

Pereira attends preliminary hearing for sexual misconduct

By JOSEPH TINGLEY
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Former Associate Director of Admissions Luiz Heleno Pereira, 53, appeared in court on Feb. 13 for a preliminary hearing to address charges that he engaged in sexual contact with an 11-year-old boy. Magistrate Judge Samuel Pendolino, after hearing arguments from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Pereira’s counsel, found there was enough evidence to proceed to a formal arraignment.

Pereira will next appear in court on March 16, at which time he will be formally charged.

Meadville City Police Detective Sergeant Justin Bailey was the only witness called during the hearing. Bailey was called by Assistant District Attorney Paula DiGiacomo to answer questions about interviews conducted with the child, referred to only as CJ in order to protect his identity, and others who were present at the time of the alleged incident.

The incident, according

to Bailey referring to notes from the interview with CJ, occurred some time in September 2017, when Pereira was staying with the family through Airbnb. At the time of the incident, CJ’s mother was not present, but her boyfriend was home with CJ’s younger sister.

Bailey said the boyfriend, CJ and CJ’s sister were all watching television when Pereira came to the door, and that Pereira sat down on the couch with them. Bailey said that, at some point, Pereira began tickling CJ, but said the

timeline was somewhat unclear.

“It seemed as if this happened very quickly,” Bailey said.

The tickling progressed until, according to Bailey, CJ said Pereira began asking him to show him his genitals. Pereira, according to CJ, then tried to touch his genitals over top of his clothing.

“When [CJ] was asked specifically, he said that he touched him,” Bailey said.

It was at this point, Bailey said, the boyfriend physically stopped Pereira and asked

him to step outside onto the front porch of the home. He then put both children to bed, and then joined Pereira on the porch.

Bailey said the boyfriend made no attempt to confront Pereira regarding the incident, but waited for CJ’s mother to return.

“He stated that [CJ’s mom] was supposed to come home and he did not know what to do,” Bailey said.

The next day, Bailey said the boyfriend received a call from Pereira at which time they discussed the alleged in-

cident. According to the boyfriend, Pereira became tearful and denied that he would ever do such a thing.

“That was when [the boyfriend] told [Pereira] he was no longer permitted at the house,” Bailey said.

Meadville City Police were informed of the incident on Oct. 13 and Pereira was arrested on Jan. 24.

Pereira was represented by attorney Ed Hathaway.

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BRISK AND BLUSTERY

See **WINTERFEST** | page 6



Photos Contributed by **BRIAN HILL**

Top: Benjamin Ptak, ‘20, and Emily Hayhurst, ‘20, pose in front of tents set up during Meadville Winterfest in Diamond Park Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018. **Above:** Meadville residents stand by a tent serving warm food during Meadville Winterfest in Diamond Park on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018.

Allegheny creates new staffing plan

By DAKOTAH MANSON
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Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole shared his faculty staffing plan with members of Allegheny Student Government on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

As the number of students attending Allegheny decreases, the number of faculty needs to follow suit, which has raised concerns by students, according to Cole.

“You have every right to see and be privy to the same information as the faculty and the rest of the campus,” Cole said. “I’d rather have real information, whether we like it or not, than false accusations and assumptions.”

Cole presented the same PowerPoint slide to students that had been shown to faculty earlier in the year. The first slide presented a graph with the number of high school graduates nationally. In the early to mid 2000s, as the number of high school graduates increased, so did the number of students attending Allegheny. Cole called this the college’s growth phase. The college went from 140 faculty to almost 190 faculty.

“About four years ago we reached a peak and started to decline nationally with the number of high school graduates,” Cole said. “About the same time [as the decline], Allegheny experienced a disruption in our planning where we didn’t quite meet what we were projecting for in the number of new students.”

In the next six to seven years, Cole believes the college will hit a peak and then face a sharp decline in students who will be interested in a liberal arts college like Allegheny. The school decided it needs to be proactive and think about strategies to prepare for the decrease in the raw number of students and how it will affect the college, according to Cole.

In the early 2000s, the school grew from around 1,850 students to about 2,100 students, according to Cole’s graph. This number was maintained until the country experienced a national decrease in high school graduates, leading

to fewer enrolled students at Allegheny.

The faculty staffing plan Cole prepared is meant to maintain the breadth of the Allegheny curriculum as well as possible, since it is the school’s core mission, according to Cole.

“This is the foundation for major–minor combinations. It provides a distinct approach to how we do interdisciplinary learning, interdisciplinary majors, interdisciplinary programs,” Cole said. “Believe it or not, that’s fairly distinct at Allegheny college compared to other schools like us.”

“We would rather recruit fewer students and become a smaller, more selective college and provide resources for the students here.”

Ron Cole
Provost and Dean

Cole hopes to keep a 12-to-1 student to faculty ratio with about 1,700 students and around 142 professors, which equates to small class sizes and independent studies. According to Cole, if the ratio gets bigger, there will be fewer opportunities for students.

One way the school plans to combat the ratio gap between students and faculty is through a retirement incentive. This incentive is a buyout of employees at retirement age who want to accept it and retire.

“Nobody was forced to take this. This was completely voluntary,” Cole said. “There was not a single conversation that I had where faculty would come and see me to talk to me about this and I would talk someone in or out of this. It was a personal decision.”

Forty-five employees accepted the incentive, including 23 faculty and 22 staff and administration, according to Cole. The retirements of faculty were spread across the curriculum and were not from any one area.

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PLAN

from page 1

There were faculty at retirement age in almost every department with more professors notifying Cole that they plan to retire in the next three years.

With the loss of faculty, Zach Javorksy, '18, wanted to know if this would affect students when it came to majors.

"To clarify, there are currently no plans for any academic departments to not be accepting incoming students for next fall," Javorksy asked.

Cole explained that the art history and German majors will no longer be available moving forward, but there will still be a German minor. The school also plans on implementing a studio art technology program and for students who are interested in these majors now, there are strategies in place for them.

"Students are already told to be cautious of professors being overbooked with how many students they have and over advising while looking to declare their major," David Roach, '21, said.

In response, Cole explained that there will always be certain faculty members who have more advisees than others, and some faculty members will have to say no. This will give faculty advisers with a small number

of advisees the ability to take on more students.

As faculty members leave Allegheny, Alexia Porche, '19, mentioned the college's retention rate and the number of students who are leaving the college.

In order to combat retention rates, the college has recently partnered with the John N. Gardner Institute, a nonprofit that partners with institutions of higher education, according to Cole. This institute "helps to create and subsequently implement evidence-based plans for improving student learning, success, retention and completion through a variety of processes, expert guidance and support," according to its website.

The biggest factors of retention rates are the academic and financial aid gaps, according to Cole. The college is currently working on financial aid models and is trying to provide greater resources to students. However, the college cannot change the preparation students receive from high school educations.

"I'm sorry, but I'm not a big fan of No Child Left Behind and the testing mentality," Cole said. "It totally erodes and undermines the critical analysis and

		Retirement Incentive		Multi-Year Staffing		
Division	Department	Retired	Replaced	2017-18	2018-19	2021-22
Humanities	Art	3	1	6	4	4
	Communication Arts and Theatre	1	0	13	12	11
	Dance and Movement Studies			3	3	2
	English	2	0	13	10	8
	Modern and Classical Languages	1	0	13.5	12.5	11.5
	Music			5	5	4
	Philosophy and Religious Studies	1	0	9	8	6
Natural Sciences	Biology	4	2	15.5	13.5	12.5
	Chemistry	2	1	11.5	10	9
	Computer Science			4	4	4
	Geology			4	4	3
	Mathematics	1	0	10.5	9.5	8.5
	Physics	1	0	5.5	5	4
Social Sciences	Economics	1	1	10	11	12
	History	1	0	7.5	6.5	6.5
	Political Science	2	0	9	7	7
	Psychology	3	2	16	15	15
Interdivisional	Community and Justice Studies			1	1	1
	Environmental Science			9	9	9
	Global Health Studies			1	3	3
	Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies			1	1	1
	Total	23	7	168	154	142

Listing of department incentives according to the minutes from the faculty meeting agenda from Feb. 8, 2018.

creative thinking that we need to develop at places like Allegheny."

Students with a GPA below 2.1 during their first semester at Allegheny have a drastic drop in retention rates. This

does not mean they are less intelligent, they just have not had the same preparation, according to Cole. With a decline in high school graduates and students attending Allegheny, Cole wants to do

everything he can to help students succeed at Allegheny and keep the college on the correct course.

"Yes, we're going to have fewer faculty moving forward, and yes, we're going to have

fewer students as the national trend [continues to decrease]," Cole said. "We would rather recruit fewer students and become a smaller, more selective college and provide resources for the students here."

Allegheny Student Government discusses changes to computer science major, new room assignment plan

Dean Cole visits ASG to explain new administrations ideas, Futures program

By LAUREN TRIMBER
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Residence Life is returning to its old method of assigning rooms to students after briefly planning to change it, according to Allegheny Student Government President Mark MacStudy, '18.

MacStudy revealed the new plan during the ASG meeting Tuesday, Feb. 20, following Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole's report. While MacStudy reported changes to Residence Life, ASG Vice President Valeria Hurst, '18, said the Computer Science majors may be overturning their recent decision concerning basic major requirements.

MacStudy said he met with Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life Jen Foxman, Interim Dean of Students Jacquie Kondrot and Associate Director of Residence Life Maureen Muckin-

haupt to talk about Residence Life's plan for housing students next year. Due to feedback from ASG and students, Residence Life decided to no longer introduce the electronic method of room draw this spring, according to the official statement MacStudy read. Instead, the new technology will be introduced next year and the in-person process will be used again this spring. However, some of the new technology will still be utilized this year, MacStudy said, though it is not yet clear specifically what that technology will be.

"They are not abandoning the technology altogether," MacStudy said. "They are using this year to finish perfecting the system, then implementing it as a whole complete system next year."

Along with taking time to ensure the system will work exactly as intended, the ad-

ministration also hopes to give students time to fully understand the new way of assigning rooms.

"[The administration] will have more than enough time to demonstrate if not once, but multiple times how the system actually works," MacStudy said.

Furthermore, Residence Life decided to return to room selection based on a student's highest draw number rather than the average of students' draw numbers, according to MacStudy.

Room selection will begin after spring break, and more information about this year's process will be revealed after a meeting on March 6.

A decision the administration previously made concerning Computer Science majors may be another decision that will be changed, according to Hurst. Hurst said the Computer Science major officially removed all math

requirements except for a few basic ones, but are now reconsidering the decision due to limitations created by changes to other majors and minors made by the administration.

"There's now limitations to new programs being implemented," Hurst said. "There are no new minors being improved, and there are majors and minors that are being considered to be taken out of the curriculum."

The Computer Science major will not be the only academic area that will see changes within the next few years. During his report to ASG, Cole elaborated on Allegheny's plan to implement Futures in addition to typical majors, as well as the various ways the program could affect aspects of the college's curriculum. One such area may be the First-Year/Sophomore program, according to Cole.

Last year, departments and programs at Allegheny partic-

ipated in self-studies, which were analyses of curricula, student experience and external reviewers' evaluations, Cole said.

"One of the things that came out of the self-study was the range of experience of students in the FS program, and specifically a lack of identity in the FS 102 courses," Cole said.

With this knowledge, the administration entered the academic year looking to apply the Allegheny Futures to FS classes, according to Cole. The administration looked at various areas first-year students are interested in, such as sustainability options and digital art. The themes of those areas would then be linked to FS programs.

"When a student takes an FS 102, they would select the FS 102 based on the course that's described in the context of one of these themes," Cole said. "It doesn't lock you into that. It's not a major. You can have a digital Future and be an English major. But it's a way of thinking about your Allegheny experience."

Cole stressed this idea was only recently discussed and that he is looking for comments or criticisms from students.

“

I really like helping people out and listening to what they have to say.

”

Anna Yeager
Class of 2021

"We're in the process of doing marketing research right now around some of these ideas," Cole said. "Part of what we also want to do is get insight from current students."

With the discussion of the

implementation of the Futures program, Zach Javorksy, '18, pointed out the program could put more pressure on students if not handled correctly.

"In my experience, Allegheny students are very busy with curricular and extra-curricular activities," Javorksy said. "Will the Futures program be a credit thing, where it takes [the] place of one of a student's classes? If not, will we bring down the number of credits required for majors to allow students to engage in the Futures program?"

Cole explained the Futures program will not simply be layered on top of other activities and requirements at Allegheny.

"The Futures program might not be courses at all," Cole said. "If we weave these themes into our FS courses, that's incorporating it into what we do already. My goal here is to try to see how to incorporate this into what we do already, or if we add new things, what will we take away?"

Cole said he is very aware and sensitive of both students and staff workload. The goal of the Futures program is not to give students another requirement to meet before graduation, but to enrich their Allegheny experience, according to Cole.

Along with changes to the administration, ASG filled its empty spot in the Class of 2021 Senate. The seat opened after Trevor Mahan, '21, moved into the Director of Diversity and Inclusion position Tuesday, Feb. 13.

Class of 2021 Senators nominated Anna Yeager, '21, who explained why she wanted to join ASG. Following her brief speech, Yeager was approved and sworn into the Class of 2021.

"I was always in student government in high school, and I really liked being involved," Yeager said. "I really like helping people out and listening to what they have to say and then doing something about it."



Anna Yeager, '21, is sworn into her new Senate position by Allegheny Student Government President Mark MacStudy, '18, during the ASG meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018.

Allegheny Student Government swears in new cabinet member



LAUREN TRIMBER/THE CAMPUS

Allegheny Student Government President Mark MacStudy, '18, swears Trevor Mahan, '21, in as Director of Diversity and Inclusion during an ASG meeting Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018.

By LAUREN TRIMBER
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Trevor Mahan, '21, was officially sworn in as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion during the Allegheny Student Government meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 13. Mahan became interested in the position because of the group he participated in during high school.

“Back home, I led a gay-straight alliance, I helped coordinate events with a club called Students Against Prejudice, which kind of encompassed all of diversity and privilege and power,” Mahan said. “I built strong relationships with people who came from many different backgrounds. That was something I wanted to keep doing here in some way.”

Upon joining ASG as a first-year senator, Mahan said he was troubled by the Diversity and Inclusion committee’s lack of involvement in the diversity found at Allegheny.

“It troubled me, and I didn’t know how to change that,” Mahan said. “When I heard the position was open, I really debated doing this. I went in with the mentality of be the change you want to see in the world. It’s something that’s near and dear to my heart just because of where I come from, and it’s something I’ve always been involved in. I thought it I could help improve this in any way, even if it’s some small way for half a semester, I’d be happy to do it.”

One of the biggest things Mahan wants to focus on in his new position is gauging student climate with respect to diversity and inclusion.

“Furthermore, I want to shift the role in the way so that the committee of diversity and inclusion can be a better advocate for students who are historically margin-

alized,” Mahan said. “I want that to look like conducting interviews with student leaders, average students, anyone who comes from some form of diversity, who shares that identity.”

Mahan added he will also be looking at clubs which represent various forms of diversity. Along with students, Mahan plans to interact closely with the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Social Justice Center and IDEAS Center co-directors Darnell Epps and justin adkins.

“I’ve interacted with both Darnell and justin in professional development capacities,” Mahan said. “I met with them at events the IDEAS Center puts on. It’s something I want to work to build. I’m not best friends with them like some of the juniors and seniors are on campus, but that comes with being a first-year. I’m hoping this position will allow me to create a relationship with them and work on issues that are new and dear to the hearts of Allegheny students.”

Mahan hopes that by the end of the year, he will be working with Title IX and the Office of Public Safety, as well as the Dean of Students.

“I’ll be working with those people to advocate,” Mahan said. “Hopefully by the end of the year I’ll have a report that will list out the issues these students face and be able to say certain staff and administrations are aware of these. It means a whole lot more when it comes from students and not just the gossip around school.”

Similar to Mahan, Director of Communications and Press Elyse Cinquino, '20, joined ASG Cabinet this semester. With Mahan recently sworn into his position, Cinquino talked about what she thinks of Mahan’s transition thus far.

“He has a really interesting perspective on things coming

from a first-year perspective,” Cinquino said. “Even with that, he’s been able to see and take note of what has been done in the past with his position and to try to improve upon that. I can see him doing some great things.”

Chief of Staff Camila Gomez, '19, echoed Cinquino’s comments on Mahan’s ability to improve on the previous accomplishments of his position. As chief of staff, Gomez was one of three people who interviewed potential candidates for the position. She said Mahan had one of the strongest interviews and was essentially exactly what she had been looking for for the position. Prior to Mahan, directors of Diversity and Inclusion had been passionate about small projects but had not provided longevity for the position, according to Gomez.

“What we really wanted was somebody to bring a little bit more structure to the position,” Gomez said. “There’s no one thing that that position consistently does every year. Trevor does have some really good ideas on how to make some consistent norms for that position. We’re really just looking for somebody to come bring some structure in. He was the perfect candidate to belay the foundation we were looking for for the future.”

Although Mahan will only be in the position for a semester, Gomez said he is building his plans around the time constraints.

“He was also very understanding of the fact that he will only be here for one semester and being realistic with his goals,” Gomez said. “He knew what he wanted to achieve in that time and is also planning to help transition the new person. I’ve been very impressed with how well he’s been taking to the position.”

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Hathaway objected to the nature of the hearing, stating that all the evidence that had been provided was hearsay.

“I am frustrated with the format of all of this,” Hathaway said.

In her closing remarks, DiGiacomo said that while the nature of the touching was over articles of clothing, this did not diminish the seriousness of the crime.

“This is a touching of the intimate parts of the body, it does not matter that there was clothing in between,” DiGiacomo said.

After Pendolino ruled that there was enough evidence to proceed to a formal arraignment, Hathaway made a motion to amend the conditions

of Pereira’s bail in order to allow him to obtain his passport, which he surrendered as a condition of bail.

Hathaway said that the nature of his work requires him to travel overseas in order to recruit international students. He said that while Pereira is not currently employed, he is confident that he could easily regain employment at another institution. Hathaway said Pereira is married and has children living in the U.S., and did not represent a flight risk.

“I think he has significant enough connections here that he will return,” Hathaway said.

DiGiacomo opposed the motion, saying she saw no need for Pereira to leave the

country for the foreseeable future. Judge Pendolino denied the motion, and amended the terms of bail to include the condition that Pereira cannot have contact with a child under the age of 18 without the supervision of another adult.

“In this case I think that is appropriate,” Pendolino said.

Pereira is expected to be charged with unlawful contact with a minor, a third-degree felony; indecent assault with a minor under the age of 13, a first-degree misdemeanor; and harassment by subjecting another to physical contact, a summary offense.

If found guilty on all three counts, Pereira could face up to seven years in prison and over \$25,000 in fines.

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CRIME BLOTTER

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

Feb. 17, 2018
Walker Hall
Marijuana Odor.

Feb. 18, 2018
Walker Hall
Harassment (Title IX).

Feb. 18, 2018
Baldwin Hall
Alcohol Violation.

Feb. 20, 2018
Walker Hall
Marijuana Odor.

Two heartbreaks

The legacy of two careers cut short

By ELLIS GIACOMELLI
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After 15 years without Howie Epstein and nearly five months without Tom Petty, I have been thinking about my dad sharing his love of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers with me. Growing up, I must have heard songs from the group’s “Into the Great Wide Open” album hundreds of times and “Highway Companion,” Tom Petty’s 2006 solo album, hundreds more.

Music has always been a part of my relationship with my dad. We say few things, but we understand each other and could sing along to songs we love forever. The music of the Heartbreakers is timeless and will always bring a smile to my face, but because of its role in my relationship with my father, that music means so much more.

So, I remember the music and what it has meant to me — to honor Epstein, Petty and the Heartbreakers.

The group’s sound is relaxed and cool while still being energized. The uniqueness of their style has best been described by Eric Harvey, Pitchfork music magazine contributor.

“Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers made music that still befuddles critics: they were too chill to be punk, and too famous to be underdogs,” Harvey wrote for Pitchfork in October. “Petty

Bad Update

By MATT STEINBERG
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Earlier this month Snapchat redesigned its application and received harsh criticism. Yes, the update is horrible and causes my blood pressure to spike. However, while the update itself upsets me, the business’ response to the criticism it has received is much more annoying.

Snapchat has always been notable for its simple, user friendly design, and that has not changed with the update. Users still swipe right to go from received content to the camera, and then swipe right again to go from the camera to all the junk news that appears on the app.

The update does included changes though. Most notably, people’s snap stories are now given priority on the screen, which proves the creators have yet to take into consideration that the majority of its customers have a love-hate relationship with snapchat stories.

Stories are a neat and essential feature to the application. We use them to show off a lovely night out, instantaneously share a crazy event that just occurred before our eyes, keep up with friends, and follow celebrities. They serve an important purpose, but they are not the central to the app.

I do not want to see all of my friends’ stories every single time I send a quick snapchat. It is similar to when Facebook notifies me of the activity of someone I am not even friends with. Both the applications are overestimating how much I care about other people’s lives.

Combining stories with personal snapchats is also detrimental to my snapchat streaks. When anyone I follow adds to their story, it refreshes on my page and pushes other users down and out of sight. I can no longer easily see them, so my streaks are spread out rather than being lined up nicely with easy access.

The raging discontent has lead the vigilante, Nic Rumsey, an Australian user, to draw up a petition to get Snap to reverse the update. The petition hit a remarkable one

million signatures on Thursday, Feb 15, 2018 and continues to grow, with a goal of one million five hundred thousand, according to an article published by CNBC. To all this, Snap responded.

The company admitted they knew the redesign would not be well received by the public, according to “The Independent.” At the base of their argument, Snap CEO Evan Spiegel believed that there needed to be a separation between “the social and the media.” He defined the “social” as our friends or people we follow, and the “media” as the tabloid news which has flooded the app.

The thought behind the update was unique and innovative, but that does not mean it was executed correctly. What is most annoying is the company’s unwillingness to acknowledge they messed up. They have even been a bit arrogant about the matter, as a spokesperson for Snap said, “updates as big as this one can take a little getting used to, but we hope the community will enjoy it once they settle in.”

That quote alone makes me want to delete the app and start posting on my untouched Instagram story. They are choosing to ignore customer dissatisfaction. I am predicting that their “my way or the highway” attitude in this situation will lead to a sharp decline in user activity.

Speaking of revenue, Spiegel seems to think this redesign will actually help the company on Wall Street. They ended their fourth quarter in 2017 with shares up 33 percent, according to CNBC. This statistic alone could be a reason for making a major overhaul in the first quarter of 2018. I suppose the two are connected in the business world, but they are often presented as separate goals.

Snapchat used to be one of the real ones. The application was simple with a sleek aesthetic, but now it has turned over to the dark side of not caring about customer satisfaction along with Facebook and Instagram. We should all hope Twitter sticks withus to the end, so we can all continue to prosper in the hard world of social media.

was too unassuming a superstar to be Springsteen, and though he was equally gnomic and cantankerous, he was far too lyrically judicious to be Dylan.”

The artistry of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers has been meaningful to the American music industry, but, perhaps more importantly, Petty’s early administrative determination earned him eternal respect and gratitude from the industry.

Petty operated as both artist and businessman, was outspoken about creative property rights and fought for publishing royalties, especially in the 1970s as the band worked to release its third album, “Damn the Torpedoes.”

As Petty and the Heartbreakers — which originally included Petty, Benmont Tench, Mike Campbell, Stan Lynch and Ron Blair — grew to prominence, Epstein began to serve as the group’s bassist in the 1980s, replacing Blair.

But Blair returned to play in 2002 when Epstein’s heroin addiction had pulled him away from the Heartbreakers. It eventually killed him in 2003.

Following Epstein’s death, Petty and the Heartbreakers often responded to the loss of their friend and fellow Heartbreaker with condolences and admissions of awareness about Epstein’s drug abuse.

“It’s like you got a tree dying in the backyard,” Petty wrote for Rolling Stone Magazine. “And you’re kind of used to the idea that it’s dying, but you look out there one day and they cut it down. And you just can’t imagine that beautiful tree isn’t there anymore.”

By 2010, the Heartbreakers had released a song addressing the loss of Epstein. “Running Man’s Bible,” from the 2010 album “Mojo,” features the lines, “It was not in my vision, It was not in my mind, to return from a mission, a man left behind.”

I was too young in 2003 to know anything about Howie Epstein’s talent, heroin addiction and Feb. 23 death due to overdose complications. I can now recognize the loss as devastating, and news of Petty’s death in October evoked a new, inexplicable sadness. That sadness deepened in January when Petty’s wife, Dana, and daughter, Adria, released a statement about the Los Angeles County Coroner’s Office report.

Petty’s cause of death was an accidental drug overdose on Oct. 2, according to the family’s statement posted to the Tom Petty website and Facebook page.

“As a family we recognize this report may spark a further discussion on the opioid crisis and we feel that it is a healthy and necessary discussion and we hope in some way this report can save lives,” the statement reads. “On a positive note we now know for certain he went painlessly and beautifully exhausted after doing what he loved the most, for one last time, performing live with his unmatched rock band for his loyal fans on the biggest tour of his 40 plus year career.”

The family also stated Petty had been managing pain from knee problems and a fractured hip with the prescription medications on which he overdosed, including Fentanyl patches, a type of opioid.

Prayers are not enough

We only need common sense to fix the gun problem

By JOSEPH TINGLEY
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Parkland, Florida, became yet another infamous name on Feb. 14, when, at 2:19 p.m., a former student entered Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School with a loaded AR-15 rifle and a black duffel bag of extra magazines.

The location, weapons and the number of fatalities change, but each time the response is the same: banners across the television and live footage of students exiting the school with their hands over their heads as armed police officers enter the school.

“I have a suggestion. Perhaps this time, we can skip the ‘thoughts and prayers’ and actually do something.”

Joseph Tingley
Class of 2018

Later in the day it is revealed how many innocent lives’ were lost. We hear about the shooter, we learn what type of weapons he used, and we are urged not to politicize the tragedy. Finally, as more people are made aware of the tragedy, we hear the usual refrain: “Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims.”

This type of event, as then-President Barack Obama pointed out following a shooting on an Oregon college campus in 2015, which claimed the lives of 10 people, has become routine. Our response has become routine. Expressing our “thoughts and prayers” on social media is part of that. Politicians do it,

schools do it and everyday people do it. I have a suggestion. Perhaps this time, we can skip the “thoughts and prayers” and actually do something.

As nice a sentiment as it is, we are not honoring the dead and injured. We are merely making ourselves feel better so we can continue as we have until the next time our “thoughts and prayers” are needed.

The issue of gun control is a topic of hot debate at times like these. The gun used by the Florida shooter was purchased legally. On Feb. 28, 2017, President Trump signed a document which rescinded an Obama-era regulation which, according to the Associated Press, would have prevented 75,000 people with mental disorders from purchasing firearms.

I am not here to say the events in Parkland could have been prevented by this, or any other regulation. However, we must ask ourselves how we can claim to be keeping the victims in our “thoughts and prayers,” while rescinding the most basic gun regulations.

What is the downside to preventing mentally ill people from purchasing firearms? Should we not be trying to prevent them, at the very least, from attempting to harm themselves? Sixty percent of gun deaths in the U.S., according to NPR, are suicides. If nothing else, can we not come together on the idea that making sure people can not kill themselves is a good thing?

In order to obtain a driver’s license in New York, I was required to take a written test and only drive with a licensed driver over the age of 21. I then had to take a six-hour pre-licensing course and take a road test, where I had to demonstrate my ability to safely operate the vehicle.

To remain in good standing I always need proof of insurance and a yearly safety inspection. Too many moving vi-

olations will result in a suspension which will show if authorities check my license plate or vehicle identification number.

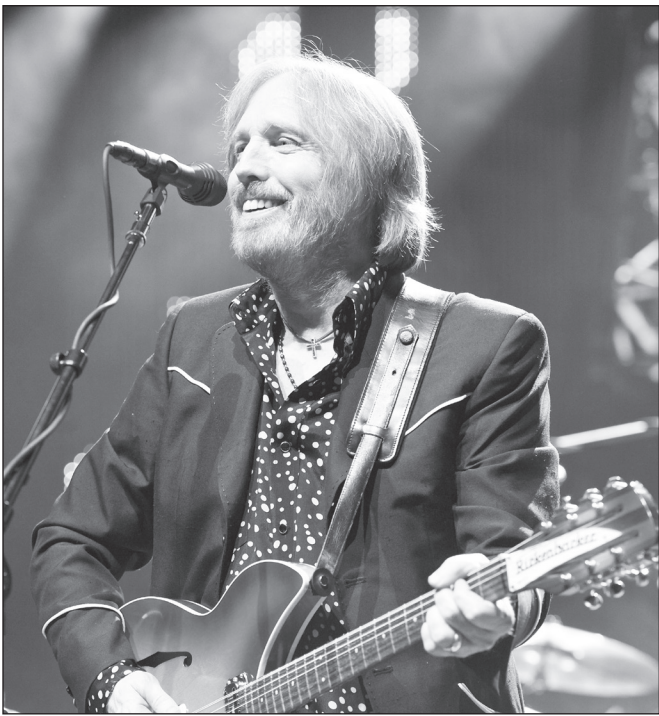
Yet, when I went into a Dick’s Sporting Goods store to purchase a rifle for target shooting, I merely had to undergo a background check to ensure I had not committed any crimes. I walked out with the rifle and a brick of 500 rounds of ammunition. It cost less than \$400.

There were no questions about what experience I had with firearms, if I knew how to properly store it, or if I knew of the laws governing firearms ownership. I was in and out in less than 30 minutes, yet conservative politicians from New York complain constantly about how tough the state’s gun laws are.

The solution is not just gun control. We need a better mental healthcare system as well, but why is it so difficult to obtain the most basic of gun regulations? Why is it easier to buy a gun than get a driver’s license? Why does anyone need a semi-automatic rifle that holds 50 or 100 rounds of ammunition? Why can we not apply common sense to this problem?

We do not have to get rid of the guns, we just have to regulate them like we do cars. There should be required classes and certifications in order to get a gun license. These licenses should have to be renewed. There should be strict and reasonable limits on the sizes of magazines and every gun and rifle should have to be registered like a car.

If we truly want to honor the victims of school shootings — most of whom are children — it is time we take action. It is time we do more than simply offer empty words like “thoughts and prayers.” As a country, we need to look at the images on the screen, put aside our political rhetoric and acknowledge that being more selective about who can buy a gun is not an assault on our freedom but the exercise of common sense.



ELVIS KENNEDY/flickr.com

‘Coming Home’ transcends cultural, language barriers

By OLIVIA BLAKESLEE
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The 2014 Chinese drama “Coming Home” proves love, family and loss transcend cultural differences. Screened Feb. 14 at the Movies at Meadville as the third installment in the annual International Film Festival, “Coming Home” presents the story of one family’s trials during and after the Chinese Cultural Revolution.

The film opens with a striking shot of a filthy, well-bundled man asleep beside train tracks. Though he is too coated with grime for viewers to make out his features, viewers soon learn that the seemingly homeless man is Lu Yanshi, an escaped political prisoner.

In the following scene, Lu’s young teen daughter, Dandan, is summoned along with her mother, Feng Wanyu, to the office of a government official who tells them in no uncertain terms they are to have no contact with Lu.

Dandan, who has grown up largely without a father at the height of the Cultural Revolution, is more than willing to accept these terms. Wanyu, however, is pressured into accepting them.

The scene deftly sets the tone for the story presented by “Coming Home” as oppressively gray imagery dominates the screen for the rest of the film and mirrors the ongoing suffering of Dandan and Lu.

This is not to say the film lacks excitement or heart, however. The action gets a jarring start when Wanyu attempts to meet her husband at the nearby train station.

Director Zhang Yimou tugs at viewers’ heartstrings as the couple, who have been separated for 10 years, sprint toward each other only to be apprehended moments before embracing.

Dandan, who traded information about her father for a chance to play the lead

in an upcoming ballet performance, looks on as her mother is violently thrown to the ground and sustains a bloody head wound.

The movie jumps shortly thereafter to the end of the Cultural Revolution three years later. Dandan is alone as she picks up a now cleanly dressed Lu from the train station. Lu, freshly released from prison, is eager to reunite with his wife, but Dandan says little and sends him on alone from her dormitory at the textile factory where she now works.

Lu’s homecoming is immediately peculiar as Wanyu greets him not with crazed emotion but with a pleasant politeness, distractedly making him tea. The reunion takes a dark turn when Lu attempts to touch his wife and she shouts at him, calling him by the wrong name and insisting he leave her home.

The scene marks the transition into the second half of the film, which makes up what it lacks in action with its incredibly moving portrayal of one man’s struggle to regain the family he has missed for over a decade.

Lu’s attempts to understand what has happened to his wife become desperate attempts to jog her memory. Lu — and viewers — are tormented by Wanyu’s unwavering dedication to the husband she does not realize is living directly across the street from her as she continues to visit the train station on the fifth of each month, per directions Lu sent her in a letter.

Lu’s persistent efforts to convince his wife of his identity with old pictures, piano music and the help of Dandan continue to be in vain. He appears to make a breakthrough when he “delivers” a trunk of old letters written to his wife while in prison and begins to read them to her each day.

Through these letters, Lu regains a kind of closeness with his wife and even communicates with her by writing new

messages and slipping them in amongst the old ones. Lu repairs the strained relationship between Dandan and Wanyu, who forced her daughter to leave home when she betrayed her parents.

Despite this progress, as the film nears its end, emotionally invested viewers will be devastated to learn Wanyu never recognizes her devoted husband as anything more than “the letter-reading comrade.”

An aching beautiful, subtle final scene shows a now-elderly Lu taking his wife to the train station on another fifth of the month. Snow falls as she waits yet again for the man who stands beside her.

While the background of the story feels incomplete at times — Lu’s political “crime” is never clear, for example — a viewer like myself, with little to no background in Chinese politics and cultural history, will easily be able to follow the plotline.

From the intriguing beginning to the tear-jerking end, “Coming Home” tackles the drama of a tragic romance and a torn family without feeling melodramatic or cliché. Careful attention to small details, like the notes Wanyu leaves herself to remember how to perform day-to-day tasks, deliver on emotional impact without needing dramatic moments to maintain viewer interest.

In fact, it is the film’s subtlety that allows it to have such an impact and perhaps suited it so well to its Valentine’s Day screening date.

“I feel this is a love story,” said Associate Professor of Chinese Xiaoling Shi in her introduction of the film. “It also sends a strong message.”

To me, the love story is what sends the strong message. The artfully woven messages of family, devotion, grief and, above all, love, come together to make “Coming Home” a must-see regardless of one’s nationality or culture.



CHINESE NEW YEAR 2018



Photos by ELLIS GIACOMELLI/THE CAMPUS

Top: The Chinese American Friendship Society hosts a Chinese New Year celebration in the Henderson Campus Center on Friday, Feb. 16, 2018. In the 12-year cycle of the Chinese Zodiac, 2018 is the Year of the Dog.

Middle: Members of the Chinese American Friendship Society play mahjong.

Above: Xingbang Liu, ’20, projects an image, displayed at top, through a computer as Chris Miller, ’19, president of the Chinese American Friendship Society, helps set out food catered by Peking Restaurant of Erie.

See more photos of the Chinese American Friendship Society’s Chinese New Year celebration at alleghenycampus.com.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Max Kade International House Spotlight ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ French House

By ELLIS GIACOMELLI
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The International Wing’s French House in North Village I provides a comfortable space for students to supplement their classroom learning and is currently home to five residents, including French Teaching Assistant Charline Bordat.

Bordat earned a double license in law and languages from Francois Rabelais University in Tours, France, in 2016. Bordat studied — and continues to study — English and Spanish, languages she started to learn at age 11.

“I’ve never stopped learning them,” Bordat said. “I don’t want to stop because it’s been so many years — it’s half my life almost.”

Bordat has also completed one year of a two-year trilingual law master’s program and decided to apply for the French teaching assistant position when a translation teacher — and former Allegheny French teaching assistant — mentioned the opportunity in one of her master’s program courses.

Bordat said she has enjoyed

her time living and learning at Allegheny and has especially appreciated Allegheny’s residential campus, which has offered a different experience from commuting to classes in France.

“Living in this community, I think it makes people closer, and I love that,” Bordat said.

Language teaching assistants are required to earn credits while at Allegheny, and Bordat is using that requirement to learn German.

Bordat said she is fascinated by languages and continues to learn them because they have the power to form relationships and experiences through culture and art.

“If I had to choose between law and languages, I would definitely choose languages first,” Bordat said. “It’s kind of contradictory — I’m shy, but I love speaking. I love being able to speak to a lot of people, and speaking different languages gives you access to so many things.”

Bordat has become a resource for the other students living in the French House, especially Lucas Proper, ’18, who applied to the French House after studying abroad in Angers, France, in spring 2017.

Proper said Bordat helps him better understand style differences between French and English in essay writing and helps him grow conversationally.

“Whenever we’re together,

we’re always switching between English and French, and I’m glad we do that because that gives us both an opportunity to learn each other’s language as well as from each other’s cultures,” Proper said.



Contributed by CHARLINE BORDAT

French House residents Charline Bordat, Nicole Popp, ’20, and Lucas Proper, ’18, pose with French exchange student Pauline Benard at the International Bazaar in Schultz Banquet Hall on Nov. 19, 2017.

French House resident Sarah Rogan, ’19, also expressed an appreciation for the in-house language practice.

“I wanted to work on French in a bit more familiar setting and a less formal setting than class,” Rogan said.

Rogan, a studio art major and French studies minor, said she decided to study French because her mom studied it when she was in college.

Proper’s decision to study French at Allegheny was also influenced by someone — a high school French teacher.

“It’s the cliché, but I had an amazing teacher and she really showed me what the French language, what kind of doors it could open up for me — culturally, career-wise — and I just feel a strong connection and bond,” Proper said. “I don’t know how to explain it. It’s something that’s always near and dear to me, and that’s why I have always pursued it and continue to use it.”

Language learning is a major component of living in an international house, but each house is also required to host a campus event at least once per semester, Proper said.

Last semester, the French

House prepared food for the annual International Bazaar on Nov. 19 and hosted a Festival of Lights celebration in the Henderson Campus Center lobby on Dec. 8.

The Festival of Lights is celebrated annually in Lyon, France, in December and is a traditionally Christian holiday honoring Jesus’ mother, Mary. The festival is characterized by lights projected onto buildings and candles lining balconies and windows, according to Bordat.

Bordat said students at the campus celebration enjoyed French desserts provided by the French House residents — hot chocolate, chocolate mousse, crepes, gingerbread and almond biscuits — and crafted granulated wax candles.

The French House has not yet organized a spring event, according to Proper, and Bordat said they may try to coordinate with the other international houses for a larger event.

“I’m not really sure what we’re going to do this semester yet, but we’ll get the ball rolling on that pretty soon,” Proper said.

Netflix’s original horror movie is terrifyingly good

By MASHA SERGUIEVSKI
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A large number of the students at Allegheny College love the outdoors, and would do anything to spend as much time as possible outside.

That being said, a large amount of the campus can relate to a lot of the problems the men in “The Ritual” run into, including a lost compass, unfortunate fall resulting in a twisted ankle and losing track of the trail, which causes them to end up in a different part of the forest than originally planned.

Finding yourself in the situation of being hunted by some sort of tree sized demonic monster? ... Well, maybe not yet. But the potential of that happening makes this movie all the more scary. I think it is safe to say I will not be heading to the Nordic Forest anytime soon.

The film starts with five long-time friends, enjoying a night out in celebration of a distant friend’s bachelor party. To continue their night, Robert, played by Paul Ried, and Luke, played by Rafe Spall, go into the liquor store, not realizing that it is being robbed. Events escalate, and Robert dies.

Losing a friend, especially one who seems to be the foundation of the very friend group, causes a big rift between the four men. To honor their dearly departed Robert, they decide to go on a hike. An intense, multiple day backpacking trip surrounding a branch in the Nordic forest far from any of their comfort zones.

While none of them are exactly happy about this and make those feelings known, each talking about how they would much rather be in Vegas, they muster the courage to take the hike because they knew Robert wanted to explore it more than any other “fun night the lads would have.”

I got through it all but it took work because of all the jump-scares and the gore ... Hats off to the British people who wrote and directed this.

Masha Serguevski
Class of 2020

When on said hike, Dom, played by Tom Troughton, who is constantly teased for being the klutz of the group, falls, twists his ankle and hurts his knee. In an attempt to be supportive friends in this time of

mourning, Hutch, played by Robert-James Collier, suggests that instead of hiking the side of the mountain, they cut to the forest valley to get to the lodge on the other side, because the quickest way to get from point A to point B is a straight line. Albeit a dark, dense, creepy and quiet straight line.

Through a series of events, the group of grieving friends find themselves to being hunted by some demonic monster that they cannot see, but know it is there. There were multiple signs right from the get go, like when they found a large animal completely gutted and hanging from a tree, which they shrugged off by thinking it was some sort of primal hunter, as do most people in horror movies, because if they acted rationally in this situation, there wouldn’t be a movie. They technically weren’t wrong.

They continue to sense

he blames himself for Robert’s death.

I will see scenes from this movie in my nightmares, but that is what makes a good horror movie in my opinion. It is definitely not one for people who cannot handle blood, detailed murder, cult sacrifices and anything that was hinted at in being in the Blair Witch Project. This time you actually see the evil things living in the woods, not the shaky camera documentation.

This is not the type of horror movie you watch with a significant other to snuggle and protect each other to. “The Ritual” is the type of horror movie you watch with fight or flight instincts highly sensitive. It is the movie that freaks you out for weeks as you walk through the tree-covered parts of campus. Good luck.

WINTERFEST PHOTOS: Meadville community gathers for Winterfest: A day of family fun, music and winter activities



Photos contributed by BRIAN HILL

Above: A horse drawn carriage was available for rides during the 2018 Meadville Winterfest on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018.

Below: Meadville community members take a horse drawn carriage ride around Meadville’s Diamond Park on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018.



By HANNAH SCHAFFER
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The Phi Beta Kappa Society of Allegheny College hosted this year’s visiting scholar, Ayanna Thompson, on Thursday, Feb. 16.

Ayanna Thompson is currently a professor of English at George Washington University. She specializes in the work of William Shakespeare and focuses her studies on issues of race.

Thompson’s lecture topics include “Shakespeare, Race, and Performance: What We Still Don’t Know,” “Encountering Othello Anew” and “Theorizing Revenge: or, Interdisciplinary Research as a Necessary Perversion.”

“It was really enlightening looking at Shakespeare from a different perspective,” Margaret Zella, ’20, said.

Over the last few months, Thompson has lectured at a number of elite colleges and universities including Rice University, University of the South: Sewanee, Mary Baldwin College and a handful of other prestigious institutions.

“This is my seventh out of nine campus visits this year. It’s been a real pleasure. I had the opportunity to teach a class this afternoon and I can attest that Allegheny students are quite special,” Thompson said.

Thompson began her lecture by quoting Comedian Paul Mooney. The quote compared race to an elephant in the room that is spraying diarrhea all over the audience, yet everyone refuses to mention it.

“Like the Black American Comedian Paul Mooney, I find it impossible to ignore the shitting elephant in the room. Notions, construction and performances of race continue to define the contemporary American experience, including our conceptions, performances, employments of Shakespeare,” Thompson said.

Thompson explains her reactions to Shakespeare aren’t normal. Thompson, unlike most of her colleagues, is not a trained Shakespearean. “In many respects, I am an utter and complete fraud,” Thompson said. She views

Shakespearean studies as a form of practical humanities.

“I will raise more questions than I answer,” Thompson said before beginning her lecture.

Thompson said she had divided her lecture into three distinctive parts. The first section of her lecture included a brief overview of the history of nontraditional Shakespeare casting.

“There’s a long and rich history of Shakespeare performed by actors of color for both political and artistic reasons,” Thompson said.

Thompson went on to explain that in the 19th Century, Shakespearean monologues and soliloquies allowed black actor, Ira Aldridge, to rise to international fame.

Aldridge was an American born actor who was commonly casted in scenes of Shakespeare’s Othello, but was not limited to Shakespeare’s black roles. Instead, Aldridge experimented with white face performances.

“Thus beginning the history of non-traditional Shakespeare,” Thompson said.

“It was nice hearing [Thompson] talk about how different choices in casting Shakespeare really do make a difference,” Bethany Schwartz, ’20, said.

The second section of the lecture provided an overview of perception studies for Shakespearean theatrical productions to demonstrate that the current methodologies are not adequate.

“Today, many theater companies practice non-traditional casting,” Thompson said.

Thompson explained that non-traditional casting refers to the selection of colored actors in roles that were initially imagined as White.

A commonly known method of non-traditional casting is “colorblind casting.” In this practice, the race of the actor is not supposed to impact the interpretation of a play or character.

Another type of non-traditional casting is “unconscious casting,” which refers to choosing actors whose race and characteristics are intended to bring meaning to the character.

The final type of non-traditional casting is “cross-culture casting,” which is where the entire play is set somewhere else.

“It is important to remember that each audience is made up of individuals who bring their own cultural reference points, political beliefs, sexual preferences, personal histories and immediate pre-occupations to their interpretations of a performance,” Thompson said.

Thompson continued to point out the different issues with reception theories that are used to understand an audience’s response.

First, Thompson acknowledged the problems with the most commonly used methodology, the anecdote. The anecdote method focuses on the viewing experiences of one or two audience members and then assigns that perspective to the audience as a whole.

“I am far from the first scholar to note that the study of reception in theater studies has been a stunted field of inquiry to date,” Thompson said.

Thompson says that she finds herself relying too heavily on the unreliable methodology of the anecdote.

The third and final section concluded with an examination of contemporary race studies about how audiences make sense of the what they see on stage.

“Now I can imagine that one might argue that I’m asking others to look for something that is not there,” Thompson said. “I’m not asking if race impacts an audience’s reception. Instead, I assume that race impacts an audience’s reception and I’m asking how the impact manifests itself.”

“I don’t know that there is one person who can solve this alone,” Thompson said.

Thompson concluded her discussion by encouraging students of all different majors ranging from Computer Science to Theater to study how race influences the receptions of audiences.

“You guys can do this big thing that can actually change where we are. 200 years with no data. You can change that,” Thompson said.

WAKANDA FOREVER

‘Black Panther’ is a game changer for the Marvel cinematic universe

By JEN RODRIGUEZ
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Move over Captain America — you have just been replaced. An origin story unlike any other, “Black Panther” is a bold and exhilarating superhero movie that showcases the revolutionary black superhero, Black Panther.

“Black Panther” is a breath of fresh air to the Marvel cinematic universe. The movie distinguishes itself from other Marvel movies in almost every way, from the costumes to the soundtrack, and gives a deep emotional plot with witty one-liners and outstanding fight scenes.

This movie takes you into the world of Wakanda in all its glory and has you wanting more when the credits start rolling.

To give some background without spoiling too much, “Black Panther” takes place directly after “Captain America: Civil War” and despite being released later than other Marvel movies, it also takes place before “Spider-Man: Homecoming,” “Doctor Strange” and “Thor: Ragnarok.” The movie follows T’Challa who returns home to take his place as the new king of Wakanda. The official synopsis reads:

“Black Panther” follows T’Challa who, after the death of his father, the King of Wakanda, returns home to the isolated, technologically advanced African nation to

succeed to the throne and take his rightful place as king. But when a powerful old enemy reappears, T’Challa’s mettle as king — and Black Panther — is tested when he is drawn into a formidable conflict that puts the fate of Wakanda and the entire world at risk,” according to the Marvel website.

Wakanda is the home country of T’Challa and is where the majority of the movie takes place. As the synopsis states, Wakand is an isolated country but the most technologically advanced nation on earth. Its advancement is mainly because the nation is built above the only source of vibranium on earth, and this allows Wakanda to become a post-agricultural, technological society. The vibranium below their country is also used to create the Black Panther suit and other advanced weapons which are shown throughout the movie. It is awe inspiring at how Wakanda looks but also how it functions.

It is funny that when Wakanda had access to vibranium they created the most advanced society on the planet, but when the U.S. military obtained vibranium they produced a big, metal frisbee and gave it to one man. Ah, Americans.

“Black Panther” was pretty bold with its cast, but they could not have picked anyone better to play T’Challa or Killmonger, played by Chadwick Boseman and Michael B. Jordan respectively. The cast

also included the two Tolkien white guys. Get it? Martin Freeman played Everett K. Ross and Andy Serkis played Ulysses Klaue, also recurring characters in the MCU. There are many other actors and actresses I would love to mention, like Lupita Nyong’o who played Nakai or Letitia Wright who played Shuri, but if I listed the entire cast, then you would be reading for quite awhile.

“It is funny that when Wakanda had access to vibranium they created the most advanced society on the planet, but when the U.S. military obtained vibranium they produced a big, metal frisbee and gave it to one man.”

Jen Rodriguez
Class of 2019

Though I do have to say, Princess Shuri is my new favorite Disney Princess. I do not care if they say she is not a real Disney princess. She is part of Disney, so she counts. Also, a quick shout out to the MCU for giving the Human Torch actors a second chance. It has happened twice since 2011 with both Chris Evans and Michael B. Jordan. Honestly though, it was probably for the best.

As I said earlier, Chadwick



Contributed by www.thetvdb.com

Boseman was the best actor they could have chosen to play T’Challa. Boseman gives an excellent performance as the Black Panther and newly crowned King of Wakanda. Throughout the movie, you see the emotional depth of T’Challa and the conflict he faces with others and with himself. T’Challa is a well-rounded character filled with grace, charisma and strength which you rarely see in characters. The relationships between T’Challa and his family are well-thought and definitely add to the plot. Trust me when I say the relationship between T’Challa and his younger sister, Shuri, is one of the best relationships between characters I have seen in a Marvel movie.

Opposing T’Challa is Erik Killmonger. Jordan plays Killmonger extremely well and was one of my favorite performances of the movie, besides T’Challa and Shuri. I would definitely put Killmonger in the top ten villains too. He is stunning, bold and striking but also has a past which, like

all other fan-favorite villains, has you feeling sympathetic. For me, personally, to reference Killmonger, I was feeling the character. The guy has style and a certain level of competence which a great villain needs. I am a sucker for intelligent and cunning villains, like Baron Zemo, and Killmonger is all of this and more.

Two honorable mentions have to go to Okoye, the general of the Dora Milaje, played by Danai Gurira and M’Baku, the leader of the Jabari, the mountain tribe of Wakanda, played by Winston Duke.

M’Baku is a fierce warrior and leader, yet he also has some pretty great one-liners. Despite his intimidating appearance, M’Baku is a hilarious character who knew when to be serious and kick some butt.

Okoye also deserved an honorable mention because like M’Baku, she had her witty one-liners but was such a great character. She was a great fighter, and her relationship with T’Challa is sweet. She also knew when to kick

some butt, except she did it better than M’Baku. I could talk for days about the characters in “Black Panther” but I am just going to highly recommend you go see the movie.

I do not want to go into the plot of the movie since it only came out a week ago and I do not want to spoil anything to anyone who has not seen it yet. But I can tell you, all the hype for this movie was spot on. Rotten Tomatoes has it rated at 97 percent, making it the highest rated Marvel movie so far. It also broke multiple box office records, and hilariously beat the total box office revenue of “Justice League” in one weekend. Sorry DC, better luck next time.

Overall, “Black Panther” was a phenomenal movie, having showcased multiple African tribes and their cultures while giving viewers one of the best Marvel films so far. With great performances and a strong narrative plot, “Black Panther” has delivered a fresh and exciting take on the traditional origin story.

Death cafe encourages conversations about passing away

Tarot Bean Roasting Company holds community event on death and coffee

By MATTHEW STEINBERG
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What is there to say about death? It is interpreted as sorrowful yet joyous, disgusting but also beautiful and straightforward yet mysterious. Many religions and cultures explain this natural phenomena differently, but it is not a discussion most people enjoy a cup of coffee over.

“Death and grief are concepts avoided at all costs in our society,” Audrey Pellicano said in a statement to “The New York Times.” Pellicano hosted what is known as a “Death Cafe” in New York City, where people of all ages gather to talk about passing away.

The “Death Cafe” is an international and voluntary organization that strives “to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives,” according to the organization’s website. People have gathered in 52 countries to appreciate the natural process alongside baked goods and cups of joe.

Barbara Newcamp and Sue Mallick have been running death cafes in Meadville, PA since October 2017. They held their second gathering at Tarot Bean Roasting Company on Sunday, Feb. 18, which brought students from Allegheny College and community members together for the event.

“Basically it’s to get people to talk about death, because that’s taboo,” Mallick said. “It gives people an opportunity just to open up and talk about it.”

Opening up was the main point of the event, according to Mallick and Newcamp. Despite their temptation, they did not give an agenda to participants.

“It’s hard not to do ... I said to Susan this week ‘there’s this really good talk about death video on TED talk’ and I said ‘Is that an agenda?’ She said ‘that sounds like an agenda,’ and so I had to put that aside,” Newcamp said.

The owner of the venue, Mike Reed, allowed Newcamp and Mallick to utilize the space for free, in addition to donating coffee for the participants. His young business has been the location for other events held by local groups as well.

“We’ve had a craft fair for local crafters, we did a book fair for a local book publishing company ... They made the flyer, they organized the event, they come in and they pull it off,” Reed said.

The setup was quick and simple, with four tables that five to ten participants either sat or hovered around for the 90-minute-long chats. Additionally, a table containing multiple short articles and more lengthy books on the subject was assembled next to the entrance. Reed said he did not manage the event, but that did not stop him from thinking about the concept.

“[In] my family, all I see every time somebody passes, is the shock and awe, nobody wants to talk about it, nobody wants to admit that it happened,” Reed said. “And then, the surprise that comes with it financially, because nobody’s willing to talk about it beforehand, nobody’s ready for the financial burden

that comes with it”

Along with financial hardships, talking about death also addresses environmental concerns that come with the preparation of a body for many burial rituals, according to Reed.

“A big thing too that has been getting talked about, that was talked about alot at the last one and ended up striking up more conversations afterwards, was the burial process that we currently do in the United States,” Reed said. “And how there’s a whole other option that people are looking at, green burials.”

For a green burial, the body is not put into a coffin but rather wrapped in a cloth, allowing it to succumb to the elements

more easily, according to Reed.

Along with the green burial came a number of less well-known ideas about death that have emerged out of the last two death cafes in Meadville.

“We talked about distribution of ashes. ... At the end, one gentleman was talking about spirits and giving this really big, philosophical talk about spirits that kinda lost most of the table except the person next to him,” Newcamp said.

Much of the discussion also centered around anticipating a death or being able to come up with a plan in terms of how someone wants to be laid to rest.

“Part of it was the pre planning idea, so that the kids

don’t have to guess what you want. And if you’re out of it, if you’re old and senile, how are you going to do it unless you write it down?” Mallick said. “There’s stories about how people argue about what to do with the remains and so forth and so on, so it’s pre-planning. ... We talked about medicine and insurance and how that all fits in.”

Other topics included fear of the body in relation to decomposition and choices with reference to death.

Overall, Newcamp and Mallick were pleased with the results of this death cafe. The crowd, which doubled in size from the first one that was held in October 2017, experienced positive and diverse

conversation that Newcamp said “flowed” the entire time.

“Last time was a little difficult to get conversations going, but this time there was no problem,” Newcamp said.

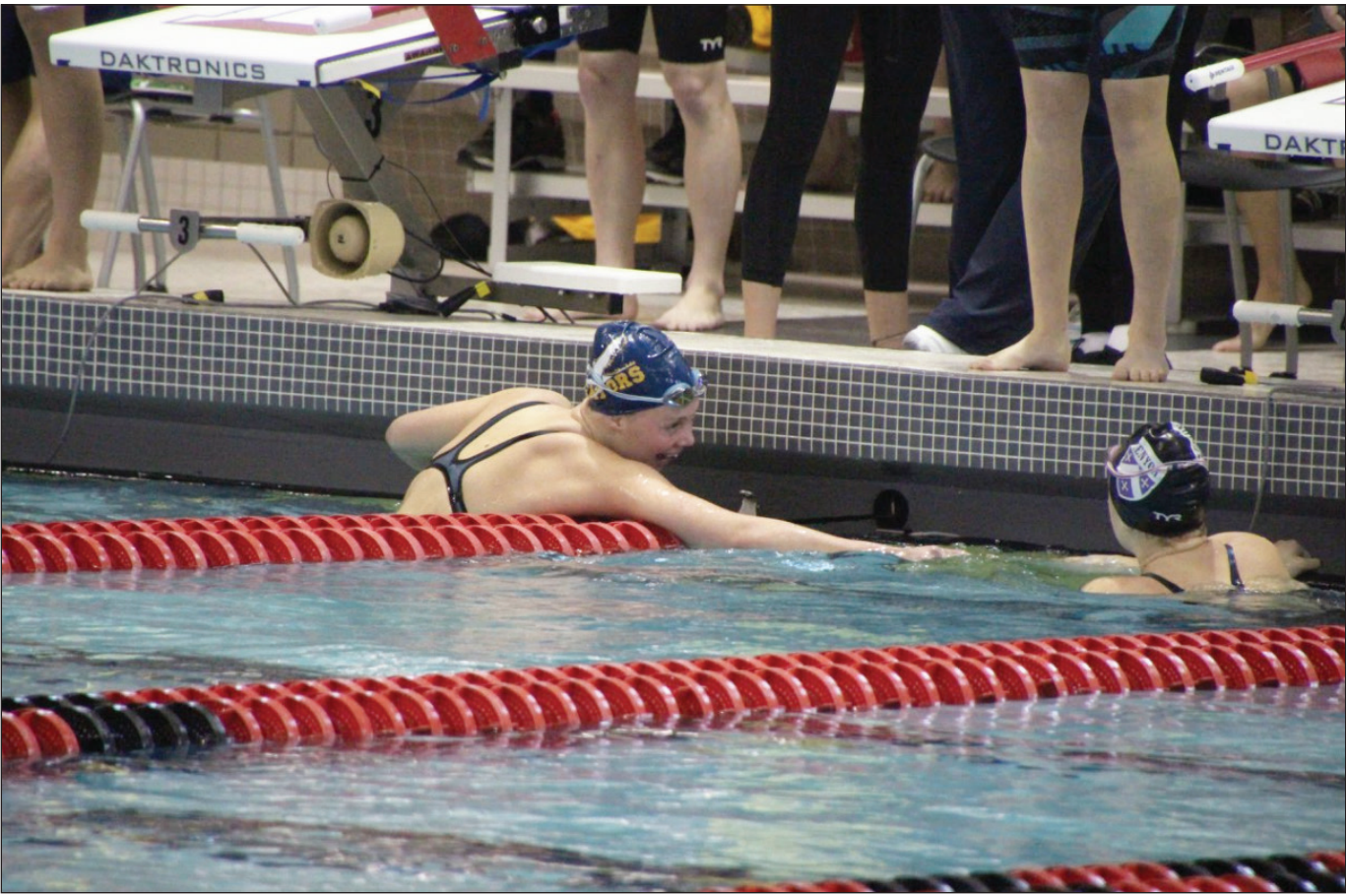
Mallick was particularly pleased that participants were young and old, and came from various backgrounds and experiences.

With an overall positive outcome, the two organizers are eager to hold their next death cafe in May at the Tarr Mansion in Diamond Park. Even though the event has outgrown Tarot Bean Roasting Company in terms of size, Reed has agreed to continue his coffee donations to the group.



MATTHEW STEINBERG/THE CAMPUS

Allegheny students and members of the Meadville community attend an event which started discussions on death and coffee at Tarot Bean Roasting Company on Sunday Feb. 18, 2018.



Maddie Janvrin, '20, shakes hands with a Kenyon swimmer following a race at Denison University on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2018 during the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships.

Swim and dive reflects on season

By MARLEY PARISH
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The Allegheny College Swimming and Diving Team completed the 2018 North Coast Athletic Conference Championships on Saturday, Feb. 17 at Denison University. The men's team finished seventh with a total of 613 points, and the Allegheny women's team finished with a total of 981 points, earning a fifth-place title. The women's finishing score was the best for the Gator women since they took third at

the competition in 2011. "I think this was the best meet I've had in two years," Justin Leary-Bignayan, '20, said. "It was definitely a lot of fun. Having conferences and doing really well got me excited about swimming again. I think overall that this meet was the best the girls have had. For the guys, there's a lot of room for improvement." Justin Katchur, '20, echoed Leary-Bignayan's comment about how well the team did. "The season in its entirety went fairly well," Katchur said. "The majority of the team swam personal bests or came really close to them this year." Although Katchur said he

found his first-year conferences overwhelming, he felt much more comfortable this year. "Last year, conferences seemed much more overwhelming due to the fact that I was a freshman and did not know what to expect preparing for the meet," Katchur said. "Conferences flew by this year. I personally swam times that I was content with, and I loved being a part of some relays." Katchur originally started swimming because his friends in high school all swam, though the sport eventually impacted which school he chose to attend.

"I chose Allegheny because I wanted a place where I could receive a good education, but still be able to play the sport I enjoyed in high school," Katchur said. Rachel Montgomery, '20, competed in conferences. She said she was proud of both the men and women's performances at the meet. "We had a lot of solid swims," Montgomery said. "We have a lot of underclassmen, so we're trying to recruit more and strengthen the team for next season." The swim and dive teams have an optional meet at Kenyon College on Saturday, Feb. 24.

JOSEPH TINGLEY/THE CAMPUS

Baseball looks to bounce back

By JAKE REIDENBACH
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The Allegheny baseball team is looking for a bounce back season in 2018. The Gators finished last season with an overall record of 23-17. In conference, the Gators finished third in the North Coast Athletic Conference East division with an 8-11 record.

The team looks for this season to be different as new coach Brandon Crum takes over as head coach.

Third baseman Vinny Carone, '19, is really excited in what he sees from the new coach.

"Coach Crum has done a great job getting us ready to play this year," Carone said. "He's very positive and energetic."

Other players have echoed Carone's thoughts on Coach Crum, including infielder and catcher Tommy Cannon '19, who recently played for Coach Crum at Mercyhurst College North East.

"He's a guy that wants to win," Cannon said. "[Crum] brings a great atmosphere to the program."

While expectations are high within the program, there are many doubts from the outside. In the recent NCAC pre-season coaches' poll, the Gators were picked to finish seventh out of ten teams.

"It just adds fuel to the fire," Carone said. "I know a lot of guys on the team get motivated by that stuff. It just gets us ready to get going this season ... we know we aren't the seventh best team in the conference."

Catcher Jon Pouch, '19, added to Carone's confidence that the low rank would help the team.

"Just let them doubt," Pouch said. "We are going to stay true to ourselves and focus on Allegheny baseball and no one else."

Despite the outside

doubt, the Gator baseball team still has the same expectations as always, according to Pouch.

"Our number one expectation is to win every game," Pouch said, "We want to make it back to Chillicothe where the conference tournament is at. [We] want to get in a good position to make the playoffs. ... and to win it."

It just adds fuel to the fire. I know a lot of guys on the team get motivated by that stuff. It just gets us ready to get going this season.

Vinny Carone
Class of 2019

The Gators will start their season Saturday, Feb. 24, with a doubleheader at John Carroll University. After a quick two games against Case Western Reserve the following weekend, the Gators will travel to Arizona to play in the 2018 Tucson Invitational.

The team is very excited to travel to Arizona, according to Carone.

"Obviously it's nice to go down south and [feel] the warm weather and get away from the cloudy skies," Carone said.

Pouch also expressed his excitement.

"The whole trip is basically a week with the boys," Pouch said. "Just hanging out and playing baseball. Doing something you love."

Despite their enthusiasm at the prospect of spending time with each other, the players do recognize there is a serious aspect to the trip as well.

Pouch noted that it is, "... a lot of baseball."

"It's an intense trip," Carone said. "We play ten games in six days. But it's baseball, so it's fun."

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Students

Reflect on your ALLEGHENY EXPERIENCE

Check your email on February 6 for a note from President Mullen inviting you to participate in SIPS, the Student Integration, Persistence & Satisfaction Survey.

Your responses will help to improve the Allegheny experience.

Students who complete the online questionnaire will be sent a \$3.50 coupon for the Wrecking Ball Café.

Questions?

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Allegheny's Institutional Review Board, irb@allegheny.edu

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

GATOR UPDATER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018

Women's Track
@ Denison Last Chance
Granville, OH

Men's Track
@ Denison Last Chance
Granville, OH

Men's Tennis
vs. Denison
6:00 p.m.

Women's Tennis
vs. Denison
6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018

Baseball
vs. John Carroll
1 p.m.

Men's Swim
@ Kenyon Fast Chance
1 p.m.

Women's Swim
@ Kenyon Fast Chance
1 p.m.