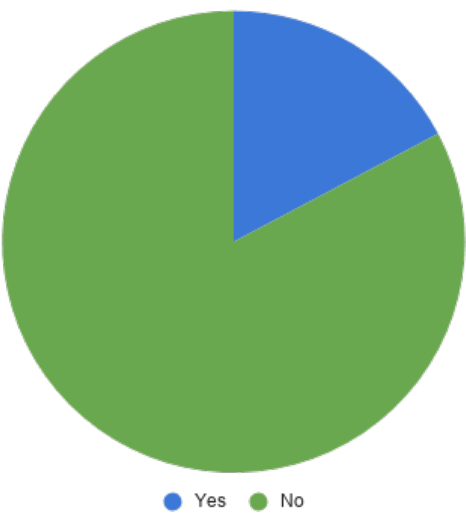


What's Your Opinion?

Last week, we asked students if they had gotten a flu shot this year. Out of 29 responses, here are the results:
 Yes -- 5
 No -- 24



Next Week's Poll:

Spookiest Season

What's the spookiest part of October: Midterms, politics, or Halloween?

Students can answer the poll and find previous poll results on The Herald's website, theherald.home.blog, or on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](https://www.instagram.com/astateherald). Website polls are posted on Wednesdays and Instagram polls are posted on Mondays.

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website. All comics and memes can be found in the Comics section.

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR



Lily Cabibi-Wilkin is a junior music composition major from Hot Springs.

The Senate Judiciary Committee began its confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett on Monday. Here are some notes about Barrett and the confirmation hearing process, as of Tuesday evening.

What is a confirmation hearing?

A confirmation hearing is a meeting held by the Senate to interview a nominated candidate for federal office. The candidate, in this case Barrett, is nominated by the president. The hearing process lasts for four days, beginning at 9

a.m. each day.

Who is Amy Coney Barrett?

Barrett is an attorney who currently serves as a circuit judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (meaning she has jurisdiction over Illinois). She taught Constitutional law and statutory interpretation (the process by which courts interpret and apply legislation) at Notre Dame Law School from 2002-2017. Before that, she worked as a judicial law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia from 1998-1999.

What is she being nominated for?

Barrett is being nominated to be a Supreme Court Justice, filling the slot left by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died last month. Supreme Court Justices serve as judges in the highest court in the country, and interpret the Constitution to rule on cases brought before them. Supreme Court rulings usually set legal precedent, meaning that their rulings on certain cases may decide how future similar cases are ruled.

What are Barrett's beliefs?

Barrett opposes abortion and has been critical of the Affordable Care Act. She considers herself a textualist and originalist in regards to the

Constitution, meaning that she believes that the meaning of the Constitution is interpreted from its original text and meaning at the time it was written.

What has Barrett said so far in the hearing?

Barrett has refused to give her views on abortion, Roe v. Wade, the Affordable Care Act and a potential post-election Trump v. Biden case during the hearing, but was adamant that she would not "pre-commit" to any rulings. Notable comments include:

- "I have no agenda to try to overrule (Planned Parenthood v.) Casey."
- "I can't offer a legal conclusion right now about the outcome of the decision I would reach (on a case of an election dispute going to the Supreme Court)."

"I'm 100% committed to judicial independence from political pressure."
 - Amy Coney Barrett

- "(I'm) not here on a mission to destroy the Affordable Care Act. I'm just here to apply the law and

adhere to the rule of law."

- "I can't really speak to what the president has said on Twitter."
- "I'm 100% committed to judicial independence from political pressure."

Where can I watch the rest of the hearing?

Some news channels, like CNN and MSNBC, are showing a live feed of the hearing. NPR and The New York Times have livestreams on their websites.

Should I watch the rest of the hearing?

It's up to you. It may be more convenient to wait to see the results in news or social media, rather than try to understand all the terms being used in the hearing itself. But Barrett's appointment to the Supreme Court would mean a growth of the conservative majority the Court has, since Ginsburg was more liberal. Even if President Donald Trump is not re-elected, the appointment of Barrett would affect the actions of any presidents going forward, since Supreme Court Justices are appointed for life barring death or impeachment. While you may not want or be able to watch the hearing itself, it's important to stay updated on the results.

Rihanna's Savage X Fenty Line: An Example of Proper Diversity

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR

Music artist and cultural icon Rihanna debuted the second fashion show of her Savage x Fenty line on Oct. 2, featuring performers like Travis Scott, Rosalia and Mustard. The show was streamed on Amazon Prime. It featured guest stars (like Willow Smith and Lizzo), dance numbers and a traditional runway (featuring female, male and nonbinary models), as well as interview clips and documentary footage about the creation of the fashion line.

This year has marked the addition of a menswear collection to the Savage x Fenty line, in response to requests by fans of the brand. Eight new styles were added to the brand's website, one of them being modeled by a plus size model. The menswear line is a collaboration with rapper and model Christian Combs.

Scrolling through the Savage x Fenty website will show the brand's lingerie collection being modeled by women of all ethnicities and body types. A 2018 fashion show of the brand even featured two pregnant women.

Rihanna explained in an interview with E! News that she prefers to focus on women who don't usually get to be seen as sexy in normal media.

"They're sexy," she said, "and they need to know that, and they need to be validated about that no matter what size they are. I'm so focused on that

and making women, not just anyone but everyone feeling invited, welcomed. Savage is a home, it's a hub and it's a safe space for everyone."

In the interviews shown throughout the fashion show, several people, including Rihanna, talk about their experiences and philosophies regarding sexuality and self-expression. Rihanna in particular presents sexuality as a gray area between exploitation and empowerment, saying that sometimes sexuality is "tainted because you've had horrible experiences or been robbed of your own power." The message presented in this section is that confidence comes from within a person, not from their clothes -- an unorthodox one for a fashion brand, but a message that is inclusive of all experiences with sexuality, good and bad.

In an interview with People, Rihanna said that "inclusivity has always been a part of our brand. That's not a 'right now' thing. It's sad that it's right now for most brands. But that's always been who I am...I feel great that there are women that are feeling like they see themselves on the stage for the first time."

When it comes to the lack of inclusivity in other brands, Rihanna has a point.

An article by Vogue Business points out that several fashion companies have struggled to practice diversity due to the big names being made up of teams with similar worldviews. While companies like Ralph Lauren have had diversity

councils since 2003, others, such as Prada and Gucci, only began instituting diversity councils in 2019, after their companies faced scandals over products that were racially insensitive.

The article also notes that in April of 2019, fellow music artist and cultural icon Beyoncé considered a fashion collaboration with Reebok, but stepped away from the deal after meeting with her potential team.

"Nobody in this room reflects my background, my skin color, and where I'm from and what I want to do," she said.

Gucci's particular racially insensitive fashion item was a black balaclava sweater, with a turtleneck meant to be pulled over the lower half of the face like a face mask. The sweater included a hole for the mouth, surrounded by bright red lips. Unintentionally or not, this invoked the image of blackface.

While Gucci's official statement claimed that they "consider diversity to be a fundamental value to be fully upheld, respected, and at the forefront of every decision" they make, many Twitter users disagreed.

Twitter user @KayMogul asked, "So how many people did this get past before someone realized it maybe wasn't a good idea. It's funny the companies are always apologizing after the decision makers think something so obviously wrong to the world

is okay. Is it safe to say there are zero American Black people staffed?"

Another, @AnikaKarinaa, asked, "Why do companies always say 'we love diversity in fact we diverse so hard' as if that convinces anybody after said (company) puts out something that clearly evokes the imagery of something that's not only not diverse but is in fact racist?"

Companies like Gucci should take a look at the Savage x Fenty line as an example of a fashion line that is truly diverse. Rather than simply claiming to be diverse, they should strive to practice real diversity, the kind that celebrates not just white people, but everyone, for who they are.



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