digitalization of essential services have significantly expanded the attack surface for cyber threats, leaving infrastructure vulnerable to exploitation by malicious actors.

While the allocation of \$1.7 billion to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in the FY25 budget marks a step forward in consolidating cyber threat data, it is crucial to recognize that traditional methods alone may not suffice in combating the evolving threat landscape A recent breach in a federal agency responsible for cyber security underscores the vulnerability of organizations to cyber vulnerabilities and the necessity of having robust incident response plans in place. A CISA spokesperson stated, "This is a reminder that any organization can be affected by a cyber vulnerability, and having an incident response plan in place is a necessary component of resilience." Failure to prioritize cybersecurity investments leaves nations vulnerable to exploitation and disruption, highlighting the urgent need for increased resources and efforts to fortify cyber defenses and protocols against evolving threats.

While the National Defense Strategy effectively addresses traditional security challenges such as geopolitical rivalries and traditional military threats, the landscape of warfare has evolved dramatically in recent years, with cybersecurity

emerging as a prominent domain of conflict. Unlike conventional warfare, where adversaries engage in physical battles, cyber warfare operates in the virtual realm, leveraging digital technologies to launch attacks on critical infrastructure, government systems, and private networks.

The growing prominence of cybersecurity warfare stems from several factors. First, advancements in technology have made cyberspace an attractive arena for state and non-state actors seeking to disrupt operations without the need for conventional military forces. Cyber-attacks offer anonymity, deniability, and the potential for significant impact with relatively low costs and risks.



The Department of Defense requested \$849.8 billion to address vital cybersecurity concerns. Courtesy of Ecole polytechnique (Wikimedia Commons)

The asymmetrical nature of cyber warfare allows smaller, less powerful entities to pose significant threats to larger, more technologically advanced nations. State-sponsored cyber espionage, cyber terrorism, and cybercrime present formidable challenges that cannot be adequately addressed through traditional means alone.

As threats are evolving rapidly and adversaries becoming increasingly sophisticated, the necessity for adaptive strategies is paramount. As highlighted by Former NSA Chief Michael Rodgers, Western countries faced unprecedented levels of cyber-attacks, including ransomware incidents and successful data breaches, in the previous year, reports The Record. In its annual crime report, cryptocurrency firm Chainalysis stated that in 2023, ransomware payments exceeded \$1.1 billion. At the Munich Cyber Security Conference Rodgers assers that "continuing with the same strategies and expecting different outcomes is a low-probability success strategy.," continues The Record.

Given these dynam-

ics, it is imperative that

the United States allo-

ing up his critical rhetoric

cates greater attention and investment in its budget priorities. Reuters explains that despite the significant budget allocation of \$849.8 billion, representing a one percent increase from 2024 defense spending, there remains a pressing need to give a more substantial portion of these resources to bolster cyber defenses, enhance resilience, and invest in cutting-edge technologies to mitigate cyber risks.

In this critical juncture of cybersecurity strategy and spending, the United States must acknowledge the imperative for practice and innovative approaches. While the FY25 proposed budget demonstrates commendable strides in bolstering cybersecurity, it is but a single step in an ongoing journey toward cyber resilience. Failing to heed this not only jeopardizes the nation's security but also risks ceding ground to adversaries eager to exploit the nation's vulnerabilities.

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### BIDEN'S REFOCUSING ACT

Cameron Bird Staff Writer

Leading up to his State the Union address on March 7th, President Biden faced immense pressure to respond to a vast array of issues and political pressures. On both the domestic and international front, serious questions have arisen and continue to persist and the capacity of the U.S. government, to respond to a multitude of crises around the world. It therefore came as no surprise that foreign policy, an area of politics oft-ignored in the leadup to presidential elections, became a focal point of speech. President Biden entered the speech with intensified pressure, domestically and internationally, to present a strong case about his future policy goals, and the ability of the U.S. to maintain its global role as a leader during this crucial era of international crises. President Biden answered

that call effectively and illustrated just how influential the U.S. can be on the world stage. President Biden made clear, that the U.S. finds itself at an inflection point in world history, and must place itself on the right side of history when dealing with these incredibly influential events.

President Biden is currently handling two, among many, foreign policy crises. Firstly, the U.S. Congress has stalled a package of Ukraine aid, and the impacts of this lack of aid are translating onto the battlefield. The recent loss of Avdiivka, a town that had become a flashpoint of the frontline in Eastern Ukraine, highlighted the Ukrainian defenses' short supply of ammunition, according to the Associated Press. U.S. aid has totaled around \$74 billion so far, according to the Council on Foreign Relations. While the U.S. has provided large amounts of aid to Ukraine, it is essential to recognize that not even a

tenth of the Department of Defense's budget, and less than 2% of the total U.S. budget, contributed to a massive slowdown of the Russian war machine, without the involvement of any U.S. personnel on the ground. The Center for Strategic and International Studies highlights that the gradual decrease or absence of aid will have catastrophic impacts on Ukraine's ability to wage war. It will reduce their ability to counterattack and increase the number of Russian missiles that successfully eliminate targets, as Ukraine's defensive munitions decrease further. President Biden therefore suggests that aid from the U.S. is not just strategically convenient, but necessary for the maintenance of a sovereign democratic state in Eastern Europe. Another critical issue President Biden had to address from a political standpoint was the crisis in Gaza. The Israel-Hamas war, and the U.S. thorough support of Israel's

response, have come under intense scrutiny the further the conflict has prolonged. However, in a move indicating a shift in policy by the Biden administration, BBC News reports that the U.S. plans to establish a floating pier that could provide direct aid to Gaza without going through Egypt or Israel, a move that shows an increased willingness from the Biden administration to prioritize civilian life and safety in light of Israel's unequivocally intense response.

President Biden's speech required addressing two key foreign policy goals and placing them within a larger historical context that justified U.S. action in each conflict. As NPR reported, the intense political backlash and headwind surrounding the American response to the Israel-Hamas conflict has caused massive concern for Biden from a campaign perspective. He effectively responded to that criticism, introducing an aid initiative, and rampof Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu. From the perspective of progressives who are dissatisfied with the American role in the conflict, this aid initiative is unlikely to be enough. But for President Biden to indicate a shift in policy on a stage as large as the SOTU, suggests his increasing willingness to respond to the opinions of the American people, similar to how he responded in the early days of the war in Ukraine. The U.S. has a thorough history of policy decisions that differentiate from their moral and ideological posturing. However, the actions of the Biden administration concerning Ukraine, and their newfound direction of action in Gaza, suggest that President Biden may be matching his rhetoric with action, an encouraging change that the SOTU showed is more feasible than ever before. There is a fine line between apologizing on behalf

of American wrongdo-

ing in foreign affairs and suggesting U.S. policy is correct in such polarizing conflicts. As Al Jazeera reported following the SOTU, President Biden still has room for significant criticism of how 'ironclad' his support for Israel is. Yet the SOTU was the beginning of a shift, and while tangible policy change must follow, this shift cannot go unignored, or be treated as insignificant, especially when the current events of the world are as significant and monumental as Biden himself outlined.

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### **OPINION**

### PR AID STUNTS ARE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

Hamzah Khan Managing Editor

As we approach the sixth month of Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza, the looming threat of a man-made famine can be added to the list of atrocities committed against the Palestinian people since last October. According to Reuters, the Integrated Food-Security Phase Classification (IPC), a UN-backed global hunger monitor, shows that severe food shortages in Northern Gaza have well exceeded famine levels, with 70 percent of people experiencing acute food insecurity. The report warned that mass deaths related to malnutrition were imminent unless substantial actions were taken to increase aid flow into Northern Gaza. According to the Associated Press, at least 20 people have already died in Gaza due to starvation and malnutrition, the majority of whom were children.

On March 7, President Joe Biden announced

U.S. would build a temporary port off the coast of Gaza to bring in more humanitarian aid to the besieged enclave, reports ABC News. A measure like this without also adding increased pressure on the Israeli government to allow aid into Gaza, however, is nothing more than a PR stunt. The port faces massive operational, logistical, and security hurdles and will take weeks, if not months, to be fully operational, reports The New York Times.

This costly and inadequate solution is nothing more than a humiliation for President Biden, whose calls for increasing humanitarian aid have been flatly ignored by the Netanyahu administration in Israel. According to Al Jazeera, human rights groups have accused Israel of deliberately blocking aid from entering Gaza, despite international outcry. The U.S. has also resorted to airdropping aid, a drastic measure that many countries have unstruct aid convoys from entering Gaza. While the Biden Administration has boasted its airdrop efforts, earlier this month an airdrop killed at least five Palestinians after the parachute malfunctioned, reports CNN.

For a population to

go from relatively food secure to experiencing famine in such a short period of time is nothing short of a war crime, an assessment that many UN officials have agreed to according to The Guardian. EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell has consistently reiterated that this famine is not the result of a natural disaster but an engineered policy of collective punishment by the Israeli government, saying that "starvation is used as a weapon of war. Israel is provoking famine," according to Reuters. In instances where aid has been let through, Israeli forces have fired on multiple aid convoys and massacred people seeking aid, most notably during the during his State of the dertaken because Israel 'flour massacre' on Feb-

Union address that the continues to actively ob- ruary 29 when 118 people ly cares about getting aid were killed and more than 500 injured while waiting to get food from an aid convoy, reports Al Jazeera.

> In terms of numbers alone, the war on Gaza has seen at least 31,000 people killed, including 13,00 addition, children. In there have been 80,000 Gazans injured and 2 million displaced, 70 percent of infrastructure including residential buildings and hospitals has been destroyed or damaged, and 1 million Gazans are on the brink of starvation, reports Al Jazeera.

Despite the horrific attack Israel suffered on October 7 in which roughly 1,100 people were killed and over 200 taken hostage, nothing can justify the level of carnage we are witnessing in Israel's war against a population that is 50 percent children. It is also important to note that even before October 7, Palestinians have continuously suffered 75 years of ethnic cleansing, dispossession, occupation, and Apartheid. If President Biden truto Gaza, the U.S. must end its complicity in what the International Court of Justice has described as plausibly amounting to genocide, according to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Shamefully, on the same day that the ICJ released its ruling, the U.S. and multiple other countries cut funding to UNRWA, the largest UN organization that delivers humanitarian aid to Palestinians, based on accusations from the Israeli government about UNRWA complicity with Hamas without any corroborating evidence, reports Press. Associated

The U.S. has significant leverage over Israel as one of its largest suppliers of military aid and can thus be a vital force to end the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. The U.S. must take measures such as conditioning military support to Israel on allowing aid into Gaza, restore funding to UNRWA as many countries have already done, support a

permanent ceasefire resolution at the UN Security Council, and demand Israel end illegal settlement expansion in the West Bank. As long as these simple measures are not taken, no amount of PR stunts through airdrops and port construction will meaningfully help the people of Gaza. According to Amnesty International, a lasting ceasefire and increased crossings of aid into Gaza by land through Israel and Egypt are the most effective ways to end the nightmare in Gaza. As the specter of famine looms Gaza, President Biden's inaction in the face of these horrors will echo throughout history.

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### BRITT'S WORDS ON BORDER SECURITY HIGHLIGHT REPUBLICAN BLINDNESS

Andrea Hebel Editor-in-Chief

On March 7, U.S. Senator Katie Britt (R-Ala.) isurday Night Live barely

merous years, starting at was 12. However, without Immigration is perage 12. Britt admonished a degree of critical think- haps the clearest exam- dead-on-arrival in the Sen- mass release of detainees Biden for allowing some- ing, this is not immediately ple of that. It is no secret ate, as The Washington from custody. If Britt and thing like this to happen clear to the listener. It also that there is a crisis on the Post continues, not for its her fellow Republicans are in America, when it would does not negate the fact southern border. Migrants content - but because it so worried about continnot be acceptable in most that she very blatantly im- are arriving at a pace that was criticized by former ued incidents of immigrant

ably, tragic. But here's the ern border, when it did not. keep up with, as the U.S. the bill so that he could turn ley by an illegal immigrant problem. As Jonathan

Katz, an independent jour- something that has been ability Office reports. But

"third-world countries." plied that it occurred on immigration systems and President Trump, who imterror, like the murder of This story is, undeni- the U.S. side of the south- agencies simply cannot plored Republicans to kill college student Laken Ri-

nalist, revealed on TikTok true of the Republican that could have started to shortly after the speech, party throughout Biden's change last month. As The dent, and his legions of be most concerned with this story did not happen term. Party elites are so Washington Post reports, supporters, killed a bill that increasing funding to the under President Biden's concerned about regain- Republicans and Demo- had a chance to solve real organizations that can acsued the Republican Party's leadership. It didn't even ing the presidency that crats spent 4 months ne- problems, but because of tually stop these incidents. response to President Joe occur in the United States. they have failed to consid- gotiating the most strin- their arrogance and lust Instead, they will inevitably Biden's State of the Union It took place in Mexico, er that they are not voice- gent immigration reform for power it didn't come continue to focus on scar-Address. Britt gave the between 2004 and 2008 less - they hold a majority since Ronald Reagan's to fruition. Katie Britt can ing the American people speech from the middle of - under the leadership of in congress and are per- presidency. It would have criticize Biden from her instead of helping them. her beige kitchen, spend- George Bush, a Republican fectly capable of creating designated \$118 billion to kitchen all she wants, but ing 16 minutes criticizing president. Britt's publicist and passing legislature, if enact sweeping changes her party is what stands in Biden's policies as ineffec- confirmed to The Associ- they are willing to at least to asylum, increase fund- the way of the U.S. and soltive and out-of-touch in ated Press that this was the glance at a compromise ing for asylum officers id immigration reform. She a stilted manner that Sat- story Britt was referring to. with Democrats. Instead, and border services, and is the one who voted "nay" Britt has defended her as Britt's speech shows, increase the path to legal on a bill that would have had to change to parody. use of this story, reveal- they aim to make the av- immigration for some mi- given her what she wants. Britt's most controver- ing in an interview with erage American feel pow- grants. It was not perfect A major reason why sial talking points, how- Fox News that she did not erless and scared - about - it was criticized by the border is insecure ever, came in the form mean to give the impres- their ability to buy gro- ACLU and the Ameri- is because agencies are of a tragic story about a sion that it occurred under ceries and stay safe from can Immigration Council stretched so thin. The woman who she met in Biden's presidency. She scary powers abroad that - but it was a step in the Washington Post reports Texas on a visit to the bor- justified this through her threaten to invade at ev- right direction, a sign that that the bill's failure means der in her first hundred use of the word "wom- ery corner - in the hopes at least a bipartisan com- that the U.S. Immigration days in office. The wom- an" to describe the victim, that they will be seen as promise could be made. and Customs Enforcement an was brutally assaulted contrasted by the fact that the saviors and their own Neither side was happy, (ICE) now has a \$700 milby drug cartels for nu- the abuse started when she failures will be ignored. which sometimes is good. lion budget gap - which

Britt's speech highlights Government Account- it into a campaign issue. in February, another of

Let that sink

However, it soon proved they plan to solve by the

in. her immigration talking A former U.S. Presi-points, then they should

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### **DIPLOMACY NEWS**

### SHUMUN HOLDS ITS 25TH MODEL UN Conference

Patricia Salib Staff Writer

On February 24 and 25, over 250 high school students from 14 high schools across New Jersey attended Seton Hall University's annual Seton Hall University Model United Nations (SHU-MUN) Conference. Every year, Seton Hall's Model UN Team (SHU-NA) hosts a conference for high schoolers called SHUMUN, and this year celebrated the conference's 25th anniversary on campus. The conference has been a mainstay on campus for many years, serving as a forum which allows Seton Hall students to learn the ins and outs of running a large campus-wide conference, while providing high schoolers a platform to practice their debate and research skills over the course of one weekend. This year, over 40 Seton Hall students volunteered their weekend to support the conference.

The conference commenced with an Opening Ceremony, in which own Dr. Brian Muzas. His General than shooting at each oth-



SHUNA members pose following SHUMUN Conference.

the Secretariat was intro- end, participants engaged duced, and a keynote ad- in a spectrum of activities, dress was delivered by the including six diverse com-School of Diplomacy's mittees. There were three Assembly-style words shared the essence committees that follow a of diplomacy and the traditional debate strucimportance of the UN, ture akin to the real UN encapsulated in the pow- which involves resolverful sentiment: "When ing real-world issues. The people criticize the UN, committees were Disar-I say it is better to have a mament and International forum where people are Security (DISEC) 2015, shouting at each other the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights er." Dr. Muzas' message (IACHR), and the UN resonated deeply, setting Oceans Conference. There the tone for a weekend were also three Crisis-style of meaningful discourse committees, which are collaboration. more creative and present Throughout the week- challenging problems to

delegates requiring quick thinking and collaboration skills. The three Crisis Committees this year were Star Wars: The Clone Wars, the Salem Witch Trials, and an Ad-Hoc Committee. Throughout the weekend, students delved into topics ranging from global security to environmental sustainability, human rights, and diplomacy. The committee sessions were not merely platforms for debate but arenas for the exchange of ideas, where participants navigated complex issues with thoughtfulness and respect. They also had a ton of fun!

Beyond the typical conference schedule, three special programs enriched this year's experience. The Delegate Dance, held on the first evening, provided a low-stakes environment for students to unwind and make friendships across schools. The Professional Development and Q&A Forum offered a unique opportunity for students to gain insights into their future college careers. Dr. Martin Edwards of the School of Diplomacy and SHUMUN XXV bore

International Relations delivered an illuminating address, shedding light on the world of diplomacy. His words conveyed some of the virtues of servant leadership, a core value of Seton Hall. Following his speech, students engaged in an open dialogue, posing thoughtful questions, and receiving advice on all aspects of college life from student leaders on campus.

SHUMUN XXV also launched a philanthropic partnership with SEEDS Access Changes Everything through the Candy Gram initiative. The initiative underscored SHU-MUN's commitment to giving back. SEEDS- Access Changes Everything, is a local nonprofit dedicated to providing educational opportunities to students from underserved communities. The conference raised over \$600 for the organization as a gesture of solidarity and support that echoed the spirit of compassion and education central to SHUMUN's mission.

Behind the scenes,

witness to months of diligent effort and unwavering dedication. Secretary-General Hamzah Khan, alongside Secretariat members, staffers, chairs, and crisis directors, worked tirelessly for ten months to make it all happen. COVID-19 threatened the conference, leaving it at risk of dying out. It was first brought back in-person for last year's SHUMUN XXIV in 2023, but the conference faced many logistical hurdles due to the loss of institutional memory. The success of this year's conference was profound. SHUMUN XXV is a testament to the power of hard work, perseverance, and the enduring legacy of diplomacy.

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### UDSA Visits UN Institute for DISARMAMENT

**Neve Walker** Staff Writer

On Friday, March 1, Seton Hall University's Undergraduate Diplomacy Student Association (UDSA) organized a trip where students of Seton Hall had the opportunity to visit the United Nations Institute for Disarmament (UNIDIR), where they attended the Cyber Stability Conference. This conference, hosted at the New York UN headquarters, had the theme of "Unpacking Cyber Threats to International Peace and Security."

Students were able to see various professionals in the cyber security field in action, including John Reyels, Head of Cyber Policy Coordination Staff for the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Karl Karlovich Tikhaze, Deputy Director, Department of International Information Security of the Russian Federation; Howie Wachtel, Senior Director UN Affairs, Microsoft; Jérôme Barbier, Head of Outer Space, Digital, Economic Issues for the Paris Peace Forum; Ernst Noorman, Ambassador at Large for Cyber Affairs for the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs among many other speakers. Speakers opened the conference with opensharing remarks, Despite the overall

theme, each portion of the conference had its own topic. Session one asked how different types of malicious cyber activities are undermining national, regional, and international security. The section focused on various small-scale cyber-attacks such as ransomware, phishing and scamming. This session's speakers underscored the dangers of the evolution of the threat landscape combined with our lack of innovation regarding combatting those threats. The speakers aimed to discuss and attain a shared un-



what would be discussed Seton Hall's UDSA visited UN headquarters to attend the Cyber Stability Conference Courtesy of United Nations Photo(flickr)

derstanding of the threats to cybersecurity and how those threats may impact the safety of each nation.

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The second session referred to how these different types of malicious cyber activities impact the implementation of the framework of responsible state behavior, and how it can be enacted to change the ways that cyber-attacks impact nations by reducing the negative effects of cyber-attacks and decreasing their likelihood. The framework was a key aspect of this session, as it was mentioned by different speakers throughout the conversation. The framework was created by the establishment of the Wassenaar Arrangement and United Nations resolution 70/237.

Session three included a discussion on how the actors within the cyber domain have developed or changed throughout time, and what that may mean in the international attempt at mitigating cyber-threats. The speakers all provided valuable insight into not only the threat landscape and our vulnerability as actors within cyberspace, but performing these attacks. The intermingled web of actors within cyberspace makes controlling and protecting what is contained in cyberspace extremely difficult, so this section of the conacknowledged the challenges of implementing the framework to minimize cyber-threats.

also to the actors that are

The last session focused on the complexity of the threat actor landscape in the cyber domain and how it affects the implementation of responsible state behavior. This session hosted a panel of speakers who contributed to a discussion about the importance of diversifying solutions as well as evolving already-used solutions that may move us closer to a world that is cyber-secure. Furthermore, these speakers stressed the growing field of people needed to work on cyber security measures. Roberto Baldoni, a professor and former Director General at the

Nation Cyber Security Agency of Italy, projected that in 10 years, 80 million positions will open regarding cyberspace.

The conference ended with a reception where Seton Hall University students were able to mingle and speak with other attendees of this conference as well as to the panelists. This invaluable opportunity allowed students to ask any question they may have regarding the cyber-security field, as well as hear the insights of the speakers one-on-one.

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### **DIPLOMACY NEWS**

# Internship Spotlight: Working in the Archives

Ashley Skladany
Staff Writer

Nestled within the halls of Seton Hall University's Walsh Library is a treasure trove of historical artifacts and documents that speak volumes about the institution's rich legacy. As an undergraduate student intern at the Monsignor William Noé Field Archives & Special Collections Center, I've had the privilege of engaging with this repository of memories, unraveling narratives from previous eras, and engaging in the meticulous craft of preserving history.

This past semester, I have been working under the guidance of Quinn Christie, Seton Hall University's Public Services Archivist, whose expertise and mentorship have been invaluable throughout this immersive experience. Most of my time has been spent diving into the Seton Hall Photographs Collection, where I have been able to grasp a variety of archival management and preservation skills.

The goal of the Msgr. Noe Field Archives is to preserve and collect materials relating to Seton Hall's history, ensuring that the Seton Hall community and public have access to those resources. The Archives and the Walsh Library host events to display archive resources, including explorations of the past of the school like presentations of preserved art relating to the history of Seton Hall and its larger community in the

tions of The Setonian for increased public access.

At the heart of my internship lies the hands-on process of rehousing and processing photographs, a task that has not only honed my organizational skills but has also provided me with unique insights into Seton Hall's storied past. From capturing the fervor of student

Seton Hall on its 100th anniversary, each photograph serves as a window into a distinct moment in time.

I have also had the opportunity to perform transcription work, a process which allows greater public accessibility to our digitized documents. The particular project I have been focusing upon involves transcribing the diary of view history as something distant and irrelevant to our lives today. However, my experience in the archives has shown me just how important it is to preserve history, even the smaller, more personal stories. Every person's life contributes to a larger narrative, and it's fascinating to see how individuals' experiences have shaped the history of Seton Hall University.

Beyond the opportunity to access tangible artifacts from Seton Hall's rich history, my internship has equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of the field of archival curation, from metadata description to digitization techniques. My experience within the Msgr. Noe Field Archives has strengthened my passion for public history, reinforcing to me the importance of disseminating historical knowledge to broader audiences than may have previously been possible.

As I reflect on my internship experience thus far, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity

to work alongside many skilled archivists. Each day brings new insights, new challenges, and new connections to the past, reaffirming my passion for historical preservation and scholarly inquiry. In the archives of Seton Hall University, I've found not just a place of work, but a community of dedicated individuals united by a common purpose: to safeguard the past for future generations.

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The Mdgr. Noe Field Archives ensure the Seton Hall community has access to the school's history. Courtesy of Jorge Royan(Wikimedia Commons)
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Walsh Gallery. The archive also recently documented the 100th anniversary of The Setonian, Seton Hall University's official undergraduate newspaper, by digitizing early edi-

protests in the tumultuous late 1960s to stumbling upon snapshots of historical documents, including a congratulatory letter from President Dwight Eisenhower to a Seton Hall student from 1873, offering a firsthand account of life during that era from the direct private words of a student, instead of public opinions.

Many people tend to

# The Diplomatic Envoy

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For more information on sources, go to blogs.shu.edu/thediplomaticenvoy

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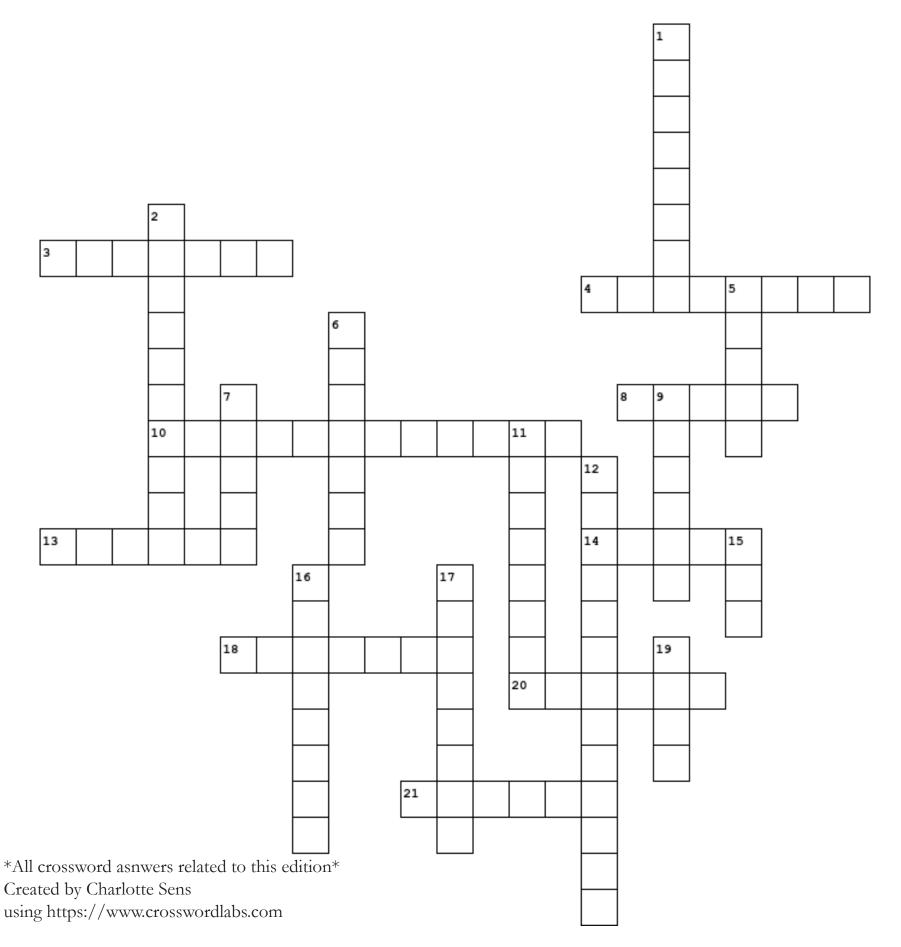
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### **March Edition Crossword**



#### Across

- 3. Peruvian arms bust linked to assassination of former president of this South American country.
- 4. Street name of de facto Haitian leader.
- 8. This doctor delivered the keynote address to SHUNA's 25th annual MUN Conference.
- 10. This condition may cause mass deaths in Gaza as famine levels rise.
- 13. Featured band at Crocus City Hall the night of fatal attack.
- 14. This controversial Senator received much criticism for using a tragic story in campaign against Biden-era immigration policy.
- 18. Former Honduran president Hernandez has been accused of conspiring with this infamous drug lord, among others.
- 20. The most recent nation to join the North Atlantic Trade Organization.
- 21. This is the team principal of Formula 1 racing's most dominant team.

#### Down

- 1. President of Sudan ousted in 2018 coup.
- 2. Last name of Stabucks CEO.
- 5. Iraeli Ambassador to the United Nations.
- 6. This rebel group maintains control over much of Yemen, acting as a de facto government.
- 7. This is one financial services company that supports payment processing for small and chain businesses.
- 9. Seton Hall's UDSA visited this institute to explore Cyber Stability.
- 11. It is traditional to announce a ceasefire during this international event as a sign of goodwill.
- 12. The Department of Defense wants to tackle this field in the 2025 Fiscal Year.
- 15. President Biden is balancing this many major foreign policy crises.
- 16. Staff writer Ashley Skladany interned here.
- 17. France has just enshrined this right into law.
- 19. This generation is one of the major proponents of 'Girl Math'