

Wise Center to reopen

By BREE GRAY
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The David V. Wise Center is tentatively scheduled to reopen on Sept. 14 with modified hours, following the two-week campus-wide quarantine.

“The Wise Center is scheduled to open on Sept. 14, once the Allegheny College Health Agency approves the campus-wide quarantine to be lifted and regular activity to resume,” wrote Assistant Athletic Director for Communications Sean King in an email to the Campus.

The Wise Center will have limited hours this semester and will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. during the week. Some rooms may not be available throughout the week during scheduled disinfection. For deep cleaning purposes, the Wise Center will experience reduced hours on Saturday and is closed on Sunday. The building will be open on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

According to the Wise Center Reopening Plan, there are three phases for reopening the Wise Center that correspond to the college’s phases for reopening. Each phase requires individuals to wear a cloth face covering while in the facility and everyone entering the building must scan their ID cards upon entering and before exiting the building.

“(We) are starting in phase III since (the Wise Center) did not open over the summer,” said Director of Recreation and Facilities Jared Luteran. “If we should have to revert back to phase II or phase I, then (we) will follow the guidance of the ACHA.”

The Wise Center will reopen at 50% capacity, and only students, staff and faculty are allowed to enter the building. Outside guests, including family members, paid members, alumni and retired employees are strictly prohibited from entering the Wise Center this semester.

“At the Wise Center, it is our priority to keep our guests safe, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said the Athletics & Recreation Department in the Wise Center Reopening Plan. “As such, we will abide by federal, state, and local guidelines as we strive to balance public health concerns with the needs of our college — while still providing equitable access for all. With that priority in mind, the Wise Center is taking numerous steps to reduce the potential for COVID-19 spread in this facility.”

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BREE GRAY/THE CAMPUS

Allegheny’s international students congregate during the International Banquet on Sept. 14, 2019 in Shultz Banquet Hall.

Challenges of a pandemic

International students face financial COVID-19 burdens

By CLAIRE KLIMA
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Allegheny College’s international students were the first to learn that the campus would be shutting down for the remainder of the semester in an email announcement on March 16, from Lucinda Mordan, director of International Education, and Lenee McCandless, assistant director.

When spring break was initially extended for one week, many international students opted to remain on campus. This announcement posed three options. The first two suggested they return home “as soon as possible,” or find somewhere to stay in the United States, adding, “DO NOT let money be the reason why you stay on campus,” according to the email.

The last option offered international students access to dorms and a kitchen, without guarantee of food or transportation access.

Many students assumed from this announcement that they would receive financial assistance to help cover travel costs.

“Saying ‘Don’t let finances be the reason you stay’ is a very big promise. Next-day international flights are very expensive. For me to go home, it would have cost at least \$2000 one way,” said Lidia Gebrekirstos, ’21, an international student from Ethiopia.

Lidia had family in Washington, D.C. and was able to retreat there when she learned she had to leave campus.

Sweta Rauniyar, ’21, is an international student from Nepal. She was also able to stay in D.C. and traveled with Gebrekirstos.

“We understand they were trying to make the campus as safe as possible, but they have to understand we do not have a permanent home here,” said Rauniyar. “We had to go find one.”

Kaung Myat Htet, ’22, was unable to find alternative arrangements and took the International Education department’s offer to cover his flight back to Myanmar. He was surprised to find the \$1,500 amount deducted from his room and board reimbursement.

All students who returned home had their flights booked through the International Education department.

The office sent out an email stating that they were unaware the flight cost would be deducted, and included little guidance about how to apply for aid, according to the international students interviewed. Morgan declined to comment.

Many college students across the country faced similar challenges in navigating sudden displacement. Distribution of stimulus packages excluded people who could be claimed as a dependent on income tax returns, regardless of if they were actually claimed or not, according to an article in Forbes magazine.

Congress attempted to reconcile this and other shortcomings of the initial stimulus package by passing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Econom-

ic Security Act. Many colleges and universities, including Allegheny College, applied for this aid.

“Allegheny College reviewed, signed and returned the U.S. Department of Education’s Certification and Agreement for these funds on April 14,” the college’s CARES Act report stated, published on May 23. “Allegheny College received a grant award notification on April 23.”

The initial distribution was first awarded to students who were financially burdened by the relocation due to the pandemic.

“Of those students that qualified, Allegheny College chose to provide an initial disbursement of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students who qualified for needs-based room and board grants under Allegheny’s internal criteria because it determined those students were most in need those and necessarily incurred COVID-19 pandemic related expenses following the loss of on-campus room and board,” according to the report. Students who met this criteria received funds through their student accounts.

Following the initial distribution, all students enrolled in the spring 2020 semester were notified via email on June 18 of the opportunity to apply for CARES Act funding through Gator Success Grants. Since then, \$729,992 has been distributed to Allegheny students, as disclosed in the college’s updated report on August 20.

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Campus security increases

By BREE GRAY
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Trigger warning: Sexual assault, gun violence

The college has implemented new security measures and safety protocols following the sexual assault that occurred last fall.

On Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019, an Allegheny College student was sexually assaulted in Ravine-Narvik Hall by an unidentified armed man, who allegedly entered the building through an unlocked, exterior door. An ongoing lawsuit filed on Friday, July 24, against the college claims the institution was negligent and did not provide secure housing for residents.

“I received an email the morning that the (sexual assault) happened and I vividly remember reading through my emails and being shocked and thinking that this could not be happening here,” Kathryn Phillippe, ’22, said. “(The sexual assault) was the last thing that I imagined would happen in a community like Allegheny, especially because (the college) relies heavily upon Public Safety.”

The night after the incident occurred, members of the campus community attended an open forum discussion at the Henderson Campus Center, where students expressed concerns regarding their safety to several administrators, including President Hilary Link and Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students April Thompson. Concerns ranged from faulty residence hall doors to adequate lighting around campus. Students also expressed concerns regarding Public Safety’s officers, expertise and response time.

The Public Safety office will be relocated to Murray Hall to create a more centralized location, announced Vice President of Finance and Administration Chief Financial Officer Linda Wetsell in an email to the Campus.

“(Relocating Public Safety) places the office in a more central location, which is closer to the Campus Center where there are larger volumes of students,” Wetsell said. “Moving the office allows for technological upgrades, which is one of the tenants of 21st century policing.”

According to Wetsell, the objective is to increase interactions between Public Safety officers and the campus community.

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Individuals susceptible to COVID-19, such as those over the age of 65 and those with chronic health conditions are strongly encouraged not to use the Wise Center.

“Vulnerable individuals are defined by the CDC as people age 65 years and older and others with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy,” according to the reopening plan.

Luteran emphasized that any community member who is experiencing flu-like symptoms should not enter campus buildings, including the Wise Center.

To maintain 50% occupancy, limitations on room capacity have been established to meet physical distancing guidelines.

Two individuals on opposite sides of the tennis court can play together as long as they maintain physical distance. The racquetball court capacity allows one person to practice, but games are prohibited. Individuals interested in using the court for stretching or stationary core workouts are limited to nine people at a time. Similarly, only one person is permitted to use a basketball hoop, and the blue court area has a capacity of 25 — this includes the blue courts, the track and the selectorized machines. The public weight room and the cardio room both have a maximum capacity of 15, and the dance studio can accommodate 11 people.

Despite the decrease in weight room accommodation size, varsity athletes will continue to only use the varsity weight room instead of utilizing both available spaces.

“This policy will remain the same as last year,” Luteran said. “The varsity athletes will be using the varsity weight room during most hours of the day under the supervision of a strength coach.”

Individuals concerned about occupancy restrictions can call 814-332-PLAY (7529) to check the room capacity before entering the Wise Center.

The Wise Center has new protocols for the 2020-21 academic year, outlined in the Wise Center Reopening Plan, to limit exposure and contact while using the amenities.

Anyone interested in using the facility must wear their workout clothing or swimsuit to the Wise Center due to the inability to use the locker rooms this semester. Guests can use the cubicle spaces provided in the main lobby to store personal belongings.

Guests should bring water bottles as the water fountains have been shut off until further notice. One water fountain

with a touchless bottle filler station will be available for community members.

Guests are required to sanitize their spaces with the disinfectant wipes provided after they use gym equipment, and must bring their own mats, plyometric balls, boxing gloves and sporting balls this semester to limit potential exposure.

“(Athletics & Recreation) is also asking all users to wipe down the equipment with our EPA registered disinfectant wipes before and after each use,” Luteran said. “(Staff) have placed several wipe dispensers and hand sanitizing stations at multiple locations throughout the building.”

While guests are required to sanitize equipment after usage, student workers and housekeeping will also regularly clean high-contact surfaces with disinfectant.

“(We) will have more student workers on shifts than (we) typically do and they will be cleaning regularly with a virucide disinfectant cleaner,” Luteran said. “Housekeeping will be using a Clorox electrostatic sprayer throughout the building on Saturday evenings and on Sundays.”

Guests are encouraged to use the hand sanitizer dispensers located throughout the building and are required to use hand sanitizer before entering the pool, according to the Wise Center Reopening Plan. The chlorine levels in the pool have been raised 2.0 ppm, and Open Swim has been decreased to 12:00-1:00 PM.

“Open swimmers and athletes will have to come prepared to swim with their suit underneath their clothes,” Athletics & Recreations announced in the Wise Center Reopening Plan. “(Swimmers) can dry off on the pool deck and put their street clothes over top of their suit. There will be individual stations that are at least six feet apart around the deck for swimmers to place their personal belongings while they swim.”

Swimmers are required to limit loitering on the deck after pool usage and only one swimmer per lane is permitted. Lifeguards will enforce new COVID-19 protocols for all swimmers as well as regularly sanitize high-contact points, Athletics & Recreation added.

Individuals who do not feel well or would like to err on the side of caution have the option to use free virtual fitness opportunities. These workouts can be done around campus or in the individual’s residence. Once the quarantine has been completed, these workouts can be done in the parks surrounding the greater Meadville area.

“There are some great benefits to doing some of your workouts at home, one is that you don’t have an excuse to not get a workout in,” according to the Athletics & Recreation website. “You can wear what you want and not have to worry about others around you.”

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However, there is no indication in the college’s reports that CARES Act support only extends to students who are United States citizens.

“To receive federal emergency financial aid grants, students must be U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens, according to guidance released by the U.S. Department of Education on April 21. These are students who are eligible for federal aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act, which has requirements beyond citizenship such as a valid Social Security number;



BREE GRAY/THE CAMPUS

International students at the international banquet on Sept. 14, 2019 in Shultz Banquet Hall.

him he was ineligible.

“I have looked at the situation with some of the international students where they were charged actual costs that Allegheny College incurred on their behalf and also spoken with (Morgan),” Connick added in the email on June 2. “She shared an email that was sent to all students and I did not see where it indicated Allegheny would bear that cost of travel home for any student at that time. We do not make a practice of providing transportation to the College or home for any students.”

Htet was eventually redirected to the same application, but was told to apply for a Gator Success Grant rather than a CARES Act Grant. He received a response from Jennifer Foxman, associate dean of students, on Aug. 12.

“The committee has reviewed your request,” Foxman said in the email to Htet. “Unfortunately, the committee is unable to approve your request to reimburse your travel amount as the College does not pay for travel to and from the College ... However, knowing that the circumstances of this situation were unique and that, because

of the urgency of the situation, you were unable to spend the time to find the most economical travel options, the committee has approved a grant of \$500 for you to cover what may have been a higher flight cost than usual.”

Other international students faced varying degrees of success when going about receiving aid from the college to cover relocation costs.

Dakchyata Thapa, ’22, an international student from Nepal, was visiting her sister in New York when she heard the news about the campus closing. She had only brought a few sweaters and was staying with three roommates in a small apartment. She applied for CARES Act funding and was eligible, due to her having a Green Card rather than an F-1 Visa, and having filed the 2020 FAFSA. She was granted the full \$1,200 amount.

“I blatantly stated, ‘either help me pay my rent, or get me a flight back home; and I know rent was cheaper,’ Thapa said. “I think I got lucky because I have papers to show I’m a citizen here.”

Tiaralei Cade, ’23, is a United States citizen since giving up her dual citizenship in Korea. She paid out of pocket to travel to family in at the time, from Nashville, Tennessee, where she was staying when she learned classes were going remote. She was eligible for the CARES Act.

“They paid for my flight ticket back (to Meadville),” Cade said.

She became aware of the CARES Act funding in June, when the college initially announced the opportunity to apply for it through Gator Success Grants. It was her decision to try to get return costs covered over those pertaining to relocation.

Hanna Nguyen, ’23, an international student from Vietnam, was able to stay with family friends in Georgia.

“I feel like (the college) has done enough emotionally, but not financially,” Nguyen said. She never explored more information about the CARES Act, assuming she was excluded since other federal aid has generally not been extended to her.

Other students viewed the emotional support as hollow.

“We got so many, ‘We are thinking of you’ emails,” said Gebrekirstos. “I don’t want to pretend like Allegheny doesn’t do anything for us because they do, but they missed the easy steps.”

Many Allegheny students, international or local, have been calling on the college to work on their transparency in navigating this pandemic.

“They could have gone that extra mile — I don’t know if that is too much to ask,” Rawniyar said. “If they genuinely care about their students, they should have been able to do this for us.”

International students feel they have been used as part of Allegheny College’s advertising, according to Gebrekirstos.

“You keep bragging about us, you put us on posters, you brag about how many countries you’re representing — I can’t even tell you how many times I’ve been quoted or posted — but you can’t even give us a sentence or two?” Gebrekirstos asked. “I never thought I’d say this, because I love Allegheny, but if I wasn’t a senior I would probably consider transferring.”

ASG prepares for fall semester, discusses virtual meetings and future goals

By **ALANA SABOL**
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Now that the fall semester is underway, Allegheny Student Government is preparing to elect their Cabinet and Senate members while discussing future goals for the year.

Vice President Patricia Gaxiola, ’21, expressed difficulties with preparing for the fall semester after leaving campus prematurely in March due to COVID-19.

“Unfortunately, last semester, we weren’t able to do a majority of the things that we were supposed to have already completed,” Gaxiola said.

Due to being behind schedule, President Abdikadir Lugundi, ’21 and Gaxiola do not expect formal ASG meetings to occur until October. The application process for both the Senate and the Cabinet will occur virtually, Lugundi said. The Senate consists of five senators from each class and the Cabinet consists of 12 councilpersons, including the President and the Vice-President.

The signature collection process for elections will also occur virtually through an online form.

“The biggest difference is, instead of having a physical copy of signatures that you need to be on the ballot, it’s going to be through a Google spreadsheet,” Gaxiola explained.

After the Cabinet and Senate elections, ASG will begin to host their weekly meetings online, but Lugundi recognized that there may be difficulties when hosting an online meeting with a large group.

“Not being able to meet all in one space, it’s kind of hard, especially with that many people in a room and going through the whole agenda,” Lugundi said.

Associate Dean of Students for Wellness Education and advisor for ASG, Gretchen Beck explained that, even though meetings will be through an online platform like Google Meet or Zoom, constituents will still be able to get involved.

“There are always two times for constituents to speak and we will continue those opportunities,” Beck said in an email to the Campus. “We are working to make sure meetings are accessible to anyone with an Allegheny.edu email.”

ASG is also attempting to increase interest within the freshman class by holding informational sessions on social media.

“I know that (Lugundi and Gaxiola) have hosted various Google Meet sessions and Instagram Live posts with the first year students,” Beck wrote. “We are also talking behind the scenes about other opportunities.”

Lugundi explained that the connection between the sophomore class and the first-year class and using social media are some of best ways to get first-year students informed and involved.

Because the Involvement Fair will be occurring online and large gatherings are not permitted, ASG and other clubs have to adjust the way they garner interest and participation over the course of the semester.

Realizing this, Lugundi and Gaxiola are hoping to create a website specifically designed for clubs to spread information and attract new members.

“Having that information be more accessible is what’s key,” Gaxiola said. “It’s still in the works, but I’m hoping to get it started up maybe this month, like the sooner the better, obviously.”

Despite having to change the way meetings and elections are conducted, Lugundi and Gaxiola expressed excitement about their goals for the year, including fostering positive relations within the Allegheny community.

One of Lugundi’s goals is to promote a stronger, more personal relationship between students and Public Safety officers. Strengthening that relationship might prevent students from being uncomfortable or fearful, Lugundi said.

“Our goal (is) to have students know who their Public Safety officers are,” Lugundi explained. “You know, when (I’m) a student walking down the street, I shouldn’t have that feeling of fear. I shouldn’t have any type of feeling.”

Lugundi plans to combat these feelings within the student body by creating a virtual meeting posted on social media where the Public Safety officers introduce themselves and their positions.

Gaxiola expressed similar goals, hoping to support stronger community relations at Allegheny and create more transparency between ASG and other students.

“I really want to focus on having trust with the student body and being transparent where you could ask me questions and I’ll do my best to answer them honestly,” Gaxiola said.

Due to the pandemic, Gaxiola also conveyed that she wants to strengthen the community within the student body in order to combat feelings of being isolated from other students throughout the semester.

“I’m a big person on community. I feel like that’s essential right now. We can’t just go to a room and hang out with friends,” Gaxiola said.

Throughout the semester, Gaxiola is hoping to come up with ways to help bring students closer together, even if they have to remain apart physically.

“Something we’re thinking about now is that, yes, this pandemic in a way is going to bring you closer to your friends, but it’s also going to separate you from other people,” Gaxiola said. “So how can we go about (mitigating) that? We’re trying to see what we can do to help that situation.”

Our goal (is) to have students know who their Public Safety officers are. You know, when (I’m) a student walking down the street, I shouldn’t have that feeling of fear. I shouldn’t have any type of feeling.”

—ABDIKADIR LUGUNDI, ’21
ASG President,
Allegheny College

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“Placing the Public Safety Department in a high-traffic area will also increase interactions between the campus community and the Public Safety Department, which will lead toward building a sense of trust and legitimacy,” Wetsell added.

In addition, the college has hired new officers with varying degrees of expertise and training.

Director of Public Safety Jim Basinger was unavailable to comment on any new changes to the department.

In an email to the campus community on Dec. 10, 2019, Link detailed the college’s initial response to ensure campus safety following the incident.

“We are increasing 24/7 patrols and we will continue those enhanced patrols through the end of the semester,” Link wrote. “We have been addressing and will continue to address reported issues with doors and locks.”

Following the email, peep-holes were installed throughout the residence halls and locks on students’ doors were replaced by Physical Plant. Door prop alarms were added to the exterior doors of residence halls and trees and bushes were trimmed or removed to increase visibility. All residence halls, with the exception of College Court and Allegheny Commons, are equipped with ID scanners. The college is finishing the installation of ID scanners at both of the residence halls, Wetsell added.

“We had door position monitoring consultants on campus to perform an audit of the doors and access points are functioning properly,” Wetsell wrote. “Residential spaces were

inspected for inoperable lights, lights have been replaced where not working or dim. The combination of automated sensors and deactivating manual light switches means that all common areas will have lighting that remains on 24/7.”

Restroom switches have been modified so that they cannot be turned off by the light switch. Additionally, non-residential building hours are limited to 7:15 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and will have a designated entrance to minimize cross-traffic and all other doors will remain for exiting the building only.

“(Allegheny Student Government) and Physical Plant took a ‘dark walk’ to recommend areas on campus that lighting should be enhanced,” Wetsell added. “Updates to lighting in several areas on campus have been made based on those recommendations.”

The changes made to the campus were noticed among the student body, Phillippe said.

“The response that I personally had seen was that Public Safety officers were fixing doors and making sure that they worked,” Phillippe said. “They also installed brighter lights outside of the area where you would swipe your key to go inside.”

ASG also created a Title IX committee in response to the sexual assault. This committee planned several Title IX-related events such as bystander training and self-defense classes. These were not able to occur due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Later that semester, ASG began discussing the installation of cameras on campus, according to Phillippe. She was the Class of 2022 President for the

ASG Senate at the time of the event.

“(Discussions about security cameras) had mixed responses but a lot of students were against cameras because (students) thought it was a huge invasion of privacy, which I also agree with, Phillippe said. “(Security cameras) also give way to a lot of racial discrimination and profiling.”

Despite student body concerns, a surveillance system has been installed at the college.

Baldwin Hall and Ravine-Narvik Hall have security cameras and the remaining residence halls will have cameras installed soon, Wetsell announced.

“All of the security cameras monitor public locations at the points of ingress and egress,” Wetsell wrote. “The camera monitoring station is located in a secured area of the Public Safety Department and it is not visible to the public. The cameras are passively monitored. If an incident is reported, Public Safety has the ability to view previously recorded footage because the recordings are retained for a specified time period in accordance with Pennsylvania State Laws.”

All information and observations made from the surveillance cameras are confidential and can only be used for official purposes, she clarified.

“Talks about (installing cameras) made me very upset because I felt as though we have a (Statement of Community) that (we) are upholding in the Allegheny community,” Phillippe said. “(We) are going to be honest and trustworthy students and the faculty should not have to monitor (the student body)

everywhere that (we) go.”

While Public Safety officials increased patrols during the fall 2019 semester, many students, especially female-identifying students, took extra precautions on campus to ensure their safety.

“(The sexual assault) was a situation that made me think more about keeping my guard up,” Phillippe said. “I never thought about carrying around pepper spray or walking in groups, but the people around me, such as my friends, suggested that we shouldn’t walk alone and that we should bring pepper spray and make sure that where we are going is in an area that is not too isolated. A lot of (the student body), including myself, found that we were traveling more in groups and less late at night to make sure that we were safe.”

Students walked in groups or utilized the buddy system when traveling around campus, especially during finals week when students are using the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library past midnight, Phillippe added. She recalled walking a fellow student back to their dormitory with her friends one evening during finals week to ensure that everyone was safe.

The administration’s response to the sexual assault created mixed reactions among the student body.

“At the beginning portion of my sophomore year, I was a Ravine-Narvik resident,” Emma Godel, ’21, said. “That next fall, as a junior, when I heard that an on-campus rape had occurred, I was like, ‘oh, did that happen in Ravine?’ I opened the email and, there you go.”

Godel was not surprised to hear about the unlocked door at Ravine-Narvik Hall, she added.

“Her (residence hall door) was not working, which again, I am not surprised,” Godel said. “Ravine residents do not usually get as much reception as I think other residents do. I have noticed that first-hand as someone who no longer lives there.”

While Godel believes the administration inappropriately handled the situation, she does not blame the college for the sexual assault occurring on campus, Godel clarified. She also recalled fearing for her own safety while she was a resident there due to the relocation of a convicted Title IX offender to that residence her first year at the college.

“I sat down with a Residence Life representative and explained that (being placed in Ravine-Narvik Hall) was impacting my mental health,” Godel explained. “I was not able to focus and I could not stop thinking about my safety next fall.”

After meeting with the Residence Life representative, Godel alleged that the college official responded by citing new additions of furniture in the building.

“Ever since this communication, as much as I love the Residence Life employees, I have had a very difficult time trusting Residence Life as an institution,” Godel said. “A pool table is never going to increase or decrease on-campus rapes so that was so sickening to hear.”

Godel later relocated from Ravine-Narvik Hall to Brooks Hall.

While the sexual assault took place last year, from the time that students arrive on campus until Thanksgiving Break, college campuses are in what is known as the Red Zone, a period of time where a disproportionate amount of sexual assault cases occur.

“The Red Zone refers to the six-week period of time between arrival on campus in August and Thanksgiving Break in November, during which, according to research, students are at the highest risk of sexual assault,” wrote the Delta chapter of Alpha Chi Omega in an Instagram post.

Alpha Chi Omega traditionally hosts tabling events during this time period, however due to COVID-19 guidelines, the organization will raise awareness through their social media platforms.

Godel encourages all students to report any safety issues or building maintenance concerns to their Resident Advisor to prevent further sexual assaults, especially during this time period.

“If there is something that (you) think is unsatisfactory, (you) need to report it,” Godel said. “Do not let someone tell (you) that (your concerns) are not valid. (You) need to get in the way, (you) need to make noise because (your safety) is not a petty issue. (Your safety) is more important than anything else (you) will have at this college.”

Any individual who has experienced a Title IX offense is able to reach out to Title IX Coordinator Gilly Ford located in Murray Hall.

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CRIME BLOTTER			
<i>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.</i>			
Fall 2017 Reported Sept. 4, 2020 Dating Violence Various Locations	Oct. 29, 2019 Reported Sept. 4, 2020 Stalking Various Locations	Feb. 29 - Mar. 2, 2020 Reported Sept. 4, 2020 Stalking Cafilisch Hall	Sept. 5, 2020 Tresspassing Bentley Hall
Aug. 31, 2019 Reported Sept. 4, 2020 On Campus	Feb. 20, 2020 Reported Sept. 4, 2020 Stalking Cafilisch Hall	Mar. 5, 2020 Reported Sept. 4, 2020 Dating Violence Schultz Hall	Sept. 6, 2020 Alcohol Violation Phi Kappa Psi

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Grass is trash

The nuances of a well-manicured lawn

By **PEYTON BRITT**
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For many, the American dream calls to mind an image of 1.5 kids and a golden retriever playing catch within the confines of a white picket fence, the fresh-cut grass beneath them hardly longer than a child’s index finger. Of the elements of this image, it is the well-manicured lawn that irks me to no end.

Although the ubiquity of grass in the United States is something we take for granted, I aver that these quotidian green blades beneath our feet and around our homes demand more attention — mostly negative attention. The most concerning thing about grass is by far its negative impact on the environment. Maintaining a lush, verdant lawn requires that you regularly water your grass. A quick Google search will recommend that you use an inch of water for every square foot of your lawn once a week. Although an inch sounds like a trivial amount, multiplying that inch by every square foot of every lawn in the country turns that inch into a massive source of water waste — all for a plant that serves little to no purpose.

The environmental impact of the prevalence of grass lawns is not limited to water usage. Another problem with filling our lawns with grass and grass alone is just that: grass is just one single type of plant. As humans have developed the Earth, bio-

diversity has decreased. This decrease has haunting implications for the well-being of numerous ecosystems, as we are deeply dependent upon the natural balance of different species for our food production, air quality and water quality.

Replacing native plant species with grass lawns may look tidier, but it directly harms the pre-existing ecosystem, creating a domino effect that will undoubtedly come back to bite us on the (gr)ass. If not for our own selfishness, we must stop replacing native plant species with grass for the sake of the bees, the butterflies and other pollinators, for we have these humble beings to thank for the sweetness of our fruits, the vibrance and color of the flowers we give to our loved ones and, whether we care to see it or not, for our survival.

Also worth noting are the fertilizers and pesticides used to maintain lawns — when chemicals are applied to the grass, they do not remain strictly on the grass, but instead seep into the soil and pollute both ground and surface water. This affects the water quality of our lakes, streams and oceans and can cause a number of issues such as algal blooms and the poisoning of aquatic species.

What makes the careless contamination and waste of water for residential lawn care in the United States particularly appalling is that water is in desperate demand for many Americans. The Western United States regu-

larly experiences droughts, leading to ballooning water bills and the imposition of restrictions on water usage, violations punishable by hefty fines.

When water consumption is regulated by increasing its cost and the threat of fines for going over a set amount, only those who have to worry about money are truly being restricted. I would probably cry if I was harshly fined for accidentally using more water than I am allowed, whereas the wealthy have the privilege to ignore how much they pay for water at all.

Considering these costs — both financial and environmental — associated with the maintenance, I am no longer charmed or impressed by a bright green lawn. Rather, the image of the ideal American front yard I have described has become a symbol of ostentatious bourgeois wastefulness. I lament the social expectation to keep one’s lawn tidy, uniform and identical to every other buzzcut patch of grass all around the block.

Moreover, the expectation is not strictly social; it is a requirement of many homeowners associations. HOAs impose strict regulations on your landscaping, which may include how often you cut and water your lawn, what you can plant on your property, how often you use pesticides and more. Although having standards or expectations for a community’s appearance sounds mostly harmless, that is kind of part of the problem: it is

all for appearance.

Beyond the classism I have already discussed, HOAs also perpetuate a very specific ideal of conformity, something which, in the United States, has always been closely tied to patriarchal white supremacy. As American cities industrialized and expanded, urban areas saw massive white flight, the movement of white people to suburban areas specifically to “escape” the higher concentration of people of color in the cities. Suburban life is thus founded on inequality and white social hegemony.

Although the racial composition of suburban neighborhoods

has come to include more people of color over time, I would argue that dismantling white supremacy involves dismantling the imagery which underpins and covertly perpetuates it, regardless of if there is in fact a clear or direct connection between having a grass lawn and being racist.

For the sake of our planet, we must pursue an alternative to the standard of grass lawns. To address the issue of water usage, we must explore xeriscaping, which is a style of landscaping that makes use of drought-resistant native flora to save water, in dryer climates. In areas like ours, we should be filling our lawns

with plants that naturally sprawl across the ground but do not require vertical maintenance, like mint or clover.

As a frequently barefoot person, I dream of having a lawn of moss, nature’s velvet rug. As an environmentalist and member of humanity, I dream of a society in which we do not unwittingly fill our land with the same bland plant at the direct expense of the well-being of the planet, but instead plant the seeds of a future in which we are all conscious of our responsibility to caring for the Earth.

PEYTON BRITT/THE CAMPUS

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Making the case against objectivity in journalism

The writer cannot be removed from their writing

By **PEYTON BRITT**
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We, as a society, consider objectivity an ideal for good journalism. Facts should be presented without bias, not allowing the journalist to take a particular side or push a certain agenda. Information should be presented in a candid, straightforward manner, such that readers are given the opportunity to take in raw data and form their own opinions about it. To do otherwise would be editorializing, a dirty word which refers to the

inappropriate injection of one’s opinion into a presentation of factual information.

Although I understand the good intentions of such an approach to journalism, I argue that objectivity is not only a poor ideal, but also largely a myth in that it is nearly always unattainable. I understand that this is a rather controversial opinion, and I see the irony in that my literal job to write about my opinions — allow me to elucidate my position by guiding you through an exercise of the imagination.

Imagine that you are a journalist tasked with covering a story: a new bridge is being built in a small town. You interview a few people and collect some numerical data, such as when the project is to be completed, how much it will cost and how those costs will be distributed to local taxpayers. You also look into why the bridge is being built, and what the benefits of its construction will be.

You write up your article, detailing the objective facts you have collected. You report that it is, let’s say, a \$1 million project, which will cost each taxpayer something like \$5 in taxes per paycheck until the project is completed in a year. You note that the bridge is being built to connect two major roads that are currently separated by a stream. You briefly mention that because of the bridge, people who live on one side of the stream will enjoy shorter commutes.

You have covered the story sufficiently well, not mentioning your opinions about the matter. Your narrative addresses all

the relevant data, and you even managed to make your article relatively interesting through good word choice. The article is printed in the town newspaper, and nobody thinks twice about your skill in concisely conveying information. By conventional standards for good journalism, you have succeeded.

Allow me to complicate your “success” with further imagination: on one side of the stream, closer to town, is a handful of large homes, occupied by white collar workers and their families. On the other side of the stream is a trailer park, and thus largely inhabited by low-income, blue-collar workers and their families. Your story was poorly received by the first half, not because you are a bad journalist, but because the town’s wealthy are now up in arms about the increased tax they will have to pay to cover the cost of the bridge.

The latter half of town, however, is rejoicing — the travel time they will save once the bridge is constructed is invaluable. With just a few more min-

utes in the day, the mothers on this side of the stream will be able to get a few more precious minutes of rest before taking the kids to school in the morning. The children will be able to participate in extracurricular activities at school now because the walk to and from is now feasible. The fathers will be able to justify making a stop at the grocery store on their way home from work. Friends from across the stream will be more inclined to come visit. Families will save on gas money — money they could really use to improve life around the homestead.

By prioritizing the coverage of objective information, we have become accustomed to ignoring the implications of various statistics on human beings. In the real world, numbers translate directly into our standard of living; in our minds, however, the information is often received without emotion. I find it irresponsible to report on something as seemingly simple as a bridge being built, to use my own example, without allowing

the information to take on a human face.

Rather than trying to remove the writer from the writing, we should encourage writers to make their potential biases absolutely clear. For example, if I were to write the bridge story, I would let it be known that I am a white woman and a communist, because these identities are inextricably linked to what I would write, and any attempt to obscure that influence would merely allow covert bias to seep into the piece.

Striving to be objective ignores the reality that our world is both composed of and unavoidably filtered through the human container. That we may find it difficult to remove our own opinions from whatever stories we write about the world is not only unsurprising, but also a good thing. The act of condensing fragments of the human experience into different combinations of the same 26 letters and a handful of symbols is inherently creative; creativity is inherently subjective.

“Striving to be objective ignores the reality that our world is both composed of and unavoidably filtered through the human container.”

—PEYTON BRITT
Class of 2022

The future of neurotechnology

Experts wary of the hype surrounding Musk’s Neuralink

By ROMAN HLADIO
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Billionaire and innovator Elon Musk recently unveiled progress previously kept secret on his latest project — a neural implant designed to improve quality of life and advance current technology to unknown bounds.

Described by Musk as a “Fit-bit in your skull,” the Neuralink comes with large claims, mainly promising to assist people with issues stemming from the brain such as blindness. Musk also mentioned future capabilities of the Neuralink, claiming it may be able to assist in hormone control and even have the ability to play music directly into the user’s brain.

While Musk’s expert showmanship hypes up the masses, many neuroscientists — including Lauren French, associate professor of biology and neuroscience — have yet to be amazed.

“When I first looked at it and saw the video of the pig, I was like, ‘Really, that’s it? That’s what he’s got? We’ve been doing this for years!’” French said. “It has a name — brain machine interface — and people have done this with humans to a certain extent.”

In essence, the brain functions through the sending and receiving of electrical and chemical signals which provide information on a person’s surroundings and prompts them to act in

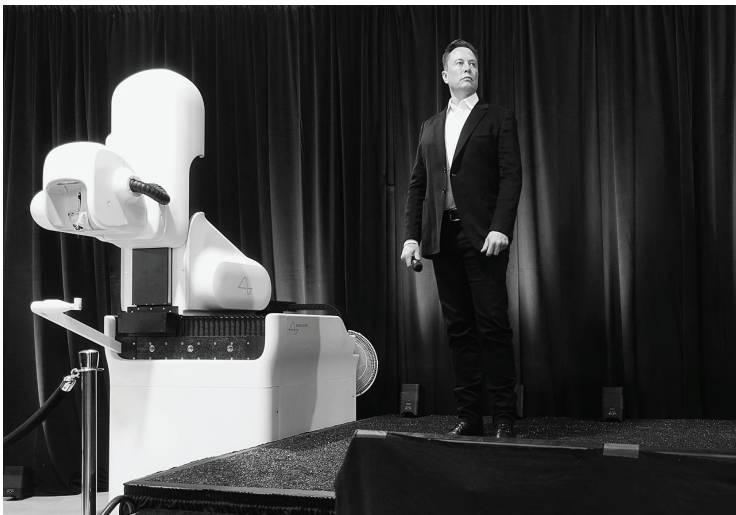


Photo contributed by Wikimedia

Musk presenting surgical robot designed to implant Neuralink.

response, according to French.

During the almost two-hour event, Musk’s main display of the Neuralink occurred when a pig with the device installed was brought out. Bribed with treats, any time the pig’s snout touched something, the signals created by the interaction were picked up by the Neuralink and turned into sound for all attendees to hear.

French expressed a variety of concerns with how the presentation was held.

“There was no actual evidence that the noises truly were produced from the pig’s brain,” French said. “I have an experiment that I do with students where we record from a crayfish’s nerve. It goes through an audio speaker, so it makes these cool noises, and we experiment. If we touch the animal here, we hear an increase in signal and then it slows down. So I was like, ‘If I can do that with Allegheny college students ...’ I just was not

that impressed.”

While some were left wanting more after the display of the Neuralink’s capabilities, many of the most prominent talking points arise from the question and answer session held after the live demonstration. This was where Musk made claims of hormone control and music playing capabilities came into play, but medical usages — such as curing blindness — and interfacing the Neuralink between a user and an artificial intelligence controlled self-driving car, like a Tesla, were also brought up. Most fascinating, though, were discussions on the topic of mind copying.

While many are excited by the novelty, the resounding notion among experts is the same — it is impossible to clone a human mind with our current technology.

“There is no way that anybody is close to copying a mind,” French said. “Humans are really

complicated and since humans are also oddly resistant to having their brains experimented on, the research is slow because we have to learn from things that happen naturally.”

Dr. Lance B. Eliot, expert on artificial intelligence and machine learning, analogized the copying of a human mind to that of a photocopy in an article published by Forbes. He explained that there are outside factors — like dust and debris in the copier — that create a less than perfect end result. He added, though, that a faded document may benefit from being copied, as it may become more legible.

“All in all, you did not end up with exactly the same thing as the original, including some aspects that were not as desirable and other facets that were an added bonus,” Eliot wrote in the article.

French echoed the sentiment, speaking on the ethical concerns involved with the process of cloning or copying a human mind.

“I have a science fiction book that I used to read with my (Freshman Seminar) years ago,” French said. “It’s called Mind Catcher. It’s a similar premise — somebody has had this life threatening injury, so they’re just gonna download their brain essentially onto a computer. It’s a science fiction book so you can imagine it all goes terribly wrong. We have so little un-

derstanding of things that are uniquely human, like personality, so I think that’s really solidly in science fiction land.”

While disagreements about what will or will not be possible with the Neuralink continue, everybody seems to agree on one thing — it will be expensive.

“Is this going to be something that increases the gap between the rich and the poor, and it becomes equivalent to an incredible nose job?” said Dr. John Krakauer, neuroscience professor and director of the Brain, Learning, Animation and Movement Lab at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in an interview with Digital Trends. “We don’t want to enhance one set of humans and not the rest.”

French had similar thoughts on the matter of cost.



We have so little understanding of things that are uniquely human, like personality, so I think that’s really solidly in science fiction land.”

“This is so expensive, and you don’t just volunteer for brain surgery for fun either to be the recipient or the provider,” French said. “I think if we’ve learned nothing else from the pandemic, it’s been hit home that we have systemic inequalities in our healthcare system right now and I don’t see technology like this helping that at all. Unless it’s something that insurance companies would pick up and cover, it’s a huge concern. In the beginning, yeah, go ahead, let some rich guy try it out. Let’s see what happens.”

As technology continues to progress and people like Elon Musk continue to amass wealth and popularity, French is curious how the world will grow and respond.

“Hopefully, Musk will use his powers for good,” French said. “In the future, though, I am going to tell my students they’re doing about the same thing that Musk did to make them feel better.”

—LAUREN FRENCH
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Bioterrorism in the world of COVID-19

How terrorism charges could help prevent the spread of coronavirus

By ROMAN HLADIO
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As the world continues to adapt to life amidst a pandemic, governments and other institutions have attempted to maintain order by modifying older structures in place to accommodate the changing times. In an attempt to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, officials have turned to terrorism laws.

Federal prosecutors, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have opened a number of cases against citizens who spat or coughed on individuals in public or produce in grocery stores.

“Because (COVID-19) appears to meet the statutory definition of a ‘biological agent,’ such acts potentially could implicate the Nation’s terrorism-related statutes,” Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen wrote in a memorandum to prosecutors pursuing these cases.

Due to a lack of policy regarding pandemics in general, government officials have resorted to finding ways to include certain provisions mentioned above under conventions originally created to combat terrorism and nonconventional weapons, according to Shanna Kirschner, associate professor and chair of



What sort of legal tools do we have that we could use to prosecute a person who deliberately coughs all over the produce in a supermarket?”

—SHANNA KIRSCHNER
Associate Professor and
Chair of Political Science,
Allegheny College

political science.

“I think this situation brings about some interesting legal frontiers,” Kirschner said. “What sort of legal tools do we have that we could use to prosecute a person who deliberately coughs all over the produce in a supermarket?”

While conventional weapons like guns, tanks and bombs can do significant damage, those in the nonconventional category — nuclear, biological and chemical weaponry — are able to decimate areas and populations on massive scales and with much less effort.

“The original vision of these conventions is very much about a dirty bomb-type situation, where somebody, for example,

drops an ampule of anthrax or something, that is designed to immediately kill hundreds, thousands of people,” Kirschner said.

Because COVID-19 is highly viral and potentially deadly for older and immunocompromised populations, prosecutors have been able to make a significant case for its inclusion in this category.

“The situation of ‘I’m a person who has COVID and I’m going out and coughing on people or something they might touch,’ or even more interestingly, ‘I’m a person who doesn’t have COVID, but I want people to think I do, and I think that’s somehow funny,’ is morally wrong, but what they’re doing from a legal perspective is an interesting stretch of the law,” Kirschner said.

Although several people have been prosecuted under the terms of the bioterrorism conventions in the past few months, the odds of knowing the cases’ outcomes any time soon is slim, and the pandemic only serves to draw out court proceedings further, according to Kirschner.

“Courts were shut down entirely for a while in a lot of places,” Kirschner said. “Then when they got back up and running, there was a backlog. I’m not pos-

itive, but I think you can only hold someone for a day or two, then you have to charge them with something. A prosecutor would have to make a decision.”

In one case, a Florida man was charged with biological weapons hoax after spitting on police and claiming he had COVID-19, according to a release made by the U.S. Department of Justice.

With a lack of similar incidents outside of the U.S., Kirschner is continually intrigued by the issue.

“I’ve kept this on my radar because, in a definitional sense, it is causing terror, but it’s a really unconventional extension of the idea of terrorism,” Kirschner said. “I think it’s interesting that we’re flailing around for a tool with which to prosecute people.”

In fact, Kirschner first found out about the unique interaction between COVID and the law when it was brought to her attention by a student in her Freshman Seminar course last semester — a course that happened to be taught on terrorism.

“I saw an article that talked about some people who had threatened to cough on produce in a store or spread (COVID-19) in some way or another,” Alexa Whyte, ’23, said. “I thought it was a really interesting article

and I sent it to my professor and she was like, ‘You know what? This sounds like a great final paper!’ It connected perfectly with what we were doing in class, so I went for it.”

While searching for more connections between these few cases and terrorism as a general concept, Whyte made some startling discoveries.

“I was really freaked out when I came across ISIS saying that the virus was making the U.S. weak,” Whyte said. “(ISIS was saying) things like, ‘(COVID-19) is on our side and it shines a light on the weakness of the West!’”

While Whyte believes purposefully spreading the virus is despicable, she remarked that prosecutors should re-analyze the incidents and whether or not they violate anti-terrorism laws.

“Personally, I think that they should be charged with something, but I don’t necessarily think terrorism laws are the way to go with it,” Whyte said. “I read a lot of articles that said prosecuting them under anti-terrorism laws is very extreme and

there are much easier ways to have some kind of repercussions without being labeled a domestic terrorist.”

Whyte made note of the fact that the U.S. was not prepared for a pandemic, especially as it pertains to the criminal system.

“(COVID-19) has shown that we weren’t prepared to deal with any of this,” Whyte said. “I think probably the best thing to do is to expand our laws to help with this situation, and make sure that we’re ready for something like this in the future.”

Although Kirschner agreed with Whyte over the preparedness of our nation, she was skeptical of reform any time soon.

“I think the chance of new legislation seems low right now with this legal climate and this Congress,” Kirschner said. “If you have an existing law that works, there’s no need for a new one, so if these set of bio-terrorism prosecutions continue and they hold up through appeal, then there’s no need for another law. If not, I think something’s going to shift.”

UPDATE:

After publication of last week’s story “Allegheny study away programs adapt to pandemic,” The Campus was provided an infographic by CIEE, who have been monitoring COVID-19 spread and infection rates in a variety of countries where programs are offered. The online version of the article has been updated to include this image.

‘Cobra Kai’: bringing karate back

A lesson on letting go of bias, high school bullying and becoming an adult

By **SARA HOLTHOUSE**
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Strike first. Strike hard. No mercy.

While I was not alive during the 1980s, ’80s movies were still constantly watched in my house. Because of this, I grew up as a huge fan of such movies, including “The Karate Kid.”

So as an ’80s movies fan, I for one was very excited a few years ago when I heard about the “Karate Kid” reboot series in the works called “Cobra Kai.” Originally produced on the YouTube streaming service YouTube Red, I was disappointed that I would not be able to actually watch it, not having that streaming service.

Just recently YouTube Red cancelled “Cobra Kai” and Netflix picked it up, putting both of the first two seasons on Netflix last week and already promising a third for 2021. I do not think I have ever waited so long to be able to watch a show; and I was not disappointed.

“Cobra Kai” begins by focusing on Johnny Lawrence, otherwise known as the bully from the original “Karate Kid” who basically tortured Danny Larusso when he moved to town, and who Danny eventually ended up beating in the All Valley Finals karate tournament at the end of the movie. The audience gets to see Lawrence as an adult, an alcoholic maintenance man who goes around fixing people’s houses.

Lawrence gets fired from his maintenance job just as a new family moves into his neighborhood and he meets their kid, Miguel Diaz — whom audience members, if they were anything like me, absolutely fell in love with as soon as he walked onto screen.

This is the first “Karate Kid” parallel that appears in the show, leading up to others that appear throughout both seasons. Miguel, being the new kid with no friends, is immediately bullied and labelled, such as it goes in high school. Unlike the other kids who he befriends, though, Miguel does not take the bullying lying down, similar to one Danny Larusso in the original film. Also similar to Danny, this results in Miguel ending up in a few fights, which are basically beatdowns at the beginning, including one at the local supermarket witnessed by Johnny Lawrence.

Lawrence saves Miguel from the group of bullies, similar to how Johnny was taken down by Mr. Miyagi back in the 80s when Johnny did it to Danny. Miguel asks Johnny to teach him karate, which at first Johnny refuses to do. Eventually he gives in and ends up reopening his old karate team, Cobra Kai. For a while Miguel is his only student until Miguel takes down the same bullies who attacked him — in the lunchroom for everyone to see and to film in a video that goes viral. Suddenly, tons of kids want to be a part of Cobra Kai : some we have been introduced

to because of their friendships with Miguel, and some that we have not been introduced to.

And then there are a few other kids who are not a part of Cobra Kai that come into play, one of those being Sam Larusso, Danny Larusso’s daughter.

Sam is originally introduced as one of the popular girls, but it is revealed that she was not always one of them and does not always agree with what the popular kids do. She is introduced to Miguel during his fight in the lunchroom, as she was dating one of the bullies that was beating up Miguel, and Miguel was defending her in the lunchroom after her breakup with said bully. The two become friends, and eventually go out on a date to a local miniature golf course.

If I am being honest, Sam and Miguel were my favorite pairing on the show, even though they do not last for even a whole season. This is where Robby Keene comes in.

We are introduced to Robby as Johnny’s son when Johnny gets a call from Robby’s school telling him that Robby had been caught with drugs. In the beginning, Robby runs around with a bad crowd stealing from people, and the audience learns that his home life is not good. Not only does he not live with Johnny, but his mother is constantly between boyfriends or out drinking trying to hook up with rich guys to help pay the rent. Robby is left to his own devices, which includes dropping out of school.

Eventually Robby’s crew plans on stealing from Larusso Auto, the car company owned by Danny and his wife. Robby takes a job there to find the ins and outs of the place and is also eventually introduced to Danny himself. In a classic ‘new guy’ prank, some of the people who have been working at the company for a long time convince Robby to go to Danny’s house at night and deliver a top secret report, which turns out to be a magazine. Instead of blaming him, Danny shows Robby around his karate dojo in the backyard and tells him to stop listening to the people at work that keep pulling pranks on him.

Robby returns to work to find that things get better with the help of Danny and his wife, so much so that Robby no longer wants to rob the place and refuses to let his old friends in when they come. When his friends try to beat him up for it, he makes sure they are seen by security cameras.

Robby returns to Danny, who begins teaching him karate, like he learned back in the original movie, and like he used to teach Sam when she was younger. This results in Robby and Sam meeting and Robby being around the Larusso house most of the time.

This brings it back to Miguel . When Sam is hesitant to tell her family about dating Miguel due to his involvement in Cobra Kai, and her father still being against everything to do with Cobra Kai, even all these years later, Miguel takes it on himself to

go over and introduce himself. However, he is stopped when he sneaks in the back and finds Robby sitting at the table with the family, right next to Sam. Misinterpreting the situation, Miguel gets mad and leaves.

Later at a party, Miguel, still upset and thinking that Sam was lying to him, starts drinking, even though his friends tell him not to, as most of them are only around 15 years old. When Sam arrives with Robby, a now-drunk Miguel tries to throw a punch at him and ends up hitting Sam instead. Needless to say, the two of them did not last much longer after that.

Not long after, Danny finds out that he has been teaching karate to Johnny’s kid, and kicks Robby out, right before the All Valley Tournament, the same one that he himself won back when he was a teenager.

Robby ends up entering the tournament on his own, and after Johnny gets Cobra Kai able to enter the tournament as well, ends up going against Miguel. In a previous fight, Robby is injured and Miguel chooses to use that to his advantage, resulting in him winning, even though it was through bad fighting.

When Johnny confronts him about it later, Miguel reminds him of the Cobra Kai motto as it used to be in “Karate Kid” and still is when Johnny opens the dojo back up. Strike first, strike hard, no mercy. Johnny realizes how much he relied on this motto when he was younger and how much it changed him into someone he did not want to be, and he decides then to teach his students a better way, one where mercy is allowed sometimes, which then brings us to season two.

Season two begins with Danny officially opening his own karate dojo, Miyagi-Do, and teaching Robby once again. Sam finally decides to return to karate as well, earning Miyagi-Do two students, meaning Robby and Sam get to hang out with each other a lot, resulting in the two of them eventually getting together. Dating Robby also means that Sam finally learns about how terrible Robby’s home life actually is, and Robby moves in with the Larusso’s.

On the other hand, Cobra Kai, after winning the All Valley, gets a surge of publicity and a surge of new students wanting to join, including a girl named Tory, who by the end of the season was my very least favorite character.

Tory meets Miguel and his friends and begins hanging out with them after joining Cobra Kai. Miguel, who is still not completely over Sam, logically as it has not actually been that long and because he knows it was his fault, is still trying to fix things with Sam. Tory tells him not to, as it makes him look desperate. Instead Tory brings Miguel to an abandoned playground, and the two of them end up dating.

Granted, at the beginning I thought Tory was going to be a good character and help Miguel to be happy, and then Sam and Robby would be happy and then everything would be fine. But things just go downhill from there.

Even while Johnny tries to teach his kids a new way of fighting where mercy is a virtue, some of his kids still refuse to believe that, including Tory and Hawk, whose original name was Eli, and who is another of my least favorite characters. This is helped along by the reappearance of Johnny’s old sensei, Kreese, whom everyone thought was dead. Despite Johnny trying to teach his kids a better way to fight, Kreese continues to teach the kids the things that he used to teach Johnny behind his back, and the only one who stops to think about the things that Kreese teaches is Miguel.

Because of Kreese, some of Johnny’s students, especially Hawk, continue on the path of ‘no mercy,’ and do things like become bullies themselves, despite having been bullied in the past, and also destroying Danny’s dojo.

Miguel, while still trying to fix things with Sam, also tries to help fix what happened to Miyagi-Do by bringing back Mr. Miyagi’s medal of honor, which was stolen by Hawk. This and the fact that Danny and Johnny manage to call a truce would make one think that things would start to get better.

But they do not. The kids continue fighting, sometimes in the middle of malls, and sometimes at school or at roller rinks. Because Tory knows that Miguel is still not over Sam, she chooses to take on Sam most of the time, resulting in Sam getting overly drunk at a party that one of her friends throws to try and call a truce between the dojos. An overly drunk Sam ends up kissing Miguel, watched by Tory, though neither of them knew it at the time. Not knowing what else to do and not wanting Sam’s parents to see her drunk, Robby and Sam end up turning to Johnny and staying the night at his house, resulting in Danny attacking Johnny in his house and bringing an end to the truce.

All of this together leads up to the season two finale, which I am still internally screaming about. The first day of school comes, and over the loudspeaker Tory announces that she knows that Sam kissed Miguel and that she was coming for her. The two girls end up fighting in the hallway, which Robby and Miguel both try to stop. But when Miguel arrives and sees Robby pushing Tory away, he ends up attacking Robby and the Cobra Kai and Miyagi-Do kids end up in a giant fight in the hallways that not even the teachers can break up. This fight spreads all over the school, with kids on both sides, as both dojos have grown by now, pairing off in fights with those that they had problems with throughout the season.

The fight brings Miguel and Robby to the top of the stairs, with Miguel pinning Robby to the floor. The audience gets a voice-over of Johnny in Miguel’s head reminding him that sometimes it is okay to show mercy, and Miguel lets Robby go, backing up and apologizes. Robby kicks out at Miguel and ends up kicking him backwards over the railing and sending him crashing to the stairs below, finally ending the big fight as everyone rushes to Miguel, and Robby, horrified with what he’s done, runs away.

The season ends with the kids in the hospital with their parents and with the question of whether or not Miguel is going to live.

See **KARATE** | page 7

Ask a Gator: Email

How to send emails that sound professional

By **KALEIGH WHITE**
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Sending emails is not as common in high school as it is in college. In high school, you really only ever needed to email teachers if they asked you to send them an assignment, and even then, that did not happen often. In college, especially during these times, email is the primary mode of communication. This can be attributed to the fact that you generally no longer see every instructor, every day. Regardless of the reason, it is very important to communicate regularly with your professors with any questions or concerns without spamming their inboxes.

The first tip for emailing professors is to make sure that you need to email them at all. Make sure you have searched for what you’re about to ask them on Canvas, WedAdvisor or previous emails before reaching out. For example, I went to log into a third-party website where I am to submit my economics homework, and was informed I need a classroom code. Before asking the professor, I searched my emails to make sure I did not already have the code. I then looked on Canvas, then in the syllabus, and near the bottom was the classroom code I needed. There is no point in emailing a professor with questions you can easily find the answer to yourself; while professors do not mind helping students through emails, it makes you look very unorganized and almost lazy. It is okay if you accidentally email your professor an easily-answered question, but you should not make a habit of doing so.

If you do end up needing to email the professor, the first thing to note is the subject line. Try to avoid using whole sentences, and instead paraphrase it into a few words. For example, instead of “I have a question about class,” you should simply put “Question about class” as the subject. If your question is about a specific assignment, instead of “I have a question about project three,” you should put “Question, project three.” The subject of your email should be concise without being too vague. An example of a vague subject heading would be just putting “Question;” this is not an appropriate subject unless the question relates to the class in general and is not about anything specific. Also, do not make your subject heading capitalized unless it is absolutely urgent; even then, refrain from capitalizing the entire thing, and instead try, “URGENT: Question, project three.”

Next is the salutation or greeting. Never start an email with “Dear (Professor);” they are not a dear one, and even if they are, it is wildly inappropriate to greet a professor with “dear” in an email. Depending on how well you know them, and what they prefer to be called, there are a number of better options. A safe bet is just a classic “hello.” This is not too formal, but also not informal, and you do not have to worry about addressing them by name if you don’t feel close enough to do so. This greeting is best for an email in which you are asking the professor something important, such as a reminder about a disability accommodation, a request for extra time on a project and other important matters. If you feel comfortable addressing your professor more casually, I would recommend starting with, “Hi (Professor’s First Name).” This greeting is less formal than a standard “hello,” but is more personal. While there is nothing wrong with starting an email with “hi,” I would not recom-

mend doing so on an important email. This greeting is better suited for emails regarding questions about course materials, questions about what was covered in class, a request for additional help, etc. While there are other ways to begin an email, I would always recommend using one of these two salutations.

As for the letter body, the content varies on a case-to-case basis. In general, you want to make sure that you have no typos or grammatical errors in your email. You are an adult emailing another adult, and you need to keep it professional; this includes using proper spelling and grammar. Be sure to read through it twice before sending it to ensure that there are no errors and that you’ve included everything you need to. If you do forget to put something in the email, and have waited too long to press “undo,” immediately reply to the email you just sent, and put in whatever it was that you forgot. The worst thing you can do in this situation is respond with “oops, sorry, I forgot to mention,” and finish it off with “lol.” Always refrain from using abbreviations such as “lol,” “tysm” and “atm,” to name a few. Also, do not use emoji or emoticons. These are perfectly acceptable to use in emails to your friends and peers, but they are almost never appropriate in emails to professors. Follow up to your own email with, “Hello, I forgot to mention,” and finish it off with something to the effect of, “thank you for your patience!” If you really feel the need to apologize for sending a second email, you can end with, “sorry for any inconvenience,” although that really is not necessary. Any professor worth their salt will not feel bothered or inconvenienced by a follow-up email.

Finally, the signature line. This section is often debatable, and really comes down to personal preference. I always like to sign off emails thanking the professor for their time and understanding; however, some people think that this is tacky, given that the professor has yet to give time or be understanding, since you just sent the email. Either way is generally acceptable. It is not usually acceptable to put a P.S. at the end of your email. If you do, first try putting it in before thanking the professors using transitions such as “also,” “by the way,” etc. If it does not fit well using one of these, you can use a post-script, but do not put it after your signature. In your email settings, you can set a customized signature that it will automatically put at the end of every email. Students have signatures set up, as well as a lot of professors. This, once again, is personal preference. For example, I have my first and last name, my cell phone number, my majors, college and my leadership positions on campus. This is because I primarily email people regarding either my studies at Allegheny or the clubs I am in, so it makes sense to have in my signature my positions with various campus organizations. Some people have quotes in their signatures, others have pictures and others just have their first and last name. Regardless of what you put, keep it professional and don’t make it extremely long.

To summarize: keep the subject heading short and to the point; use a professional, appropriate greeting; double-check for errors in the body of the email and refrain from using slang, abbreviations, and emoticons and use personal judgement on the signature line. If you keep all of these things in mind, your professors will know that you are serious about your education here and will respect you as a learner.



Photo contributed by The Buzz Paper

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COMEDY COLUMN

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By KALEEL VAN VOORHEES

Editorial cartoonist

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Last Saturday in Texas, numerous boats participating in Trump's parade sunk on Lake Travis during the festivities. Taking to Twitter, the Travis County Sheriff's Office confirmed that the station received multiple emergency calls of boats in distress, and that some ended up sinking (no deaths were reported). Talk about 'Mast Destruction' for a hull of a time. Hey, more often than knot, ship happens.

Production on "The Batman" starring Robert Pattinson has been halted, after Pattinson recently tested positive for

COVID-19 just days after the production studio started filming in London, moving forward from the Coronavirus shutdown hiatus. So – a bat(man) getting covid? Sounds familiar...

In a recent discovery, scientists have found rust on the moon – on its 'north and south poles on its nearside, respectively. As there is no oxygen or water on the moon, scientists believe this development can be traced through Earth's magnetic tail, where oxygen travels along the tail to land on the moon's surface. So, is this happening by 'oxidant'? Can we call it 'Iron'y'? Perhaps we can officially say the darkest hour is rust before dawn.

In Georgia, upon delivering civil papers to a local residence, a deputy left her car door open to then find it occupied by a goat chewing her paperwork. After finally getting the goat out of the car, the goat headbudded the police officer to the ground. Who knows, maybe the goat was just ... kidding around?

All over India, kite-makers are selling out – fast. Traditionally, the sales between April through August are the lowest, but this year due to the COVID-19, school shutdowns – sellers cannot keep up with the aggressive demand. With these kites, children can not only use their new toys to pass the time, but some of them can even learn about electricity!!

KARATE

from page 6

Johnny blames himself for ever teaching Miguel how to fight, and remembering moments that he and Miguel have had together, in which the audience is led to see that he regards as another son, one that he did not mess up his relationship with until that moment.

It has been a very long time since I have found a show that makes me gasp out loud and throw my hand over my mouth or constantly yell at the screen, but all of those things happened while I watched "Cobra Kai."

And while "Cobra Kai" remained an obviously fictional story throughout especially in scenes such as the last big fight in the school, a lot of times it had what I considered to be a rather dark and real theme. Other times it had scenes that had me dying of laughter on my bed. These scenes did not seem like they should fit with the show, and yet they somehow did. The one that stands out the most to me is when Johnny is getting his kids to help him make a promotional video for the dojo and tells them to put "hashbrown Cobra Kai" behind it and to "send it to the internet."

Scenes like this floated throughout the show, reminding the audience that this was a show about high school kids and that they were still basically kids, even though they were dealing with a lot of adult things.

Even more important than that, though, are the few lessons that I caught along the way while watching this show. The first one of those was that often those who were bullied end up becoming the bullies themselves, as shown through characters like Hawk. The other two that I picked up on were sort of intertwined and seemed to me

to be the biggest lessons that this show was trying to get people to learn. More than anything, I thought this show had a lesson on the fact that as children we create certain biases, such as the bias that Danny forms when he is younger against Cobra Kai, and why he is still so against it in this show, even though it is different. But the most important lesson I think it shows is that everyone can change.

Growing up with the "Karate Kid," I always saw Johnny as just the big bully who deserved to be defeated. But after watching "Cobra Kai," I saw Johnny as

an actual human with flaws and also good parts, and as someone whose life was a disaster afterwards, but who also made the choice to change and to teach kids like Miguel to be better than him. That right there is what I loved the most about this show.

"Cobra Kai" has just given me another reason to wish 2021 would hurry up and get here.

9/10

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

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Campus Crossword

By KALEIGH WHITE
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Across

4. Wife of famous trumpet player Louis Armstrong; composed the jazz hit "Struttin' with Some Barbecue"

5. A double-reed woodwind instrument in the oboe family, but about 1.5 times larger than an oboe

8. Another word for saying your music taste is "wide-ranged"

9. Notes of a chord played in succession, either ascending or descending; in Disney's The Aristocats, the kittens say that you must practice your scales and these

11. A musical note that is part of the harmonic series above the fundamental note, and can be heard if those singing/playing are perfectly in tune

13. A style of jazz that is purely singing

14. Gregorian chant is one of the earliest known forms of music; it consists of melodic chants and

18. A particular style of rock music that is deemed unconventional in comparison to standard rock music

19. Violin rosin is made from heating fresh ____, a sticky, natural substance not unlike tree sap

20. A form of music originating from southern rural areas of the United States

21. Call-and-response songs are used in this popular southern style of dance, in which calls such as "allemande" are given to groups of dancers respond by doing that dance move

22. A genre of rock music characterized by the use of sounds such as distorted electric guitar and synthesizers

This week's theme is music, including technical terms, famous composers, different genres, instrument, and some music history.. The answers to this week's crossword are online at alleghenycampus.com. Suggestions for puzzle themes can be submitted to Kaleigh White, features editor, at whitek2@allegheny.edu.

Down

1. A valved, brass musical instrument similar to a trumpet or cornet but more mellow in tone; popular in certain genres of jazz music

2. A primarily obsolete object that held recorded music; predated the CD

3. A genre of rock music characterized by very loud guitars and lazy-sounding vocals; popular in the late 80s/early 90s

4. A line added for notes outside of the range above or below the staff; __ line

5. Traditionally called the Master of Ceremonies; the word was abbreviated and, over time, became mashed into this word

6. A country music concert held weekly in Nashville, Tennessee, since 1925; the Grand Ole ____

7. Composer of The Four Seasons concertos

10. An instrument similar to the xylophone, but with metal plates and tubes, and usually slightly smaller and higher in pitch; the word has German etymology

12. A symbol that denotes a musical sound; a music ____

15. A style of electronic dance music; usually fast and has little to no vocals

16. Title of a popular Mozart piece that most anyone on earth would recognize without necessarily knowing the name; "Eine Kleine __ musik"

17. A corresponding pair of notes 7 semitones apart create an interval known as a ____ fifth

20. One of the earliest known forms of music; Gregorian ____

CAMPUS CONVERSATION

Women’s basketball head coach Kate Costanzo discusses her nomination for the NCAA’s first LGBTQ Award

By ADAM COHEN
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Kate Costanzo, Head Coach of the Women’s Basketball team is nominated for the NCAA Division III LGBTQ Administrator/Coach/Staff award. The inaugural award honors the service of LGBTQ inclusion by a LGBTQ person in the athletics department. Costanzo discusses what the nomination means to her, and the experiences she has had as a member of the LGBTQ community.

How do you identify?
That’s one of the terms that, (during) the time when I grew up, I guess I would say lesbian. That’s one of those words that I have some friends who just say gay or queer. Even in my immediate friend circle, the term, the phrase, the word does not really matter too much to me. Now that I am thinking about it, if I had to label myself, I would probably say gay.
When did you come out?
It was in 2004. I told my sister-in-law first, and then my brother. I did not come out to my parents until a year after that. After college, though, I honestly had not really thought

too much about it until graduate school. I identified so much with the sport of basketball and being a student-athlete that I had not even thought about who I was outside of that. I was always afraid. You hear the stories where parents might disown you or kick you out. My parents did none of that. It took a little while adjusting to the new information. I have terrific support from my parents. It was more intimidating to tell my parents than to tell my brother and his wife.

What does this nomination mean to you?
It is so nice to be recognized for something like this. I am really proud of Allegheny and how much work the college puts into our diversity and inclusion. I know we have a lot of work to continue to do. It was so nice to have our pride game last winter and have the support of the administration to pull an event like that off. It was a great way to show support for the LGBTQ community and that Allegheny and the community embraced it too.
How did the pride game come about last year?
We are always trying to think of ways to reach out to

different areas of the community to come to games. We have done camper reunion games, we always do camper awareness games, and we did a senior citizen game last year. The pride game came from a brainstorming session with my assistant coach. We thought it would be a great idea to do something like that. I reached out to our athletic director who was super supportive. We could not have pulled it off without Angelica (Perez-Johnson, interim director of the IDEAS Center) and the students from the IDEAS Center. It was so nice to do a collaboration across campus to put together a nice event for the community.
How was pride night associated with the Trevor Project (the leading national organization that provides suicide prevention to LGBTQ members under 25)?
We collaborated with the IDEAS Center on who they thought would be a good organization to donate some money to from our efforts that day. I don’t know how much it was because we gave out a lot of free pride t-shirts, and we collected donations at the door. It was a kind of a big free community

event. When we do it again, it would probably be nice to do an even larger fundraising effort. (Next time), we can invest more strategy behind generating even more for the Trevor Project or another organization.
How has Allegheny improved and how can they continue to improve LGBTQ+ inclusivity?
I came here 14 years ago shortly after I came out. I came to Allegheny six months after telling my parents I was gay. I got the sense that this was a safe place to be and this was a place that I would be supported by colleagues. It is hard for me to put a finger on why during the interview process I really felt that, but I quickly met some other people of the LGBTQ community. It felt right and was welcoming. I do think we have a really strong community here. I think that is a testament to the type of place Allegheny is to work. I feel supported and I am encouraged to do work like this, too. I think we can build on the pride game events. It does not have to be a basketball game. Maybe when we get sports back we can do this in a game in the fall as well.



Photo courtesy of RICH SAYER/alleghenygators.com
Kate Costanzo, Head Coach of the Women’s Basketball team has been nominated for the NCAA Division III LGBTQ Administrator/Coach/Staff award. Costanzo has been at Allegheny since 2006.

How has society improved and how can we as a society improve LGBTQ+ inclusivity?
Education, obviously, is important. Having conversations with our youth. Helping everyone understand that everyone is different. That’s a hard thing to do. What is the answer with all of our society’s issues right now? There were a lot of people close to me who never actually knew someone that was gay, but now they know me. (By coming out), that would help in some small way too and help get rid of stereotypes and be accepting. Also, fighting for equal rights

across the board for diversity and inclusion. I cannot even think in the last 14 years in that amount of time gay marriage is legal, and the protection at work where that you cannot just be fired for being LGBT. I think we have come a ways in that area as a society but there is more work to be done.
The winner of the NCAA Division III LGBTQ Administrator/Coach/Staff award will be announced in January 2021 during the now-virtual NCAA convention.

Recruiting athletes during a pandemic

By ADAM COHEN
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Six feet apart. Wear a mask. These are phrases that have been integrated into everyday life. Social distancing has become a necessity to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Students around the country are becoming familiar with remote classes. Coaches across the United States are making adjustments as well; many of them are preparing for physically-distanced

“I am starting my 11th year coaching. In the first 10 years of coaching I did one Skype interview with a recruit.”
—BENJAMIN MOURER
Head Coach,
Cross Country

practices and a spring season that may not happen. Additionally, the landscape of the yearly recruitment process has changed.
College coaches around the nation are used to traveling to tournaments, finding talented high schoolers and meeting prospective students face-to-face. All of these communalities have been postponed; thus coaches are forced to recruit remotely. Coaches already find players virtually when they make their rankings of head-turning athletes, watching highlights and sending out emails. Thus, coaches discovered methods on how to lure in new recruits.
Allegheny’s coaches experienced a learning curve on how to use various platforms to reach out to students. Benjamin Mourer, head coach of men’s and women’s cross country and assistant coach of men’s and women’s track and field, explained how setting up virtual meetings was unprecedented.

“I am starting my 11th year coaching,” Mourer said. “In my first 10 years of coaching, I did one Skype interview with a recruit. In the past five to six months, I have done dozens and dozens and dozens of them. I wasn’t doing anything virtually before, and now that is the primary way to contact people.”
Although Mourer had to adjust to more video calls and other forms of communication, he had more time to focus on the recruitment process. He attributes a strong incoming 2025 class to the cancellation of the spring season and an extended application deadline.
“Honestly, (the 2025 athletes) look very strong still,” Mourer said. “I am a little bit ahead or more than I’ve been in other years. I think students had downtime, and I at least had downtime since I was not coaching in the spring.”

Remaining optimistic in an unorthodox situation was a common trend among Allegheny’s coaches. Pamela Monnier, assistant women’s soccer coach, believes that remote meetings have revolutionized the way coaches connect with athletes.
“It gives us more ways to connect with (incoming players),” Monnier said. “We had not really thought about doing a ton of FaceTime calls or Zoom meetings or figuring out ways for them to virtually meet with our players before they visit campus. I think that’s something that can benefit a lot of programs in giving them connecting pieces early on.”
While there are some positives to evaluating players virtually, Monnier understands that the videos from prospective students cannot replicate the experience of watching a player firsthand. Although she can recognize the talent level of a player on video, they do not show the attributes of a player off the field.

“There is so much more that goes into it than simply how talented they are on the field,” Monnier explained. “How are they going to interact with our players? Do I see them as a good fit? Are they a diva on the field? We do miss a lot of that when you are only able to recruit by video.”
Allegheny’s coaches understand that online recruiting has its disadvantages. As a result, many of these coaches focused on bringing in students that have already visited campus. Richard Nagy, head football coach, explained how the Gators tried to bring in new students familiar with Allegheny.
“It really became a constant stay in touch through emails, texts and a lot of personal calls to distance ourselves from other people,” Nagy said. “We felt like if we put our time and effort into those that had seen the campus, we were going to have a better chance on our return.”
Despite an emphasis on bringing in rising freshmen who had seen the campus, Nagy as well as many other

Allegheny coaches helped to provide a virtual experience for students considering going to school amidst the pandemic. As students returned home for online courses in the spring, Allegheny coaches and staff members stayed behind and began creating videos that covered nearly every facet of campus life.
“We sent it out to alums who did videos for us,” Nagy said. “We did videos of our own players, the athletic department put on videos of the Wise Center and our basketball coaches went on a virtual campus tour. In conjunction with admissions, who added ones of their own, they also added different ones for the dorms and dining halls.”
Allegheny’s coaches had to make adjustments in their recruiting process this year from learning social media platforms to making videos of being an Allegheny athlete. Nevertheless, they still found a way to virtually connect with incoming students and were satisfied with the results.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

On-campus quarantine extended indefinitely

By ETHAN WOODFILL
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The on-campus quarantine period has been extended indefinitely.
President Hilary Link sent an email to the campus community on Thursday, Sept. 10, regarding the recent cluster of cases found on cases.
“Because we uncovered, during last week’s tests, a cluster of positives among a connected group of students, and because we have understood that this arose due to travel off-campus, effective immediately, and until we have evidence through testing that we have contained our cluster situation, we are adding the precaution of extending the

on-campus quarantine period until further notice. This means students may not leave for any reason.”
The on-campus quarantine period was originally scheduled to end Sept. 14.
Under the new guidelines, students will be expected to leave campus immediately after being found in violation of the Gator Pledge.
“While the overwhelming majority of students are taking the health guidelines seriously,” Link wrote, “unfortunately, there are already a few students who have disrespected these guidelines and violated the Gator Pledge; they are being held accountable through the student conduct process and being removed from campus.”

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE COVID-19 DATA

18	ACTIVE	POSITIVE	CASES
24	TOTAL	POSITIVE	CASES
6	PENDING	RESULTS	
3356	COMPLETED	TESTS	
3292	NEGATIVE	TESTS	

Editor’s Note: The weekly COVID-19 data is compiled using the COVID-19 Case Dashboard available on sites.allegheny.edu/covid19. Case counts listed above are collected the Thursday before publication.