

The Campus

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Students protest task force, allegations of harassment *Misinformation surrounds academic review task force convened by Faculty Council*



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Students stand opposite Bentley Hall on Brooks Walk in protest of the Academic Program Review Task Force on Friday, Oct. 22.

By SAMI MIRZA
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Students organize

With chants of, “Save the staff, stop the cuts,” a line of students organizing under the banner of “AC Unite” stood opposite Bentley Hall on Brooks Walk on the morning of Friday, Oct. 22. They were there in support of faculty and in opposition to an email sent out the previous night by President Hilary Link and her cabinet regarding chalk markings across campus.

“I saw the email and was immediately frustrated because I knew exactly what was being talked about and I knew exactly what the email was referring to in terms of the staff cuts,” said Sydney Hammerman, ’25, one of the organizers of the protest. “My first reaction was that it was entitled and it made me very upset. So I sent a message into some (group) chats, talked to some people and was like, ‘We need to do something about this. There’s a lot of energy around this right now and we need to harness it, we need to speak out and have a pro-

test.’”

But while the protestors were angry at the administration’s perceived sensitivity to criticism, Provost Ron Cole, ’87, clarified that the email was only sent out due to an incident on Thursday morning regarding the Academic Program Review Task Force, a group convened by the Faculty Council to advise the Provost on the planned \$1.5 million in staff salaries the college is planning to cut.

“While the words themselves weren’t discriminatory, the fact that the messaging was in the space where that task force was meeting made that group of people feel targeted and harassed,” Cole said. “That’s the bottom line.”

Cole also separated the Thursday incident from other chalk messages across campus, some of which read, “Impeach Link,” and “Cut Link, Not the Staff.”

“This is not about the feelings of the administration,” Cole said. “The reason we wrote the message to the campus community after the incident of the chalking in the classroom was because that group of the Academic Review Task Force felt targeted by those messages,



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Students hold signs as they listen to speakers discuss the college administration’s response to a Thursday, Oct. 21 incident in a classroom where the Academic Program Review Task Force met, an incident that faculty members felt targeted and harassed by. The group was also protesting an estimated \$1.5 million in staff salaries that the Board of Trustees wants to cut from faculty and staff salaries to financially stabilize the college.

and they felt threatened by that. The chalkings on the sidewalk are not the same. We’re not erasing those. That’s not what our message was about.”

As per college policy, however, chalkings on the sides of buildings and on doors will be removed. The Compass, Allegheny’s Student Handbook, states, “Chalking is permitted on sidewalks exposed to the elements. Chalking is not allowed on walls, doors, or building exteriors.”

Transparency

Ian Manning, ’22, walked by the Friday protest to see what was going on. While he did not sympathize with the

chalking, he did question the college’s willingness to be open about what was happening.

“What I’d like to see from the administration is maybe a little more transparency about the whole process,” Manning said. “We never received an email from President Link (saying) ‘this is what’s going on ... we’re paring down the faculty, these are the reasons.’ They never said anything and I think that’s the frustration that a lot of students have; (students) are only hearing about it now under the table from their friends.”

Similarly, June Gromis, ’25, one of the organizers of Friday’s protest, charged the administration with failing to provide particulars about the situation.

“We have public spokespeople for the administration like President Link or Provost Cole who are making sweeping statements about the development and the nature of these staff cuts,” Gromis said. “But they’re not actually willing to provide fundamental information about this process, the people who are involved in the process, and the way that (the process) will actually occur.”

Hammerman also thought the lack of transparency was problematic.

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ASG holds emergency budget hearings

By EVELYN ZAVALA
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In response to the number of organizations on campus operating without budgets, the Allegheny Student Government opened a form to request an emergency budget hearing.

On Sunday Oct. 24 from 12 to 4 p.m. in room 206 of the Henderson Campus Center, the ASG finance committee held these hearings.

Director of Finance Lucas Biniewski, ’23, explained the potential issues that may have arisen last year when the budget requests were first opened.

“People just didn’t submit budgets,” Biniewski said. “I don’t know if it was because of COVID or at the end of the semester everything got busy or people didn’t know how. We did a mass advertising campaign on it and it was advertised for at least two weeks prior.”

Biniewski reported that 11 clubs signed up for a time slot for the emergency hearings, though 16 submitted a budget application which means the remaining five clubs will not get a budget. Because many clubs do not have budgets, they need to submit finance requests to ASG every time they need to fund an activity. The process includes meeting with ASG, which then votes to decide whether or not the request is approved.

Vice President Sophie Adams, ’22, clarified that as long as the club is recognized by ASG and has an approved constitution, they are allowed to submit a finance request.

Class President Olivia Brophy, ’23, recognized the possibility that many clubs are getting a new influx of members who do not understand the financial process because of lack of experience.

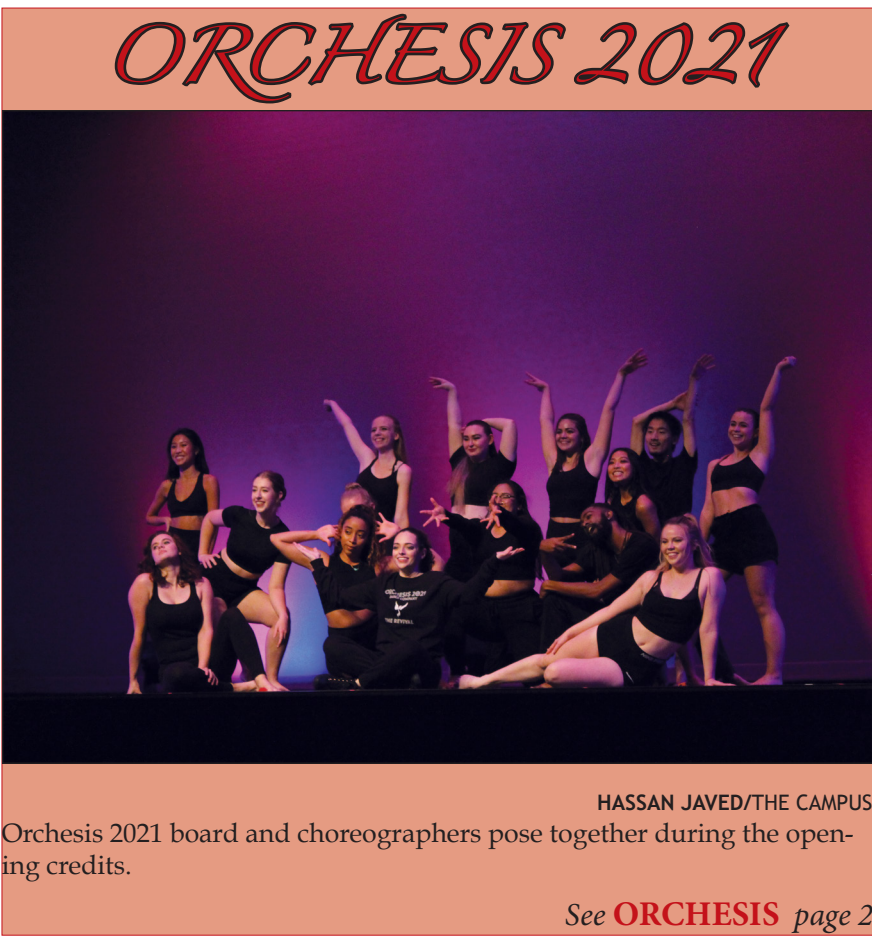
“We are looking to increase awareness and make it easier for people to understand the process,” Brophy said. “I think whenever you are first getting to know the process it’s challenging but it becomes routine after a few times.”

Clubs had slots of approximately 15 minutes to list out their budget and hear what parts of their budget ASG is allowed to pay for. ASG has financial guidelines that dictate what they are allowed to pay for.

Crystal Hernandez, ’23, president of Latinas on the Rise, said complications arose with communication which resulted in many clubs not having budgets.

“Last semester it was advertised but the only reason I knew it was advertised was because I was already a part of the cabinet,” Hernandez said. “I told every organization that I was a part of that the application was open, but we never heard of budget hearings.”

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HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

Orchesis 2021 board and choreographers pose together during the opening credits.

See **ORCHESIS** page 2

In this week’s Campus...

PIG-TO-HUMAN KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

The world’s first successful animal-to-human organ transplant opens new doors in medical science.

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PENNY DREADFULS: ODDFELLOWS

In this shocking conclusion to the “Penny Dreadfuls” collection, a look at the haunted orphanage of Allegheny College.

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UP ‘TIL DAWN HOSTS 5K

More than a dozen Gators, undaunted by muddy conditions at Robertson Athletic Complex, ran for St. Jude’s last Sunday.

Page 8

FRIDAY



H: 51° L: 47°
Rain: 97%
Sunrise: 7:49 a.m.
Sunset: 6:18 p.m.

SATURDAY



H: 53° L: 47°
Rain: 71%
Sunrise: 7:50 a.m.
Sunset: 6:17 p.m.

SUNDAY



H: 53° L: 43°
Rain: 42%
Sunrise: 7:51 a.m.
Sunset: 6:15 p.m.

ASG announces financial training session for Nov. 10

By EVELYN ZAVALA
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The Allegheny Student Government began its general assembly with cabinet reports to bring updates about their work over the week and results from the budget hearings held over the weekend. ASG commenced this week's General Assembly at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27, in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center.

Director of Diversity and Inclusion Jennifer Peralta, '22, shared her progress with her project.

"I sent out some emails to the counseling center as well as career educations to come speak at the event that I am hosting," Peralta said. "They will have a segment there but it's all still in the works."

Director of Student Affairs Elizabeth Graham, '22, updated ASG on her current projects.

"We met this week to discuss our project with Career Education and the IDEAS Center," Graham said. "Both departments are compiling resources they can provide and from that list we are going to get student feedback. We are also going to

start working on a student life survey."

Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs Andi Reiser, '23, shared her progress with increasing sustainability on campus and her plans to utilize student feedback.

"This week I have been working on the water bottle refill stations," Reiser said. "Right now I am working on getting a survey for student feedback to see where they would like to see them. I would like to start voting next week on the budget that I'd like."

Attorney General Jack Parker, '22, announced that Allegheny can have a golf club in addition to the golf team.

"This is a more recreational side of things and not as competitive, which I think is a great outlet for students to kind of get out and about," Parker said. "There are a ton of golf courses in and around Meadville, so this is an awesome way to utilize the community."

ASG approved the golf club for the first week unanimously. The club will need to be approved again next week in order to become official.

Chief of Staff Genesis Pena, '22, announced a giveaway in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"This weekend we are doing a pink out for the football game for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, so come to the game and wear pink," Pena said. "We will be giving away some really cute pink stuff."

Director of Finance Lucas Biniewski, '23, confirmed the date for a financial education session meant to educate clubs about the financial process. He then announced the result of the emergency budget hearings.

"There will be a financial education session Nov. 10 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m and I will be sending out emails about it to club treasures and presidents," Biniewski said. "(Alpha Phi Omega) received \$2,950, Latinas on the Rise got \$1,300, Phi Alpha Theta got \$300, Why Not Us? got \$3,585, (Black Girl Magic) \$2,770, (Association of Caribbean Students) got \$3,500, (African Student Association) got \$4,920, Astronomy Club got \$570, Green Students of Color Society got \$450, (The Campus) got \$2,500."

Biniewski updated ASG on spending for the week.

"This week from finance is a good week with 18 requests," Biniewski said. "From the general fund we have \$4,254.83 and that consists of an Outing Club trip, volleyball t-shirts, bowling trip and the (Association for Computing Machinery) t-shirts. For the surplus fund we have \$11,685 for new inventory for the fencing club and new Campus newspaper computers."

President of the Class of 2023 Olivia Brophy updated ASG on class events and communication.

"This week we discussed our events for this semester and next semester," Brophy said. "We also talked about some ways to improve communication between admin and students which is something we have heard huge complaints about."

President of the Class of 2025, Abigail Estrada-Hernandez shared the comments and concerns of students at the Grounds For Change class event.

"We had our first event last week at GFC and we basically just had a lot of concerns and comments from our first-year clubs," Hernandez said. "Some of the concerns were about hav-

ing more flexibility with Munch Money for spending at campus stores and using meal swipes at McKinley's. We also have been hearing that Brooks needs to have healthier options because a lot of the food is oily and greasy. Another comment was about diversity and increasing campus hygiene."

The assembly then held a moderated discussion brought by the Class of 2025 about access to mental health resources on campus. The discussion was centered around potential solutions to the problem.

"I've had a conversation with one of the counselor's and they've mentioned that it's up to the counselors discretion how many appointments they think the person needs," President of the Class of 2024 Kristen Cadham said.

President Noah Tart, '22, updated ASG on the meetings they will have to discuss current campus issues.

"We will be meeting with Dr. Link for lunch this week to stress two very important issues," Tart said. "We are going to talk about our perceptions about the campus climate right now and campus safety."

ASG decided to cancel GA for next week per the suggestion of Tart due to the upcoming mental health day and to give people the opportunity to get caught up on work.

The assembly was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

“We will be meeting with Dr. Link for lunch this week to stress two very important issues. We are going to talk about our perceptions about the campus climate right now and campus safety.”

—NOAH TART
ASG President
Class of 2022



Left: Orchestris 2021 board, choreographers and dancers take their final curtain call together.

ORCHESTRIS 2021

By HASSAN JAVED
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Above left: Dancers perform tap piece "Stars In Our Eyes," choreographed by Haley Fabich, '24, to song "Stars in Our Eyes" by Katie MAC.

Above: Crystal Hernandez, '23, choreographed the piece "I Hope You're at Peace but..." which was dedicated to her late father.

Left: Dancers perform ballet piece "4AM," choreographed by Delaney Kronheim, '23, to song "4AM" by Bastille.



Right: Dancers perform hip-hop piece "Welcome to the City of Kings," choreographed by Alexis Pham, '22, to songs "Been like This" by Doja Cat, "Mi Gente" by J. Balvin (ft. Beyoncé), "Up" by Cardi B and "Safera" by Bad Bunny.



TASK FORCE

from page 1

“It is very unnerving and upsetting that there’s little to no transparency about this process when this process directly affects students and how their education persists,” Hammerman said. “Every single minute that (the administration) spends not being transparent is going to reflect more and more poorly on them. If they can’t trust the student body and the faculty body that they oversee as a college, the disconnect is going to continue to grow and it’s going to seem foolish for them to ask why.”

General Assemblies

In some ways, however, the administration has been transparent. On Sept. 28, Cole presented an update of the program review to the Allegheny Student Government General Assembly, outlining the process by which the review would continue, as well as some preliminary findings.

“That was a very important (assembly) in my opinion because it was right from the administrator who’s doing it,” said ASG President Noah Tart, ’22. “Ron Cole is the head of that process, and having him come to ASG and try to translate as much information as he could as possible.”

ASG as a whole has been noticeably absent from AC Unite’s movement, though both Cole and ASG Vice President Sophie Adams, ’22, cited the organization as a key pathway for students to speak to the administration.

“General Assembly is always open to constituents’ comments,” Adams said. “I was actually really surprised to not see any constituents at (the assembly on Tuesday) after the protests last week, because that really is the easiest way to have our attention.

Adams did note that there would not be a General Assembly on Nov. 2 due to the campus-wide day off.

However, Tart also said that the administration has not been as transparent as it could have been.

“In our communication with administration we’ve stressed a lot the importance of transparent information,” Tart said. “Sometimes there’s a lot of vague information that’s sent out in an email — perhaps with ‘fluff’ for lack of a better phrase. We’ve communicated especially with people who are making these kinds of decisions that students really want succinct, concrete information that’s going to be easy to absorb and comprehend rather than information that you might have to sift through.”

Tart encouraged students to watch the Sept. 28 General Assembly, which he called, “very important.” A recording of the meeting is available on ASG’s Facebook page.

Adams also stressed that the program review was not guaranteed to end in cuts, but is instead designed to find places where the college can reduce spending without sacrificing the spirit of the college and wastefully cutting programs. Specifically, Adams suggested that, before cuts are considered, the contracts of visiting professors will not be renewed and retiring professors will not be replaced.

“To broadly just call them, ‘faculty cuts’ doesn’t get to the heart of the issue and is actually discounting the work being done by the task force as only looking for places where the school can



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—SOPHIE ADAMS
ASG Vice President
Class of 2022

save money,” Adams said. “It’s actually a way for the school to understand where to put their resources most efficiently. It’s something that every institution does and should not be held as unusual that Allegheny is undergoing this.”

Both Adams and Cole referred to the 2018 program review, which resulted in 23 faculty members accepting retirement incentives, thereby shrinking the number of professors without firing any. At the same time, however, Adams noted that that review added the Business major, which she said Economics students had been requesting for years.

“Reliable but anonymous”

The subtle change in vocabulary from “faculty cuts” to “program review” highlights the nuances often lost in the information spread online by AC Unite. Among the group’s talking points is the false claim that the task force was created by the administration.

“By creating the task force, (the task force) allows (the administration) to divide the staff and sow suspicions between the staff,” David Lawson, ’23, said to the protestors on Friday. “(The staff) cannot organize because they do not know who is reporting them and who might get fired.”

But according to both Cole and Faculty Council, a committee of faculty elected by their peers to ensure faculty representation in the college’s governance, the task force was not put together by the college administration. Rather, Faculty Council created the task force independent of the administration, as the best way to advise the Provost’s Office on where the proposed cuts can be made.

“Given the significance of the impact the Provost’s next staffing plan would have for the College, Council discussed how it could most effectively advise and inform the Provost as he made these staffing decisions,” the Council wrote in an email to The Campus. “Faculty Council decided that the most effective way to include faculty voices in this process would be to create an Academic Program Review Task Force. Council appointed a diverse group of respected faculty members drawn from different academic disciplines, backgrounds and faculty rank.”

According to that same statement, the task force’s report will be released to the entire college community in early December, and that report will be used by the Provost to construct the next staffing plan.

Another piece of misinformation regards the summer staff cuts announced at the end of July of this year. Neither the administration nor AC Unite disputes the fact that 36 positions were eliminated, of which 24 people actively serving in those positions were fired. But an unidentified student, reading from a document published anonymously, also charged that, “one such member of the faculty was set to undergo open heart surgery, and needed to beg for six more months of extended health insurance.”

However, when the cuts were announced in July, Vice President for Enrollment Management Ellen Johnson said, “Employees who were separated from the institution were provided severance packages as well as an extension of their benefits

that the college is contributing toward for six months. So while they were not given advance notice, they were provided different financial pieces as a part of their separation.”

Cole cited the misinformation as a much bigger problem in the process than student action, and offered to correct the information to AC Unite’s documentation in order to bolster student voice.

“I have no problem with students declaring their concern over the possibility of eliminating part of an academic program,” Cole said. “That’s natural. But if there’s also misinformation or misguided information that those students are either receiving or assuming, that’s not good ... I’m familiar with the AC Unite posting and I’d love to go through (the document) with that group at some point — I’d like to help inform the protests that I hear. ‘Here’s the information as I see it that’s as straightforward as possible. Here’s where I could help correct, if you will, some of the information and the way it’s being presented.’ I think there’s confusion and I can help clarify that.”

For their part, AC Unite is not going to stop spreading the information they claim is, “reliably but anonymously sourced.”

“Getting this information out there, getting people aware of what is happening, is just a process that’s beginning to burgeon,” Gromis said. “As we are able to spread this information, I think more and more people are going to realize the effects that this has on the professors they love and also on the departments and majors and minors and courses that they love.”

Several students walking by the Friday protest declined to comment because they did not feel they knew enough about the situation to speak on it.

Making Cents

The original reason for the staff cuts are changes in long-term trends, according to Cole. Publicly available data shows that Allegheny’s enrollment has dropped from 2,104 full-time students in the fall of 2012, to just 1,538 full-time students in the fall of 2021. This, Cole said, means that not every program can stay if the college is to remain financially stable.

“The reality is that we may not be able to deliver the same breadth of academics that we have in the past,” Cole said. “The reason for that is we have hundreds of fewer students now than we had in the past. Allegheny is a tuition-dependent institution; because we have fewer students, therefore we have less revenue for supporting the same number of employees. It’s not sustainable.”

Sasha Lu, ’25, another member of AC Unite, argued that the school is not that reliant on tuition revenue. Instead of cutting faculty, they said, the college should pull more from its endowment.

“We’re running under the percent of our endowment that most other universities do,” Lu said. “There’s money there that can be pulled from, but there’s just this question of them not wanting to.”

A school’s endowment is a long-term investment that is designed to slowly grow while also providing revenue for the school. Because the investment grows at an expected rate, the school can pull a set rate from the endowment without shrinking it. In Allegheny’s case, the Board of Trustees has set that rate at 4.25%, though it has the power to raise it.

“It’s not that easy,” Cole said. “There’s a limit to what we’re allowed to draw from the endowment, and even with that limit, it would not be sufficient to support maintaining what we have now.”

AC Unite also suggested that the college’s recent windfall through the “Our Allegheny: Our Third Century Quest” fundraising campaign that brought in over \$200 million to the college could also be used to support the faculty. But Cole said that that is exactly what is happening through the endowment.

“It’s not a savings account that gets drawn down,” Cole said. “It’s to provide long-term intergenerational integrity for the institution. The larger that endowment is, the more dollars are provided to the operating budget with the same percentage of draw.”

Defending the liberal arts

Ultimately, Cole will create the new staffing plan. In an email to the faculty on Oct. 27, Cole wrote, “It is the responsibility of the Provost, not the Task Force, to prepare a faculty staffing plan and for making decisions about specific faculty lines and academic programs.”

The task force is solely responsible for creating guiding principles and recommendations for Cole to work with.

“They’re not making decisions on staffing,” Cole said. “They’re coming up with the criteria that makes sense to try to support (Allegheny’s mission). ‘How do we best support the Allegheny mission? How do we best support the Allegheny student experience?’ I am deeply committed to the liberal arts experience. I’m an Allegheny alum, I majored in geology and minored in music. I understand the importance of diverse ways of learning and knowing the world.”

But AC Unite wants the college to continue every program in the spirit of a liberal arts education.

“Allegheny is a college of catering to the individual,” Hammerman said. “That’s one of the things that stood out to me when I toured (here). For example, I want to minor in Jewish Studies. That’s like, negative two people do that. The reason I came to this school is because even though there’s not a lot of interest in some of the things I want to do, there is still a space for me to pursue them.”

Lu thinks that without smaller departments and programs, Allegheny does not have a reason to exist.

“If you don’t want to have those programs that only a few people are in, then just dissolve your school,” Lu said. “There’s a reason why I went here and not to Penn State (University). I was originally going to become an environmental engineer, but I ended up compromising that to go here specifically so I could do more things. That’s the draw of this school. If you get rid of the draw, then there’s no reason for people to go here than anywhere else.”

But this fierce defense of the spirit of Allegheny is ultimately the goal of the task force itself, according to Faculty Council.

“The charge that Faculty Council has laid on the Academic Program Review Task Force is immense,” Council wrote in an email to The Campus. “We have asked them, during an incredibly difficult time in the college’s history, to give voice to the values of the faculty regarding the college’s academic programs.”

Craig Dodge, associate professor of mathematics and chair of Faculty Council said that the best way for students to support their professors was to show up in the classroom.

“Anyone who wants to support faculty at this moment, needs only to show how much they value the faculty member’s work,” Dodge wrote in an email to The Campus. “The most meaningful experience a faculty member can ever have is to have their students fully engaged in the process of learning in their classrooms, to bring their best academic selves to their coursework, and that for any professional, that’s the highest reward of all.”

BUDGET

from page 1

Hernandez suggested having a link to the budget hearing sign up along with the budget application so that clubs do not have to worry about having to wait to hear when their budget hearing is. She shared her thoughts about why complications with budgets arose in the first place.

“It could have been that all the people who knew how to handle financial stuff graduated and when COVID hit we weren’t doing a lot with money,” Hernandez said. “It could have been the lack of help with transitioning into that.”

President of Chinese-American Friendship Society Megan Dennis, ’23, shared that her experience during the budget hearing was positive.

“They were all very straightforward and polite with asking questions,” Dennis said. “I think it would be nice to have at least one other time for budget hearings other than one in the beginning because there could be changes in who is in charge in clubs and they might miss an email.”



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—MEGAN DENNIS
Class of 2023

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In defense of zoos and aquariums

By **EMILY CLARVIT**

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Between Sept. 25 and Oct. 3, residents of Pittsburgh may have spotted a truly massive eagle flying around the city. With a wingspan between six and eight feet, the Steller's Sea Eagle is a truly massive raptor species that is primarily found in far eastern Russia, not southwestern Pennsylvania. So why was one on the loose in Pittsburgh?

In an extremely unusual turn of events, Kodiak, or Kody, the Steller's Sea Eagle had escaped from his habitat at the National Aviary. After a week of intensive searching, the Aviary successfully brought the eagle home in good condition and began renovations on his habitat. As a former volunteer at the institution, I was relieved to say the least. However, I noticed some people did not feel the same way.

During this process I saw many people make uneducated and frankly irresponsible claims on social media. Many insisted that it was unethical to keep the eagle “in a cage” and that Kody should be allowed to go free. Others implied that Kody left because he was receiving substandard care and claimed that zoos are harmful and cruel institutions. Ignoring the many problems with allowing a non-native species to roam the city and the unrealistic expectations that a bird that has spent most of his life in captivity could survive in the wild, I was horrified by the warped perception many individuals seemed to have of zoos. Although disreputable animal sanctuaries and zoos exist, it would be completely inaccurate to think of the majority of zoos as unethical and harmful to animal welfare.

The National Aviary, like most other respectable zoos in the United States, is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. To be accredited, zoos must go through a long and rigorous process to prove that they meet AZA standards. The AZA evaluates the environments, health and nutrition of animals, conducting yearly welfare assessments. Veterinary programs, education programs, safety policies, facilities, security and finances are also assessed. The AZA requires that animals are provided with sufficient enrichment that mimics their natural behavior. The AZA also looks at an institution's contributions to research and conservation programs. An inspection team spends several days at the institution in question to ensure animal welfare standards are being met.

Once a zoo has been accredited, it must go through the accreditation process every five years to ensure AZA requirements are still being fulfilled. Accredited institutions have a very high standard of care, ensuring that all animals in these facilities live long and happy lives.

Despite this high standard of care, many people may still feel that zoos are not justified or that they do not benefit the conservation of species. This could not be further from the truth. Zoos do important conservation within their facilities, in local communities and internationally. The National Aviary alone is involved in a myriad of conservation projects. On a local scale, the Aviary is involved in the conservation of neotropical migrants. The Aviary has conducted fieldwork related to the Louisiana Waterthrush for over 10 years now. This research is important, as this species can serve as an indicator of the overall ecosystem health of forested riparian areas in the eastern United States.

The National Aviary is also a supporter of the Lights Out Pittsburgh movement. The goal of this movement is to turn off lights during peak migration hours in order to prevent disorientation of migrating birds and reduce window collisions.

There are also many projects focused on the conservation of international species. The National Aviary is the leader of the Saving Animals from Extinction program for African penguins, an endangered species native to South Africa. As part of the species survival plan for the penguins, the Aviary works with other zoos to manage the penguins in a way that increases the genetic diversity of the captive population. The Aviary offers a variety of educational programs, advocating for sustainable seafood purchases and collecting donations for the South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds. On site, the Aviary is involved in distributing artificial nest burrows and mitigating conflict with fisheries in South Africa.

Another species of interest is the Andean condor, a truly gargantuan bird with a wingspan of 10 feet. The Aviary has a partnership with Bioparque Amaru in Ecuador in order to protect the near threatened condor. Bioparque Amaru is a facility dedicated to housing animals rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. The Aviary collaborated with Bioparque Amaru to build a breeding center for Andean condors, in the hopes of releasing their offspring into the wild.

Perhaps most impressively, the National Aviary has played a vital role in

the recovery of the Guam Rail, a species that, up until 2019, was extinct in the wild. The Guam Rail was essentially exterminated from its home in Guam when invasive brown tree snakes were inadvertently introduced. In 1987, only 21 Guam Rails remained. The Aviary, along with many other zoos and breeding programs, has played an instrumental role in increasing the population of this species, allowing for the eventual introduction of the species to neighboring islands Cocos and Rota. After over 30 years, the Guam Rail is no longer extinct in the wild, and this is largely due to the efforts of the National Aviary, which raised more than 40 birds. This was more than any other North American zoo.

Of course, the National Aviary is not the only zoo committed to education, research and conservation of wildlife. Using only zoos and aquariums I personally have visited, I can list many more amazing conservation programs. The Monterey Bay Aquarium has a unique program focused on the rescue, rearing, and reintroduction of southern sea otters. The Columbus Zoo protects over 555 acres of prairie habitat, an endangered ecosystem that is vital for many North American species. The Baltimore Aquarium has rehabilitated and released hundreds of animals on Maryland's coasts. The Cincinnati Zoo conducts research about the reproductive biology of the rare black-footed cat and funds field research focused on the species in South Africa. Even small zoos like the Erie Zoo provide educational programs to inspire an interest in conservation. Zoos and aquariums play a vital role in conservation on both a local and global scale.

With all of this in mind, it is clearly absurd for anyone to insinuate that Kody would have been better off in the wild or claim that institutions like the Aviary are unethical. Rather than making unsupported claims about accredited institutions, a focus should be placed on shutting down illegal or disreputable zoos, animal sanctuaries and nature parks. Although many people are aware of the benefits of zoos, I felt that it was important to clarify the validity of these institutions, especially in light of the global pandemic. Many zoos suffered financial losses from shutting down as they continued to care for their animals. As a last word, I recommend providing whatever support you can to accredited zoos like the National Aviary, whether that comes in the form of visiting the facility itself or making a donation.

Support sapphic smut

By *sapphics, for sapphics*

By **JUNE GROMIS**

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Intimacy is a word that means so many different things to so many different people. One of the first explorations we undertake as we come of age is trying to understand what our intimacy should or could look like. The sources we consult during this time would certainly make a research librarian blush, and yet we rarely seem to get out of it what we were looking for in the first place: a true understanding of intimacy that we can relate to ourselves.

When I realized I was a lesbian my junior year of high school, I endeavored to answer this uncomfortable question within the new context of gender and sensuality I now found myself in. But, unsurprising to anyone who knows anything about the way that sapphic sensuality is overwhelmingly portrayed in media, I quickly hit a dead end. Most portrayals of sapphic sensuality I found were made for somebody else — they were designed to get men off.

I felt fortunate that I had quickly developed an awareness of this, but wondered about the hundreds of thousands of young sapphics who might be trying to understand their intimacy in a similar way with only these resources available to them. This fetishization of sapphics not only ignores the physical realities of this intimacy but further ignores all sapphic bodies not conventionally desirable to men, including transgender sapphics such as myself, sapphics of colour and sapphics of different body types. What happens to us when all we have to learn from are the fetishized aspects of our intimacy? What are we left with? The answer is the literature of intimacy that we create for ourselves.

It is easy to view platforms like Wattpad or Archive of Our Own as a mix of awful and decent writing that people browse out of boredom instead of a need for serious reading. However, the sapphic communities that exist there have constructed valuable spaces where intimacy is openly written about from a variety of different perspectives, with the target audience predominantly being other queer people. When your sexuality is shunned, reduced to fetishization in the mainstream and branded as dangerous or taboo, it is only natural that anything that counters this pervasive narrative is looked down upon; young people engaging with their sexuality, especially queer sexuality, is seen as sinful or perverse. But the truth is,



We must support queer smut, support the writers who are channelling their passion and sensuality to reach out to others, and demystify as well as destigmatize authentic portrayals of sapphic intimacy.”

—JUNE GROMIS
Class of 2025

young people have always and will always engage with their sexuality, and they deserve to be able to do so authentically. Smut is an outlet for young queer women to explore their fantasies in a healthy way, to break from the pervasive representation and to create new examples of intimacy for other sapphics to learn about.

While not all sapphic smut is a good representation of sapphic intimacy, since the authors themselves are also subject to compulsory heteronormative biases, that is something that they themselves become aware of as they exchange their stories and experiences with others. It gives them an opportunity to grow beyond their biases and pull on a wealth of resources that barely exists in other places. Young people enter their first experiences of physical intimacy with a wealth of preconceptions, most of which are inaccurate, and these experiences serve to clear up these preconceptions and give us our first real understanding of that intimacy.

Therefore, as much as we cannot expect our initial research to give us a complete image of what our intimacy will be like, young sapphics deserve a much better primer than what the mainstream presents them with, and smut can be a valuable part of that. We must support queer smut, support the writers who are channelling their passion and sensuality to reach out to others, and demystify as well as destigmatize authentic portrayals of sapphic intimacy.

The status quo is unacceptable, and if you are not sapphic, your allyship has to include an awareness of and stance against this fetishization. Your actions speak much louder than your words, and if through your actions you choose to violate us, then it shows that you view us as objects of your pleasure rather than as the people we truly are.

Who really stands to gain from self blame?

By **SASHA LU**

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“Cui prodest” is a Latin phrase for a simple yet essential question when determining the motives behind an action: who stands to gain? In a society such as ours, when any actor on the grand stage of the socio-political system is up for bid, we must not look at the actors, but at the puppet masters, and we do this by first asking, “Who stands to gain?” We must do this because the motives of these actors are secondary to the forces controlling them, so to best understand, and if need be, halt these influences, we must put two and two together and pull the mask off of the master. I find it is both incredibly relevant and important to analyze the connection between this concept and our ingrained sense of self blame.

Let us look at this narrative of having no one to blame but yourself. It is not to say that there is no truth at all in this statement, as one's own choices absolutely have a role in one's own life, and it is absurd to think otherwise. That aside, it is equally absurd to believe that one can live in a society without being subject to its influence and coercion. So whereas some amount of personal choice is involved, we must not only consider all of the various variables of society, but also the fact that one's entire method of forming one's thoughts (and choices) are entirely influenced by the world around them. With that outlined,

this narrative of divine personal choice is simply put, a half truth at best, and if something is only half the truth, it isn't true.

Despite the clear irrationality of this narrative of having no one to blame but yourself, it is incredibly pervasive, to the point where people can make careers telling impressionable young people that they are all to blame for all their issues ... and that you can get past this by signing up for a course on how to be a "real man." So who stands to gain? The obvious answer is the self care industrial complex, but it goes so much deeper than that. Before self care took off and took on a life of its own, we had the cold, judgemental, paternal narrative of self blame, usually pointed at those worse off in life, but also turned inwards for a good dose of self degradation.

Eventually though, this destructive outlook was abandoned seeing as how mentally damaging and socially isolating it is, and because of the fact that a gaggle of entrepreneurial individuals realized they could make a killing off of tellings all these depressed rubes that they could practice puritanical self blame from the comfort of a cushiony progressive liberal world view.

Now let us return to our question, who stands to gain from this aforementioned dedicated dogma of self seething? Well, let us return to where we picked apart the idea itself. If we recall, the individual is not the only participant within the creation of their own circumstanc-

es, we must also remember our friend society. With that said, society is not a living, breathing thing, so how possibly can it be to blame? This is not a bad analysis at all, but let us look at where society comes from, and who generates it. Society is a vague word for a collection of superstructural, or immaterial, phenomena that arise from the organization of the material world. Society is rather, a machine that exists to continuously reproduce its material conditions until it can no longer, but this machine has a purpose: domination.

Take a step back and look at the totality of society and breathe in. Consider just how isolating our world is, particularly in two of the main fields in which we spend a large portion of our waking hours: social media and work. While appearing very different at first, on both of these mediums, we, the worker and the consumer, become commodities on these markets. In fact, we become among the most wretched of the commodities, continually being sold for the benefit of everyone but ourselves. This translates into other aspects of our life, whether it be the competition or the alienation of these two facets. The worst part is that these measures are incredibly effective at pacifying us and encouraging us to lash out at ourselves and other individuals around us rather than the oppressive state machinery, lurching over top of us.

We have largely ceased to question why the world is the way it is, and instead accept it as how it has always been.

For an example of this, we have all heard, and likely internalized the phrase, “It's a dog eat dog world.” This phrase was inspired by the Latin phrase, “Canis caninum non est,” which in fact means, “A dog does not eat another dog.” Yet all this time, we have not even considered why our world has degraded to the point that the dogs must feast on one another, because we are sadly too worried about our own ability to eat within a dog eat dog economy. These so-called “Social Darwinists” are a direct reflection of our flawed Darwninist economics, when in fact a genuine understanding of Darwinism would promote mutually co-operative, collectivistic approaches to society as opposed to domineering and competitive, hyper individualistic ones.

On the topic of our hyper individualistic society, we must also touch upon the vulgar idea that social ills such as climate change are our responsibility alone. It is a great travesty that a broad section of the movement in defense of our environment are hyper focused on the carbon footprint of an individual, while largely turning a blind eye to forces such as the U.S. Armed Forces, that pollute more than most countries.

march of climate change would still go on, though at a slower pace. This is sadly yet another instance of the societal machinery turning us against each other to distract from the atrocities it carries out before our very eyes. All these individual milestones can accomplish is help an individual feel a wee bit less guilty about the world crumbling in around them, giving them the opportunity to cough out the phrase, “It wasn't my fault,” just before they succumb to the smog and fires that are consuming everyone else around them.

So, to finally answer our question, who stands to gain from self blame? Simply put, those who dictate our society, along with those who stand to gain from society continue to be dictated in the same manner. Inversely, we who do not get to steer the direction of society lose out, both economically and psychologically. With all the above being said, the entire liberal basis of philosophy is rooted to this idea of the sacred power of the individual, ergo we must completely break with such a philosophy if we want to be able to change both our society and ourselves in a total and holistic way. We must both uphold our individual agency to ruthlessly criticize existing society as well as joining together in mass, collective action to create a society in which the broad masses guide themselves, as opposed to some elite cartel standing above them, whether on the basis of divine right, property rights or party membership.

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The Allegheny Penny Dreadfuls

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The history and haunting of Odd Fellows

By SYDNEY EMERSON
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After being practically shuttered from college activity for almost two years, Oddfellows Hall sits as an enigma at the top of North Main Street. The building, which always had a mysterious and imposing presence, has only become more so in its lack of activity — sparking the curiosity of students and faculty alike.

First opened as an orphanage in 1874, the original Odd Fellows Home — which sat on the spot that Oddfellows Hall now sits — was the first fraternal orphans’ home in the world. The house was originally a farmhouse that was converted to fit the Odd Fellows’ needs. In 1875, some of the first residents were admitted. The home grew to house more and more widows and orphans each year until the farmhouse became too crowded, and additions were built in 1897, 1900, 1904 and 1918.

After the number of orphans under the Odd Fellows’ care inflated to 120, discussions about a brand-new facility began. As “Odd Fellows Home of Western Pennsylvania Building History” by Judith Ireland states, the new building was designed with the intention of being a “self-sufficient village.” Among the planned amenities of the 1925 structure were housing, laundry, a gym, a pool, a workshop, a chapel and a bakery.

That new Odd Fellows Home, which was unveiled with fanfare in 1926, is what is now known as Oddfellows Hall. For a while, the home thrived. Odd Fellows lodges

from around northwest Pennsylvania were tasked with the upkeep of residential rooms and rose to the challenge. The residents of the home learned to be self-sufficient and responsible through their daily chores, which included cleaning, cooking, yard work and contributing to farming on Limber Road.

Almost 50 years after taking up residence in the brand-new Odd Fellows Home, financial trouble led the orphanage to shut down. At the time of this 1972 shuttering, the home had given shelter to over 1200 children.

The Odd Fellows had a building without a purpose, and for the next couple of decades, the Odd Fellows Home housed a variety of community-based programs that matched their mission of aiding children in the local area. However, it was becoming clear that the building needed a dedicated purpose. Enter: Allegheny College.

Allegheny had failed to purchase the land that the original Odd Fellows Home sat on, and subsequently failed to purchase the land during the era between the demolition of the old home and the construction of the new facility. After several years of interest in the late 90s, the property was sold to Allegheny in 2001 under a long list of conditions and agreements between the college and the Odd Fellows.

For the past 20 years, Oddfellows Hall has been home to the English and Philosophy & Religious Studies departments. In that time, faculty and students alike have observed strange phenomena within the walls of the former



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

Oddfellows Hall was originally opened in 1874 as an orphanage. The college acquired the property in 2001. Some faculty and students claim to have witnessed strange paranormal phenomenon within the building that houses English and Philosophy & Religious Studies.

orphanage. It was not long before rumors — not to mention potential evidence — of haunting started coming to light.

“I was sitting in my office on the second floor of Odd Fellows Hall. The same student walked by and a book flew off my shelf.”

—MATTHEW FERRENCE
Professor and Chair of English,
Allegheny College

“The first year I was here, I was teaching a nonfiction workshop in Oddfellows Hall and a student came in a little bit late,” said Professor and

Chair of the English Department Matthew Ferrence. “I said ‘You’ve scared the ghosts’ and the door slammed behind him. Later that afternoon, I was sitting in my office on the second floor of Oddfellows Hall. The same student walked by and a book flew off my shelf.”

Ferrence went on to explain that, while he is unsure if he believes in ghosts, he has since investigated what may be haunting Oddfellows Hall. After consulting with a colleague — Professor of English John Miller — he believes it is possible that, if Oddfellows is haunted, it may not be a regular spirit wandering the halls, but rather a poltergeist attached to the energy of the young former residents of the orphanage. Other faculty have reported that their office lights turn on and off without

warning or human interference — a harmless yet unsettling prank that is a classic sign of poltergeist activity.

There have been other strange occurrences in Oddfellows, too.

“The (haunting) in Oddfellows was this one very thin wall,” Jaedon Williford, ’22 said of his paranormal experiences in the Philosophy & Religious Studies wing. “There was an extreme chainsaw sound and bumping sound that would come from that specific wall. It would just happen every single night, every time I was in there.”

The long and intriguing history of Oddfellows Hall certainly serves as fodder for any enthusiastic ghost hunter at Allegheny College. But are the rumors true? Does the eerily silent Oddfellows Hall lend itself to paranormal

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—JAEDON WILLIFORD
Class of 2022

activity or simply increased paranoia? Are the ghosts echoes of humanity or merely human constructs?

For Halloween, The Campus assembled a team of ghost hunters to investigate the supposed haunting of Oddfellows Hall. Head to Instagram @ac_campus to watch the recap of our paranormal investigation.

Summer on the Cuyahoga internship accepting students

By MO MANSOUR
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372,624 people call Cleveland, Ohio home, making it the 54th most populous city in the United States. It hosts a variety of attractions including the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Cuyahoga River, which has caught on fire a number of 13 times.

Cleveland also hosts the Summer on the Cuyahoga internship program, an internship and immersion program for college students.

“Art to aerospace, and everything in between,” is how Jim Fitch, Director of Career Education, described the range of internship opportunities available to those who

“(Summer on the Cuyahoga offers internships in) art to aerospace, and everything in between.”

apply and are accepted.

“Every single (SOTC) internship is paid, so students are paid,” Fitch said. “Housing is provided. It’s a wraparound program so this is truly an internship program where not only are students completing the work, but there are professional development seminars. There are recreational events, so one weekend students might be going to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, another weekend they might be going to a professional baseball game and another weekend they might be going to the lake. So lots of recreational opportunities, as well as professional development. Students will have basically a buffet of opportunities.”

With Cleveland having so

many opportunities for professional and career development in a multitude of fields, such as internships with the aforementioned Cleveland Museum of Art as well as NASA, which has a large research center in Cleveland.

Summer On The Cuyahoga runs from June to August and accepts students from several colleges, mainly in Ohio, such as Denison, Ohio Wesleyan, Oberlin and now Allegheny. Allegheny was accepted into the program by unanimous decision by the SOTC Board of Directors, after a nearly year long process by the college to become a part of the program. The program was brought to the College’s attention by alumnus Sean Ward, ’89, who also paid the fee that is required for the school to join the program.

The alumni connection is a major part of the program, with alumni in the Cleveland area acting as a support system for students who spend their summer in the program.

“Each student will have at least one, and hopefully two, members of our Cleveland

alumni connected to them and basically serving as a family away from home,” said Sara Pineo, Senior Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement, who spearheaded Allegheny’s joining of SOTC. “They’ll be the person to take you out for coffee and check in with you. There’s already a built-in community structure that will be there.”

Allegheny has an alumni regional chapter in Cleveland with 1,300 alumni in the Cleveland area available to help and support students who are accepted into the program, with the alumni volunteers acting as a bridge between the student and the city they will occupy for the summer.

Joining SOTC is not the only step toward professional development for students and encouraging greater alumni relations that Allegheny has taken recently. Over the summer the college rolled out the Gator2Gator website which allows students to directly reach out to alumni for the purposes of looking for internships and other pro-

“We firmly believe that students who are equipped with an education from Allegheny College are going to be key players in career markets and higher ed and other areas.”

—SARA PINEO
Senior Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement,
Allegheny College

fessional development. More endeavours like this are in the works, however the focus on career preparedness is not meant to take away from Allegheny’s ethos as a liberal arts institution.

“We’re definitely not moving away from our liberal arts strengths,” Pineo said. “We firmly believe that students who are equipped with an education at Allegheny College are going to be key players in career markets and higher ed and other areas. There’s going to be so many great opportunities for those individuals.

The housing will be provided by Case Western Reserve University as well as Cleveland State University, which is meant to allow students to get to know one another and

network with not only professionals and alumni, but also other students — an emphasis of the program.

The internship will allow five students from Allegheny to participate this year, with each student being able to work at the place of their choosing. While there is a fee to participate, that fee will be recouped within the first week of the internship.

The multitude of opportunities presented by this program have only just begun to be revealed with more information coming out as summertime approaches. There will be an information session for interested students on Nov. 4 as well as a visit from the head of the program in December.

Campus women’s groups chip away at ‘glass ceiling’

By **CLARISSA MILLER**
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In 2019, women only held 28% of managerial positions in the workplace — the same number as in 1995 — according to the United Nations. Although drastic improvements have been made for the empowerment of women throughout the years, there is still no crack in the proverbial glass ceiling.

According to the United Nations Population Fund, the four changes that have defined the last 10 years of women’s rights movements have been the amplification of women’s voices, contraceptive choice, less-rigid gender roles and commitment to change. However, the UNPF finished the article stating that things have improved but “the greatest achievements lie ahead.” Empowering local communities creates a future of strong

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A lot of (women) feel inferior because of societal pressures saying that they can’t do it and so I hope to build more of a support network for them.”

—MAYA GINTER-FRANKOVICH Class of 2022

women who will continue to benefit the communities they are a part of for the rest of their lives.

As stated by Nancy A. Naples and Manisha Desai in their book “Women’s Activism and Globalization: Linking Local Struggles and Global Politics,” “women around the world are also helping to empower the next generation of women activists who will build on the valuable foundation laid by the foremothers.”

Multiple organizations on Allegheny College’s campus — Black Girl Magic, Why Not Us?, Women in Business and Economics and Women in STEM — seek to empower women on campus in meaningful ways.

Black Girl Magic’s goal is “to engage in the holistic development of Women of Color, Black Girl Magic will connect its ideals to support, grow, and bond together through four principle tenets: civic, academic, personal, and social,” according to BGM’s website.

Kabang “KB” Nyarsuk, ’24, a board member of BGM, emphasized how important BGM has been in creating a safe place for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, specifically Black women, on campus.

“Empowerment means a lot of things,” Nyarsuk said. “It means coming together, supporting each other — whether through fun things

(or) interrelations.”

Nyarsuk explained that BGM has created a network for BIPOC to have those social interactions as well as creating a safe space for people to share their stories and be supported.

Why Not Us is an organization on campus that provides sexual assault awareness and is working on cultivating a consent culture on campus. Although Why Not Us is an organization that does not work solely with women, one in five women on college campuses will be sexually assaulted, according to the Office on Women’s Health, making sexual assault awareness an important issue in the empowerment of women. Recently, a sexual assault occurred on the University of Nebraska Lincoln campus involving the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. In solidarity with the victims of that incident, president and public relations chair of Why Not Us, Bree Gray, ’23, paired with Allegheny’s Pi chapter of Phi Gamma Delta. Why Not Us and Fiji spent three days spreading awareness about sexual assault, giving out information about local resources and signing consent pledge cards.

“The brothers of Phi Gamma Delta were extremely great to work with,” Gray said. “It’s really just the start of working collaboratively with other organizations on Allegheny’s campus.”

In the future, the organization is hoping to continue campus-wide collaboration and amplify voices to the campus community.

The amplification of voices is not a trait exclusive to the organization Why Not Us. The Women in Business and Economics Club as well as Women in STEM take a stand against the silencing of women in male dominated areas of academia. Approximately 55% of all undergraduate students are women but only make up approximately 35% of Business and Economics majors — a statistic cited in the club’s goal. This is a statistic that stood out to Maya Ginter-Frankovich, ’22, co-founder and current president of the club.

“A few other students and I created this club in the hopes that this would start to even out the gender disparity within both the business and economics departments as well as give women more confidence to move through the school and into their careers,” Ginter-Frankovich said. “A lot of (women) feel inferior because of societal pressures saying that they can’t do it and so I hope to build more of a support network for them.”

The inspiration came from a visit Ginter-Frankovich took to the Women in Economics Symposium which is a yearly event that is hosted to inspire women around the country to investigate careers

in economics. The Women in Economics Symposium is an event at which female economists and professors from all over the country make an appearance and speak in panels about the future of women in economics, according to the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank.

Another abrupt statistic shows that only 28% of women make up the workforce in STEM fields, according to the American Association of University Women. The AAUW also stated that women are also discouraged, through male-dominated systematic education, away from studying STEM fields. The Women in STEM club at Allegheny creates a support system for women entering this male-dominated field. President and Vice President Abby Fields, ’22, and Kyrie Doniz, ’23, discussed how the organization has grown to be a safe place for women to share stories about both their accomplishments and struggles in the field.

“Being a woman in any STEM field is intimidating,” Doniz said. “Especially because we know that a lot of (those fields) tend to be male-dominated. Our club just attempts to bridge that gap in to empower women by providing both professional events and a fun community.”

Both of the organizations have stated their goals of empowering women to meet

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Empowerment means a lot of things. It means coming together, supporting each other — whether through fun things (or interrelations).”

—KABANG “KB” NYARSUK Class of 2024

their full potential at Allegheny both in the academic field and in their personal lives.

Just taking the glimpse of what Allegheny has to offer its women shows how impactful these organizations have been and will continue to be. As stated in the article, “Empowering Women is Smart Economics,” published by the International Monetary Fund, empowering women to create gender equality reaps benefits like enhanced economic productivity, improved development and more representative policies and institutions.

“When it comes to empowerment, particularly empowerment for females, a lot of what we are looking at is ways that we can uplift their voices,” Gray said. “We take the voices of those often ignored, whether it’s because of privilege or gender, and take those voices to amplify them on campus.”

Halloween Party at the Sycamore

By **JORDAN GREYNOLDS**
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The Sycamore returned to Reis Hall for a Halloween themed evening of drinks, food and music on Oct. 21.

Surrounded by spooky decor, attendees enjoyed festive drinks, such as caramel apple punch, and some even came dressed in costumes for the occasion.

For the monthly event’s second go-around, significant changes were made in order to create a more welcoming atmosphere to both staff and students.

“We were like, ‘this is more of a coffee shop vibe,’” Parkhurst Marketing Coordinator Daisy Rundio said. “We want more of an exciting and pub-like beat. We’re really hoping more students come throughout the night

as well. That’s really our goal so we brought in the DJ that was at late night breakfast and we’ll hopefully draw in more students instead of it being mostly faculty.”

The change in atmosphere was noticed by students.

“I wasn’t here last time but my friends said it was different from how it is today,” Jean-Arlette Legrand, ’24, said. “Obviously there’s a Halloween theme going on now that wasn’t here but I can tell they’ve tried to give the event an upbeat vibe.”

The Sycamore is still in its experimental phase and it has taken time for some people to get used to the idea of students and staff rubbing elbows while drinking alcoholic beverages together.

“The purpose of The Sycamore was to bring the campus together and I’m not sure why there’s hesitation about

that,” Director of Conference & Event Services Lynn McManness-Harlan said. “People seem apprehensive about the idea of students and faculty partying together. But it’s not partying, it’s just about making connections.”

McManness-Harlan has seen the value of student-faculty relationships in her past and hopes that others will get to experience it as well.

While attending a conference at Damon University a few years ago, McManness-Harlan was approached by a lady who overheard her name and where she was from. The lady asked if she knew Ed and upon McManness-Harlan’s response that Ed was her father, the lady began crying.

“I am where I am today because of how much your father helped me in college,” the woman said.



JORDAN GREYNOLDS/THE CAMPUS

Lynn McManness-Harlan and Deborah Simmons of Conference & Event Services pose in their hippie costumes. Above them hung a spider decoration made by student employees Peter Snipes, ’23, and Andre Wilder, ’24.

That help even extended beyond college as the woman told McManness-Harlan the story of how after losing her photographer for her wedding she called Ed. Despite recently having surgery he came and photographed the wedding for her.

Both of McManness-Harlan’s parents taught in colleges and would meet students at the local pub, where the setting allowed for a sense of equity amongst student and staff and fostered real connections.

“After my father had passed, Gretchen Beck was at a conference and she told me that they honored my dad and the person who put it together was a college student who worked with him in the 70s.”

As Allegheny College attempts to boost school spirit, The Sycamore offers an alternative form of school spirit than what most are used to.

“I think it’s really important to think about school spirit in a different way from just being about athletics,” McManness-Harlan said. “The Sycamore promotes a different kind of school spirit where we’re interconnected and meeting different people.”

The Sycamore will continue to undergo changes as the staff works to find the sweet spot between party and an intimidating networking event.

“We are always looking for student input on what they would like to see at The Sycamore,” Vice President of Finance and Administration

Courtney Hild said. “They can reach out to me specifically at child@allegheny.edu, Stephanie Lang from Parkhurst at slang@allegheny.edu or through our Instagram page @thesycamoreac.”

The pop-up pub is expected to return again in November and according to McManness-Harlan, you never know who you might meet there until you go.

“So who knows, you might meet the person who’s going to take the pictures at your wedding or someone who will guide you on a career path in a direction you wouldn’t have considered,” McManness-Harlan said. “That’s why I think The Sycamore is important to have on campus.”



JORDAN GREYNOLDS/THE CAMPUS

Reis Hall underwent a spooky makeover for a Halloween themed Sycamore event. T-shirts and festive beverages are available for purchase in the center of the room.

Inaugurual 5K raises money for St. Jude

By ADAM COHEN
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On Sunday, Oct. 24, Allegheny hosted its first Up ‘til Dawn 5K run. The program is part of Student Involvement and Leadership at Allegheny. The nationwide organization has the goal of raising money and awareness for St. Jude’s and childhood cancer.

Through rainy and chilly weather, 15 runners competed in Allegheny’s cross country course over the weekend. Sami Mirza, ’24, won the race with a 21:36 mark. His average mile time was a tad under seven minutes long. The fastest female runner, Marrin Crist, ’25 came in fourth place with a 23:30 run time.

Mirza expressed how thrilled he was after his first place finish.

“I never won any races except for time trials in practice (in high school),” Mirza said. “It was surreal that on this rainy day at a race that was not the biggest race you’ll ever see, but it was a lot more about people getting out there, running, jogging with their friends and enjoying the space that I was able to win my first race.”

Mirza illustrated why comfortability was a factor to his resolve to run the race.

“It was a local campus event,” Mirza said. “I suppose I could have gone to try to find a 5K in Meadville or in the surrounding area if I wanted to but it was an Allegheny event right up at Robertson on a weekend. It was pretty accessible and so I thought it would be the perfect thing for me to do.”

Blake Neiderlander, ’24, a runner in the race and an executive board member of Up “til Dawn, explained why he decided to participate in the race.

“I know that I love to run when I can, not to compete but if it’s for a good cause I am happy to race,” Neiderlander said.



Photo contributed by Sami Mirza

The participants from Allegheny’s first Up ‘til Dawn 5K on Sunday, Oct. 24 munch on some post-race snacks after going through the cross country course on Robertson Athletic Complex.

Neiderlander also mentioned how his background as a runner, and coming from an athletic family led him to the 5K race.

“I have an older sibling that is also very athletic,” Neiderlander said. “That kind of competing or the enjoyment of competing against each other, whether that was biking or running, has led me to enjoy the hobby of running now.”

Overall, Neiderlander is happy that he had fun during the event despite the rough conditions.

“We lucked out because the rain held off, so that was great,” Neiderlander said. “It was cold but I would do it again in a heartbeat. It was a good time. I think a lot of people that did show up enjoyed the race. We were slipping and sliding there a few times going down the hill or trying to turn up the hill, but other than that it was a good time.”

Genevieve Feltmeyer, ’24, spoke similarly about how she felt good about running in difficult conditions.

“It was definitely muddy, but the mud honestly made it really fun,” Feltmeyer said. “It was en-

joyable, even though it was really sloppy outside.”

Feltmeyer, who finished in 13th place with a run time of 37:27, described why she signed up for the event.

“I am actually a part of the cross country team, so I know the part that we ran pretty well,” Feltmeyer said. “My friend Blake (Neiderlaner) actually recruited me and he was one of the people running the 5K.”

Several Allegheny student-athletes clashed in the inaugural meet. Marrin Crist, ’25, and Elizabeth Teufel, ’24 are teammates with Felymeyer on the cross country team. Additionally, Anthony Ennis, ’23 is a cheerleader, Jacob Budnar, ’22 plays baseball and Olivia Ave, ’24 is on the women’s swimming and diving team.

The turnout from Allegheny athletics bodes well for future Up “til Dawn events. Besides the students affiliated with sports teams on campus, other students are curious about when the next race will take place.

Based upon the donations and enthusiasm about the event, Emily Jones, ’22, the President of Up

‘til Dawn at Allegheny College, has faith that there will be more races in the near future.

“From this event we raised \$160, so the executive committee (of Up “til Dawn) had a lot of people asking if we are going to have another (meet) in the spring, or if this will be an annual thing,” Jones said. “We are expecting to have more participants next time, so I’m really excited about that.”

Jones attributed the success of the event to Hailey Stabile ’23, the events and logistics director of Up “til Dawn.

“Haley was really the one who took the lead on this (campaign),” Jones said. “Her dad is actually one of the people that can time the races since he does it professionally. He volunteered his time and was willing to come up to (Allegheny) and do that for us.”

For those that are interested in learning more about Up “til Dawn or wanting to take part in future events, you can reach out to Emily Jones at jonese2@allegheny.edu.

Swim and dive hosts competitive home-opener

By JAKE PETTI
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The Allegheny men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams hosted Grove City College on Saturday, Oct. 23 in the first home meet of their fall season. The men lost a close match, 145-135, while the women tied their future Presidents’ Athletic Conference rival 142-142.

On the men’s side, the Gators were led by Gavin Stuckey, ’25, and Pierre Jaeggi, ’23, who each had two individual first place finishes before teaming up to earn a first place in the 200 medley relay. Jaeggi also earned first place in the 200 freestyle relay. Individually, Stuckey won both the 100 and 200 Freestyle events, while Jaeggi won in the 100 and 200 Butterfly events.

In the women’s meet, Katya Pryshchenko, ’25, Ariana Clark, ’23, Maggie Baham, ’23, Maggie Bilquin, ’23, Hannah Tonsmann, ’23, and Sadie Brown, ’22, each earned first place in an individual event in the full team effort. Brown shined with a pair of individual first place finishes as well as two in relay events. Clark and Tonsmann also captured first in relay events as Clark earned one and Tonsmann earned two.

Head coach Max Niggel remarked on the added energy his team felt to be competing at home for the first time this academic year, as well as the toughness his team showed in the meet.

“We had a great time, the atmosphere on the deck was great, the swims were good, people rose to the occasion and did what they could,” Niggel said. “At the end of the day, sometimes the numbers just don’t fall in your favor, but they handled that pressure very well, and they still came together as a team and put forth an awesome effort.”

Jaeggi added that he saw this meet as a building block for the team as they continue to strengthen their relationships as the season progresses.

“This last meet I really felt that the team came together, we were all cheering each other on for every event,” Jaeggi said. “We all tried our best, it was really awesome, everyone came out of the pool, they were all proud and that was great to see.”

The home opener from the Gators came one week after their season opener at the Clarion Fall Classic. There, Allegheny matched up against Clarion University and Grove City to begin their competitive season. The men finished second in their first meet scoring 327.5 points while the women finished third with 410.5 points.

As it was the first of their season, the Gators looked to use the Clarion Fall Classic as a way to get back into competition after having just one meet all season last year. Moreover, the team was able to get back into the water to work towards new personal record times.

“

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—MAX NIGGEL
Head Coach of
Swimming and Diving,
Allegheny College

Niggel mentioned the extra effort it was going to take for his swimmers to get back to mid-season form.

“We just need more practice with getting into the rhythm of competing weekly on top of our weekly grind and all the things they have to balance academically,” Niggel said.

This rhythm mentioned by Niggel is seen as a major factor for the team, however the swimmers are confident in themselves and their teammates, and do not see much room for improvement among the team.

Jaeggi remarked on this, as well as the high energy of the team and how special that was this early in the season.

“I think we have a great team atmosphere, we are all coming together, we are all cheering each other on,” Jaeggi said. “I can’t really find much to change.”

Clark mentioned that the most important thing the team can do now is continue to bond and form strong relationships.

“More practice, more team bonding and just getting in the water is going to help us improve,” Clark said.

As their fall season continues the Gators look to improve their times before the winter when their conference schedule begins. After a year with only one total meet, the team is ready to show their conference rivals what they can do come February.

Furthermore the team is excited to be competing at all this season as well as training towards a common goal.

Niggel spoke on his team’s resilience and how thankful his team is to be able to compete for the Gators again.

“We are in a really good position and we’re getting back to having meets and having a normal season,” Niggel said. “We’re swimming fast and having fun while doing it and we’re just really appreciative to have a full season and train again for regular season meets.”

Looking ahead for the Gators, both the men and women will be hosting another future PAC rival in Saint Vincent College on Friday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m. This meet will take place at the Mellon Pool in the David V. Wise Center. Gator fans can watch the team take on the Saint Vincent Bearcats through GatorTV on the Allegheny athletics website.

Field hockey wins 3-2 against Wooster

Gators win conference, to face Ohio Wesleyan

By SAMI MIRZA
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The women’s field hockey team lines up for the national anthem on Tuesday, Oct. 26.



Becca Winton, ’23 clashes with a player from Wooster. Allegheny won Tuesday’s contest 3-2.



Hallie Reiger, ’23 climbs the later to block a goal attempt. Reiger had six saves to help Allegheny improve to 8-8 on the season.