

1876

THE

2020

CAMPUS

Volume 144, Issue 19

– FRIDAY, February 28, 2020 –

Meadville, Pennsylvania
www.alleghenycampus.com

Conversations on campus



EMILY RICE/THE CAMPUS
Bryan Terrell Clark talks to students about finding one’s purpose at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, in the Vukovich Center for the Arts.

Terrell Clark discusses finding purpose

By SARA HOLTHOUSE
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History has its eyes on you, even if you have not played George Washington in Hamilton on Broadway.

Bryan Terrell Clark, who filled the role of George Washington in the famous Broadway musical in 2017, and then again during the holiday season 2019, visited campus and gave a lecture titled, “Finding Your Purpose: From Baltimore to Broadway’s ‘Hamilton’” at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, in the Gladys Mullenix Black Theatre in the Vukovich Center for Communication Arts.

Clark was introduced by Charles Allan Ross, ’20, who spoke of Clark’s numerous roles, and at one point began to say his introduction back-

wards. It was later revealed that this was a challenge that Clark posed to Ross before the lecture.

“Tonight, we welcome Bryan Terrell Clark, who is a singer, songwriter, philanthropist and actor, perhaps best known for his starring role as George Washington in ‘Hamilton: The American Musical,’ on Broadway,” Ross said.

Clark began his lecture by asking the audience how many people had seen the musical, and then by singing Washington’s introduction in Hamilton with the song “Right Hand Man.”

“The introduction of George Washington is so powerful in the show, because you don’t meet him as the president,” Clark said. “You meet him as the general. And so you are introduced to

him in battle.”

Clark said people commonly ask him if they are going to be able to understand the show, because it is rap.

“I think to myself, ‘it’s brilliant,’” Clark said. “The show is designed in this brilliant way because it is literally the Shakespeare of our time. Oftentimes people ask what the rap and the rhyme of it all will be and I think to myself that’s interesting because, I am not a rapper. I’m a classically trained actor who sings gospel and musical theatre. ... It’s something about what this show is and the timing of this show that makes it a juggernaut in my industry, and what I realized is that is all about being your authentic self.”

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ALANA SABOL/THE CAMPUS
Philip Gourevitch discusses his experience reporting in Rwanda at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in Ford Chapel.

Gourevitch reviews Rwanda experience

By MATTHEW STEINBERG
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Antwon is a Rwandan man who has learned to govern his devastations, rather than be governed by them — or so he told Philip Gourevitch over drinks one night at a bar. Like hundreds of thousands of Rwandans, Antwon is still affected by the Gacaca court hearings of the early 21st century, in which he faced the murderers of his family members as they confessed their crimes in exchange for reduced prison sentences. The Rwandan government summoned him to forgive the perpetrators, and he has since grappled with the order in more ways than one.

Gourevitch, an award-winning author, staff writer for The New Yorker and former

editor of The Paris Review, shared his friend’s story during a lecture on Monday in Ford Memorial Chapel. Antwon’s is just one account from the Rwandan genocide in 1994, in which 800,000 people lost their lives in the span of 100 days.

Gourevitch’s reporting on the mass atrocities began in 1995, and has continued throughout the last quarter century in the form of prize-winning books like “We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families” and in-depth articles published in The New Yorker.

“The book was written and reported in 1995, ’96, ’97 and published in ’98, and it was much more about the origin, genesis and world’s response to the genocide, as well as the early aftermath,” Gourevitch

said in an interview with The Campus.

The years following the genocide were an incredibly tumultuous period in Rwanda, according to Gourevitch. Close to a million of the country’s then population of seven million lost their lives at the hands of a large number of propagandized people — estimated to be hundreds of thousands.

“You have a structure, where you have a state structure and a political leadership structure, at the very top of a state as well as at very many local administrative levels,” Gourevitch said.

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Poet Eric Smith visits campus for Single Voice Reading

By BRIAN KLINE
Contributing Writer
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Surrounded by decoratively laid tables and a hushed audience, Allegheny College’s visiting author Eric Smith remarked on the plush grandeur that surrounded him in the Tippie Alumni Center’s event hall. Comparing the splendor of the space to another place he performed his poems in Florida, he said he was similarly humbled.

“I feel undeserving of this space,”

Smith said. “When I read at a chapel in Tampa, I asked ‘can I say the F-word in here?’ And the dean of the college was like ‘it’s fine, it’s fine. [The chapel] isn’t consecrated.”

With a joking, self-deprecating and charismatic personality, Allegheny College’s visiting author Eric Smith sat in to answer questions by Allegheny English students during classes, and read a collection of his poems at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, in the Tippie Alumni Center.

The subject of the poems were

wide ranging, and featured subjects from crashing trains to snowy owls and shotguns. Smith has been working on his award-winning book “Black Hole Factory” for over a decade. Including some of the earliest works of his poetic career, with poems such as “Tyrannosaurus Sex” and “A Show of Hands,” Smith wields diction and syntax in a true homage to the expressive power of lyricism and verse.

Smith’s book won the Tampa Review Prize for Poetry in 2017, and

since he’s done book tours across the country. Delivering him far from his home in Tennessee, a number of Smith’s poems deal with his own upbringing in Georgia, and tackle the idiosyncratic relationships he saw there. From football to fatherhood to plumbing, Smith held nothing back in tearing himself apart.

“I love this space, and I feel undeserving of this space because I write poems about dinosaurs and... farting,” Smith said. “Empty hotels in Miami, and this (Tippie Alumni

Center) seems far too nice for that.”

Counting Smith’s earliest poems, he has been working on the book from his teenage years, for the poems to be teenagers now themselves. As an undergraduate student at West Georgia University, Smith actually met Allegheny’s own resident poet Christopher Bakken at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs in 2007.

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IN THIS WEEK’S CAMPUS

SONIC
The new Sonic movie is so bad that it is good.

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FILM FESTIVAL
The International Film Festival held screenings for the 2020 semester.

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CLARK INTERVIEW
The Campus sits down with actor Brian Terrell Clark.

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GOUREVITCH

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“So you have governors, local authority figures — some of them might be priests, some of them might be teachers, what have you — who orchestrated, and mobilized, and led, and inspired and in a sense licensed this genocide. ... So what do you do? How do you deal with that?”

At this point, authority figures in Rwanda began to think about Gacaca, a system that lightened prison sentences in exchange for telling the truth about a crime. The concept originates from Rwandan tradition, but no one had thought to implement it for offenses like murder, let alone genocide, according to Gourevitch.

For about a decade, Gacaca trials took place in thousands of established courts across the country. Community members like Antwon were called to listen to killers paint vivid pictures of their loved-ones murders, which were often carried out with clubs and machetes.

“People talked about (Gacaca) as reconciliation, but actually once I had a conver-

sation with... the head of the Gacaca courts national system,” Gourevitch said. “And when we were talking about it she said, ‘I mean, Gacaca, the idea is that should make ... reconciliation a possibility.”

Yet in official rhetoric from Rwandan authorities, it appeared as though reconciliation was occurring through Gacaca, rather than representing it as “a stepping stone toward reconciliation.” Gourevitch said he finds the latter to be much more credible.

During his reporting, Gourevitch spoke with a number of government officials such as Paul Kagame, now president of Rwanda and former military leader in the late 20th century, survivors like Antwon and perpetrators of all levels. His visit to campus comes following a trip to Rwanda, headed by Associate Professor of Psychology Lydia Eckstein and Associate Professor and Chair of Political Science Shanna Kirschner, this past winter break.

“We are thrilled to have (Gourevitch) here tonight

speaking about his distinguished career as an author and a journalist,” said Matt Bauer, ’20, as an introduction for Gourevitch before his Monday lecture. “Throughout much of the past 30 years, Gourevitch has explored the darkest facets of human behavior, delving into both why individuals commit atrocities and the political and economic institutions that enable them to do so.”

The trip was a part of two semester-long courses — one of which is continuing this semester — in which students studied genocide and reconciliation. As part of the courses, students read Gourevitch’s 1998 book.

Yet Allegheny students have delved further into the history of the Rwandan genocide. On Feb. 7, students who attended the trip to Rwanda held a town hall in Quigley Auditorium to discuss their takeaways from the trip. They had tour guides from Ageis Trust, an organization that works to prevent mass atrocities and crimes against humanity, and had the



ALANA SABOL/THE CAMPUS

Philip Gourevitch talks to students about his experience in Rwanda at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in Ford Memorial Chapel.

opportunity to visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial in the country’s capital city.

By 2010, the vast majority of Rwandans were under the age of 20, Gourevitch said during his lecture. One of the byproducts of the genocide is an accelerated generational shift — many of today’s Rwandan citizens are too young to remember the genocide or even its aftermath. What remains today is an incredibly complex situation that the country and its people, like Antwon, are forced to reckon with.

CLARK

from page 1

Clark then described the multiple characteristics of the writer and producer of Hamilton, Lin-Manuel Miranda, saying that putting all of those things together, “none of that makes sense when it comes to the landscape of musical theatre.”

“But by him being who he is, unapologetically stepping into his authenticity, he has created something deeply unique,” Clark said. “I believe at the crux of all of that, that’s about being passionate about what is authentic to yourself”

Prior to the lecture on Wednesday, Clark held an acting workshop with students, who he described at this point in his lecture as his favorite group of students he’s worked with so far on his speaking tour.

“One of the students said, ‘Do you say that everytime you go to a university or college?’ and I said, ‘no I don’t,’” Clark said.

Then Clark mentioned a question he was asked earlier that day, which tied into the real message of what he was going to talk about during his lecture, about how he started acting and when he first knew he wanted to be an actor and work in music.

“I asked my mom this not too long ago, and she said ‘before you could talk,’” Clark said.

According to Clark’s mother, Clark would walk up to the TV or radio before he was old enough to talk and “just bounce.”

This brought Clark into the story of his mother, Tanya Clark, and her love for education. Clark described her as an innovator who switched back and forth between being a teacher, principal and administrator at the school she worked with, along with also being a Sunday School teacher who became a minister. Clark’s mother also worked in a school environment where students did not come from the best home lives, and was “an angel in that space,” according to Clark.

Next, Clark talked about his father, who was the op-

posite of his mother when it came to education. Clark said his father was very charismatic, but never went to college even though he would have gotten a full ride on a track scholarship. What his father did do, however, was convince the managers of Westinghouse Electric Corporation to let him work there. Clark’s family would only find out after seven years that his father was the company drug dealer.

“When I really think about that time in my life, it was a pivotal turning point, but it was also a very dark time,” Clark said. “It was interesting because I sat my parents down and said, ‘Hey can we have a family meeting?’ I had to be like 12 or 13, however old you are when you first start middle school.”

According to Clark, at this family meeting Clark told his parents that he understood the situation but did not want to hear about it anymore because he saw how unhappy they both were. After that, he pledged to be and was silent for the next three years, with the exception of singing in his gospel choir.

Clark described how he would stand in the back of the choir and sing, until one day the person next to him heard him sing and called attention to it, and the choir director pulled him to the front to sing a solo.

“After that moment you could find me kind of coming alive in gospel choir,” Clark said. “I was either singing a solo, or directing.”

Clark’s theatre, and specifically musical theatre, experience began soon after that when his aunt brought him to his first acting class. Clark described how he liked acting but did not fully understand or appreciate musicals until the first time he saw “Rent.”

“When I saw ‘Rent,’ I was undone,” Clark said.

Clark began to skip school and get on a Greyhound bus and travel from his home in Baltimore, to New York City to audition for the role of Benny in “Rent”. Clark received many callbacks for Benny but

never the part. He continued to skip school for auditions when he went off to college at Temple University, and became friends with the sister of Billy Porter. Porter helped him to gain a deeper understanding of musical theatre, and Clark began to love it.

That summer, Clark became a director at a theatre camp and helped to put on a production of “The Wiz.” After that, it came time for him to begin auditioning for graduate school programs, specifically NYU and Yale Universities. The head of the program that was helping students to audition for grad school told Clark that he should avoid those schools because of money and travel costs, and that they would be less likely to accept people of color. Clark went on to audition for both schools by himself, and got accepted to both, along with being on hold for a role in both “The Lion King” on Broadway, and the TV show, “All My Children.”

Clark ended up attending Yale school of Drama.

“And I just knew, in my inner being, that I was supposed to be there,” Clark said. “This is something that I’ve been telling these young folks all day, so I’m going to reiterate it. This is a time in your life that is really important. Because when you’re somewhere between the ages of 17 and I would say your early 20s — this is the time that you can take advantage of the space that’s been given for you. College and university is supposed to be a time we set aside a safe space for you to begin to think critically for yourself.”

Clark said that college is also an important time to start finding one’s own inner voice, as at first that inner voice is more likely to be reminiscent of parents for a very long time.

“But you’ve got to find out what your inner voice sounds like,” Clark said. “And this is a safe space ... where you can begin to listen to that voice for yourself.”

During Clark’s time at Yale, he began to feel what he

described as a cognitive dissonance. He became aware of a “secret black man code” that existed at Yale where when being pulled over by a police officer, a black man would pull out his driver’s license and also his Yale ID and be let off or at least let off easier than normal.

“And there was a cognitive dissonance because I was so angry,” Clark said. “Because what does that mean? That some other young guy who just happened to be born and grow up there and actually is a citizen of that community is unsafe because they don’t go to Yale?”

Clark decided to stay at Yale that summer, and took part in a project at the college where the students helped other people to tell their stories through art.

“We literally took their stories and helped them to write and produce plays with them, and that changed my life,” Clark said. “And it was in that moment that I realized there is a difference between passion and purpose.”

Clark added that during his current speaking tour, he has come to the realization that as human beings everyone is going to die someday, and that as human beings everyone has love and fear.

“What I find to be most consistent in that is that most adults generally aren’t happy,” Clark said. “And it’s weird because I’m generally happy all the time. Not in a weird way, like I’m popping glitter or something, but I do have a general sense of happiness in my inner being. And I realized that it’s because I’m very clear on what I’m passionate about, and I learned something during that summer. I’m also clear in my purpose.”

Clark then returned to his story, describing how he was given the opportunity to go to London, but instead went to a different program in Minneapolis. Along the way, Clark met many well-known people that would become great mentors to him. This included a man who had a role on the TV show “Law & Order,”

who, because of his role in the show, was able to turn a garage into a guest house for his sick mother who was at the time away from him in Detroit. His mother was able to come and live in the guest home until she passed away.

“And he said, ‘that’s why I love my job, and that’s my reason why,’” Clark said.

Clark then decided to move to Los Angeles in the middle of a strike and the 2008 recession. He began to host an open mic night at a bar, where one night Stevie Wonder walked in and sang. After his appearance, more stars came to his open mic night, which opened up a path into the music industry for Clark.

“I say it all the time, life is the road, but your passion is the compass,” Clark said. “You follow your compass, and it will lead you to your purpose.”

Soon after, Clark began to audition for the role of Marvin Gaye in the musical “Motown.” After a lengthy process where he was not given the role, and at first only given the role of a Temptation in the show, Clark eventually filled the role of Marvin Gaye on Broadway. During the first week of rehearsal for the show, Clark received a call from his mom telling him that his cousin had walked out to his car and been caught in the middle of a fight, where he was killed in a crossfire.

“I was devastated and broken, and then angry,” Clark said. “I didn’t understand how in the greatest country in the world, something like this could happen.”

He then described how a few days later a stage manager came up to him and asked him about his cousin’s children, telling him to “start there,” when it came to having an influence and being able to make an impact through his acting and life in general. Clark then advised his audience to start with making changes and working within their personal sphere of influence when it comes to finding passion and purpose.

“If you want to bless those

around you, sometimes changing the world might seem like it’s insurmountable,” Clark said. “But what about starting with your brother or sister?”

After performing in “Motown,” Clark described his audition process for “Hamilton” and how he was called in three separate times for the show, and thought that he did not need to be in it. He was then called in one more time, and was hesitant to return.

Around this same time, Clark found out that his father had been in rehabilitation 22 times for his drug addiction. He described how his father had wanted to change, and that eventually the people who worked at the rehab center said that his father had a chemical imbalance that kept him addicted. After that the center was able to figure out how to fix his addiction, and his father got off of drugs.

“And now my dad is one of my best friends,” Clark said. “And when I think about my dad and my mom, my mom is this angel, and my dad is this weird dragon. And if I’m honest, they both taught me how to fly.”

According to Clark, he thought that if his father could go through drug rehab treatment 22 times, Clark could return for one more audition in “Hamilton.” He was given the role of George Washington, and went on to become the longest running George Washington on Broadway.

Clark ended his lecture by giving the audience three challenges for the next two weeks. The challenges were; to write down 5-10 things that they were grateful for every morning, to take back the responsibility of their own happiness, and to be their own authentic self.

Clark closed by singing a song from Hamilton, “History Has Its Eyes on You,” describing it as “a great moment” in Hamilton.

“And that’s what I would leave you all with,” Clark said. “History has its eyes on you, so what is it going to see?”

McKnight, Walker visit general assembly, explain jobs

ASG discusses green box system, diversity lounge, upcoming events

By ALANA SABOL
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Deputy Mayor of Meadville Larry McKnight and City Manager Andy Walker, '00, spoke at the Allegheny Student Government General Assembly on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

ASG welcomed the speakers to Henderson Campus Center room 301/302 to discuss how Allegheny College can strengthen its relationship with the Meadville community.

The discussion began with Walker explaining his background and his experiences as city manager. He told attendees that he became the downtown coordinator for Meadville immediately after graduating from Allegheny, and explained that he was exposed to this opportunity through the French Creek Project.

After more than a year as the downtown coordinator, Walker became the executive director of Meadville's Redevelopment Authority for approximately eight years.

"I got to do some really cool projects in terms of economic development and grant

writing, so I really cut my teeth on that," Walker said.

Walker has now been the acting city manager since he was elected in July 2013.

Following Walker, McKnight expanded on his background in Meadville, stating he was born and raised in the town and went to college locally at Edinboro University. He emphasized the special relationship that he observed between Meadville residents and the college when he was growing up.

"Even when I was a young kid growing up (in Meadville), we had Allegheny College students that played a big part in helping (the Meadville community) become who we are," McKnight said.

McKnight explained the difficulty of growing up during a time of civil unrest and discrimination, but mentioned that Allegheny students made him and other people of color feel welcome and included in the community.

"It was a very educational part of my life, with the help from Allegheny College students that took the time to come down to our neighbor-

hood," McKnight said.

McKnight affirmed that the positive interactions with the college and its community were part of the reason he became involved in city council and stayed in Meadville in the first place.

"If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem, and I don't want to be part of the problem," McKnight said. "I want to be a part of the solution. I want to help continue to see Meadville grow."

Following McKnight's introduction, Director of Community Relations Owen Jacobsen, '23, asked McKnight and Walker if they could provide some strategies or ideas about how the college could promote this growing relationship in the future.

Walker responded, stating that coordination in safety and security could be improved, but that overall the college administration has good communication about programs and grants with the city officials.

"There is that level (of communication) happening from a city perspective from city management to college administration," Walker said.

He also expressed his excitement about President Hilary Link's eagerness to create strong ties between Meadville and Allegheny.

"I get the sense that President Link is really going to (promote college involvement and leadership)," Walker said. "We're having lots of good conversations, she's asking great questions, there's funding opportunities at work and

I'm excited about that momentum."

Director of Diversity and Inclusion Taylor Marzouca, '20, asked McKnight and Walker how students can foster better interactions with long-term Meadville residents.

Walker responded that the best way to combat tension and create better interactions is to talk to others and form relationships.

"You have to intentionally meet (people) and get involved somehow," Walker said. "There has to be intentional efforts to know each other."

He expanded on this point, explaining that he often tells his staff that in order to discuss difficult topics with Allegheny administration, there has to be a level of trust.

"That (trust) needs to trickle down all the way to a student level," Walker said.

President of Class of 2021 Emma Zurowski asked Walker and McKnight to elaborate on what went well during the 2019 City Council election, and how students can repeat the pros in future elections to continue to support the community.

McKnight said that participation and expressing ideas were some of the most important factors.

"I don't care whether it's here in Meadville or wherever you end up, get involved and make your voices heard," McKnight said. "The one thing that really upsets me is when someone says that (their) vote doesn't count. It does."

Following McKnight and Walker's discussion, ASG moved to cabinet reports.

Director of Communication and Press David Roach, '21, began his report by announcing that a "How to: Budget" video will be filmed on Feb. 26, to better explain how finances and budget hearings work. He also announced that ASG will be taking yearbook pictures in two weeks.

Following Roach, Marzouca reported that the diversity lounge is being discussed, and she plans to hold an open meeting to CLC members to discuss ideas about the space moving forward.

"The purpose of that is to make sure that any decision made about the space is not coming from me," Marzouca said. "We're all going to work together to see what students actually want."

Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs Cat Lord, '20, announced in her report that there was discussion about how to improve the Green Box initiative and make it more popular, but that overall the program is struggling.

"A lot of students and employees are keeping a lot of extra coins or green boxes instead of just having one and cycling through," Lord said. "They're having to restock everything and it's costing a lot of money, so try to encourage people to have just one box and one coin."

Lord said that, unfortunately, if the program continues to be more expensive, it may have to stop all together.

After a few more cabinet reports, ASG transitioned into class reports. Most of the class reports consisted of developments of already existing projects. The Class of 2023 said that they are creating promotional material for the First-Year formal, and The Class of 2022 announced they are in contact with the administration about potential participation with the upcoming Chalk Walk with Class of 2021.

President Jason Ferrante, '20, began his report by announcing that the Major Events Committee will soon be planning Springfest. He also reported that the general assembly meeting may be moved to 6:30 or 6:45 p.m on Tuesday, March 3, to better coincide with the ASG Presidential Debate.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

“

It was a very educational part of my life, with the help from Allegheny College students that took the time to come down to our neighborhood.”

—LARRY MCKNIGHT
Deputy Mayor of Meadville

SMITH *from page 1*

"Everyone (at AWP) comes together for three days of bad behavior and literary mayhem," Bakken told the audience before the reading began. "They had a dance party at AWP, and you typically don't go to the dance party, but for some reason this year we did. ... We wore 'Cat-in-the-Hat' hats on the dance floor so the earliest memory I have of (Smith) is him dancing in a 'Cat-in-the-Hat' hat."

Bakken kicked off the event with his and Smith's history, sparking laughter among the audience.

Sarah Halprin, '21, came to the podium to commence the reading with a brief overview and synopsis of "Black Hole Factory," with insights into Smith's use of poetic forms and rhythmic composition and their effects on the tone of the overall piece.

"Smith's poems seem to emerge from the things we all think about in the middle of the night," Halprin said. "Tackling the inexplicable in this world and be-

yond, Smith writes about hoping for continuum tears (black holes) in the infinite but also creates them with his poetry."

Smith thanked Halprin for her introduction before jumping into his book chronologically with the first poem, "A Show of Hands," followed by his other earliest work "Tyrannosaurus Sex." An accomplished orator, Smith interspersed his readings with anecdotal stories about the origins of his poems, and how they developed over the course of their composition.

"I read this news article about snowy owls setting up nests along flight paths at LaGuardia Airport," Smith said. "And instead of, you know, moving the nests or taking care of the birds they were like 'why don't we just shoot them?' So I wrote this poem."

The poem in question was "Of a Feather," the source of the previously mentioned snowy owls.

As thanks for Allegheny's hospitality, Smith also read a smaller selection of his poems destined for his future book "Cashtown". The future book has no current time-frame for it's publication, but based on the technical skill of its poems it reads as a worthy successor to "Black Hole Factory".

“

Tackling the inexplicable in this world and beyond, Smith writes about hoping for continuum tears (black holes) in the infinite but also creates them with his poetry.”

—SARAH HALPRIN
Class of 2021

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 21, 2020, issue of The Campus, in the article “ASG discusses commencement ceremony, upcoming elections,” it was stated that the primary elections for ASG President and Vice President began on Thursday, Feb. 27. The elections began Tuesday, Feb. 25.

CRIME BLOTTER

Editor’s Note: The weekly Crime Blotter is compiled using the Daily Crime Log available on the Office of Public Safety’s web page. Crimes reported may still be under investigation. Crimes listed below are collected the Thursday before publication.

Feb. 23, 2020

Alcohol Violation

Edwards Hall

Feb. 23, 2020

Criminal Mischief

Baldwin Hall

Feb. 23, 2020

Burglary/Criminal Mischief

Baldwin Hall

Feb. 24, 2020

Criminal Mischief/Act 64

Schultz Hall

Feb. 24, 2020

Harassment/Bias Incident

606 N. Main St.

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The Campus is printed every Friday during the academic year, except during breaks and exam periods.

‘Parasite’: insightful critique of wealth, celebrity privacy

Joon-Ho’s masterpiece makes history, first foreign film to win Best Picture

By **BRIAN KLINE**
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The Oscar-winning movie “Parasite,” by filmmaker Bong Joon-Ho is well worth its raving reviews and remains, in my mind, a phenomenal movie. Its subject matter cuts right to the heart of the economic class division in South Korea, in a way that appeals universally to income disparity worldwide.

I honestly feel bad for those who are wealthy and affluent. And, I feel only pity for the rich and famous. Because you lose something when you reach your dreams and live on top of the mountain of your achievement; this separates a person from what it is like to actually live. Failure gains a new connotation when it is no longer synonymous with homelessness or poverty, as wealth becomes a safety net to correct mistakes.

Not to say that money is a bad thing — far from it. Money is necessary for exactly this reason, beyond meeting our basic needs money frees us to live fuller lives, pursuing individual interests. But money has a price to itself as well, in that extreme realm of the celebrity where privilege is lost for privacy.

In our reality, there are things a celebrity will never have. The chance to walk down the street, go to the store. Ride a bike, even be in a public place. Funny, that our most public figures can’t use public spaces. If they did, they’d be mobbed by fans for pictures or autographs. The phenomenon is like a reply to the old retort, “This is why we can’t have nice things.” That when a thing becomes available to everyone is precisely when someone will come along to break it. Hence, we break the people we follow.



Photo courtesy of [wikimedia.org](#)

So a celebrity will never have that love of a stranger meeting a stranger and talking of something inconsequential. The weather, an object of curiosity in the surrounding, only that it be something besides themselves. Having a world not interested in them, because once fame digs its fangs in, there is no going back beyond losing exactly what it has bitten.

And so celebrities will continue to pay more and more to give themselves the security that they lost in their anonymity. Ironical, that the more influential a person becomes the more they have to spend to put a facade over the fact. Money, what comes with fame and success, becomes a necessary commodity to maintain a barrier between the ce-

lebrity and the pedestrian. Similarly, an economic line is drawn when this occurs, one that distinguishes the wealthy individual from the lower class. Hence, a type of elitism is born.

As part of this elitism, the ultra-rich are no longer able to interact with others in a peer-to-peer environment. A celebrity loses that similar connection that can come from people with a similar history or background. As Chung-sook says in “Parasite”: “Rich people are naive, no resentments. No creases on them. It all gets ironed out.

Money is an iron.” With the increasing gap between the rich and poor in South Korea and other nations abroad, the wealthy class disconnects from its poverty-stricken, lower-class neighbors.

With wealth you don’t need to be nice — you can be a pretentious and arrogant and people will still love you for your money. And yet for the wealthy people who are nice, I can only think of the freedom that money gave them to be that way. A “plan B,” where if they were faced with tragedy they could still grin and bear it for remaining financially unaffected by the loss.

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As Chung-sook says in “Parasite”: “Rich people are naive, no resentments. No creases on them. It all gets ironed out. Money is an iron.”

—BRIAN KLINE
Class of 2021

Nobody plans for complications or stumbling blocks, and yet they happen. Misfortune can happen at any time — storms, earthquakes or floods. In natural disasters alone, without a financial safety net, the lives of the people affected by these events are devastated. Imagine: a man has a heart attack at the wheel of a car and smashes into an oncoming car. If you’re the oncoming car, how can you plan for that event? You can’t, and so the only argument that holds sway is to say that nothing matters. In the words of the impoverished father in “Parasite,” Ki-taek, “With no plan, nothing can go wrong. And if something spins out of control, it doesn’t matter.”

At this point, the film industry as a whole leaves me feeling jaded. Between the viewers who become obsessed with artists and their work, and the wealthy class of individuals that cannot blend into that viewership for their cult-like following, it paints a crass picture of the economic disparity on both ends.

Simultaneously, Allegheny College sponsored a concert featuring Bryce Vine for its student population this month, to rousing student applause and widespread community approval. In our upper-class climate, it’s seen as money well spent.

‘Sonic the Hedgehog’ a success after Sonic redesigned

By **ROMAN HLADIO**
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Many movies are based on pre-established characters or events, but after Marvel took control of the hearts and minds of film consumers, other large companies who probably shouldn’t be making movies about their characters wanted a piece of the pie. Sega was one of them, bringing its beloved character Sonic to the silver screen.

Almost a year ago, the blue hedgehog found himself in a bitter controversy. With the release of the first trailer for the then-upcoming “Sonic the Hedgehog,” fans were taken aback. The spikey mammal was found to be a little more than unsettling in his computer-generated reimagining, the main complaints being that his body was too humanoid and, of course, he had human teeth.

As the outrage continued to snowball with no response from producing studio Paramount Pictures, fans began taking it upon themselves to redesign Sonic to fit the appearance that they had pictured for decades. Paramount eventually responded by releasing the same trailer as before with one key difference, a completely redesigned Sonic much more akin to that of his classic design. After months of uproar, Sonic fanatics fi-

nally relaxed.

The point of this background was solely to provide context as to why the release of this film was so important, and the controversy seemed to only boost its ticket sales, as the film grossed \$113 million in its first week. Even so, I wasn’t expecting much going into it, as most modern movies based on popular intellectual properties tend to be extremely subpar nowadays.

Being completely honest, I thought the movie was bad — it was so bad that I absolutely loved it.

The plot was nothing significant for a children’s movie. Sonic was forced to leave his home planet and, of course, ended up on Earth where he was discovered by the government due to his destruction of a little league field. He then seeks the help of a couple he had been watching over the past few years to escape the clutches of the evil Dr. Ivo Robotnik, played by Jim Carrey.

Besides Sonic, the other major selling point of the film was the antagonist, played by Carrey. I say that because I truly believe the directors just told Carrey to act like himself and play with drones for the duration of the film. Upon voicing this to my friends, one chimed in with, “Yeah, you’re right, but at the same

time (Carrey) just is (Robotnik).” This is a sentiment I can’t argue with. His sporadic movements and demeaning attitude exuded everything about the Sega villain while still being the all-around unique person who is Carrey.

Carrey, hands down, made the strongest contribution to the movie, as his character had very clear intentions and his evil demeanor brought a dark sense of humor that probably made the film much more enjoyable for the parents forced to view it, much like it did for me.

The strange interactions that characters had with each other made me love the movie. I felt as if every scene had a “What the hell?” moment that kept me engaged the whole time, whether it was Sonic stalking everyone in Green Hills, Montana, or the point where the internet meme known as “Sanic” — a cringey hand-drawn portrayal of Sonic that circulated through the real-world internet years ago — appeared on-screen or when Robotnik referred to the main character’s fiancée as “collateral damage.”

Every once in a while, a joke clearly written for children would find its way on screen, but I chose not to get too upset by it, as I am an adult watching a movie meant for children. That said, I did visibly cringe and recoil when Sonic started flossing after a near-death experience.

The thing that made me laugh the most throughout the entire movie, though, was the blatant product placement. For example, as soon as the main character talked about moving, his fiancée pulled out her lap-



Photo courtesy of [flickr.com](#)

top and said something to the effect of, “I’ve been looking at apartments on Zillow,” as the Zillow homepage filled the entire movie screen. Similar moments happened when companies like Ford and even Olive Garden were brought up. It was always so direct and seemed so self-aware that I couldn’t help but stifle laughter each time.

In general, Sonic the Hedgehog was a movie well worth the time and money. The visuals of the movie were amazing, which is usually the main aspect film producers have trouble with. If you’re already interested in any Sonic lore, even if it’s just from

playing the games as a kid, there are a lot of noticeable things that you’ll appreciate, specifically some of the things Sonic keeps in his den, as well as how his character gradually gains items like his signature shoes to alter his appearance. If you have no idea who Sonic is, still give it a shot, as it was just an overall goofy, self-aware film that brought a lot to the table.

Although it has yet to be announced, the ending of the movie and the post-credits scene heavily implied that there will be a sequel on the way and frankly, I can’t wait to see where this franchise goes.

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If you’re already interested in any Sonic lore, even if it’s just from playing the games as a kid, there are a lot of noticeable things that you’ll appreciate.”

—ROMAN HLADIO
Class of 2023

Evening at the movies, trip around the world

International film festival features popular movies from different cultures

By **TRAVIS LUXBACHER**
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Every winter, the Movies at Meadville becomes a gateway to cultures from all over the world, thanks to the International Film Festival, which showcases foreign films within 10 miles of Allegheny College.

The event is sponsored by the Department of Modern Classical Languages and screens films that rank among the best in their country. The festival spanned five weeks, featuring a new film from a different country every Monday from Jan. 27 to Feb. 24.

According to Wilfredo Hernandez, associate professor of Spanish and the organizer of the festival, the event this year is more exciting than ever before, with a series of great films that are more than worth the while to see.

“The faculty of the department select a movie for every language that we teach in the department,” Hernandez said. “Chinese, Arabic, German, French and Spanish movies are the films we choose from, five movies are selected, and one movie is shown every week.”

Hernandez emphasized the importance of these films and how it is beneficial for students to take a

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We want students to learn and be enlightened from watching these films, so quality is very important and that is how we base our movie choice.”

—WILFREDO HERNANDEZ
Associate Professor of Spanish

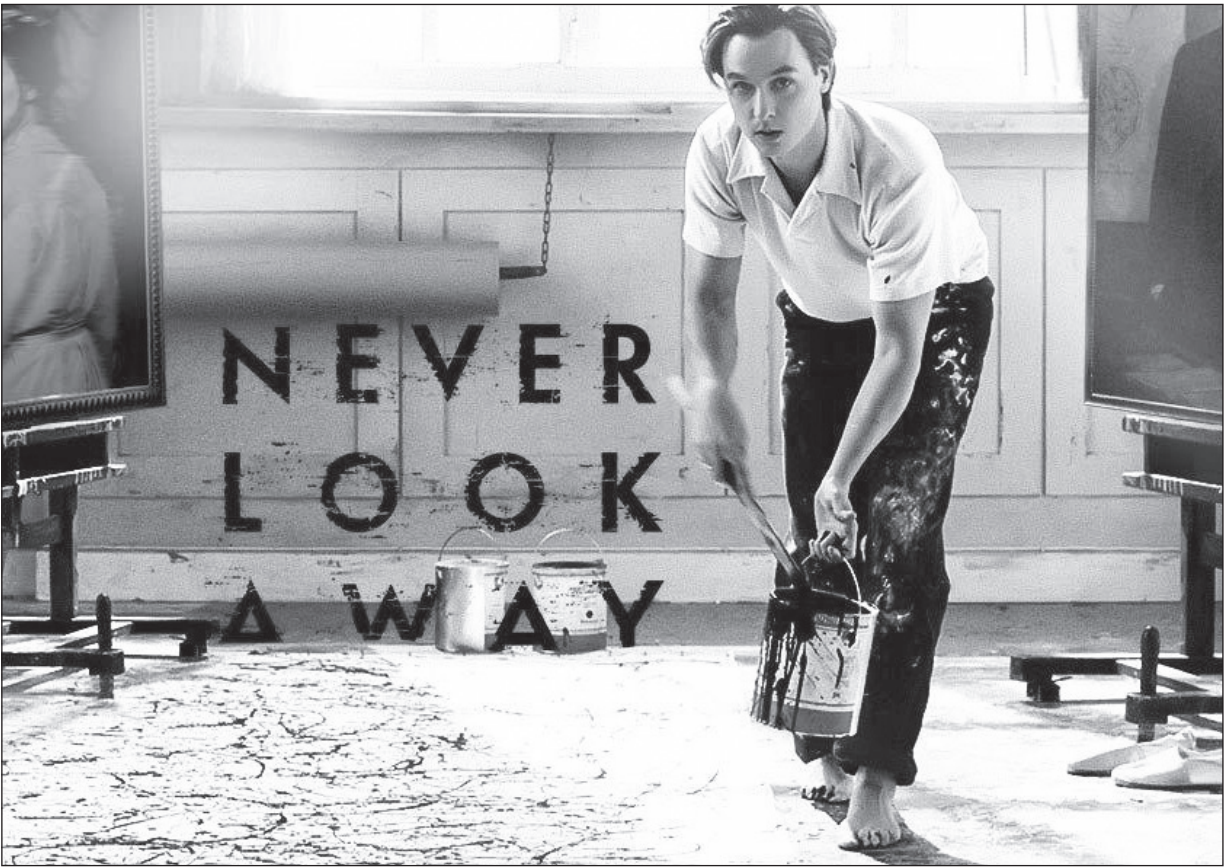


Photo contributed by **REESE CAMPBELL**

as films made in the United States.

“You don’t see as many foreign films in the United States showing in theatres, other than big theatres downtown, so we wanted to give people in Meadville an opportunity to have this special experience,” Hernandez said. “Commercial success is not our main priority, but rather our goal is to share what is relevant, culturally speaking.”

Shannan Mattiace, professor of political science and international studies, said she loves to attend the festival. She believes that it not only presents a way for students to unwind and relax, but is also beneficial for anyone who is interested in learning languages.

“The International Film Festival is beneficial for language learners, who get the opportunity to practice their language comprehension,” Mattiace said. “It is beneficial for all

residents of planet Earth because we get to learn about each others’ customs, behaviors, ideas and cultures.”

Much like Hernandez, Mattiace believes that it is difficult to find a way to see international films in Meadville, so the opportunity to do so here is important to her.

“My favorite part of the film festival is the films, of course,” Mattiace said. “We get to see very few international films at the Movies at Meadville, and for one month in the middle of winter we are treated to five.”

Along with the experience of seeing international films, Mattiace also values the aspects of community that the film festival brings about.

“This is truly an incredible treat, and it is also neat to attend a film showing in Meadville with many other people in our college and town community,” Mattiace said. “Usually when I go to the movies there are be-

tween zero to 10 people watching the film with me.”

Mary Wagner, emeritus professor of French, is also passionate about the festival and believes that the whole town of Meadville, not just the Allegheny community, will be given the opportunity to see these films and learn from them.

“The International Film Festival benefits not only Allegheny, but the rest of Meadville, as well,” Wagner said. “The films that are chosen for screening are shown at (the Movies at Meadville) free of charge, so it is a fantastic opportunity for people to enjoy their night and learn the language.”

Hernandez believes that interest in the International Film Festival is slowly but surely growing, which can only bode well for the future of the event.

“Usually we show the movies on a Wednesday, but this year we switched the showing dates to Monday due to Wednesday often being a busier time of week,” Hernandez said. “So far this year our attendance has gone up for the event, so I do not know all the factors that go into this spike in attendance, but I do know that the timing is definitely important in interesting people enough to come out and see these films.”

The International Film Festival is described as a fantastic way to learn and experience different cultures. As the festival comes to an end, those involved in organizing the festival hope that people who attend can look back on the event as a positive and fulfilling experience.

Spanish House students share thoughts, highlights of experience

By **TRAVIS LUXBACHER**
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Nestled at the top of the hill of Allegheny College lies North Village I building C, which holds the Max Kade International Wing. This building is home to six apartments, with each being home to its own enriching culture.

The building complex contains two Spanish-speaking apartments, which make up the Spanish House. The 10 students who live in the house are a combination of Spanish majors or minors, native Spanish speakers or those who came from Spanish-speaking countries.

The Max Kade Spanish House sets out three main targets for students living there to learn, one of

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Having people to live with and talk to with varying world views who can share their culture is eye-opening culturally and enriching.”

—NOAH ALEX SPIRO
Class of 2020

them being to immerse themselves in the language. What this means is that students will increase their ability to speak the language from just being in the house and speaking to their housemates.

Bryan Quiroz, ’21, described his experience of living in the Max Kade Spanish house.

“Living in the Spanish house gives students an opportunity to learn the language and really improve their grasp of it, being in that type of environment every day,” Quiroz said.

He also emphasized the importance of culture and how living in the house will improve not only a student’s Spanish speaking abilities, but their understanding and experience with culture as well.

“I think that the biggest thing

about living at the Spanish house is that although it will inevitably improve students grasp of the language, it also gives students an experience with culture, and really understanding and living in that culture,” Quiroz said.

Another goal of the Max Kade Spanish House is for students to grow in the language throughout their daily routines.. Students work to get better each day through experience and practice with the language.

The idea of the Max Kade International house, according to Noah Alex Spiro, ’20, is to provide a space for cultural learning as well as one that fosters development in foreign language learning.

“The most beneficial part of living in Max Kade is the ability to meet the (teaching assistants) who come from all over the world to teach their native language to Allegheny students,” Spiro said. “Having people to live with and talk to with varying world views who can share their culture is eye-opening culturally and enriching.”

Spiro recommends the Max Kade housing to new students and students already on campus, and emphasizes the benefits he has already received from the experience.

“I chose this housing because I love Hispanic culture, and because I’m a Spanish major,” Spiro said. “By living in the Spanish house, I am able to culturally enrich myself further, and learn Spanish at a high level through conversation and cultural events that we host.”

Benjamin Fisler, ’22, talked about the experience and the environment he experienced last year while living in the Spanish house.

“The Max Kade Spanish House was a quiet place to live,” Fisler said. “Not a lot happened most of the time, but it was a nice quiet place, and having a full kitchen, a TV to watch movies with friends and air conditioning were all nice luxuries I cannot take for granted.”

Spiro noted that he was able to practice his Spanish speaking abilities by engaging with the Spanish TA. But on a separate note, he wished him and his housemates spoke more

Spanish together.

“Unfortunately, I do not feel that it was necessarily beneficial to my Spanish speaking abilities because my housemates and I never really spoke Spanish to each other, but I can definitely see that in some cases it does, which can be beneficial,” Spiro said. “However, we did speak in Spanish to the Spanish TA at times.”

The Max Kade Spanish House is also known to hold events and activities that will get students involved on campus.

“There were definitely a few interesting events at the Spanish house like designing decorations for Dia de los Muertos and then seeing them at the celebration,” Spiro said.

The third goal of the Max Kade Spanish house is to show students responsibility and how to take ownership of their efforts and abilities. International housing encourages students to continue to learn and never be satisfied with not only speaking the language, but also experiencing and understanding the culture.

Campus conversation

Talking with ‘Hamilton’ performer, visiting speaker Clark

By SARA HOLTHOUSE
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Performer Bryan Terrell Clark visited Allegheny College's campus as a part of his current speaking tour to give a lecture titled, "Finding Your Purpose: From Baltimore to Broadway's Hamilton," at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 26. Clark also gave a master class at 4:30 p.m. that same day. After the master class, The Campus sat down with Clark to talk about his tour and his beginnings as an actor.

Just so I know I have it correct, you were in "Hamilton" and are doing other projects now, including a speaking tour. Can you talk a bit about that?

It's funny because about two years ago, I was doing kind of this deep, artistic, spiritual journey where I took 90 days and every day I was writing down what I was grateful for, and I was writing down things that I affirmed about myself, and I was writing down declarations, like things I desired. And one day I wrote down, it would be cool to be like Baby Oprah. The very next day, a friend of mine had guests that were coming to see "Hamilton," and he asked if I could give them a tour backstage. My friend is a professor at (New York University). He's also a speaker, and those guests were his agents. They came backstage, and they said, "Hey, we heard you just went back to your alma mater and spoke." And I said, "Yeah I did." And they said, "do you do any other speaking?" I said, "Yeah I just came back from another university, and I was speaking there because my professor from Yale is now the head of their program." And they said, "So you do this speaking thing a lot?" And I said, "Yeah." And they said, "We would love to work with you, has Frank told you who we work with?" I said, "Yeah, you work with Frank." They said, "We work with Barack Obama." I literally almost peed my pants.

And so the journey has been great, I've done great work with this great agency

called Keppler, and I really believe that along with my passions and deep purpose as an artist, I... feel that I have great passions and deep purpose when it comes to education, young artists, young people in general, in terms of education but also (as a speaker for) social justice and arts advocacy. This speaking tour is a way that I can connect with those passions just as much as the others, so I'm really grateful to be on this tour right now.

I know you've done much more than "Hamilton," but what has been your favorite or most exciting moment in your career, "Hamilton" or otherwise?

The most exciting moment in my career was a film that I did right after my first run in "Hamilton." It was a Netflix movie called, "When They See Us". And I remember during that time that I was journaling, I wrote down on another day, that it would be cool to do a film or television show that feels to me as important as "Hamilton" is. "When They See Us" is a film made by Ava DuVernay created for Netflix that is all about the Central Park Five case, where these very young men were thrown into prison and accused of a crime they didn't commit. Initially, I auditioned for this romantic character that ended up getting cut down to basically a montage, and I didn't get that role. I got this message from her, saying "Hey would you mind coming in for this other role?" And I (thought) to myself, I will pass out donuts on set, what are you talking about? I think she's amazing, she's a brilliant artist, and I've been wanting to work with her for some time. Then I read the scene that she sent. Essentially, I thought I was going to play this lover character, and I ended up playing this corrections officer who is hovering over one of the young men with this page and a half to two page monologue where he's essentially telling this man that he doesn't have a choice, and he has to stay in solitary confinement and survive or come out there with me. He compares

it to Jim Crow, America and apartheid. It sent chills up my spine because it was such a dark character and such a heavy weighted character compared to what I originally auditioned for, but the character and the piece were transformative for me because it was the first time that I had ever been involved in something in television and film that to me had the cultural impact that a piece like "Hamilton" has.

How did you get started acting?

It's funny because I'm going to talk about this tonight. My mother made me do those silly Christmas and Easter poems growing up, and it was always embarrassing — I always felt crazy and awkward. That really was the start, and I asked my mother not too long ago (about when I first said) that I wanted to be an actor. When did I first mention that I wanted to sing or be involved in the arts at all? And she said, "It was before you could talk." ... She said, "You would run up to the television and your favorite shows would be on, and you would just bounce. Or I would turn on the radio, and you would run over and just bounce." And I say this often in these speeches, I think it's our job as mentors and parents and guides to sit back and listen to what the natural passions and the natural proclivities of the people that we are assigned to are. And we're supposed to help guide them to the path that allows them to express that. I think that if you look at every single child, like I'm thinking about my niece and my nephew, and I think about how beautiful their spirits are, but also how different they are. If you sit back and you watch them and you listen to them, they're telling you over and over all the time the things that they are interested in. I think it's our job to sit back and help guide that as opposed to putting on them what we think we want them to do. And so I think it was at a very early age that my mother, as a great educator and as a great mother, was able to kind of foster and guide my journey as an artist.

What advice do you have for students here?

I would say my biggest advice, and I'm going to talk about this more tonight, is to follow your passion. Follow your passion, because it leads to purpose. Most of the adults that I run into in life, and it doesn't matter what part of the world that you're in, it doesn't matter your class or economic status, most adults are not happy. They're not, not consistently. Usually it's because they're not in alignment with their passion, or they've forgotten or ignored it. Or they do know what their passions are but they have no sense of purpose, no reason why — they don't know why they're here, they don't know why they're doing what they're doing. And I find that real happiness, real contentment, real fulfillment comes from following your passion because it leads to your purpose, and so that's what I would give as advice to any student that I come across. I would say follow your passion, because it leads to a level of purpose, and that's where happiness lies, somewhere in between.

How long was your run as George Washington, and do you have any favorite moments from on set?

I feel like I'm still running as George Washington. The first time, I did it for two years, and for a small amount of time I was — and I think still am — the longest running George Washington on Broadway. But I did it for two years on Broadway, and I just did it for six weeks during this holiday season, so for the second time not too long ago. I think George Washington in the role has taught me a lot about what it means to be a leader, and I think a different kind of leader than I had the idea of leadership for. I feel that, to be honest, a lot of my favorite moments were my first moments. When I go on as George Washington, there's a big song that I sing in Act Two called "One Last Time." And I was singing "One Last Time" while Barack Obama was doing his "one last time"

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I say this often in these speeches, I think it's our job as mentors and parents and guides to sit back and listen to what the natural passions and the natural proclivities of the people that we are assigned to are.”

—BRYAN TERRELL CLARK
Actor

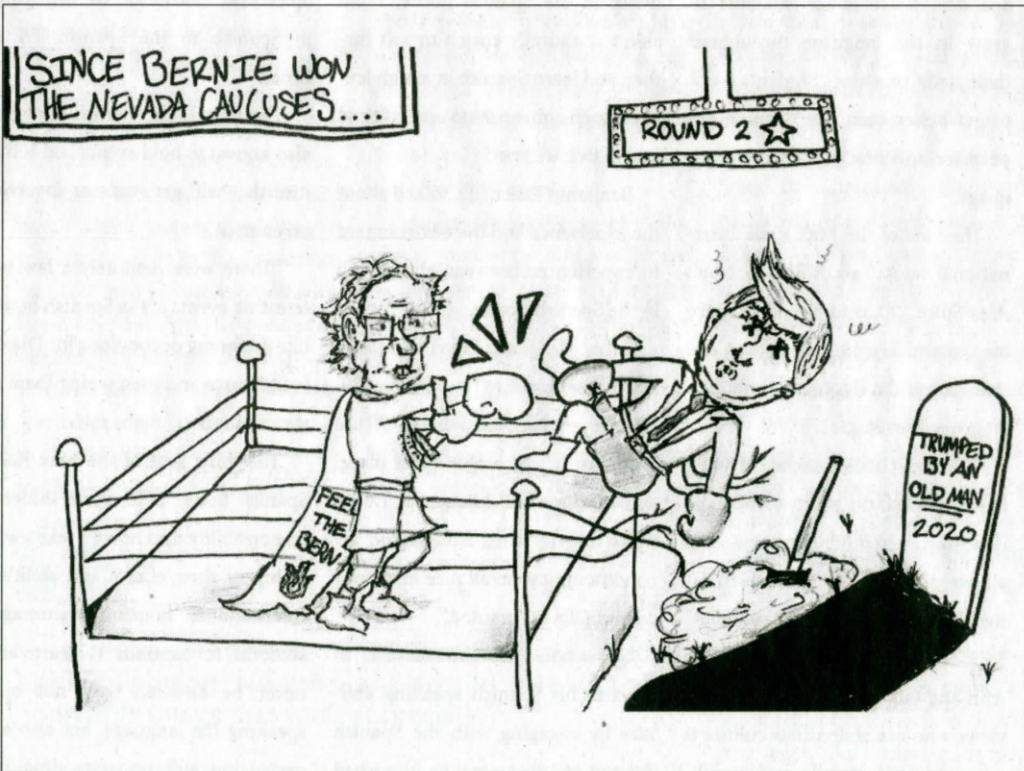
speech in Chicago. I, as an African American man, was playing the first president as our first African American president was giving his final speech at the same time. It was a serendipitous moment. I knew at that time that it was going to be a special experience for me.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I think that the last thing I would like to add is when you're in a college setting or university setting this is the time when you are supposed to be in a safe space to begin to critically think for yourself. That's one of the hardest things to do, because for a long time your conscious or inner being sounds like your parents or any other authority figure. The last thing that I would say is that the best gift you can give yourself is to get in touch with whatever your inner voice is, because it's kind of the compass for your life. We are the only creatures on the planet that I know of that can override our instincts with our minds. We all have gut reactions to things. We say, "Oh I knew there was something off about that person," but we look back a year and a half later and say, "Yeah that was a horrible relationship, but if I'm honest I knew from day one," or "I knew I shouldn't have taken this job" or "I knew I shouldn't have turned down that alley." Whatever it is, I feel like (it's) our gut, you know a lot of people say (to) follow your gut. I would say that while you're here in a university atmosphere, this is something that you're going to have to do for the rest of your life, train yourself to trust your gut. Train yourself to listen to your inner voice

because you need to train yourself to be okay with listening to your inner voice and following that. And I'll just give you some of my ways, but you have to find your own way. And that's honestly why I like being an artist versus being a teacher, because I could've easily fallen into that track, but it's cool being an artist because I am just telling you as (one) human being to another human being that this is what my experience is, and this is what I've done, but you've got to find your way of doing that. It's not prescriptive. I think any time you try to be prescriptive it doesn't always work. I think that's what I want young people to get out of (my talk). It's something about your late teens, early twenties, that exploratory time that really is about you defining life and defining yourself from within. Because (for) most of your life, most of society is trying to define you from the outside. It's trying to tell you what you are supposed to do. It never leads to fulfillment. And I think that there is a balance to that, but I think you as a person who is uniquely living your life experience, there's only one you on the planet and no one else that's going to see the world and life through the eyes that you see it. That's a special thing. I think you have to begin to, especially around this age, you have to begin to take that journey for yourself, and take accountability for sitting in the driver's seat of your life, and not just having life kind of thrown at you. You get to make the decisions about what you want your life to be. It's an empowering time, and it's a time that us adults need to be reminded of. That's what I would leave the folks with.

Comedy Section



KALEEL VAN VOORHEES/THE CAMPUS

By KALEEL VAN VOORHEES/THE CAMPUS

Samsung recently announced the release of its legendary Galaxy S20. The main advancements are in the camera, which has 108 Megapixels, can shoot video in 8k, and has a space zoom of up to 100x (what does that even mean?). It also boasts 5G connectivity and an all day battery life. Yet as long as it still has green text messages, I remain unimpressed.

President of the United States Donald J. Trump recently bashed the Oscar-winning film "Parasite" at one of his rallies. Per usual, his statements made absolutely no sense, as he bashed the South Korean film for being, well, South Korean. "We've got enough problems with South Korea," he said at his rally. "On top of it, we give them the best movie of the year. Was it good? I don't know." Maybe if he could actually read the subtitles, he'd be able to appreciate it for the masterpiece that it is.

Recently, a hiker discovered a rare rainbow snake in Florida's Ocala National Forest. This breed of snake hasn't been spotted in the area in 50 years — they're aquatic snakes who hide under vegetation in the water for most of their lives. Thank god, that hiker's discovery is the brightest thing that's happened in Florida in decades.

Close to the province of Bocas del Toro, Panama, officials found a handmade 'semi-submersible vessel' containing around five tons of drugs, with four Columbian citizens arrested as a result. Talk about a sunken high.

Burger King recently released its latest Burger, the Chip Butty. Made up of a meatless whopper filled only with fries, mayo, ketchup and bread, the product is only currently being sold in New Zealand for \$2 a pop. Sounds like a 'butty'-load of crap.

MOCAA strives to make Allegheny feel like home

By OLIVIA BLAKESLEE
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Black History Month is coming to an end, but the work of student organizations on campus that made much of the month-long programming at Allegheny possible is not. One of those groups, the Men of Color Advancement Association (MOCAA), is hoping to provide both an intimate support network and a wide-reaching sense of community.

"Our main goal is to raise the retention rate for men of color on this campus through philanthropy, community service, as well as academic development, as well as professional development, stuff like that," said Charles Ross, '20, club president. "We just want to give brothers a chance to build communities, build themselves up, and have a sense of self-worth on a campus that we're not really seen like that. We want to increase the retention and make students of color feel comfortable here."

To build community on campus, MOCAA hosts multiple on-campus events. The group contributed to the Black History Month programming organized by Advancement of Black Culture (ABC) by hosting weekly movie nights on Thursdays throughout the month of February. In January, MOCAA organized a brunch in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. and invited members of the Meadville community.

Members of MOCAA also work together with Kappa Kappa Gamma to host an annual Christmas Sweater Party raising money for Toys for Tots.

"We try to work out with historically white fraternities and sororities and stuff like that because we really want to build these relationships," Ross said. "We want them to be meaningful."

Other recent events have included a talk on safe sex practices, a LinkedIn workshop and a salon and barber shop event organized in conjunction with Black Girl Magic.

Outside of their formal programming, the group also provides outreach in informal settings. Ross said



Contributed by m.o.c.a.a.

Members of MOCAA enjoy food at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day "CommUNITY" Brunch held on Monday, Jan. 20, 2020 in Schultz Banquet Hall.

the group implements "an open-door policy" in his apartment, inviting "brothers" to come by to study, play games or simply spend time with other members of the group.

This openness is an effort, according to group member Jacob LeSane, '22, to fill a void many students of color find upon arrival in Meadville.

"At a predominantly white institution, in an area where most of the Meadville area is white, and the surrounding towns are white people, when you leave campus a lot of people say that they don't see a lot of black people," LeSane said. "They really don't have a sense of connection with the town."

That lack of diversity, according to Treasurer Cameron Schadt, '21, can have further implications for students of color. He said he and many other students of color come

from far away and can feel like they lack "necessary tools" or the "same comfort" they enjoyed in other environments.

"With us at MOCAA, I see it as something where we're letting people know that MOCAA is a safe space," Schadt said. "We're letting them know that here at Allegheny, there are tools and resources that they can use and be comfortable here. It's a home away from home."

That safe space can sometimes take the form of day-to-day concerns like finding a place for haircuts and hair products, according to Ross.

"It's just little things, and life, and we're trying to make it easier for young brothers on campus," Ross said.

Ross, Schadt and LeSane each said they joined because they were drawn to the community MOCAA

provided. Ross recalled seeing MOCAA's first graduating class, made up of five members from its 2016 founding, graduate in May of 2019.

"I saw the value and merit of a program like MOCAA," Ross said, commenting on the growth to an anticipated seven-person graduating class this May. "It just keeps going. It's really cool to see."



We're letting (students) know that here at Allegheny, there are tools and resources that they can use and be comfortable here. It's a home away from home."

—CAMERON SCHADT
Class of 2021

TikTok platform takeover *Chance to go viral sparks uptick in screen time, desire for internet fame*

By KELSEY EVANS
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If you are one of the few people left that hasn't downloaded TikTok, consider yourself lucky.

Ever since downloading this app, my screen time has increased by approximately 30% and all of my free time is spent chasing TikTok fame - and once you achieve it, the thirst just strengthens.

When I first heard of TikTok, I wasn't that interested in it due to the reputation of Musical.ly, an app where users can create short lip syncing videos. According to Billboard, Musical.ly and TikTok merged in August 2018 creating a unique platform where users can create short videos using popular songs and sounds, similar to the app Vine.

Vine was known for turning six second looped videos into viral memes and as a popular platform where many now famous YouTubers got their start.

My personal internet hero, David Dobrik, got his start on Vine and now has over 16 million subscribers on YouTube. Due to creators like Dobrik, a lot of kids now want to be famous "YouTubers" or social media influencers when they grow up. I think TikTok is a more

accessible way to achieve this fame.

While Vine and YouTube fame both have these unspoken rules about moving to Los Angeles, buying super expensive camera and lighting equipment, hiring a video editor, and getting brand deals with major companies, TikTok provides an easier and simpler route to fame, and here's how:

Step 1 - Film your friends doing something funny, weird, or unconventional for 15 to 60 seconds with or without a trending sound.

Step 2 - Post it.

Step 3 - Pray, wish, hope that it will appear on the "For You" page and people will like it.

Step 4 - Turn off notifications, because getting a notification for every time someone likes or comments on your viral TikTok is annoying.

Step 5 - Sit back and relax.

Step 6 - Do it all over again.

While a viral TikTok may only get you a true 15 seconds of fame, it is possible to build it up to a much more popular account such as creators Charli D'Amelio and Chase Hudson, also known as Lil Huddy, have done. D'Amelio has over 30.6 million followers and 1.7 billion likes on her account, an incredible feat for a 15 year old from Connecticut.

TikTok has also boosted the

fame and success of music artists whose songs go viral on the app. Ant Saunders' "Yellow Hearts" was released in January 2019, but in October of last year reached over 125 million listens on Spotify due to its popularity on TikTok.

And with music comes dancing. "ROXANNE" by Arizona Zervas has reached 510 million listens on Spotify, rocketing to the top of pop charts due to its popularity on the app and the re-creations of a popular dance to the song on TikTok. Many other songs have also been granted their own "TikTok dance" such as "Say So" by Doja Cat or "Toes" by DaBaby.

I think no matter how you look at it, TikTok has been life changing for many Millennials and Gen Zers. If you're lucky enough to have TikTok fame or clout, you might be recognized on the streets; if you're just a viewer, you probably have a new bedtime routine involving scrolling the "For You" page before bed; and if you don't have a TikTok at all, you've heard the name and have definitely been asked why you don't know the "Renegade."

Overall, while TikTok does take up a lot of my time, I'm grateful for the entertainment it provides and for the Chinese government collecting my data. And with that, Good Luck Charli.

Student Submission

Imaginary Friend

Submitted by an Anonymous Senior

She craves order and routine,
it gives her purpose.
She'll help me discover mine.
I've become so dependent.
I am nothing without her.

She's the cold shiver I feel skate down my spine,
when I'm lonely in a crowded room.
These faceless creatures don't know me like she does.

Guardian angel, my own worst enemy.
I'm indebted to her.
Always keeps me safe from myself.
I'm unpredictable.

We always seem to agree to disagree.
Two sides of the same coin.
She's the side that brings luck.

She calms the storm that is my mind,
and saves what's left of it.
Her shadow shields me from exposure,
an active SPF.

She knows my deepest secrets and insecurities.
They seep through the two way mirror.
I now have seven years of bad luck.
And the broken glass left a scar.

Gators finish season 14-12 after NCAC Tournament exit

Rawls breaks Allegheny College career points record in final games of season

By **BREE GRAY**
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Allegheny College’s Men’s Basketball team defeated Kenyon College 100-77 on Saturday, Feb. 22, in Gambier, Ohio. This victory, along with an 86-82 win against Hiram College at the David V. Wise Center, pushed the Gators’ record to 14-11 and qualified them for the North Coast Athletic Conference Tournament.

In their second NCAC tournament since the 2014-15 season, the Gators fell to Wooster College 66-92 on Tuesday, Feb. 25, in Wooster, Ohio. Leading up to the game, the team was optimistic that they could overcome the Fighting Scots.

“It is always a new level of competition when you reach the playoffs,” said Jordan Rawls, ’20. “We lost last year to Wooster, so this game means a lot to us going back to play the same team again. It is our second chance to go at them and hopefully, advance further in the playoffs than we did last year.”

Rawls is a forward who has been on the team for the last four years. During the game against Denison University on Feb. 19, Rawls broke the Allegheny record for cumulative points scored in men’s basketball. He entered the game needing 11 points to reach the previous record of 1,694 and finished with 7 more points, which set the new record to 1,701. Public announcer David Kennedy announced the new record, and the



RAWLS



ROBERTS



HOLMES

team called a timeout to allow Rawls to receive a standing ovation for his accomplishment.

“I broke the record, and it meant a lot to me,” Rawls said. “I was really happy that I was able to do it, and I could not have broken the record without my teammates.”

Rawls is the 16th player in NCAA Division III history to score over 1,700 points, and he is second on the Allegheny College Career List for rebounds (748).

With a 14-11 record, the team improved upon last season’s 10-15 mark. Morale was high among the team ahead of the tournament with hopes of securing a championship to couple their winning season.

“Our hope is to win this tournament this year,” said Brian Roberts Jr., ’22. “We had high hopes of get-

ting (to the NCAC tournament) last year, which we did, but we lost to Wooster. Despite this, I feel like we can win this year.”

Roberts Jr. is a point guard for the team, and has been playing for the last two years. This was his second time playing in the NCAC tournament against Wooster — he had a desire to make a comeback from last year’s loss.

Roberts Jr. is well-known on the courts, scoring 19 points against Denison and 21 against Hiram. He and Rawls have led the team in points for a majority of games this season. The duo have been a consistent presence on the leaderboard, both with career points reaching the upper twenties.

The team ended the regular collegiate season with a three-game

winning streak. On Feb. 15, Allegheny defeated Denison 90-63. They followed this win with another on Feb. 19 against Hiram, 86-82. To end the regular season, the team continued the winning streak on Feb. 22 against Kenyon, 100-77.

“A high point this season, so far, would be ending on a three-game winning streak,” said Keeno Holmes, ’23. “I think it was good for everyone’s morale, and it brought everyone up going into the tournament. For the team as a whole, we are a great group of guys. It has been smooth sailing for the most part. As for the NCAC tournament, stay tuned because we are going to make some waves.”

Holmes is a shooting guard for the team, and this was his first time competing in an NCAC tournament.

Even as a first-year student, Holmes has gained a reputation on the courts. In the Denison game, the newcomer contributed 11 points. He continued his double-digit scoring into the last game of the season against Kenyon, where he scored 13 points and made three of his five three-point attempts. He has emerged on the scoring leaderboard for the team multiple times this season and finished the season averaging 9.2 points per game.

The team secured a winning season as well as established a sense of team bonding and spirit. Many members of the team have a desire to improve themselves for the sake of the team.

“Everyone gets along with each other,” Roberts Jr said. “I feel that this is a special group because we all play for each other, and no one wants to let the other person down.”

Despite the loss to Wooster, the team remains optimistic for the future and asked the Allegheny community for support in the future as well as in their NCAC tournament game. Roberts Jr credited the team’s successful season to the backing the team received from the Allegheny community.

“If there is anyway that anyone could come support (us during the tournament), please come support us,” Roberts Jr said. “Our energy comes from the Allegheny College campus and the supporters we have here. We could not have done this without you all.”

Men’s Lacrosse opens inaugural season with 7-9 loss

Gator captains confident in new Division III team despite inexperience

By **ADAM COHEN**
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The Allegheny Men’s Lacrosse team opened their inaugural season with a 7-9 loss against Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, on Wednesday, Feb. 26. While other existing athletic teams on campus have longer, more detailed histories, the men’s lacrosse team is attempting to build a continuous foundation with-in Division III collegiate sports.

As the men’s lacrosse team gets their feet wet in their inaugural season, the Gators will look to be competitive with-in the North Coast Athletic Conference. Head Coach Thomas Pearce and team captians David Kraus, ’23, and Dillon D’Amato, ’23, said that they are committed to helping the team succeed in its first season.

Pearce has a decorated history as both a lacrosse player and coach — as an undergraduate at Gettysburg College, Pearce was a three-time All-Centennial Conference pick and two-time All-American from 1998-2001. Although the Gettysburg College Bullets lost the Championship game in Pearce’s final season as a player, he worked at Gettysburg as an assistant coach from 2006-2009 and helped the Bullets win four straight Centennial Conference titles.

After his coaching stint at Gettysburg, Pearce joined Frostburg State University and served as the head coach from 2009-2018. He helped to reestablish the men’s lacrosse team after a 30-year hiatus as a club team. After three years back in the conference, Frostburg State earned a spot in the Capital Athletic Conference postseason, and the following year made it to the Eastern College Athletic Conference championship.

Pearce came to Allegheny as head coach of the men’s lacrosse team with these many accolades under his belt. The coach could not believe his good fortune when he saw that Allegheny did not have a lacrosse team, and remarked that another chance to start a new program was too good of an opportunity to pass up.



SARAH STEGER/THE CAMPUS

Above: The Allegheny Men’s Lacrosse Team fell 7-9 to Baldwin Wallace in their season opener on Wednesday, Feb. 26. Pictured is defenseman Tim Wallis, ’23, and a member of the Yellow Jackets. **Below:** Midfielder Paul Curbello, ’23, takes a face off against a Baldwin Wallace player.

“(Allegheny) seemed like the type of place that should have a strong men’s lacrosse program, so when they decided to move forward, it was a pretty attractive opportunity for me,” Pearce said.

When Pearce accepted the position as the head coach at Allegheny College in June of 2018, he knew that he had to focus on the recruiting process.

According to Pearce, he is already reaching out to recruits for next season and currently has a list of potential player’s names on the whiteboard in his office.

When talking about what he looks for during the recruiting period, Pearce said he scouts “(players) that are open-minded to starting a lacrosse program.” Kraus and D’Amato were brought on as the first captains of the Allegheny Men’s Lacrosse team because of their desire to unite the team, according to Pearce.

Kraus is from Sewickley, and graduated from Quaker Valley High School. He plays attack and midfield for the men’s lacrosse team. Lacrosse runs in Kraus’s family, as his dad and three sisters are all lacrosse players. He brings years of experience to the team and has played lacrosse since the second grade.



Similar to Pearce, Kraus wanted to be a part of a new college lacrosse team and is ready for the challenge that the inaugural season presents.

“We have a lot of potential,” Kraus said. “People know how Allegheny can be a really good sports team in lacrosse, and I think people will see

that we are going to rise up to the occasion once we play some really good teams.”

D’Amato also played lacrosse from a young age, and currently plays defense for the Gators. D’Amato, a resident of Tolland, Connecticut, and a graduate of Tolland High

“

We have a lot of potential. ... I think people will see that we are going to rise up to the occasion once we play some really good teams.”

—DAVID KRAUS
Class of 2023

School, said that he really wanted to go to a liberal arts school.

Pearce was influential in D’Amato’s decision to attend Allegheny. He said Pearce gave him a tour of the school and took him to Brooks Dining Hall to get to know him better. D’Amato said he was sold by Pearce’s gesture, and is honored that Pearce as well as his fellow teammates chose him as captain.

“(Kraus and I) stepped up as leaders of the group,” D’Amato said. “We would lead the stretches and everyone would ask us questions. My skill as a lacrosse player helped in making that decision too.”

Although the majority of the team are first-years, D’Amato and Kraus said that they are both confident in their abilities as captains. They both have immense talent on the field, led the players during practices and made sure everyone is keeping up with their schoolwork. As a result, Coach Pearce’s recruiting process has already paid dividends before the season even began.

In the opening loss to Baldwin Wallace, Patrick Hogan, ’23, led the team with a hat trick on seven shots, and Kraus tallied two goals and an assist for the Gators.

Allegheny Men’s Lacrosse will face off against Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, on Saturday, Feb. 29. The team will play its first home game against Hilbert College at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, at Frank B. Fuhrer Field.