

Student group seeks transparency from administration

By MAKAYLA ALICEA
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Madi Sherman, '22, and Sarah Mayer, '22, were inspired to create and organize Allegheny College Students for Change when their professor asked students to discuss the political climate of today, both on and off-campus, and to think about the solutions.

After that discourse, Mayer and Sherman sent an email to classmates and began organizing about 20 students around the issue of transparent communication from administration.

"What if we did more than just talk?" Mayer said. "What if we took a call to action? What if all these experiences that all students are having in different ways, can all be brought together in some sort of united student voice?"

Since then, AC Student for Change launched their Instagram account, @ac_students_for_change, which now has over 350 followers, created a student survey and began drafting a petition of formal demands.

The group distributed a Google Survey to gauge student body issues, and received over 50 responses. The three questions were: What concerns do you have with current campus life? How would you rate the response of the administration to campus concerns that we have already been emailed about? And lastly, what demands do you have to create realistic change on campus?

"We definitely noticed trends in what students were concerned about," Mayer noted of the survey responses. "One of the biggest ones was student/ (administration) communication. A lot of the students, especially this semester, have felt so out of the loop at what's happening ... and with that there came a lot of uncertainty and confusion.

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Photo courtesy of Ferrence campaign

From English professor to politician

Matthew Ferrence talks run for PA House seat



Photo courtesy of City Books

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'Roadmap' to address racial injustices introduced

By BREE GRAY
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The college announced plans to rectify existing racial injustices within the institution, however, some students remain uncertain.

"I feel like (addressing systemic racism) is not a priority (at the institution)," Benedicte Musimisa, '21, said. "I do not know where their priorities are, but (racism) is something that is definitely not on the top of their (priorities) list."

Musimisa is the President of Black Girl Magic and recalled experiencing racism on campus even in her classes.

The college released the "Roadmap for Addressing Systemic Racism & Racial Injustice at Allegheny College," in an email to the campus community on July 13, following the initial statement in May. The email was sent out by President Hilary Link and Dean of Institutional Diversity Kristin Dukes.

"As promised, we have spent the past several weeks finalizing our strategic action plan for addressing systemic racism and injustice at Allegheny College," Link and Dukes wrote. "We want to reiterate that Allegheny College unequivocally condemns racism in any form. We affirm the inherent worth, humanity, and dignity of all BIPOC, within the Allegheny community and beyond ... We also recognize that words alone will not suffice. The college has significant work to do in actively confronting racism and supporting our Black community members in tangible ways."

The college's plan seeks to address racial injustices on campus and prevent them from occurring again.

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ASG holds first general assembly, introduces new advisor

By ALANA SABOL
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During its first two meetings, Allegheny Student Government discussed preliminary plans for the semester and began electing more cabinet members.

With no guest speaker, ASG's general assembly commenced with the vice president's report at 7:05 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, via Zoom.

Vice President Patricia Gaxiola, '21, began her report by announcing that she plans on holding training sessions for all the senators within the next week.

After Gaxiola, President Abdikadir Lugundi, '21, announced that he and Gaxiola had participated in a meeting on Sept. 22 with President Hilary Link to discuss future plans.

"(We discussed) our future goals, plans and the campus climate," Lugundi said. "We're (going to) keep (in) contact with the secretary, Pam (Higham) moving forward to discuss anything."

Continuing his report, Lugundi reported planning to have a collaboration with the Director of Communication and Press Bree Gray, '23, on creating a diversity podcast to discuss a variety of topics and issues.

"(Also) with things being virtual, it'll be really good to keep the students in the loop on discussions that they might not be able to have when they attend club meetings and such," Lugundi said.

Lugundi also announced that he and Gaxiola are in the process of enacting Public Safety initiatives such an informational Instagram page that includes information about the Public Safety office and the officers themselves.

"It's a chance for students to get to know the Public Safety officers, so we're going forward with that," Lugundi said. "It's just to better strengthen the relationship between the student and Public

Safety since it's been kind of rocky throughout the years."

Lugundi concluded his report by proposing to connect ASG with Pittsburgh nonprofits in the future, specifically in postsecondary education youth programs.

After Lugundi, the class senators were sworn in. Kristen Cadham, '24, was elected as the president of the class of 2024.

After a discussion about meeting times, the new ASG advisor Matthew Bocchi introduced himself and began his report.

"I'm a 2013 graduate of Allegheny, triple majored and I now work in alumni affairs and development," Bocchi said. "So whenever you guys are looking to figure out what alumni you can connect with at home or over break for an internship, just let me know."

The meeting came to a close at 7:31 p.m.

ASG's next general assembly began at 7:05 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, via Zoom with class reports.

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IN THIS WEEK'S CAMPUS

TOURS

Campus-wide tours will continue with major changes and restrictions due to COVID-19.

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MARINE LIFE DIES-OFF IN MASS

On a shore of the Russian Pacific coast, thousands of sea-life are found dead with no answers.

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NBA FINALS

The L.A. Lakers beat the Miami Heat for the 2020 playoff championship.

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CHANGE *from page 1*

AC Students for Change is going to work on alleviating the transparency in communication.”

Despite a number of survey responses, Sherman stated that she felt there were still more student voices missing from the draft of their demands.

“We wanted more student input because one, (AC Students for Change) is all-white and two, we all align in political beliefs,” Sherman said. “Not every student’s experience is represented. We didn’t have the ability to speak for the whole student body.”

Mayer met with a few student leaders like Aliyah Coleman, ’21, who serves as the senior intern and intercultural advocate to the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Social Justice Center, to discuss the demands proposed by the Culture, Identity and Leadership Coalition for Administration. Some of the CILC demands ask for administration to explicitly acknowledge racial injustices, and calls for institutional action.

Mayer also connected with Allegheny Student Government President Abdikadir Lugundi, ’21, in the initial stages of the group’s development, and Lu-

gundi stated that he helped to connect the budding group with resources to spread their message.

“You have to create different avenues for people to be active and involved, but I fully support any student activism,” Lugundi said.

In their campaign for ASG executive office, Lugundi said he and Vice President Patricia Gaxiola, ’21, advocated for reforms to campus safety operations.

“I just feel like we don’t know our Public Safety officers,” Lugundi said. “Why don’t I know his name, or who he is? Our plan is to make a Public Safety initiative where you can view who they are, their (biographies), and what the Office of Public Safety provides to students.”

Both Sherman and Lugundi cited the Sept. 18 incident between Adrean Velez, ’21, and Public Safety officers, as a justification for the need for more transparent communication and open processes for solutions between students and administration.

Lugundi said that ASG has monthly meetings with President Hilary Link and the Board of Trustees and has occasional meetings with Provost Ron Cole. ASG has only recently approved

its cabinet positions, and its next stages are electing senate members to obtain at least a quorum so ASG can vote on agenda items such as club budgets. According to the ASG By-Laws, a quorum is defined as 50% of the existing body plus one.

Lugundi noted that COVID-19 has played a role in the delay of how ASG normally operates, but he expects that senate elections will take place for the upcoming ASG meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

The preamble of the ASG Constitution states, “Thus Allegheny Student Government will undertake the mediation and advocacy between the student body and administration to harmonize and further the aims of this ongoing mission.”

Currently, ASG has a few explicit processes in place for student body representatives to have direct communication with administration. One is through the Campus Life and Community Standards Committee, which considers the overall quality of living on campus and has standing- in-honor code hearings and non-academically related conduct. The other is through the Council on Diversity and Equity, an oversight committee with the

power of policy recommendations regarding inclusivity on campus.

The “Formal List of Demands” created by AC Students for Change, received over 150 signatures of petitioned support and lists the improvement of communication between students and administration as their first demand, and reforms to Public Safety as second. The document also cites more institutional support to the IDEAS center, reform to the college’s zero-tolerance policies and a relaxation on COVID-19 protocols.

“ASG is a student-governing body,” Mayer said. “We want to be a voice, a group of students that calls out problems that we see, also with proposed solutions. With that, AC Students for Change is more of a platform than ASG is.”

After formalizing the petition into their demands, AC Student for Change began conversations with administration through a series of forums hosted by administration from Oct. 7 to Oct. 9. The series was a space dedicated for students to voice their concerns regarding campus climate and culture.

Mayer attended the Oct. 7 forum, and recalled 18 partici-

pants, including senior administrative officials, faculty and some students. She stated that the administration used a term called “radical listening,” and as a representative for the group, she said she felt the event was a time to share students’ experiences and feelings, instead of listing their demands.

“It really was intimidating because I was the only person talking the whole time,” Sherman recalled of the Friday, Oct. 9 forum. “Basically, I said I have friends who are students of color ... and I’ve heard stories from them (about) how campus is not a good place for students of color. So I felt weird speaking for them ... (It) makes me want to do what I can to make Allegheny better ... This is not my movement, but I want to do what I can, not just sit in my room all day doing nothing.”

On Oct. 14, the Administrative Executive Committee sent an email that addressed the concerns raised by students in the forums. The email listed “tangible and immediate actions” to better communicate to students, like a standing “Campus Climate & Culture Feedback Form” that students can choose to submit anonymously, more discussion

based sessions for students with AEC and a call to strengthen existing avenues between ASG and the AEC. The email also addresses ways to better unify the campus, and announces that Director of Public Safety Jim Bassinger will meet with students and campus groups to work to build trust between them and the students.

AC Students for Change also demanded the expansion of Pelletier Library hours, and according to the email from AEC, the new hours of library operations will be Monday through Thursday noon to 11 p.m., Friday noon to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Mayer and Sherman are in agreement about the work ahead for a new activist group.

“What I’d really like is to get more student involvement,” Mayer said, “and get students into more leadership positions. We need to work more on our outreach and listening to students, and formulating more student concerns to present as needed. Our next step is getting more people, and getting more organized.”

Admissions resumes campus tours with safety measures

By **BREE GRAY**
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Following the end of the campus-wide quarantine, admissions began hosting campus tours for prospective students, despite COVID-19 concerns.

“One hundred percent of our processes have changed,” said Executive Director of Admissions and Financial Aid Meg Ryan. “We are trying to replicate the campus visit experience for our visitors that is similar to the experience that all of our current students had the option to participate in. (However), our first priority is following Allegheny policy and ensuring the safety of the campus community, especially our current students who serve as tour guides.”

Since the campus-wide quarantine was lifted on Sept. 15, 124 prospective students and their families have toured the college, according to Ryan. Prospective students have not been permitted to have an overnight visit this semester.

While admissions has hosted 124 families in the last month, the college is adamant that they are taking all necessary precautions to avoid COVID-19 exposure and community spread.

“Our restrictions and guidelines start from the registration process,” Ryan clarified. “In the registration form, we request that (students) only bring one (guest), but two are allowed. We can make exceptions for more than that because we, of course, want to be understanding of families who might need child care and are not able to afford or have the ability to leave family members at home ... In that case, we might close another visit that time so that we do not have other people visiting at that time.”

Touring families are scheduled at different times and tours are limited to only two families at once. Anyone who attends a campus tour must obey all safety protocols, including masking, social distancing and filling out the mandatory health screening prior to the visit. The health screening confirms that they have not been exposed to COVID-19 and have not been in

an area where the virus is heavily present. Ryan acknowledged that, while the visitors have not undergone campus quarantine, they are expected to self-isolate prior to arrival on campus as part of their mandatory compliance with college policies.

“In addition to that registration form, all students and their visitors are agreeing to comply with all of our policies such as wearing a face covering,” Ryan added. “We also preface that policies can change so when they arrive on campus, they are going to have to comply with any policies that are in effect that day.”

There have been no reports of visitors failing to comply with all safety procedures, according to Ryan. Any visitor that does not have a mask is provided with one from the college. Visitors normally bring their own face mask to the campus tours, but the option is provided.

“We had several discussions in our committee meetings about what is the right way to have discussions about face coverings, and we have prepared our students to be ready for that conversation, which can be uncomfortable,” Ryan said. “We have not had a family refuse to participate. Everyone is taking it very seriously, and the overwhelming majority have brought their own face masks.”

Tours are not provided to all prospective students and families due to potential COVID-19 exposure.

“When you think about where folks are coming from, there are limitations placed on where people can come from (to visit campus),” Senior Vice President for Enrollment & Dean of Admissions Cornell LeSane said. “It is not as if we are having visitors from anywhere and everywhere. Ultimately, if someone is coming from a CDC-restricted area, they are not allowed to come (to campus).”

All campus tour requests are reviewed by college officials to verify that students are not coming from restricted areas and have completed their health screening. Families that show up to the college without completing registration must wait outside until their

information can be reviewed.

“If we do have people who show up (on campus) for visits and we are at capacity, we tell them ‘you cannot come in,’” LeSane said. “There is a sign on the front door that basically says, ‘if you are just showing up for a visit, make a call (to the college)’ — this is so we can at that point figure out if this is a person we can allow in our space. We are certainly doing our due diligence in trying to make sure we are not missing any protocols or guidelines set forth.”

Gator guides are students who tour prospective families around campus. Like many aspects of this semester, this position has been impacted by the new procedures.

“It is definitely interesting (being a gator guide during COVID-19),” Tin Le, ’21, said. “We are taking a lot of precautions. Usually, people can just walk in and do a tour whenever they want, which is why we normally have three or four gator guides around. While we still keep three or four gator guides around (the admissions office), people must call and make an appointment beforehand — we do not accept walk ins (this year).”

The college is also working on making a virtual tour as well as virtual room showings, Le said. While Le feels as though the college is taking adequate steps to ensure his safety during campus, he did mention that there is always the possibility that a prospective family lied during registration.

“Families could lie,” Le said. “They could just say that they quarantined before coming up (to campus) so it is basically not so much me trusting admissions (with my safety), but more so me trusting the families that are coming to visit the campus.”

Gator guides are allowed to refuse to serve as a guide if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe due to COVID-19 concerns.

“I do not feel uncomfortable — granted I have only given one (tour) this semester just because there are not a lot of families touring right now,” Le said. “Any time someone is uncomfortable giving a tour to a certain family,

they usually just turn (the family) around and bring them back to the admissions house and cut the tour short.”

The college has also taken precautions to avoid risks associated with being a campus tour guide.

“We recognize that a student may feel comfortable one day, and the situation can change so we tried to reinforce that with our students,” Ryan said. “We have taken some (precautionary) measures; the tour is 95% outside. The tour guide and the guests are required to maintain physical distance and wear face coverings. While they do travel through two buildings, it is a quick in-and-out, which should limit the exposure to shared air indoors for an extended period of time.”

The tours are mainly outside, but there are two permitted building visits — one at Brooks Hall and the other at Carr Hall. Visitors are not permitted to enter the dining hall portion of Brooks Hall, Ryan clarified.

“When we put this plan together, it was approved that these were the places (a visitor) can go and even has directions that they can go (when inside),” LeSane said. “It is not us just saying we can go into any space and roam for hours — it is in-and-out. We have the safety of the campus in mind (during tours) first and foremost.”

The college has also limited the amount of families allowed on tour with the same guide at any given time to limit potential COVID-19 exposure.

“We have a one-to-one or one-to-two prospective families at a time limit,” Ryan said. “We have spoken to (other colleges) who are hosting campus visits, and one colleague said that they cap their tours at 15 families. Fifteen families can mean 30-40 people so we do not do that. Our guides are with one or two families who might have one or two guests with them.”

In addition to modified campus tours, the spaces where students are interviewed have also been altered to accommodate social distancing and new safety protocols.

“We restructured our entire lobby so there are no interviews happening in the spaces that we would typically use (for interviews), meaning the offices,” LeSane said. “If you go into our lobby right now, there is a space in the far corner where a family can be and in another space where students can be (interviewed). We also limit the number of visitors at one time.”

The plan to reconvene campus visitation following the campus wide quarantine was the result of several deliberations among faculty members, staff and current students.

“President (Hilary) Link convened a committee meeting over the summer to look at in-person classes and in-person (events) for this fall,” LeSane said. “One of the committees was focused on having visitors for admissions ... The purpose of the committee was to exam the necessary protocols to host in person visitors on campus to create an actionable plan moving forward, which was ultimately approved.”

According to LeSane, the proposal was created by a committee of faculty, staff and current students and then shared with senior administration and several other committees, and the plan was later approved.

In addition to the plan created by the committee, the college hosted preliminary campus tours over the summer to determine how many families can be safely accommodated on campus at any given time.

“For the campus visit itself, we started in the summer with very limited campus visits to see how we could do it safely,” Ryan said. “(We) even prevented campus visitors from overlapping so we essentially had a single family visiting at a time. We have grown comfortable with this and know that we can keep the physical distance and have one student on tour while one student is meeting with the admission office. While we have increased capacity somewhat, we still have very limited numbers of students on campus each day.”

During the summer, the college allowed four families per day at opposite times — two in

the morning and two in the afternoon, Ryan added.

“I think our visitors understand that what we are doing is not something that all schools are able to offer so there is a level of appreciation, and I would argue that there is even respect for the protocols and guidelines that we set forth,” LeSane said. “We have had no challenges and no issues with families abiding by our protocols, if anything (students) are coming in saying, ‘I am happy to do this’ because (the college) is allowing them to visit a school that may be one of their top choices.”

The college reassures students with concerns regarding the decision to allow campus tours to occur again that this procedure is done in a strategic manner to limit any potential exposure to COVID-19.

“I can understand why someone can have some concern without the context of how we are bringing visitors to campus. We are doing it in a very safe way. If we were not and we were sitting here saying, ‘nope, there is no health screening or no face coverings’ then we would have a problem. We are (allowing tours) in a very strategic and pragmatic way, and we are doing it on a small scale. We are not putting families or current students at risk in the way that we are managing this process.”

For current students who may be concerned, LeSane asks that current students sympathise with prospective students.

“(You) can remember being high school students, and the importance of actually being able to visit a campus,” LeSane said. “I do not think that it is fair to ask students to make a decision on where they are going to spend the next four years site unseen — there is already enough stress and pressure on prospective students going through this process with testing being virtual only to add on that and say, ‘in addition, you are not allowed to see (our) campus.’ (Campus tours) enable students to make an informed choice for (them) to see if this is a place that (they) can see as (their) home for the next four years.”

‘ROADMAP’ from page 1

“The plan explicitly demonstrates Allegheny College’s unwavering commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice and represents our explicit pledge to doing the hard work, having the hard conversations, and making the bold changes needed to disrupt and dismantle systems of privilege and oppression that exist within our structures, our programs, and our institution,” Dukes said. “Several of the action steps in the plan are already underway, and many of you have already been involved in these steps. Other action steps are new and will require participation in training or workshops along with program-

matic review and revision; more information about implementation will be provided. We ask that you read the plan and that you join us in creating change at all levels of the college.”

The plans detailed in “the Roadmap” have generated different responses from members of the campus community.

“I feel like the school did not address (systemic racism),” Musimisa said. “From where I am standing at and looking at it, the school did not address anything about systematic racism ... When we got to campus, nothing changed — the school is not doing anything. Students are the ones that are leading the initia-

tive and I believe that it should not be the students leading this initiative — it should be the administration.”

Students have collaborated with the institution to implement new student-centric changes to help prevent racism on campus. Student representatives on committees and task forces oversee diversity and inclusion efforts. Students were involved in creating the policies alongside faculty, staff and administrators. The initiatives were created as a result of campus community feedback, in particular the students who shared their experiences at the institution, Dukes said.

All employees had to attend diversity competence training and Racism and Reflection Workshops for employees facilitated by the Inclusion, Diversity Equity, Access, Social Justice Center, Dukes said. The Athletic Department staff also participated in this six-week workshop about the Racial Healing Handbook: Practical Activities to Help You Challenge Privilege, Confront Systemic Racism, and Engage in Collective Healing over the summer. During the semester, each athletic team is attending similar workshops.

“We hope to offer this workshop for other offices across the College throughout the academic year,” Dukes added. “The Administrative Executive Committee has also begun educating itself on a trauma-informed approach, as committed to in “the Roadmap”.”

In addition to workshops, senior leadership staff attended the Trauma & Resilient Communities Conference that was sponsored by several local organizations, including Peace-4Crawford and Crawford County System of Care.

“We recognize that systemic racism and racial injustice are a source of trauma for some BI-POC members of the Allegheny community,” Dukes said. “As senior leaders we have a responsibility to understand how trauma impacts Allegheny community members. These are just a few examples of initiatives addressing systemic racism and racial injustice.”

Students can expect a complete update on the status of “the Roadmap” initiatives soon, Dukes said. Every objective in “the Roadmap” is currently being implemented at the institution, she added.

Despite these actions, students still expressed concern that these actions are only performative.

Read the full article on alleghenycampus.com

ASG from page 1

The class of 2024 announced that they created a GroupMe to discuss having weekly meetings with the five senators in the class of 2024.

The class of 2023 reported that they appointed two new senators but are still looking for a third.

There are currently no senators for the class of 2022 and class of 2021.

Following class reports, Gaxiola began her report by announcing that she attempted to contact Director of Public Safety James Basinger for ASG’s Public Safety initiatives but has yet to receive a response.

Gaxiola continued, reporting that she and Lugundi attended a panel discussion with the Pittsburgh nonprofit, Alliance for Refugee Youth Support and Education.

“(Lugundi) and I basically presented to them from a student government perspective and briefly about our stories and where we are now and how we decided to do what we are doing,” Gaxiola said. “We are look-

ing forward to strengthening our relationship with nonprofits in Pittsburgh.”

After Gaxiola, Lugundi began his report by announcing that on the last diversity podcast, they hosted Cecil Price III, a student at Morehouse College.

“It was really nice to have him as a guest,” Lugundi said. “We talked about Black activism, being involved in the community and mentorship, especially in public schooling.”

Lugundi said he hoped to host more guests on the podcast and offered the meeting participants to talk to him or Gray if they knew anyone who would be interested in coming on the podcast.

Lugundi concluded his report by reporting that he and Gaxiola plan to meet with Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole to discuss president and vice president roles in ASG.

After Lugundi, Emily Mullen, ’24, was sworn in as a senator for the class of 2024.

Before ASG moved into unfinished business, Gray remind-

ed the participants that general assembly meetings are recorded and members still must demonstrate the behaviors that are expected in in-person meetings.

ASG then moved into unfinished business. The senate voted on who would be the president of the class of 2023 between Andi Reiser, ’23, and Lucas Biniewski, ’23. Reiser won the vote.

ASG then moved into new business. Gaxiola announced that the Campus Life and Community Standards Committee is looking for two new members and that the Major Events Committee is also looking for three new members. Gaxiola asked senate members to tell her if they were interested in participating in either of the committees.

After Gaxiola’s announcement, Payne Rizzer, ’24, Olivia Brophy, ’23, Kyrie Doniz, ’23, Natalie Davidson, ’22 and Jasmine Ramirez-Soto, ’21 were appointed as senators.

Following the appointments, Tyler James Znaczk, ’24, suggested switching general assem-

bly times from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to take into consideration the schedule shift for athletic practices. The motion was approved by the senate and the meeting time was changed.

After that, India McCruter, ’22, proposed, in light of the recent Breonna Taylor vigil, that ASG work with administration to better display the rules of assembly and protests on campus so students could better understand what was permitted.

“Students were upset that a lot of the posters and things related to Breonna Taylor were taken down but the rules (surrounding that) were already in place but students didn’t know about them,” McCruter said.

“Maybe ASG could make the rules more (apparent) so this doesn’t happen again.”

Reiser agreed and suggested that ASG make students aware of the actions that are permitted in the college’s policies of assembly and protests.

Following that, ASG moved into advisor announcements. Bocchi requested that any mem-

ber who had been on ASG before to send him materials regarding manuals and other documents regarding ASG.

“I have the constitution and that’s about it,” Bocchi said.

After advisor announcements, Co-Director of Student Affairs Genesis Pena, ’22, reported that she learned that at other colleges such as Duquesne Law School, students were assigned a number when taking exams so they were anonymous, thus eliminating any biases.

“I think that’s a really awesome thing that Allegheny should adopt,” Pena said. “I’m going to reach out to the Curriculum Committee (about it).”

The discussion about anonymous testing was tabled for the next meeting after some discussion and the meeting came to a close at 7:50 p.m.

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UPDATE

In the article, “Public safety incident escalates, local police get involved,” it is stated that, “According to the Public Safety Crime Log, 15 minutes after Velez’s interaction began there was a report of criminal mischief at College Court.”

To clarify, according to Claire Klima, ’21, Klima was on the phone with Adrean Velez, ’21, at around 12:22 a.m. when he was approached by Public Safety on Loomis St. It was at 12:25 a.m. that the incident on Loomis St. was reported. While the ‘criminal mischief’ at College Court was reported at 12:10 a.m., it was not until after Public Safety engaged with Velez that one officer then left Loomis St. and knocked on Klima’s door in College Court. While at Klima’s door, the officer first mentioned the ‘criminal mischief’ which was reported nearby, then asked Klima if Velez was in the area. It was during this interaction that Klima was informed of the ongoing incident between Velez, Public Safety officers and the Meadville Police Department on Loomis St.

CORRECTIONS

In the Oct. 9 issue of The Campus in the article titled “Professor Mari Christmas wins Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer’s Award,” it was incorrectly stated that Christmas had another child before coming to Allegheny. Christmas only has one child.

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.

Oct. 14, 2020
Theft
Vukovich
Center

A letter to the editors

By **APRIL THOMPSON**
Vice President for Student Life and
Dean of Students
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Editor’s Note: The Campus has corrected the time of the criminal mischief and public drunkenness as stated below.

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article, “Public safety incident escalates, local police get involved,” that describes an incident that occurred on Sept. 18, 2020, when students called Public Safety due to a safety concern at their house.

While the College cannot share specific details of a student’s private educational record, I can share some information with the community about how Public Safety handles these types of situations in general.

Public Safety officers are trained in de-escalation strategies and the officers are expected to make every possible effort to avoid the use of physical force in any interaction. The officers are trained to approach a situation by identifying themselves and explaining the reason the officer is present.

Officers attempt several strategies to de-escalate situations by talking with individuals, referring students to support resources including the Dean on Call or counselors, offering assistance and using verbal instructions.

Our Public Safety officers use physical engagement as a last resort and only when there are imminent safety risks. Public Safety does not carry other alternative devices such as guns, pepper spray, batons or tasers.

Despite these strategies, there are rare times when an individual is behaving in a manner that is unsafe to the individual or to others in the area.

The only time an officer will engage physically with a community member is when the safety of the individual, the officer or others in the vicinity are at imminent risk. If it appears that a person is going to engage in a

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It is not enough to simply do our jobs at Allegheny, we must go further to understand the experiences of members of this community and develop responses that are measured and respectful of the diverse experiences of all of the members of our community.”

—APRIL THOMPSON
Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students,
Allegheny College

physical altercation, Meadville City Police Department is notified.

The article mistakenly reports the criminal mischief as occurring 15 minutes after the Loomis Street incident. The Crime Log indicates a criminal mischief was reported earlier at College Court at 12:10 a.m. and an incident of disorderly conduct and public drunkenness on Loomis Street at 12:25 a.m.

The criminal mischief clearly occurred prior to the Loomis Street incident. This chronological error may be misleading to the reader.

This incident is an important reminder to all in our community that the national dialogue about use of force, racial injustice, and the role of police impacts all of us.

Allegheny has a critical role to play in addressing policies and practices that contribute to systemic oppression. Public Safety has an ongoing responsibility to stay informed, understand the needs of the student community and make every effort to disrupt patterns that contribute to racial injustice.

We must be sure that any officer who uses physical restraint does so as a last resort and does so with an understanding of the local and national landscape that may be impacting our community.

It is not enough to simply do our jobs at Allegheny, we must go further to understand the experiences of members of this community and develop responses that are measured and respectful of the diverse experiences of all of the members of our community.

Jim Basinger, our new Director of Public Safety has committed to this effort by doing a review of the office structure, updating protocols, implementing trainings and engaging with students and employees to develop strategies to improve the relationship between Public Safety and the community.

Jim will be requesting meetings with students and student groups to collaborate on how Public Safety can work to improve campus safety, support our diverse student and employee population and develop strategies to improve trust.

I am hopeful that this additional information provides some reassurance to the campus community that Public Safety is working to provide a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community and their guests.

Please contact Student Life at deanofstudents@allegheny.edu if you would like to talk further about ways we can better support the Allegheny community.

April Thompson is the Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students at Allegheny College.

Weighing the pros and cons of gasoline bans

By **LUDIA KOBYLUK**
Contributing Writer
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With many countries working to ban the new production of gas-powered cars, some people are optimistic while others are not so sure. It’s honestly great that companies are becoming more aware of the ramifications of which the production of their goods have on the environment. With the rise in air pollution becoming a problem, many states are planning to face this situation by placing a ban on further production of gas-powered cars. For instance, California’s plan is to enforce the ban by the year 2023, as the problems of wildfires become an all-time high, even though many climate change skeptics would say otherwise.

“We have a strategy to be as bold as the problem is big, to recognize that we have agency,” California Governor Gavin Newsom announced at a news conference, as he stood before a glittering half circle of electric cars, according to the New York Times.

However, research conducted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency has shown that from 1990 to 2018, the air quality in the United States has gotten better. The substantial difference is especially seen within carbon monoxide levels that have dropped by 74% and lead has decreased by 82%. Nowadays, highway vehicles that run on petroleum have the highest emission levels amongst motor vehicles, especially regarding carbon monoxide (at 35.8% above the average) and oxides of nitrogen (32.3% over average), as well as many other toxic air pollutants.

Gas-powered vehicles emit 8,887 grams of carbon diox-

ide per gallon of gasoline and 10,180 grams of carbon dioxide per gallon of diesel according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Each year, the average passenger vehicle emits 4.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide.

By banning gasoline-powered vehicles, California will lower the rates of emission of toxic pollutants within our environment, drastically. The downside would be that electric cars are still more expensive than the traditional gasoline car and they would have to travel in shorter distances.

This will inevitably cause pushback from those who do not believe in climate change. Some questions that may arise are, what will happen to those that already have gas-powered vehicles? And how will this affect gas prices — will they be raised higher due to its scarcity?

Gas-powered cars are currently more affordable than electric vehicles. If we replace gas vehicles with more expensive electric or solar-powered cars, this would then limit the amount of people that can have cars. This would mean that the cities that adopt this will have to start increasing access to public transportation, especially for those within lower economic communities.

The possibility of installing more public transportation options or a community bike sharing system are some viable options. Plus, city governments and planning committees will have to take into consideration the regional limitations of it all, like, for example, the fact that most northerners would not be able to cycle year round.

Students that live on college campuses already struggle to find safe forms of transporta-

tion, rather than walking. Since many do not bring vehicles on campus, whether due to the struggles of bringing it, finances, etc. Those who do bring their own vehicles often do it for convenience and safety concerns about alternative forms of transportation, such as anxieties about walking from place to place at night. This means that campus security would have to take into account these additional transportation considerations and potentially increase their on-campus presence in order to ensure that students would be able to get around safely.

The idea of adopting modernized electric or environmentally friendly cars seems like a far-off goal, especially for the small cities in Pennsylvania, but we are approaching it sooner than we think. For instance, Allegheny College has already incorporated 2 charging stops in the Vukovich and Bentley parking lots, as well as, they have a bike share and Zipcar program. Though some schools still have not made these accommodations for their students, which puts them in unsafe conditions.

The transition towards electric cars rather than gasoline is still a long process, with many things to take into consideration. Essentially, there would be many environmental benefits, but the shift would also put a handicap on the everyday people who already struggle to afford and maintain a car. This can leave many carless, with the use of public transportation as their main source of transportation.

Even further into the future, I wonder how long we would have to wait for the next “Elon Musk” to make advances within other forms of transportation, such as aircrafts and trains.



PHOTO BY WALTER BAXTER

A charging station for electric cars, which may become more common in the coming years.

Shame on US for treatment of detained migrants

By **PEYTON BRITT**
Opinion Editor
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Dawn Wooten, a nurse employed at Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Irwin County Detention Center in Georgia, recently lodged a formal complaint revealing the appalling treatment of female detainees.

Appalling is an understatement — Wooten alleges that ICE doctors have been performing unwarranted and nonconsensual hysterectomies on female immigrants held at the facility.

This news should be absolutely horrifying to anyone who has the slightest bit of empathy — forced sterilization is literally a form of genocide, as defined by the International Criminal Court. It cannot be ignored that these medical crimes against humanity specifically target female immigrants, meaning that the motivation for such is doubly horrifying in that it is a form of violence that is specifically patriarchal and xenophobic.

Restricting the ability of an individual to reproduce is a eugenic practice — one that was employed in Nazi Germany. Although the United States is no stranger to genocide, many people like to ignore our country’s crimes against humanity and sweep them under the rug in the name of patriotism. Germa-

ny, on the other hand, has had a long history of making efforts to show genuine contrition for their actions during World War II.

The United States has been nothing but cowardly, obscuring our history of hate crimes by rewriting the history books to make us out as heroes. It has to stop. It should never have happened and it surely should not continue in the face of the femicide of vulnerable peoples.

Underlying the sheer horror of forcing female migrants to undergo unnecessary, unwanted medical procedures to prevent their reproduction is the enormous irony of such actions being carried out by an administration that claims to be pro-life.

If it was not already clear enough, Irwin County Detention Center should now be undeniable proof that the Trump administration does not actually care about protecting the sanctity of human life, but rather the sanctity of protecting white American lives and white social and political hegemony.

To revoke the right of female migrants to reproduce is to revoke their bodily autonomy, their right to freely make decisions regarding family planning and their right to exist in the United States with fully functional female reproductive systems. The female body is no

place for male legislators, doctors and their opinions.

The fact that these forced sterilizations are occurring should be grounds for global outrage, but that outrage cannot and will not come with media coverage. At least within my own curated media spheres, the only platform on which I have seen any sustained condemnation of these atrocities is on Twitter. Were I not a regular Twitter user, I may have never even known this was happening. That is terrifying, and we should be asking ourselves why.

Of course, part of this apparent lack of media coverage is, as I said, a result of my choices in media consumption. Still, I refuse to chalk it up to that alone, especially because in today’s world, it is increasingly common for people to turn to social media for global news. We must also recognize that the group of people who are affected — migrant people with female anatomy — have been under attack from the very conception of the Trump administration. We all should be able to see by now that Trump’s attitudes towards women and immigrants are violent and hateful.

Please note that my use of the word “women” in the previous statement serves to include the discrimination experienced by all people who are perceived as women, whether or not they

identify as women. I do not support the likening of female reproductive organs to womanhood.

It should also be noted that Dawn Wooten, the Black licensed practical nurse responsible for bringing these disgusting injustices to light, deserves recognition for her bravery and willingness to potentially jeopardize her own safety to protect migrants who are at risk for suffering from the endlessly cruel wrath of ICE. Considering how the United States is an environment in which Black women are constantly under the threat of violence and death for their mere existence, I would literally give her a Nobel Peace Prize for her decision to speak out against these cruelties.

As the presidential election draws nearer, we must not forget how Trump and his administration have continuously and actively worked to restrict the rights of migrant people, and fatally endangered many in the process. I know that keeping up with every human rights violation the United States commits is, unfortunately, too difficult — I know I surely am not capable of it. The overwhelming details of global injustices are far too many to permanently keep within our brains, but I think it is of primary importance that we keep the emotional responses the news

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My heart goes out to every undocumented person who is forced to live in fear of deportation, of separation from their families and all of the other tangible threats that come with conservative immigration policy.”

—PEYTON BRITT
Class of 2021

evokes within us at the forefront of our hearts.

My heart goes out to every migrant who is detained in the process of trying to come to the United States in the hopes of making a better life for themselves, as well as those who are not detained but must live in haunting awareness that these stories could be theirs. My heart goes out to every undocumented person who is forced to live in fear of deportation, of separation from their families and all of the other tangible threats that come with conservative immigration policy.

My heart goes out even to documented immigrants who, although not necessarily fac-

ing the same potential threats at undocumented people, may feel as though their rights are in danger because of Trump’s malicious disregard for the safety and well-being of anyone whose home country is, for whatever reason, an unsafe or undesirable environment.

Beyond empathy, I also urge everyone to allow themselves to let justified anger into your heart, as this anger is a necessary element of the social pressure required to precipitate tangible political change that could significantly ameliorate the lives of those who wish to come live in this country. Here, that translates directly to this: abolish ICE.

California wildfires release carbon dioxide into atmosphere

How carbon dioxide emissions from fires contribute to climate change

By **JAIME CANTILLO**
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As of October 2020, California has lost 4.2 million acres of land — 150 million trees, 8,200 buildings and 31 lives — since the discovery of a wildfire in late August, causing the evacuation of thousands of citizens, according to the LA Times.

Cal Fire, a website run by California firefighters and volunteers, states that over 17,000 firefighters are working around the clock to combat the flames, but even with such great numbers, the outcome does not seem promising. As the fires rapidly approach Northern California, evacuation measures have already been put in place.

Amid the destruction and chaos, one topic continues to be the primary worry of environmentalists and scientists alike — carbon emissions.

According to the Global Fire Emission Database, as of September, the California wildfires have emitted 91 metric tons of

(carbon dioxide), 25% more than the annual fossil fuel emissions from the state.

Nancy Harris, a research manager at Global Forest Watch expressed that this is a major cause for concern, especially as the world is trying to battle the effects of climate change.

“What’s particularly concerning about the California fire (carbon dioxide) emissions is that it contributes to a multipart climate feedback system that will exacerbate the effects of climate change,” Harris said in an interview with Mongaby.

Harris explained that the more carbon dioxide concentration there is in the atmosphere, the warmer it becomes, causing plants to dry up. This dry climate, coupled with the high temperatures of west coast states — like California — leads to more fires.

Contrary to popular belief, carbon dioxide is necessary for our survival. Aside from being used by plants to make sugars and oxygen, carbon dioxide is also what keeps our planet from

becoming a giant ball of ice, as represented in the 2013 movie, “Snowpiercer.”

Carbon dioxide warms our planet by absorbing infrared radiation and re-emitting it, a feature not shared by other important gases that make up our atmosphere.

“Carbon dioxide is a linear model,” Timothy Chapp, associate professor of chemistry, said. “When it is hit by IR radiation it causes it to vibrate and that frequency associated with it causes the build-up of kinetic energy.”

Since carbon dioxide is a gas molecule, it is constantly bumping into other carbon dioxide molecules. This will cause the molecule that has the buildup of kinetic energy to re-emit said energy to the other molecules it bumped into. The faster the gas molecule moves, the more collisions between said molecules occur, the more energy is transferred and the higher the temperature goes up. The rise in temperature associated with the interaction gives in the moniker greenhouse gas, according to

Chapp.

“The easiest way to imagine it is that sunlight hits blacktops and creates heat, that heat is infrared radiation,” Chapp said. “That IR radiation is then re-directed back out to space, but greenhouses gases absorb that radiation in their bonds which causes warming.”

Just how a greenhouse for plants works, as explained by NASA, the clear glass allows the passing of IR radiation, but it does not allow it to escape by re-emitting the energy towards the walls where it will be bounced back to the glass and then to the walls again in a continuous loop. This causes the air inside the greenhouse to drastically rise in temperature, similar to how our atmosphere works.

Carbon dioxide itself is not the cause of global warming, it is the rise in the concentration of carbon dioxide. Chapp provided multiple ways to lower the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

“From my perspective, this problem can be solved through

either a biological or chemical viewpoint,” Chapp said. “From a biological standpoint, we can use the growth of biomass as a way to convert the (carbon dioxide) in the air into something that is not a gas.”

Chapp explained that through the use of plants, carbon dioxide numbers can be lowered, as plants convert carbon dioxide into glucose, a non-volatile sugar.

“If you ferment the biomass, you can convert it to some fuel like ethanol, which is carbon neutral,” Chapp said.

Another method Dr. Chapp proposed is still in the research phase.

“Today, chemists are looking into ways to convert carbon

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Today, chemists are looking into ways to convert carbon dioxide into something that is chemically usable.”

—TIMOTHY CHAPP
Associate Professor of Chemistry,
Allegheny College

dioxide into something that is chemically usable,” Chapp said. “This is known as a C1 feedstock. If we can find a way to turn carbon dioxide into methane, you would be able to have C1 feedstock that is carbon neutral and still be able to make all the plastics that are usually made using oil and natural gases.”

The idea of direct air capture has also been making its way around the table of the federal government.

This new method utilizes special scrubbers full of nitrogenous bases or hydrogen solutions to pull carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. The carbon dioxide is then stored in underground containers as scientists figure how to convert it into something usable and chemically viable.

As the fires in California continue to burn, scientists and other organizations are not only trying to extinguish the flames, but are also trying to extinguish the effects of climate change.

Mass die-off along Russian coast concerns environmentalists

What causes thousands of sea creatures to die simultaneously?

By **ROMAN HLADIO**
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At the beginning of October, pictures began emerging on the internet depicting a Russian shore covered in dead sea creatures.

Discovered near Kamchatka, a Russian Pacific coastal town, scientists and environmentalists are left dumbstruck by how an event like this occurred, with an estimated 95% death rate of creatures living 10-15 meters below the surface, according to ABC News.

Kelly Pearce, assistant professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability, expressed that the situation reminded her

somewhat of the Exxon Valdez oil spill that occurred in 1989, though primarily out of concern for the area’s ecosystem.

“Large-scale deaths are really worrying,” Pearce said. “Anytime you have a mass die-off, the ability for an ecosystem to recover from that is really limited because it wipes out all the individuals in these populations.”

According to ABC, the most likely cause was toxins released by blooming algae or seismic activity. While man-made causes are not completely ruled out, the Kamchatka government website claims that the disaster was natural in origin.

“One of the first things I thought was that maybe it was related to a harmful algae bloom,”

Pearce said. “We often get those like off the coast of Florida and on the Gulf Coast. You get these influxes of chemicals that reduce oxygen availability and as a result, algae blooms. So that was my first thought, that maybe it was related to a high hypoxia — or low oxygen — event.”

Speculation continues to occur about the true cause, though, as the area had multiple purposes during the time of the Soviet Union. The area was — and still is — used for naval drill practicing, seeing use as recently as early August. The Soviets also stored over 100 tons of chemicals and pesticides in a nearby facility, which recently faced a fencing breach, according to ABC.

“When I looked into it a little bit more, I thought that it was much more related to a man-made cause rather than more natural events,” Pearce said. “Two things really pointed me towards the man-made. One, that it was so extensive. Ninety-five percent of the sea life was killed and during hypoxia events, typically the larger sea life is able to swim away from the situation at a quicker rate. Then also the indication that humans that were in the water were also experiencing burns.”

Pearce explained that in almost every circumstance, it is impossible for algae to cause chemical burns of that type on humans.

“That makes me believe that this is much, much more likely related to some chemical or pesticide spill that’s occurring in the area,” Pearce said. “I’m concerned (with) how they’re going to clean up if it was a man-made spill. Sometimes it takes years for these chemicals to fully break down.”

Greenpeace, an environmental protection organization, has been monitoring the situation as it develops.

“For now, none of the theories has been confirmed,” said Elena Sakirko, a member of Greenpeace, in an interview with ABC. “We think the checks are insufficient. They should have probed for pesticides.”

The consequences following the die-off may stretch past the beach and have negative implications for Kamchatka as well.

“It’s going to take time for new individuals to migrate back to the system,” Pearce said. “This area might just be a dead zone for 10 or 15 years, not allowing any life. That is really concerning, especially if people in the area depend on this for food sources, like if people fish in the area.”

Aside from fishing, Pearce explained that the loss of physical space could be detrimental to citizens and tourists alike.

“I read that this is a common area for people to go swimming and surfing,” Pearce said. “So just losing that human connection to the area is concerning as well.”

Depending on whether the die-off was caused by a man-made toxin of some kind may also have potential impacts on portions of the sea below the 10-15 meter range where most of the death occurred.

“Most of the life in the ocean lives on that top 10 to 15 meters because that’s where the sun penetrates,” Pearce said. “So that’s where the food — the primary productivity — is. If these fish or materials were contaminated and they die and sink down, bigger predators and other species that may eat these individuals could also then get poisoned, so there may be some bioaccumulation that could potentially occur.”

“

I’m concerned (with) how they’re going to clean up if it was a man-made spill. Sometimes it takes years for these chemicals to fully break down.”

—KELLY PEARCE
Assistant Professor of
Environmental Science and
Sustainability,
Allegheny College

Pearce explained that the potential impacts of this and similar events exemplify the need for honesty and action — specifically among governments — in order to combat future occurrences.

“This highlights the importance of transparency within our governments, because when things like this happen, an immediate response is really needed,” Pearce said. “Rather than being upfront with where the source of the pollution is, they are kind of trying to hide it, it seems like. So I think that transparency — whether it’s a private organization or the government — is really important in terms of responding quickly to these situations.”



Photo courtesy of News Break

Deceased sea life on the shore of Kamchatka.

‘More than just a fit’ — D.R.I.P. celebrates its first year

By **CHRISTOPHER WAKIM**
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A program on campus is looking to increase the diversity of Allegheny’s Greek Life organizations.

The President of the Diversity Representation & Inclusion Program, Abdikadir Lugundi ’20, described his grassroots inclusionary program to promote identity recognition and inclusion of all people.

“Drip doesn’t always apply to clothing... it could be how (you) talk... the way (you) move... the way (you) operate,” Lugundi said.

Lugundi expressed his concern with the normalization of joining Fraternity & Sorority Life, a club, or more broadly becoming involved on campus — he found that taking such actions normalize or minimize one’s own identity to adhere to the normalities of the organization.

D.R.I.P originated as a study

and inclusionary group in the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Social Justice Center until those in attendance began playing UNO after studying.

“To be honest, it happened by accident,” Lugundi said. “We would study then we began playing UNO ... (I) had a zero dollar budget and UNO cards.”

Playing UNO after the D.R.I.P program became very popular and played an important role in garnering support and recognition for the program. After hosting several tournaments, D.R.I.P had evolved and wished to do something “unprecedented.”

A program titled “Being Black And...” was cooperatively hosted between Islamic Cultural Association and D.R.I.P and included several members of the community as well as Pastor Markus A. McDaniel from United Faith Fellowship, a local church in Meadville. The event was meant to showcase the different identities within the Black community, by

bringing together various members to share their own identities and experiences. Each guest speaker gave their own testimony to their own identity and how they exist in a separate cultural environment. Pastor McDaniel holds services in Meadville, “The Meadville community is our community as well,” Lugundi said. “After mentoring at the local elementary school, it was shocking how little the children knew about the college despite it being such a large part of their community.”

This was the first event hosted by the D.R.I.P program, but a racial profiling workshop is currently in the works for next semester — the event was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

D.R.I.P is a program structured to promote a relationship between the multicultural clubs and Greek Life, but also supports the diversity of the Allegheny Community by celebrating the individuality of students. D.R.I.P

is a vehicle to promote individuality and discussions about one’s own personal identity.

“It’s a two-way street,” Lugundi said. “(I) could learn something from (you) ... and (I) could teach (you) something ... Identity and diversity is limitless ... there is no one trait to a human being ... celebrating only one trait is a disservice to a person’s individuality.”

Celebrating individuality and coming together by fostering discussions about identity and individuality on campus is the expressed purpose of the D.R.I.P program, according to Lugundi.

“(I) didn’t know if I wanted it to be a club or a support system, but currently we are working on D.R.I.P mentoring and undergoing a revamping process,” Lugundi said.

Young Born Leaders is another one of Abdikadir’s programs aimed at mentoring at-risk youth in the Pittsburgh area. YBL is targeted for members of the com-

“(I) wanted to show diverse students that they have a place in Greek Life and a place on campus ... and their diversity should be celebrated and not minimized.”

—ABDIKADIR LUGUNDI
Class of 2021

munity who are currently in high school — D.R.I.P is intended to support the transition from high school to college. This support is facilitated by the D.R.I.P mentoring program to encourage members of the Allegheny community to get involved in a club or Fraternity & Sorority Life.

“When (I) got to Allegheny, I knew almost nothing about Greek Life” Lugundi said. “I was able to join a historically white fraternity and expand its diversity during my time as a brother of Theta Chi ... (I) wanted to show diverse students that they have a place in Greek Life and a place

on campus ... and their diversity should be celebrated and not minimized.”

Currently, a D.R.I.P council is being formed with the aid of the members of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

“Hopefully we can foster communications between alumni and other Greek organizations for financial backing as well as connections ... hopefully by the end of October,” Lungundi said.

Contact the President, Abdikadir Lugundi, directly at lugundia@alleghney.edu.

Greek Life finds creative ways to hold fall recruitment

By **TAYLOR HAYES**
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During the week of Sept. 27-Oct. 4, sororities and fraternities welcomed new members in the middle of a pandemic. The week was not the same as the years before, but fraternities and sororities did things to make the new members’ day special.

AJ Yarborough, ’22, talked about how Fiji’s week went.

“Id have to say recruiting while working around (COVID-19) was pretty diffi-

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Recruitment this year was obviously different, but we had so much fun thanks to everyone’s hard work.

—MADDIE ARBUCKLE

Class of 2023

cult,” Yarborough said. Fraternities had to be careful in how they recruited since in-person events were not possible due to the requirements of (COVID-19) safety. To combat this, they had to get creative.

“We had a few events, like our virtual bonfire on Zoom,” Yarborough said. “That was pretty successful.”

The brothers of Fiji were still able to hold events to educate possible new members on Fiji’s philanthropies. Being able to use Zoom helped the brothers reach

out to new members and made education possible.

Fiji’s pledge ceremony was also a little different from years past.

“We simply used a larger venue, less initiated brothers were present, and we followed all mask and distance guidelines,” Yarborough said.

Following guidelines and keeping everybody safe was very important this year. The brothers were able to figure out how to welcome new members while following safety precautions.

“We even had one of our new members pledge through a video call,” Yarborough said.

The new pledges were also very mindful of being safe during this time and Fiji is very happy with how their week went, according to Yarborough.

“Overall, we welcomed two gentlemen into our brotherhood, and we couldn’t be happier with them,” Yarborough said.

Phi Delta Theta went through the process of getting new members earlier than everyone else.

“Most recruitment was done in the spring. We had one virtual event where we played Jackbox

games and reacquainted ourselves,” Harley O’Brochta, ’23, said.

The fraternity did a lot in the spring through formal recruitment.

“We had to readjust our procedure. We had a hand-held thermometer and kept a list of brothers that were in attendance,” O’Brochta said.

The brothers were careful and mindful of following the safety rules put in place.

“We are ecstatic,” O’Brochta said. “We got 5 new members.”

The fraternity was able to welcome who they wanted to from the spring and they couldn’t be happier.

Tri Delta had a similar fall recruitment experience .

“During recruitment we had some virtual events like self-care night and St. Jude night over Zoom,” Maddie Arbuckle, ’23, said.

The sorority was able to educate their potential new members on their philanthropy and what the sorority stands for via Zoom.

The sisters of Tri Delta also had the opportunity to meet the

potential new members virtually.

““Being able to have that face-to-face time was also achieved through virtual meetings,” Arbuckle said. “This is important so the active members and the possible new members could get to know each other and feel comfortable with one another, according to Arbuckle.

Tri Delta also participated in Run Out.

“We divided into smaller groups all over campus to welcome our new pearls and it went really well,” Arbuckle said.

By splitting into smaller groups, they were able to follow the guidelines in place but still experience the day.

“Recruitment this year was obviously different, but we had so much fun thanks to everyone’s hard work,” Arbuckle said.

Tri Delta welcomed two new members into their sisterhood.

Kappa Alpha Theta did things a little differently as well. For Bid Week, they hosted various events

“We did a socially-distanced TikTok competition and a campus tour competition,” Ella Horner, 23’, said.

The sorority did events all over campus to ensure safety and a fun time.

“We rented the Murray tent and had a photo op and did some dancing and getting to know the new members there,” Horner said.

Being outside helped keep everyone safe and distanced while being able to celebrate and take pictures to remember the day.

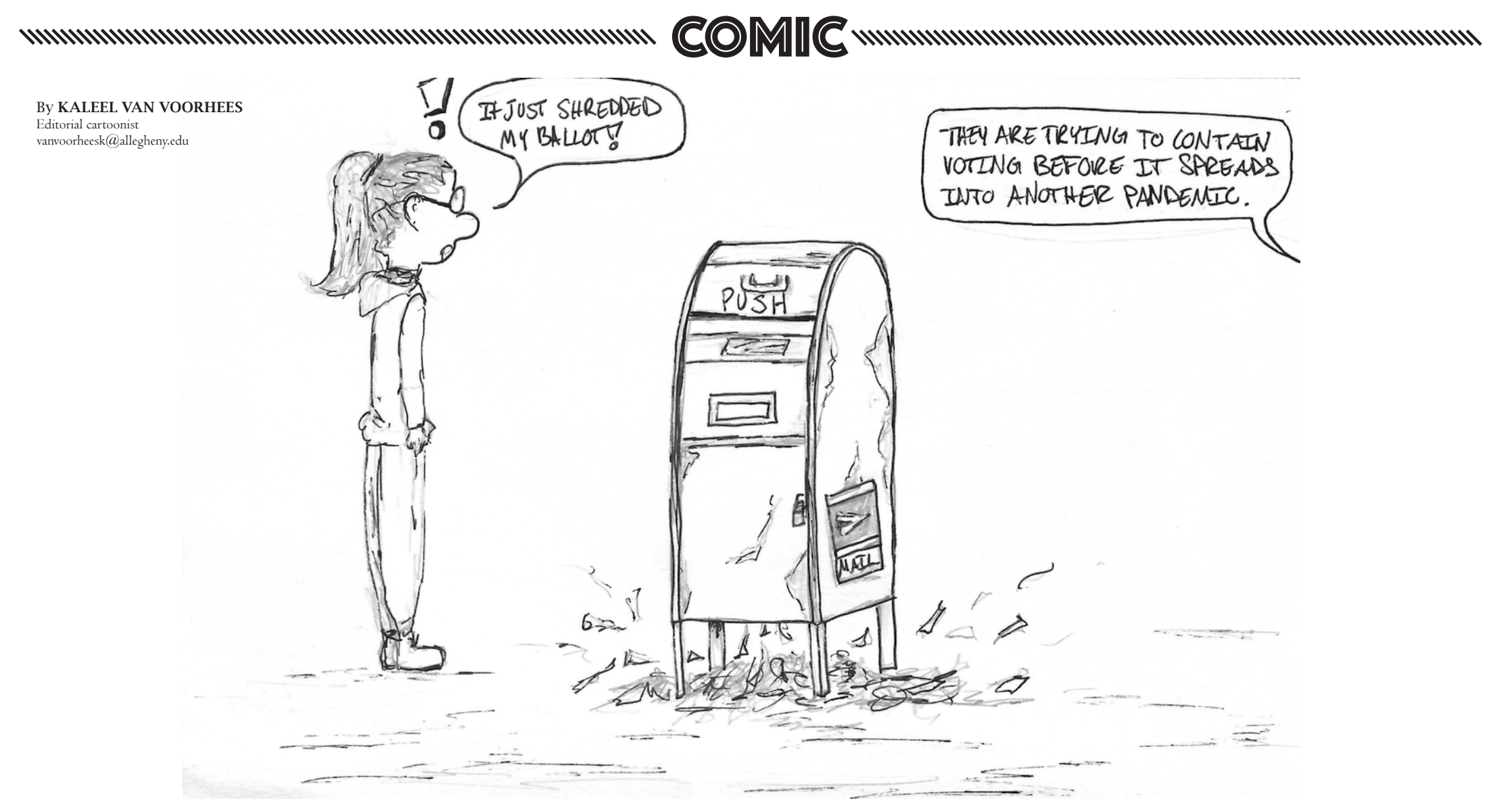
As the day winded down, Theta also did something a little different.

“We watched a movie later on in the night through Netflix party,” Horner said.

Using different forms of safety, the new members were given as normal of an experience as they could from the sisters of Theta.

Fraternities Phi Kappa Psi, Delta Tau Delta and Theta Chi did not participate in fall recruitment this year. They are focusing on getting a bigger pledge class come spring.

“We are focusing on having a safe and great spring recruitment,” David Roach, Delta Tau Delta, ’22, said.



By **KALEEL VAN VOORHEES**
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Professor Ferrence gears up for PA State House election

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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English Department Chair and Associate Professor Matthew Ferrence is running for the 6th District seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on a platform of economic justice and equality for Crawford County.

“This is a region of the country and a region of the state that has been left out,” Ferrence said. “Industry left a while ago, and ever since, people have been struggling to get by. Right now, Crawford County ranks near the bottom of the barrel in Pennsylvania for per-capita income. In the city of Meadville, one in four residents live in poverty ... (I am also) focusing on healthcare, public education and on environmental conservation, all link to that in that all three of these are way(s) in which we could have legislative action that would help alleviate some of the inequities and actually spur sustainable development that is both ecologically sustainable and humanely sustainable.”

Though running as a Democrat, Ferrence does not say so on his website. Instead, he uses the space to discuss issues



The reality is that big parties — and I actually include the Democrats here — have left rural PA behind. ”

he believes impact the citizens of Crawford County.

“I think that’s a refreshing change, because if you go out to somebody (and say), ‘I’m a Democrat’ or ‘I’m a Republican,’ that belies what you truly believe,” said David Lawson, ’23, president of the College Socialists. “There’s a big spectrum out there of moderate Democrats, progressive Democrats, moderate Republicans, reactionary Republicans, and for him to not mention whether he’s a Democrat or a Republican is refreshingly honest.”

Quinn Broussard, ’22, vice president for internal affairs of the College Democrats, agreed with the sentiment.

“I don’t necessarily have any concerns about the label of who’s a Democrat and who’s a Republican, especially because there are things that I fervently disagree on with the Democratic Party, just as there are things that I firmly disagree on with the Republican Party. He’s running on policy, which I think every political candidate should be running on.”

Ferrence wants to take a step back from federal politics and focus on local issues. Despite running as a Democrat, he doesn’t see the national party as a source for solutions for the 6th District.

—MATTHEW FERRENCE
Democratic House candidate for PA-06

“The reality is that big parties — and I actually include the Democrats here — have left rural PA behind,” Ferrence said. “I don’t think the Republican Party is offering them anything, and I think the Democratic Party has focused on issues elsewhere and hoped that rural people will vote for them. I want people to look at what I’m offering and vote for that, and then we can have a conversation about parties later if we want to.”

Broussard encouraged voters to think deeply about their candidates and not choose them merely by their party affiliation.

“Consider what issues are affecting you in your day-to-day life,” Broussard said. “I know for me, as a student in my junior year coming out of college soon, access to healthcare is something that actively concerns me consistently, and that’s a concern I hear universally regardless of political ideology. Think about how you can be supported by these candidates. The people who are running, what are they saying? What are their values?”

Ferrence pointed to his childhood in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, as the inspiration for his environmentally-minded agenda, and he hopes to find common ground with voters through their experience of the local landscape.

“The reality of conservative voters in this area is that they love being outside,” Ferrence said. “They love hunting. They love fishing. They love clean water. They love farm fields. They actually care about a lot of the issues I care about. Most of my family, to be honest, are Republicans



Photo courtesy of the Ferrence campaign
English Department Chair and Associate Professor Matthew Ferrence, the Democratic candidate for the 6th District seat of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

as well, but they’re that kind of Republican that understands what Teddy Roosevelt did — our natural spaces matter deeply.”

The 6th District of the Pennsylvania House has seen only one Democrat since it was created in 1969: Connie Main, who served in the seat for three years in the late 1980s. The current incumbent, Bradley Roae, has served in the seat since 2007, running unopposed for re-election in 2018. Ferrence thinks that Roae has not done enough to take care of the 6th district.

“His own campaign materials, his consistent platform for his entire legislative career, is to run on no taxes, 100% NRA rating and 100% pro-life rating,” Ferrence said. “The latter two are not the job of a state legislator. We don’t even really need to discuss those issues because those are federal issues that will be decided in the federal legislature and more in the federal courts, so he’s pandering to

a social base by having those issues. And the tax issue: when you’re broke, you need help, and help comes from sharing resources through taxation, that’s just the way it is. He’s actually actively campaigning his entire career on hurting the region that he represents.”

Ferrence is hosting a rally today from 5-7 p.m. on the gator quad.

Representative Roae’s campaign did not respond to requests for comment. The College Republicans declined to comment for this story.

Representative Roae declined to participate in the Center for Political Participation’s local candidate forum on Oct. 19, though he will be attending the Meadville Tribune’s live question-and-answer forum with Ferrence on Oct. 27.

Check out the interview with Ferrence on *The Campus OutLoud*, available on Instagram TV and YouTube.

Neuroscience Club welcomes interdisciplinary students

By **BREE GRAY**
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The Neuroscience Club is a student organization on campus that focuses on both academics and research opportunities for students interested in neuroscience.

“We are about bringing together people who are interested in neuroscience and psychology so we can have a communal space to discuss our shared interests,” Co-President Jessica Weston, ’22, said.

The organization meets biweekly on Zoom to discuss upcoming virtual events, mentorship and interesting options within neuroscience. There are no set dates for meetings yet, but students will receive an email when they are hosting a meeting. The organization is advised by Assistant Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience Sarah Conklin.

Neuroscience Club is open to any student who is interested in attending the meetings, even if they are not interested in being a neuroscience major.

“We talk about a lot of cool things that you would not even have to be in the sciences to enjoy,” Co-President Emily Hagberg, ’21, said. “We are not diving into really hard neuroscience topics during our meetings, but sometimes they may be brought up. Even as a neuroscience major, your understanding as a first year versus your understanding as a senior are different because you have not been in all of the courses so we do not just discuss difficult topics — we are open to anything.”

The organization is making a transition to become more interactive and less literature-based to increase student

participation.

“In previous years, (the neuroscience club) was like a journal club,” Hagberg said. “The neuroscience and psychology departments have made their own neuroscience journalism club where people can go once a month. (For our club) it used to be that you would read a journal and come discuss it when we were not on the executive board, but we have changed that because we realized that (students) did not want to do more homework by reading some difficult scholarly article and show up to discuss.”

The club is in the process of becoming more member-centric where the events represent the desires and interests of the members.

“What we really want is for more people to have a place to share their interests,” Weston said. “If that is by not doing a lot of literature stuff and by doing more event-based activities, then the people have spoken.”

For a senior who attended a meeting as a first-year student, the meetings will be very different from what they experienced in their first year, Hagberg said.

“In the past few years, we have had a declining amount of people attending our events,” Weston said. “We had no budget and our big fundraising event fell apart due to COVID-19, so we want a proper foundation for the neuroscience club going forward. We want as many people as possible to enjoy our club just as they would with any other club with as few snags as possible.”

The organization also wants to establish a budget that will allow all members to attend the neuroscience convention, Hagberg said.

“In years past, there have been issues with funding, and people were not able to attend the neuroscience convention,” Hagberg said. “While this year it will not be hosted due to (COVID-19), we are still going to secure this funding in our budget for future neuroscience club members.”

The club has an event planned with Professor of Biology and Neuroscience Lauren Rudolph to host an informational session for members regarding the different career paths available for students interested in neuroscience, especially those who may not want to go to medical school. The event will occur on Zoom or Google Meet soon.

“In the past, the neuroscience club has been predominantly pre-health, but I want people to know that you do not need to be pre-health to be in our club,” Hagberg added. “We want them to know that there are so many careers in neuroscience out there. If being a doctor is not for them or if being a physician’s assistant is not for them, then we do not want them to feel like they have to be one of those, and so we are going to have Professor Rudolph come speak to the club about that.”

Last year, the organization hosted a resume workshop and several meetings dedicated to schedules. Due to COVID-19, the organization is going to host remote events, such as a movie night with their members.

“We want to make sure that (our members) have the opportunity to be ahead of their peers for internships by having really nice resumes,” Hagberg said. “We are looking out for our members, especially first-year students, so that they can have some of the help that

we did not get as first years.”

Students join the neuroscience club for many different reasons from career exploration to mentorship. The organization has seen an increase in members this semester, including first-year students, despite the lack of a traditional Involvement Fair, Weston said.

“I joined the Neuroscience Club because I am interested in neuroscience, but I would recommend the club to anyone,” Gabriella Brady, ’23, said. “This club provides people with the opportunities to learn about different careers and even research opportunities on campus. It also opens people’s eyes to the possibilities within the field that they may not have considered otherwise.”

First-year students exploring major and minor opportunities or looking for guidance are encouraged to join.

“To me, being in the neuroscience club is more or less a family,” Weston said. “At Allegheny, we always talk about having your support group and when it comes to being in the club, the other members are like your family members ... They are like a huge family to me and that is the aspect that I love so much about the club.”

Another benefit of being a member of the Neuroscience Club is the net-



What we really want is for more people to have a place to share their interests. If that is by not doing a lot of literature stuff and by doing more event-based activities then the people have spoken.”

—JESSICA WESTON
Class of 2022

By **THOMAS SMITH**
Contributing Writer
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LeBron James strove to become a four-time NBA champion at the ripe age of 35 as his Los Angeles Lakers squared off against his former squad, the Miami Heat, led by all-star shooting guard Jimmy Butler.

An intriguing element of this matchup was the vastly different composition of these two teams. On one hand, the Lakers are stacked with star power with two max contract players controlling the bulk of their scoring. The Heat, on the other hand, have just one max contract player in Jimmy Butler, but a far more balanced squad overall. They have

Fast forward to 2020, and LeBron is a champion for the Los Angeles Lakers after defeating his old team in The Finals as both franchises showcased a collection of new faces.

Not long ago, all-star Jimmy Butler was widely viewed as a team problem for the Chicago Bulls, Minnesota Timberwolves, and Philadelphia 76ers. Jimmy

versus the Boston Celtics, Herro became the second-youngest player in NBA playoff history to score 35-plus points following his 37-point performance. With this phenomenal scoring display, he surpassed Magic Johnson's effort in the 1980 Finals, as Herro was 29 days younger than the Lakers icon.

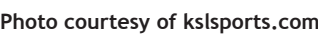
However, the finals start-

"The Miami Heat is a wonderful surprise to the NBA bubble and is an electric team to watch but the Lake Show has too much star power," Salim said.

In the 2010 NBA free agency, LeBron James shocked the world as he infamously announced his landing spot on a program titled, “The Decision.” He was taking his talents to South Beach to play for the Miami Heat. LeBron promised the city of Miami multiple championships. The media and rival teams did not appreciate his confident tone as the Heat quickly became the villains of the league. However, LeBron and his co-stars, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh followed through for Miami as they won back-to-back championships in 2012 and 2013.

Another worthy storyline to note for the Miami Heat is their first-round draft pick, Tyler Herro. In their fourth game of the Eastern Conference finals

Lakers point guard Rajon Rondo, aka “Playoff Rondo,” also cemented his name into NBA legacy. Game six of the finals series was Rondo’s 122nd NBA



The constant rise of the ranks for both head coaches in this series reflected each team's gritty style of play. They both began their NBA coaching careers with the role of video coordinator. Lakers Coach Frank Vogel got his start in the '90s under head coach Rick Pitino. Heat Coach Erik Spoelstra began his duties with the Heat in 1995. This is only the third time the Heat have reached the postseason since LeBron's departure. Spoelstra and the Heat's Front Office de-

"I am not typically a fan of basketball but after the tragic passing of Bryant, I was cultivated to the sport after realizing the everlasting effect he had on many lives," Johnson said.

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Voting information and graphics were provided courtesy of the Center for Political Participation and the Andrew Goodman Foundation.