

Bird Droppings, the CIA and Rebellion:
A Brief History of the Swan Islands By Cameron Spraggins

The Swan Islands are a chain of two small islands in the Caribbean Sea that lie between the coasts of Honduras and Cuba. The archipelago is 1.2 square miles of land, according to Google Maps, but has been the center of ownership disputes between The United States and Honduras since the 19th century. Why has such great attention been given to an island smaller than the size of Central Park? To quote every real estate agent ever: location, location, location.

Actually, location and bird poop, or guano in technical terms, drew attention to the islands. Guano was used as an agricultural fertilizer and was in great demand between the 19th and 20th century.

In fact, guano was such a concern of the United States, that, according to the National Museum of American History, Congress passed the Guano Islands Acts of 1856, which stated that U.S. citizens could claim unoccupied or unclaimed guano islands, so long as the inhabitation was peaceful.

According to an article in the “Journal of Inter-American Studies,” the United States claimed the Swan Islands in 1863 under the jurisdiction of the Guano Island Acts of 1856. Initially claimed for the harvesting of guano, the U.S. found another use for the small islands after the guano ran dry.

Historian Daniel Immerwahr in his book “How to Hide an Empire,” explained that the U.S. used the Swan Islands as a broadcasting station and CIA intelligence center in the 1950s. The CIA did so secretly, but their plans almost derailed when Honduran students, upset by the United States’ prior claim of the Swan Islands, traveled there to claim the land for Honduras.

Alarmed by the students’ efforts, the U.S. wanted to ensure that the

students did not find the broadcasting equipment on the island, and Washington instructed the operatives on the island to “give them plenty of beer and protect the family jewels,” as shared by Immerwahr.

The Honduran rebels indulged themselves in beer, rum, and Eartha Kitt records, according to the transcripts provided by Immerwahr. They raised a Honduran flag on a CIA supplied pole, wholly unaware that their drinking buddies were CIA operatives, and that American forces were ready to fire upon them at any moment. However, the Honduras peacefully left the island after raising their flag.

The location of the Swan Islands was important to the United States because the radio broadcast could reach South America, where the CIA was interested in breaking down left-wing revolutions.

“Radio Swan” was used to spread fake news during a coup of the Guatemalan left-wing government orchestrated by the U.S. The station was also used to troll Cuban revolutionaries and spread rumors about Fidel Castro and his associates. It was the central broadcasting HQ for the failed Bay of Pigs Invasion in 1961, when the United States broadcasted support to its nonexistent forces to confuse the Cubans of American intentions.

For as small as the Swan Islands are, they have had a tremendous (and hilarious) impact on American foreign operations.



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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.

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The Kil!

September 2022



Berg Bistro 1850 Reopens for In-person Dining By Aaron McCoy

For the first time in two years, Heidelberg University’s Berg Bistro 1850 opened for in-person dining for the 2022-23 school year. To honor the return, a reopening celebration and ribbon cutting was held Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Heidelberg students and faculty, as well as members of the Tiffin community, joined to commemorate the campus restaurant’s return. Additionally, community leaders offered well-wishes to the Bistro. Attendees included Heidelberg University President Rob Huntington, Tiffin Mayor Dawn Iannantuono and Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership President and CEO Aaron Motz.

Throughout the event, guests sampled new chicken chunk sauces and returning favorites like the Heidelburger, a bacon cheeseburger placed between two grilled cheese sandwiches that serve as the top and bottom buns. Berg Bistro 1850 has already been operating under normal hours

this semester: Sunday through Thursday, 4-10 p.m., for dine-in, carry out, and pick up through the GET Mobile app.

Parkhurst Dining Marketing Coordinator Amanda Overy is excited to give Berg students a full experience after two years of carry out and online ordering. “It’s nice to offer students a restaurant-style dining experience where they can sit down and enjoy themselves,” mentioned Overy.

With comfortable seating, an expanded menu and multiple television screens, Heidelberg students once again have a prime spot to watch a game and enjoy a meal with friends without leaving campus.

Berg students will not be the only ones enjoying the return. The Bistro team is ready to welcome back the Tiffin community to the campus restaurant as well. The Parkhurst marketing team had received numerous Facebook messages from fans outside campus asking

when the bar and grill will be back open to the public.

Customers’ enthusiasm will surely be matched by that of those behind the counter and in the kitchen. “Staff members are thrilled to be back in their own space,” explained Parkhurst Dining Manager of Retail Operations Kelli Steinmetz, who oversees the operation of Berg Bistro 1850.

Chefs will be cooking fan favorites and fresh additions to the menu all year long. Not only has the menu been updated, but the Bistro bar will be operational for the first time in two years, with what Steinmetz notes as the cheapest beer prices in town.



Heidelberg Band Gets New Director By Ellis Herner

On Wednesday, May 18, Professor Jon Waters, assistant director of Music Education and Director of Bands at Heidelberg for seven years, announced his departure for an opportunity at Bowling Green State University.

Band members worried about the outcome of the band after they realized that Waters was departing from the university. Newly appointed marching band president, senior Carla Dixon, was scared about the future of the band. “I was terrified,” stated Dixon. “How was I supposed to keep the band afloat over the summer with no director?”

After a long search, the job was offered to Professor Rodney Miller, former music department chair and director of bands at Port Clinton High School.

Dixon continued, “Rod had been such a tremendous help to not only

this (HU band) program, but to the university as a whole! He has so many lessons he can teach us about being music educators in the real world.”

After teaching high school students for 34 years, Miller was excited about transitioning to the college setting but was nervous as well.

“For me, the most intimidating part was what I didn’t know,” said Miller. “But the students have been great. They take great pride in what they do, and when you have that, putting things together becomes a lot easier.”

Miller has been hard at work trying to provide a fun and meaningful experience to the members of the marching band throughout the season. At Heidelberg’s first football game against Adrian College on Saturday, Sept. 3, the

Heidleberg marching band unveiled its first performance featuring a collection of pop rock songs from the 2000s and 2010s to a very energetic audience.

“Saturday (the 3) was a blast,” Miller commented. “The crowd was really into it. The buzz was incredible, and I loved every second of it. I am looking forward to our next performance!”

When Waters left in May, several band members worried about what might happen. However, they were not ready to give up on the band they loved.

“This season is off to a wonderful start,” Dixon stated. “I couldn’t imagine anyone else leading us to victory. Everything he (Miller) does has a meaning and helps us in rehearsals tremendously. I am honored to have worked with him, and I can’t wait for what’s next!”

Video Games: A Pathway to Positive Mental Health By Anna Zeller

The artistry and purpose of video games have developed far beyond our imagination, coming far from simple games such as “Pong” or “Centipede.” Today, we have a variety of video games to choose from. According to Entertainment Software Association’s article “2021 Essential Facts About the Video Game Industry,” “Nearly 227 million Americans play video games. Two thirds of adults and three quarters of kids under 18 play video games weekly.”

Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, many people found solace in exploring a virtual world where they had the ability to interact freely with their environment and with other people.

Additionally, playing video games has become a way of relaxation and escape. Morgan Boyer, a junior history major and enthusiastic gamer, described how “The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild” made her feel while playing. For Boyer, it was a game in which she could have “fun getting to lose [herself] in this whole world and explore it.” The game is known for its wide, expansive world in which players have the freedom to go anywhere they please.

Opinions of video games vary from the perspective that video games cause violence to video games are a way of letting off steam. People find video games as a source of comfort and release when their worries are overbearing. However, video games can do so much more than that for a player’s mental health.

According to the article “Gaming Well: Links Between Videogames and Flourishing Mental Health” by Christian Jones and others, when played in moderation, video games have a plethora of positive mental outcomes. In addition to stress relief, video games have the ability to alter mood, engage, develop and maintain positive relationships, and provide meaning and accomplishment to your life.

Referring back to the article “Gaming Well,” video

games have been known to help stabilize the emotions and even reduce emotional disturbance in children. Players have felt stress reduction while playing because it is an opportunity to release their emotions in response to problems they may be having.

Some games force the player to focus in the present by solving puzzles or going through combat that forces you to consider different strategies. Staying in the present can take the focus off of whatever emotions a person may be feeling. When a player is trying to complete a task in a game, it requires deep focus. Through this focus, one finds engagement and forgets what may be stressing them at that time.

Along with finishing that task, a person will have a sense of accomplishment for having completed it. “Breath of the Wild” has many tasks to choose from, each challenging the player in different ways. Gamers could play for hours and still not complete everything there is to do.

Some online multiplayer games allow for more than one player at a time. Players can interact, communicate and have fun with other people right from their own living rooms. This gives meaning to the relationships in your life and creates a fun way of bonding.

Although “Breath of the Wild” is not multiplayer, a game related to the story called “Hyrule Warriors: Age of Calamity” recently came out, in which two players can fight battles together while still experiencing story aspects like before.

Whether playing a simple game like “Pac-Man” or something much more complicated like “Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild,” players find themselves lost in a world in which they can have fun and focus on the present. Games have a way of helping people leave the stress of the world behind, engage in something that gives them joy and satisfaction and perhaps make a new friend or two in the process.



A “Fearless” 10 Years: New Album from Taylor Swift

By Makenna Finnegan

This summer, Taylor Swift announced her tenth studio album, “Midnights,” set to release Friday, Oct. 21.

Swift surprised fans with her announcement at the 2022 VMA awards on Sunday, Aug 28. She accepted the Video of the Year award for her “All Too Well” music video and thanked her fans. She announced that the speech would be a “fun moment for her to tell [everyone] that [her] brand new album comes out October 21st.”

Recently, Swift re-recorded and released her old albums “Fearless” and “Red,” after conflict with her previous producer. Her passion for owning her own work has inspired fans to admire her confidence, artistic talent and dedication.

“Midnights” will be Swift’s fourth album released under her own name and ownership, resulting in building excitement for millions of fans.

For the past 10 years, Swift has taken a wrecking ball to the music industry; she demolished accomplishments by the greats of music and even broke her own records.

According to Sian Cain for The Guardian, Swift “broke a record held for 50 years by the Beatles” regarding No. 1 albums in the UK. Swift’s range of appeal and genre has put her name among universal greats at levels which are often unheard of.

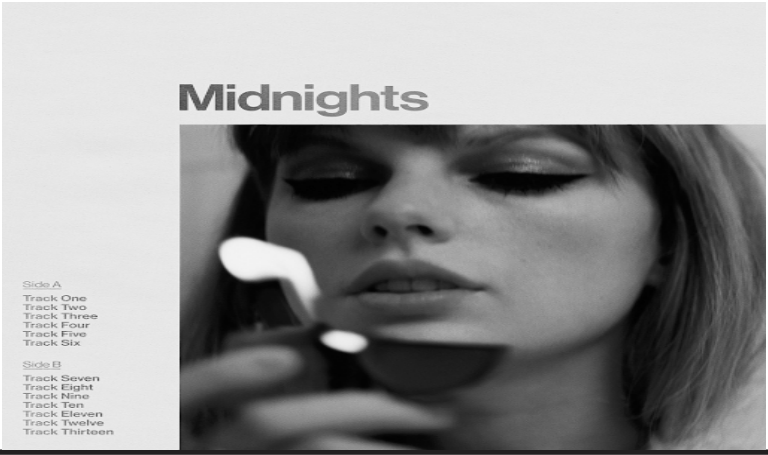
This new album will allow everyone to hear a new

perspective on her decade of complicated relationships while in the spotlight.

Everyone can find beauty in Swift’s career, whether it was during her girl-next-door era or her maturing insights as a growing woman. She is known for lyrics with real-life connections, creating a universality to her music.

People young and old perk up their ears at the sound of her name, or more notably voice. Her most dedicated fans call themselves “Swifties.”

As Oct. 21 approaches, many fans will wait in anticipation for the lyrical masterpieces that will grace their ears. After nine albums, Swift will be there, waiting for the tenth, at midnight.



Singer and Actress Olivia Newton-John’s

The movie “Grease” has brought joy to people’s hearts since 1978. Everyone involved in the film did outstanding work, especially John Travolta and Oliva Newton-John as Danny and Sandy. The movie told the life story of the two characters falling in love during high school, and dealing with their own crowds.

Newton-John had dealt with breast cancer since 1992. She was able to overcome it; however, the cancer returned in 2013 as a tumor in her shoulder. The actress passed away on Saturday, Aug. 8 in her home in Southern California.

According to Sarah Gantz of medicalxpress.com, Newton-John experienced metastatic breast cancer, which spreads from the breast to other parts of the body. This type is responsible for most of 44,000 breast cancer deaths. More than 168,000 women are estimated to be living with this breast cancer in the states.

After her death, Travolta mentioned her in an instagram post: “My dearest Olivia, you made all of our lives so much better. Your impact was incredible. I love you so much. We will see you down the road and we will all be together again. Your’s from the first moment I saw you and forever! Your Danny, your John!”

Newton-John was a huge advocate for breast cancer research and, according to The Guardian, even opened

a cancer wellness and research center in Australia, and strongly encouraged women to take action for their breast health. When she passed away, her family asked for donations to be given to the Olivia Newton-John Foundation Fund that ensures that her work will continue for generations to come.

Newton-John will be deeply missed by people all around the globe, as her work as an actress will be remembered fondly. Her legacy will live on for generations.



Inclusive Changes to Sorority Life

By Julia Schaefer

Heidelberg Sorority, Zeta Theta Psi, voted on August 24 to change the name of their corollary to the “Zeta Embers,” officially welcoming members of any gender to join. This is the first Greek group to change the name of their corollary in recent history.

Zeta announced the name through Instagram and Twitter. The posts included a flaming logo with the phrase “this fire burns for everyone.”

The Zeta corollary, previously known as the “Zeta Gents,” began in 2016. The new name, “Embers,” is inspired by one of the group’s symbols, the phoenix. The mythical creature lights on fire and is reborn from the ashes, properly representing Zeta’s evolution.

Zeta president Lauren Buskirk acknowledged that making this change was a top priority coming into the fall semester. “All of us prioritize inclusivity in our own

lives,” Buskirk stated. “We didn’t want to exclude anyone from being a part of Zeta, especially our trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming friends.”

Founded in 2013, Zeta Theta Psi is one of four sororities at Heidelberg. As the youngest Greek group, the “Zetas” are looking for ways to establish themselves and enhance their mission to support everyone.

Buskirk said Zeta is a diverse group that is excited about making sure everyone can find a home at Heidelberg. According to its Instagram, Zeta is “a Society that strives to empower sophisticated women while inspiring unwavering confidence, encouraging a well-rounded collegiate experience, and respecting all members of the community.”

The Embers follow in the footsteps of the Euglossian Society, Heidelberg’s only gender-neutral Greek society. In October, the Eugs

and Zetas will collaborate for a showing of the movie “The Laramie project.” The film documents the aftermath of Mathew Shephard’s murder, which sparked conversations about LGBTQ+ hate crimes in America.

Immediately following the announcement, Zeta hosted its first event of the year, “Marmalade Skies: Sunsets, Smores, and Stargazing.” The event had an impressive turnout and positive messages from the campus community.

“We have been amazed by the response,” said Buskirk. “Our alumni especially have been overwhelmingly supportive.”

Applications to join the Embers, or corollaries for any Greek group, were due before Sept. 7.

Embers will work to support everyone, no matter their background, making Heidelberg an even more welcoming and encouraging community.

Sports

Baseball Fan Connects Youth to the Game through Social Media

By Travis Fletcher

Robert decided at twelve years old that baseball needed to involve younger participants, and he was going to help make that happen through social media.

According to SportingNews in an article published on Jan. 6, Major League Baseball has the oldest average fan base out of the four major North American professional sports leagues. Because young people frequently use social media to stay connected with one another, Robert thought creating a social media account dedicated to tracking the complex system of transactions in Major League Baseball would attract younger fans to the game.

Robert made his account using the structure of existing fan pages. “I loved their formats and the way they presented their news and thought I’d give it a try,” said Robert explained. “I also always enjoyed writing, so combining that

with my favorite sport was a perfect opportunity to do something fun on the side.”

Robert listed MLBTradeRumors, NBC/CBS Sports, MLB.com and Twitter as just a few of the many places where he finds out about trades, free agency signings, and minor league demotions or call ups.

Already having background knowledge on players is useful because it enables Robert to “write a paragraph about him freehand and only have to look up his stats.” For players Robert is less familiar with, extensive research is sometimes necessary.

A multitude of transactions happen league-wide nearly every day, so Robert makes tough decisions on which transactions to report. Describing his selection process, he said, “There’s a few factors that go into deciding what to post. First of all is how famous or well-known

the player is. Second would be the type of transaction. Finally, it would be the timing.”

Robert closed with a reflection on the state of MLB’s aging fanbase. He stated, “The league deserves credit for their efforts to use social media to attract younger fans.”

He also explained how the formatting and delivery method of content matters to younger demographics. “I may draw interest in younger demographics because of the attention-catching formats and perhaps the quick, informative nature of my captions. The better something is formatted and written, the more likely kids will take time out to read it.”

As of July 28, Robert’s “baseball-transactions” page had over 36,000 followers on Instagram.

LIV Golf: A Tale of Professional Golf and Human Rights Violations By Cameron Spraggins

What do Saudi Arabian human rights violations and professional golf have in common? Far too much for Americans to be comfortable with, actually.

In 2022, the professional golf world received its most national attention since the Tiger Woods scandals. The PGA Tour has been the number one tour for professional golfers to play on since 1929. They are frequently criticized for monopolizing professional golf and competitors have finally come knocking. According to their website, LIV Golf was founded in 2021 by longtime PGA Tour player and former number one golfer in the world, Greg Norman. Norman strives to create a professional golf league that mimics the franchise-like organization that is seen in other professional sports.

LIV Golf offers an alternative format for professional golf with larger cash purses and a global tour schedule in an effort to attract the top 30-40 players in the world. The greatest appeal of Norman’s plan is the institution of team golf, an alternative format to the individual stroke play tournaments that currently exist on the PGA Tour.

In addition to the team format, LIV Golf reduced tournaments to 54 holes, compared to the 72 hole tournaments on the PGA Tour, and there is no cut-line for LIV tournaments.

Due to the removal of a cut line and the guaranteed payouts for each tournament regardless of the golfer’s play, LIV golf has been heavily criticized for being uncompetitive. However, the uncompetitive nature of the league isn’t even its greatest concern. It’s controversial sponsors that are more alarming. LIV Golf is funded by the Saudi Public Investment Fund, the driving force behind economic development in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia has a long history of human rights violations, including the murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018 for criticizing the policies of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the son of King Salman and Saudi Arabia’s de facto rule, as reported by BBC News. As we pass the 21st anniversary of the attacks on September 11 2001, defected PGA Tour players find themselves in an unexpected place, accused of unpatriotic behavior and plastered over commercials protesting LIV Golf and its Saudi funders who have been linked to the attacks on 9/11.

LIV Golf’s most notable golfer, Phil Mickelson, did not deny the human rights violations of the Saudi government. In a February 2022 interview with Alan Shipnuck, of The Fire Pit Collective, Mickelson said “We know they killed Khashoggi and have a horrible record on human rights...They execute people over there for being gay. Knowing all of this, why would I even consider it? Because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reshape how the PGA Tour operates.”

Downplaying human rights violations in the name of reshaping professional golf is a jarring assertion, and it highlights the disregard of humanity for each player who has joined LIV golf – happy to push these issues under the rug given a \$200 million paycheck.

LIV Golf is gaining steam in a

race for the top players in the world. With a seemingly endless budget and new players defecting from the PGA Tour every week, LIV Golf shows no signs of stopping.

Regardless of what shape the professional game will take in the coming years, those who have defected from the PGA Tour are building a legacy tainted by money of a murderous Saudi regime. When asked to comment on these concerns, they evade questions on their bosses shady dealings and say they are “growing the game.” In reality LIV Golf is growing nothing but the pockets of those who have sold out and turned a blind eye to atrocity for their own personal gain.



New Varsity Sport Deserves Heidelberg Community Support By Conor Sukel

Some of Heidelberg’s newest student-athletes will be making history next when the men’s and women’s swim team compete as a varsity sport for the first time. Swimming has been on the Heidelberg campus as a club sport since the 1980s.

Ben Rath has been named the coach and must recruit and train the team in time for the 2023 swim season. An Ohio native, Rath brings experience, connections, and excitement to the team.

Rath has been swimming since he was six years old and swam at the collegiate level for five years. He attended the University of Findlay as an undergraduate where he also began his coaching career. After his own swim practices were over he would coach young swimmers for a local club team.

After graduating, Rath coached swimming at Findlay High School for two seasons. Under his leadership, the Findlay Trojans had two runner-up finishes at state championships and several more swimmers earned all-state honors.

His impressive coaching caught the eye of his former college swim coach, which led to Rath coaching distance swimmers for two years at University of Findlay before going to Bluffton University for a year and a half to start their swim program.

Rath foresees the biggest challenge of developing the program being marketing the swim teams so people know Heidelberg has a swim team: “The biggest challenge is brand recognition, just getting the word out that Heidelberg actually has a swim program. After overcoming that challenge, I don’t see why we wouldn’t get the student-athletes that Heidelberg and I are looking for.”

With just under a year before practices begin for the swim team at the nearby Tiffin YMCA, Rath commented on how he plans to construct a competitive team, saying “Hopefully we will get some transfers in. But for the freshman coming in it’s about setting the bar very very high because while I am laid back when it is time to get to work I am very demanding.”

Rath hopes to see strong support from Berg students supporting the swim team especially at home events and said, “I know swimming isn’t the most popular sport but give it a chance. It is a really demanding sport and the athletes that do it are incredible people. Come check out a home meet. That swim area is going to be set up so it can get super loud for our tight races.”

Student-athletes who hope to swim under Rath need to be hard working, ready to buy in, and

ready to take care of their academics. Swimmers will have dry land and water workouts on top of their schoolwork. Rath takes academics very seriously with his athletes as no team of his has posted a team GPA lower than 3.4.

Rath is interested in anyone who has a swimming background and wants to work hard to be successful regardless of talent level. To potential swimmers, Rath said, “To do anything well in swimming you have to put in the work. Buy into what I and Heidelberg are talking about and you will see success.”



Courtesy of NCAA Division III Athletics

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