

The Promising Return of March Madness By Conor Sukel

As we prepared for the March Madness brackets to be announced, it seemed like a good time for a little preview.

The women have received more attention this year with the dominance of South Carolina, which will enter the tournament without a seasonal loss. Even after losing its entire starting lineup and a key bench player to the WNBA after last season, the team can't be contained.

Iowa's Caitlyn Clark also brought extra attention to the women's league by breaking the all-time D1 scoring record for men and women.

More competition exists in the women's league now than a few years ago, when UConn went undefeated repeatedly on its way to numerous national titles. More upsets are likely in the early rounds this year, but in the end, about eight teams have realistic chances at winning the national title.

South Carolina (32-0) is nearly guaranteed to make it to the Final Four this year. After that, the remaining three spots are likely to be earned by three of the following teams: Iowa, USC, LSU, UConn, Notre Dame, Stanford and UCLA.

UConn and Notre Dame are both having down years, being ranked 9 and 10 in the AP Poll rankings. Both schools have a winning tradition and cannot be counted out in March.

USC and Iowa are both led by stars, JuJu Watkins and Caitlyn Clark, who are backed by quality supporting casts.

Stanford and UCLA both have flown under the radar for much of the season despite being consistently ranked in the top five. Both are solid programs that have what it takes to win six straight games and win the national title.

LSU won the national title last year and since has brought in a bunch of talent to stay national title contenders.

On the men's side, there have been many Cinderella teams but few dominant teams. The preseason No. 1 team, according to the AP Poll, was Kansas, but the team finished the regular season sixth in its conference.

With no clearly dominant teams this year, winners from recent years are considered to be the best, including Houston, North Carolina, Purdue, Tennessee, UConn, Kentucky and Arizona, according to ESPN BET sportsbook.

Purdue's recent playoff history makes it difficult to believe in its ability to win the tournament. Since 2019, Purdue has been a top-four seed each year but struggled in the tournament, highlighted by a loss to a 16-seed last year.

Houston struggles to score consistently, but its defense stymies every team it plays.

UConn won the national title last year but has been plagued with injuries. The team is good enough to win but health is a big question mark.

Arizona has been really good for the past few years but have yet to win it all. The team has not received as much national attention this year due to the PAC-12 not being as competitive this year.

Kentucky is always in the mix for a national title because of the amount of talent the roster possesses. But the team is led by young players, which could impact the games.

Tennessee is led by Dalton Knecht, who only had one D1 offer out of high school. Now he is one of the best scorers in the nation and capable of helping Tennessee win. The biggest concern with Tennessee is getting production from the other guys.

North Carolina is old by college basketball standards with only two freshmen playing significant minutes. Everyone else who plays for North Carolina has three years or more on the college court.

In both the men's and women's tournaments, most teams are not likely to win the championship, but they still get to compete on the nation's biggest stage.

Games for the national tournament will begin on March 19 for the men and March 20 for the women. Watch for coverage on the Digital Kil!

The Staff

The Kil is interested in hearing from readers about what we should be covering. Information about upcoming events, story ideas and letters to the editor are encouraged. Accepted submissions will be published in the next available issue. Reach out today.

Co-editors-in-chief
Ellis Herner
eherner@heidelberg.edu
Julia Schaefer
jschaefer@heidelberg.edu

Managing Editor
Isaiah Shiley
ishiley@heidelberg.edu

Graphic Design
Isaiah Shiley
ishiley@heidelberg.edu
Salvatore Rocco
srocco@heidelberg.edu

Marketing Coordinator
Kelsey Stanfield
kstanfie@heidelberg.edu

Entertainment Editor
Makenna Finnegan
mfinnega@heidelberg.edu

Social Awareness Editor
Cameron Spraggins
cspraggi@heidelberg.edu

Sports Editor
Conor Sukel
csukel@heidelberg.edu

Campus Event Editor
Serria Allen
sallen2@heidelberg.edu

Campus People Editor
Aaron McCoy
amccoy1@heidelberg.edu

Website Editors
Salvatore Rocco
srocco@heidelberg.edu

Social Media
Serria Allen
sallen2@heidelberg.edu

Josiah Brown
jbrown8@heidelberg.edu
Salvatore Rocco
srocco@heidelberg.edu

Distribution Manager
Josiah Brown
jbrown8@heidelberg.edu

The Kil!

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Image courtesy of Isaiah Shiley

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“Madame Web” Review: It’s Something By Ellis Herner

On Friday, February 23, I watched “Madame Web,” Sony Pictures’ latest live-action “Spider-Man” spin-off.

The critics have not been kind to this film, as it currently boasts a 12% approval rating on the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes. It can’t be that bad, can it? There’s no way.

Unfortunately, there was a way. Throughout its 114-minute runtime, the movie is baffling in almost all the creative choices it makes. Some of the acting is fine, but most of it feels flat, and by the end of the movie, you’ll want to roll your eyes. I have no idea how a movie with an 80 million dollar budget and such a talented cast turned out like this.

The movie stars Dakota Johnson of “Fifty Shades of Grey” fame as Cassie Web, a paramedic who, after an accident while attempting to rescue a civilian, ends up with clairvoyant powers. She envisions three teenage girls (Sydney Sweeney, Isabela Merced and Celeste O’Connor) being attacked by a mysterious super villain. Cassie does everything in her power to save the girls before it is too late.

For the most part, I thought Johnson did a fine job. She brought a somewhat snarky attitude to the character that I mildly enjoyed. Some of the other characters in the movie, however, weren’t as enjoyable.

Most notable for me was the character of Ezekiel Sims (Tahar Rahim), the movie’s main antagonist. The character’s motivation made very little sense, and almost all of his dialogue came across as clunky and laughable thanks to poorly used ADR (Automated Dialogue Replacement), dialogue that is recorded in

a studio after the movie is filmed on-set.

The entire movie felt rushed, and I found the climax to be downright hilarious. Nothing felt real or earned, and - spoiler - the villain dies because a giant Pepsi sign falls and crushes him. I’m not kidding, that’s what happened. This may have sounded like a cool idea at one point, but it was hilarious to watch in the theater, and not in a good way.

What upsets me the most about “Madame Web” is that it’s such a cool concept for a movie. The title character has clairvoyant powers that both the general audience and the character herself know very little about. There’s potential for a compelling story had the filmmakers leaned into the aspects of how having a power like that might be scary. Instead, however, they squandered their chance and told a story that left me perplexed as to how it got this far.

I wanted to like “Madame Web,” I really did. But unfortunately, I can only recommend it if you’re in the mood to laugh. Hopefully Sony’s next “Spider-Man” spin-off movie, “Kraven the Hunter,” isn’t nearly as miserable as this one.



“Madame Web” Poster courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes.

Around Tiffin: The Heart of Sunshine at Hirzel Farms By Julia Schaefer

Locally owned and operated, Hirzel Farms is well-known in the area for its organic produce, canning facility and community outreach. But, the brightest of Hirzel’s many products are its sunflower fields. Started just four years ago, the rows of flowers are now a staple summer stop for Fostoria, Bowling Green and Fremont residents.

Overseeing the sunflower project is Bridget Burgess. She has worked for Hirzel in purchasing and sales for 11 years. She says her favorite part is the community response to the sunflower project.

“The first year that we contracted to grow the sunflowers was COVID, so I think that was a blessing cause you couldn’t go places,” said Burgess. “People visiting and seeing life, the bright flowers, their neighbors, I think that was one of my favorite things about growing them.”

Hirzel Farms is a certified organic farm that follows tight regulations regarding soil health and growing. Burgess explained, “You try to incorporate crops into the rotation that will add to your soil health, but also something that’s marketable for food. Organic sunflower oil is in demand throughout the country.”

Now, Hirzel sunflower oil can be found in products in stores nationwide. Depending on weather and seasonal demands, Hirzel plants anywhere from 50 to 120 acres of sunflowers in a season.

The sunflowers are harvested in the late summer. Once they have made the community smile with their blooms, they are

moved to a crush plant that extracts the oil, and the leftovers are sold as organic meal.

Hirzel is family owned and operated, and has been since 1923. It has 1500 certified organic acres along with a certified organic grain cleaning facility, which is used to clean popcorn, tofu soybeans and sunflower seeds for other growers. Hirzel currently grows five crops but is trying to expand its rotation to include additional food supplies.

Part of Hirzel’s outreach mission is to promote sustainability in the area. It has an outreach program that teaches local businesses how to recycle and compost leftover products from events and celebrations. Additionally, Hirzel Farms takes the compost from those events back to its facility and repurposes it for its fields.

The location for this summer’s sunflower fields has not been finalized, but Pemberville is the most likely location. When the sunflowers are ready for visitors, the final location will be announced on social media.

The Hirzel sunflower fields lit up the lives of Ohioans struggling during the pandemic, and they continue to provide Ohioans with relief. Sunflower plants are pest-resistant and deep-rooted, so they are optimal for cover crops.

Burgess agreed that growing them is good for the earth, the local economy and the community and said, “It’s a god-given that when you are in those fields and they’re starting to bloom, you feel that energy, you feel refreshed.

2024 Season Underway for Baseball and Softball By Salvatore Rocco

The 2024 campaign is underway for Heidelberg’s Baseball and Softball Teams. Both teams competed in Florida over spring break against schools from around the country.

Before heading down south, baseball started their season with a three-game stretch in St. Louis, MO. The bats were on fire as they scored an average of eight runs per game, going 2-1.

Their winning record continued to grow in Port Charlotte, Fla. They went 6-3, picking up wins against Rockford, Alvernia, St. John’s, Bluffton, Wabash and Kean.

The offense is led by a core of upperclassmen who shined bright in the first two tournaments of the year. They have a trio of graduate students - outfield Adam McVicker, catcher Thomas Sauer and outfield Aidan Corrigan, who currently have batting averages of .357, .353 and .286 respectively. The trio has recorded fourteen extra base hits thus far, with six of those hits being home runs.

Another trio of upperclassmen composed of seniors - first baseman Camden Farley, utility Andrew Cook and short-stop Reece McNeely have also combined for six home runs. Farley currently holds a .300 batting average and leads the team in hit-by-pitches by a great margin with a total of seven. Cook started two games on the mound for the Student Princes without allowing an earned run.

Wunderkind sophomore third baseman Braedy Limke has made a name for himself by leading the team in batting average (.400), doubles (seven), stolen bases (six), and RBIs (sixteen).

Senior outfield Kyle Mottice added his .357 batting average into the mix while junior second basement Andrew Pokley contributed ten RBIs, rounding out this Heidelberg offense.

Junior ace Jackson Powers, leads the pitching core. He started three games, surrendering seven total runs while recording a team-high twenty-two strikeouts.

The supporting cast of Orion Kroah, Ben Bliss and Vincent Marimpietri combined to allow just five runs over 23.1 innings pitched.

The most electric game so far was a thirteen-inning thriller between Heidelberg and St. John’s. Senior Dylan Matusak threw seven innings allowing just one earned run before



Images courtesy of bergathletics.com.

Kroah provided six innings of shutout baseball in relief. Heidelberg won the game 8-3 following an offensive explosion of five runs in the final inning.

Softball left their Florida trip with wins against Aurora, Concordia Chicago and Rivier.

A melting pot of experience shapes this team’s offense. Junior third baseman Gabbie Stallbaum recorded nine extra base hits on the trip with six doubles and a team-high three home runs. Sophomore catcher Ellie Tressler complimented Stallbaum with five extra base hits of her own, resulting in her team-high nine RBIs.

Junior utility Aubrey Conklin contributed to the team’s home run total with her grand slam on the final day of the trip. Senior infielder Emma Dean began her 2024 campaign hitting .467 after missing most of last season to an injury.

Lillie Robeson and Morgan Woycitzky, two junior infielders, also provided contributions to the offense. Robeson is currently holding a .294 batting average while Woycitzky leads the team with three stolen bases.

The underclassmen provided a helping hand, with freshman catcher Shea Harper off to a hot start. She is currently hitting .333, and sophomore infiedler Caitlin Newlen is currently hitting .281.

The pitching staff also walked away from the tournament with a strong resume. Graduate student Caitlin Dems threw 25.1 innings in which she gave up just six earned runs, holding an earned run average of an impressive 1.66.

Jessica Voitko, another graduate student, shined on the mound as she recorded thirteen strikeouts in 21.1 innings pitched.

Senior Kailyn Kroll was rewarded with two of the team’s wins. She dominated in all ten of her innings pitched as she surrendered only six hits whilst allowing zero runs.

Senior Emma Dean stated that the team’s 1-0 win against Rivier stood out to her, saying “This game was a good team win. Kailyn had her first shut out, got her first collegiate start, and threw a complete game. We also had a triple play that game, which gave us a lot of positive momentum and gave us many good things to take away from the week as well.”

Come out and support both teams at Peaceful Valley throughout their seasons.



Clark Breaks NCAA Basketball History By Cameron Spraggins

On a brisk mid-February morning, a new edition of Nike’s billboard above Penn Station was unveiled. Raised above New York City, the basketball capital of the world, Iowa Women’s Basketball superstar Caitlin Clark spreads her arms in celebration with a stern look of dominance in her eye. The caption reads: “You Break It, You Own It.”

Just a few nights prior, on 15 February, Clark broke the NCAA women’s scoring record by drilling a deep three from the Hawkeye’s logo, surpassing Las Vegas’ Kelsey Plum’s previous record of 3,527 points. Clark owned the record, but the job was not finished.

The “real record,” in the words of Iowa Coach Lisa Bluder, was not broken until a couple of weeks later when Clark broke the University of Kansas’ Lynette Woodard’s unofficial record of 3,649 points. According to the Associated Press, Woodard set the record during 1977-1981, just a year before the NCAA sanctioned women’s basketball.

Clark had her eyes set on the all-time NCAA scoring record, held by former Louisiana State University (LSU) star and NBA legend “Pistol” Pete Maravich.

In just three seasons spanning 1967-1970, Maravich set the all-time NCAA scoring record at 3,777 points, at a time before the three-point line was added. More than fifty years later, Maravich’s record withstood attempts from college basketball legends.

On March third, Caitlin Clark had 18 points to score in front of her home crowd to break Maravich’s record. She needed just

one half to get there and put up a blistering 35 points en route to a victory against a top ten, inter-conference opponent Ohio State.

Clark has now scored more than any college basketball player in the history of the sport and continues to set the record.

Clark’s dominance has resonated around the world and even here on Heidelberg’s campus. In the words of Heidelberg junior Women’s Basketball player Ashley Ballard, “Caitlin’s achievement has changed the way everyone perceives women’s basketball. Viewership is continually breaking records with each game and I am definitely a believer in the Caitlin Clark effect.”

Ballard is right – the Caitlin Clark effect is real. According to the Associated Press on 4 April 2023, last season’s National Championship between LSU and Iowa drew nearly 10 million viewers, making it the most-watched women’s basketball game of all time.

According to Yahoo Sports on 12 March, during broadcasts of Iowa games, ABC, Big 10 Network, FOX, FS1, NBC, and Peacock all broke individual viewership records for women’s basketball. Viewership across the women’s side of the sport is growing. Caitlin Clark is not just moving the needle – she is the needle.

Iowa is projected to be a number one seed in the NCAA tournament and seeks redemption after last year’s loss in the National Championship. A National Championship would round out a record-breaking season. Championship ring or not, Clark has made history and inspired a new generation of basketball players. The NCAA scoring record is hers. She broke it, she owns it.

My Time at The NBA All-Star Weekend 2024 By Aaron McCoy

As a lifetime basketball player and fan, it has always been a goal of mine to make it to the NBA All-Star Weekend.

Growing up, I watched events every year and loved seeing players like LeBron, Shaq, KD and Kobe compete against one another. Moments from years like 2016 remain etched in the minds of fans, and a sense of basketball magic washes over the host city every year.

I had the opportunity to attend this year’s festivities in Indianapolis, IN, and it was amazing to see the best players up close, as if my basketball cards had come to life.

Young players like Victor Wembanyama, Benedict Mathurin and Alondes Williams shined bright on Friday night in the Rising Stars game. Saturday saw Damian Lillard and Mac McClung repeat as 3-Point and Slam Dunk Contest champions respectively, while Stephen Curry and Sabrina Ionescu put on a show in the first ever NBA vs. WNBA 3-Point Contest.

The world’s best players made history on Sunday as well, as the Eastern Conference All-Stars became the first team to break the 200-point mark in an NBA All-Star Game.

The highlight of this event for me, however, was on Friday when I attended a screening of “Hoop Dreams,” my favorite basketball documentary. Director Steve James, cinematographer Peter Gilbert and subjects William Gates and Arthur Agee held a Q & A session afterward.

I got the chance to meet William and Arthur and chat with them about how much I love the film, and how it continues to resonate with people 35 years after its initial release in 1994. They, along with director Steve James, were kind enough to sign my Blu-ray copy of the film as well.

On Saturday, I had the opportunity to chop it up with hip-hop artist and host of the YouTube series “Full Size Run,” Trinidad James. He was there promoting his brand’s upcoming collaboration with Saucony, and it was so awesome to talk about the importance of storytelling within sneakers.

I stopped by Corporate’s other location on Sunday and got to meet Olajuwon Ajakanu and Earl Cooper, co-founders of Eastside Golf, a lifestyle golf brand. Both graduated and played collegiate golf at Morehouse College before they started the brand as a way to grow the game of golf and make it more accessible. I’ve been following the brand for a couple years now, so I loved being able to share how much I appreciate what they’re doing for the game.

Throughout this amazing weekend, I was able to watch the greatest basketball players in the world and connect with great people and brands that I have followed for years. I had a great time at this year’s NBA All-Star Weekend, and I can’t wait to go back in the future.

Senior Spotlight: Reflections of The Kil Seniors By Nicholas Chambers

Coming from various backgrounds, experiences and majors, the seniors of The Kilikilik have left an indelible mark on the university’s newspaper through their hard work and dedication.

A communications major and co-editor-in-chief, Ellis Herner, joined the staff during his freshman year. Starting as a staff writer and practicum student, Herner joined as an activity outside of his original music major and found that writing was something he loved and wanted to continue. Herner often lends his writing talents to The Kil’s senior spotlight articles.

“I have enjoyed working with everyone involved with The Kil for the last couple of years. The Kil has definitely helped me discover my true passion for writing,” said Herner.

Julia Schaefer, an integrated media and English writing double major, is the other co-editor and began writing for the paper during her sophomore year. Being part of The Kil gave Schaefer insight into how much she enjoyed journalism through her stories that covered the “little guys,” lesser-known clubs and people, on campus.

“Having a student newspaper is so important because the lens is so much more honest... everything you read is there because one of our writers was passionate enough to investigate it in their own free time,” stated Schaefer.

Isaiah Shiley, an English major, joined the paper during his sophomore year and stayed for its creative outlet. Through his articles on various topics, such as animals, Shiley provided his audience with “snapshots” into topics that piqued the interest of the student body.

“I think The Kil offers the Heidelberg community a glimpse into some of the issues relevant to at least a chunk of the student body...the channel The Kil opens between the student body and the larger campus community makes it a valuable contribution to campus,” said Shiley.

English and communication major Kelsey Stanfield joined the paper last spring after enjoying her experience in a media writing class. Stanfield’s recent stories have centered on topics related to the Center for Student Empowerment, such as dating violence and stalking.

Stanfield holds high hopes for the future of the paper in the coming semesters, especially its digital avenues.

“I would like to see future students explore these avenues further and continue to evolve The Kil. It has changed tremendously since its creation, and its evolution should continue with the generations of students to come,” shared Stanfield.

Salvatore Rocco, an integrated media major, is taking the practicum this semester and holds several positions on The Kil’s staff, including writing and editing. Rocco’s experience since joining has given him a clearer picture of his future career through this media experience.

“I believe that the skills I’ve learned from The Kil have given me more variety in my capabilities since I’m doing many different things,” stated Rocco. “I like being able to do multiple things that can raise my value for my career.”

Aaron McCoy, a communication and integrated media double-major, started with The Kil during fall 2022 and typically writes about sports, entertainment and features on people. McCoy’s time with the paper opened an avenue for him to write stories that connected to the Heidelberg community and expressed his freedom to write.

“I really enjoy having the freedom to write about whatever I want. I can write about sports, film, campus news and anything that speaks to me,” said McCoy.

Finally, Cameron Spraggins, a history major, started with The Kil during winter 2022, has served as both the social awareness editor and the sports editor. Spraggins enjoys “telling stories” and watching as his stories and writing skills change through each issue.

“After I graduate,” said Spraggins, “I hope The Kil retains a steady readership on campus. I hope another student tries to use The Kil archives for more material. There’s so much cool information about the university and student life in there!”

The Kil seniors have dedicated their time, energy and effort to the success of the paper, and all share one common sentiment best expressed by Shiley: “The thing I will miss most about The Kil is working together with other people to create these large, collaborative collections of ideas and interests.”



Meet the Seniors!

Pictured from left to right are:

Aaron McCoy,
Kelsey Stanfield,
Julia Schaefer,
Cameron Spraggins,
Ellis Herner,
Isaiah Shiley,
and Salvatore Rocco.

Image courtesy of Ellis Herner.

Presenting Our Prehistoric Pals: Denizens of the Deep By Isaiah Shiley

Take my hand, and descend with me into the waters of prehistoric Earth. Touch the hard, rigid shell of a passing arthropod. Taste the pure, salty water, yet untainted by human filth. Observe the synchronized swimming of a school of familiar but unknown fish. Finally, feel the unease as you remember the large, predatory denizens that also called these deep waters home.

The waters of prehistoric Earth concealed a plethora of predatory species, including but not limited to arthropods, fish and reptiles. This article will focus exclusively on two orders of these reptilian predators: the dolphin-esque ichthyosaurs and the lizard-like mosasaurs.

Three shared characteristics of these reptile orders need to be identified. Firstly, they are considered archosaurs. They share a common ancestry with dinosaurs and pterosaurs. Secondly, both had lungs and surfaced for air like a whale. Finally, each order of reptile existed for at least a couple million years before going extinct. The ichthyosaurs and mosasaurs shared a few fundamental similarities, and perhaps these similarities are what led to their respective ascensions up the food chain.

The first of these aquatic archosaurs are the ichthyosaurs. According to Michael Dhar, a science writer and author of Live Science's 2022 article "Ichthyosaur: Apex predator of the dinosaur-era seas," these creatures first appeared in our oceans roughly 250 million years ago, and continued to hunt its waters for approximately 160 million years, only going extinct about 90 million years ago.

Ichthyosaurs, naturally, evolved over this extended period, leading to great variations in the reptiles' shapes and sizes, but patterns exist amid these variations. The earliest ichthyosaurs were more eel-like in shape and appearance, while the later ones resembled the modern dolphin.

Regarding their sizes, Ichthyosaurs ranged in length from "3 to 65 feet (1 to 20 m), with an average length of 6.5 to 13 feet (2 to 4 m)," according to Dhar. Scientists speculate some species could have grown as large as 85 feet long and as small as a foot long. An 85-foot-long predatory dolphin-esque reptile stalking the ocean is an unsettling thought, to say the least, but ichthyosaurs were not the only large predators of yesterday's ocean.

The larger aquatic ancestors of today's snakes and monitor lizards, who also called the prehistoric seas homes, are the mosasaurs. The mosasaur's body was sleek and finless, and had four limbs extending from their sides and tipped with webbed hands. Their bodies were capped with relatively large heads containing strong jaws and conical teeth, and ended in a long, powerful paddle tail. They could grow up to 50 feet in length, but not all did. Barring a few differences, they looked similar to modern lizards, which makes sense when considering how the mosasaurs ended up in the ocean.

Mosasaurs, at one point prior to the six million years they spent in the ocean, were reptiles that dwelled both on land and in shallow waters over what is now North America. All of this is discussed in the National Park Service's online article, "Mosasaur: Apex Predator of the Western Interior Seaway." This six million year existence did not give mosasaurs the time to evolve and diversify to the extent ichthyosaurs did, meaning mosasaurs were still very reptilian rather than pescarian when they went extinct.

Ichthyosaurs and mosasaurs are only two of the reptilian denizens that called the ocean home, but their existence and rule over their domain highlights an interesting fact. Reptiles have ruled their respective domains for large chunks of our planets' history. Dinosaurs occupied the land, pterosaurs the air and the various aquatic archosaurs the sea.

Realizing this, I asked Heidelberg senior English major Lennon Amor the following question: "Knowing that various types of reptiles have ruled Earth for millions of years, what type of animal do you think would reign over Earth if humans were to disappear? Reptiles again? Insects?"

Lennon's response was, "Reptiles, for sure. I think specifically though it would be a reptile like alligators or crocodiles because their skin is essentially armor. Although, there are insects like cockroaches that are known to be resilient to hazards, like radiation, that would be lethal to humans. Only time will tell."

Indeed, only time can say what life form will dominate the planet next. However, the final prehistoric pal may provide some insight on this question, as they are the first pal to tread the line betwixt reptile and mammal.

Student Princes on Defense: A Collaboration with GRITT Personal Training By Kelsey Stanfield

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, Heidelberg community members honed their self-defense expertise with community partner Grant Miller.

Miller, a veteran and co-founder of GRITT Personal Training, facilitated self-defense practice for Heidelberg students and staff. The training session lasted approximately an hour and reviewed different attack scenarios.

The group explored one-two punching, kicking from the front and side, an escape technique called "shrimping" and how to break a chokehold. Students took turns practicing with one another, and the bravest students practiced with Miller themselves.

Junior participant Kelly Peterson remarked of the event, "I thought the training was done really well. The instructor made it comfortable and fun, but he also was serious about why we were doing the training."

Throughout the evening, Miller instructed the group with practical advice. He reminded participants that, while an attacker may be inexperienced, any attempt to fight back beyond escaping creates an opportunity for another vulnerability. Miller reiterated throughout the training that the goal of self-defense is to defend oneself, not retaliate against an attacker.

Peterson echoed this sentiment. "My biggest takeaway was that if you are ever in a situation where you are being attacked, you need to keep moving," said Peterson. "Even though you are strong enough to fight back, you should focus on getting the attacker off of you and run away."

After the event, the sponsoring department, the Center for Survivor Empowerment, or the Center for short, provided student participants with keychain alarms.

The Center offers awareness and prevention training for the campus community regarding sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

Recently, the Center welcomed Meridith Lucius to the team as an Advocate, who attended the self-defense training as her first campus event as a staff member. After a short training period, students can confidentially meet with Lucius for support and guidance.

Moving forward, the Center plans to continue to host campus-wide events, such as their annual Take Back the Night march featuring keynote speaker Amy Kinney, the Executive Director of Fostoria's First Step Domestic Violence Shelter on April 9 and a trauma-informed yoga session with Gemma Marschke from Tiffin's Gem Yoga on April 14. Both events will bring the Heidelberg community and local partners together, united in their goal to create a safe environment for all.



Image courtesy of Mary Felton.

Redemption for "The Woman in Black" By Julia Schaefer

Senior Jack Mills has spent the past year working toward a dream: his directorial debut "The Woman in Black." The one-act play is a historical one-act that is a staple in the horror theatre genre.

Mills reflected, "The show felt like a rollercoaster every night. Seeing everyone's reaction at the end and how many people screamed was an amazing experience."

Three actors portray every scene. The main character, Kipps (Jacob Frankart) is hired as an actor to help in the retelling of the Actor's (Zach Abraham) haunting experience from his past. As the play-within-a-play unfolds, The Ghost of the Woman in Black (Riley Ameel) becomes more than just a story.

Abraham, a senior this year, gave an impressive performance, transforming from an edgy cab driver to a superstitious businessman and beyond. He put hard work into the several accents required for this menagerie of characters.

This is the first black box show for Frankart, a sophomore. He handled the emotional depth of a traumatized man with ease and led the audience through a twisted plotline.

The two lookalike actors worked in tandem to execute the mechanics of the show. Glowing red windows, lighting effects, and sudden "outages" demonstrated the skills of lighting designer CJ Davis.

Mills opened the play with a director's note, including brief sensory warnings and a warning that Gundlach's ghost might make an appearance.

The play was originally scheduled to open in October, 2023, in tandem with the theatre department's haunted catacombs and production of Rocky Horror.

Assistant director Serria Allen explained that the cast rehearsed the show every day until the originally scheduled opening date, in the hopes that the rights would come on time.

Disaster struck the stage when the production team realized that they did not have the performance rights to perform the show. Performance rights are a lengthy and sometimes expensive process, and without them, charging entrance tickets for plays is illegal.

So the production was put on hold, and a team of students set out to secure the rights. They reached out to the estate of the playwright, Stephen Mallatratt, to ask for a favor.

The rights to the play were eventually secured, and the show was rescheduled in between "One Man, Two Guvnors" and "The Letter G."

"I would like to let people know that if you have a vision for something you are passionate about, do whatever you can to get that vision across," explained Mills.

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