

The Campus

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Meadville, Pennsylvania
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ASG plans presidential election

By **ANTON HODGE**
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Allegheny Student Government opened this week with reports from committee followed by announcement of several events to come.

Cabinet Reports:

Director of Finance Dominic Juliana, '27, reported a large week for the finance committee with 10,347.51 in spending. The largest request once again came from the Outing Club, with a \$3000 charge in funding for a "Wilderness first aid certification trip." Close behind was the United States Institute for Theatre Technology with \$2,925.50 for their club's travel to a conference.

Director of Diversity and Inclusion Ka-

leialoha Froning, '25, gave the dates and times for Indigenous programming this week:

Friday at noon, an Indigenous menu lunch at the Allegheny Art Gallery.

From 1 to 6 p.m. on Friday, various programming, including presentations on lacrosse, corn-husk doll-making, beadwork, environmental justice and finally storytelling/language.

Co-Director of Student Affairs, Ben Keefer, '27, reported the process for stocking more pads in bathrooms was underway.

Attorney General Chezka Quinola, '27, in absentia, submitted the timeline for the upcoming presidential campaign and election. Candidates must submit all required documents to the Student Government Office (room 316, Henderson Campus Center) or email said materials to Quinola.

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IDEAS Center & A5 celebrate Lunar New Year



TESS BURSIC/THE CAMPUS

A5 hosted its annual Lunar New Year event in the Henderson Campus Center Lobby on Tuesday Feb. 11, featuring a traditional Chinese lion dance.

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WHYY shares Allegheny research on local health departments

By **PAIGE KAGENI**
Staff Writer
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A public health study by Associate Professor of Biology Becky Dawson and her students was recently covered by WHYY, an affiliate of National Public Radio. The study, titled "Differences in community health outcomes in counties with and without health departments in Pennsylvania," was originally published by Springer Nature on Dec. 30. The study focused on public health departments and their significance in making Pennsylvanians healthier, finding that counties without a public health department had poorer health outcomes.

"The researchers also emphasize that all

the local health departments in Pennsylvania are in urban counties," the article stated.

"Rural communities without health departments already lack access to health care, compared to urban communities."

Dawson's curiosity about the importance of health departments in dispersing information for illnesses began with the COVID-19 pandemic. As Americans across the country were told to listen to their health departments on what to do to protect themselves, Crawford County's lack of a department left Meadville residents struggling with securing tests, vaccines and personal protective equipment. This gave her and her team the idea to conduct an epidemiological study: comparing the 11 counties that do

have a health department with the 56 counties that don't.

"As expected, we also found that the rural counties in Pennsylvania had worse health outcomes, and that's kind of known across the United States," Dawson said. "Rural communities lack access to care. They have usually higher rates of adverse behavioral effects, so more obesity, more, unfortunately, gun use, those sorts of things."

The team assembled information from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute and the U.S. Census to find differences in rural and urban counties. The team also controlled for which counties had the most individuals with health insurance and

median age, all which were impacted on whether the county had a health department.

"I think the big thing that we saw was that — we literally called it a 'Double Whammy' in the paper — was that all the counties in Pennsylvania that don't have a local health department were also rural," Dawson said. "So they were kind of this double whammy where they didn't have a health department and were dealing with, kind of, the rural consequences."

Biology major Sara Karns, '25, was one of the researchers who helped with the study. She hopes that this research will be recognized nationally and will allow for more counties in Pennsylvania to open public health departments.

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In this week's Campus...

EAGLES WIN THE SUPER BOWL

Staff Writer Anton Hodge, '27, details the Philadelphia Eagles' triumph over the Kansas City Chiefs.

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VALENTINES DAY THOUGHTS

Staff Writer Jay Shank, '28, shares her opinion on dating and relationships in the modern age.

Page 4

SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER

Opinion Editor Emma Conti-Windle, '27, relays her experience going to see Punxsutawney Phil predict the weather.

Page 5

FRIDAY



H: 27° L: 22°
Snow: 1%
Sunrise: 7:18 a.m.
Sunset: 5:53 p.m.

SATURDAY



H: 36° L: 33°
Snow: 93%
Sunrise: 7:16 a.m.
Sunset: 5:54 p.m.

SUNDAY



H: 39° L: 6°
Snow: 60%
Sunrise: 7:15 a.m.
Sunset: 5:55 p.m.

Ask Allegheny

If you are already in a committed relationship with someone, do you have to ask them to be your valentine?



Left: Dyllan Mbane, '26
Major: Economics
Minor: Data Science

“For sure, yes. I just think it’s, like the standard.”



Left: Amber Escobar, '27
Major: Community and Justice Studies
Minor: Education

“Yes...because you have to.”



Left: Zack Wyse, '25
Major: Economics
Minor: Philosophy

“I don’t think so. I believe it’s a given.”



Left: Max Psaros, '28
Major: Business

“Yes.”



Left: Gina Cidera, '25
Major: Psychology
Minor: Education

“Yes. It’s just something. It’ll make them feel good. You know, keep the spark.”



Left: Gianna Schmidt, '26
Major: Biology
Minor: Psychology

“Yes, of course. I just feel like if you’re in a relationship, then you should automatically ask them to be your valentine.”



Left: Kaylan Parker, '25
Major: History
Minor: Communications

“Yes. It’s about the romance...about the effort.”



Left: Evie Ellenberger, '26
Major: Biochemistry
Minors: Psychology and Music

“I would say yes just to make it more romantic.”

HEALTH *from page 1*

“I think it’s a really great first step. I don’t think that the research will be accomplished until it’s noticed and kind of prosecuted,” Karns said. “If we can see that there are better outcomes for local health departments, then we need to have a local health department at every county.”

This research comes at a significant time for public health in the United States. Robert J. Kennedy Jr., a controversial figure known for his dismissal of the COVID-19 vaccine, has moved ahead in his confirmation hearings to become the Secretary of Health. This also comes as reputable health information

websites such as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Atlas Tool, which tracks rates of infectious diseases, had pages removed at the behest of the Trump administration. This worries Dawson and Karns, who wonder why the information can’t be published.



Rural communities lack access to care. They have usually higher rates of adverse behavioral effects, so more obesity, more, unfortunately, gun use, those sorts of things.”

“I’ve kind of been in a state of mind of ‘Let’s just wait and see, let’s just wait and see what happens,’” Karns said. “Maybe it will be temporary, which doesn’t make it ok, but I’m trying not to get too fearful yet.”

Dawson has fears specifically that her field will be erased if these actions contin-

ue. She’s grateful that she can still publish her research at Allegheny with students and her peers, but hopes stories and data are still widely available for analysis.

“Websites came down and now we know that our colleagues at other places are not going to have the freedom to publish the work that needs to be done to understand the health problems we’re facing,” Dawson said. “So, I do think that those of us that have the academic freedom have the responsibility to really dig in and to do the work because the research can’t stop.”

—BECKY DAWSON
Associate Professor of Biology

ASG *from page 1*

For Students:

If at least three tickets are declared, primary elections will be held via google form from 9 a.m. on March 14, through 9 p.m. on March 17.

A presidential debate between the two tickets will be held March 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Quigley Hall auditorium

Elections will be held via Google form

from March 19 to 28 and via tabling in the Campus Center from March 19 to March 21.

Class Senate Reports:

Class of 2025 representative Akari Brown reported an event is planned for the end of March. Additionally, senior week planning around catering continues.

Class of 2026 representative Iris Styers reported the class would be tabling in the

Campus Center from 11 a.m. to noon in combination with the class of 2027. Additionally, Junior Appreciation Week planning is underway.

Class of 2027 representative Liam Shields reported ongoing planning for the volleyball event and would request students come by the table in the campus center for Valentine’s Day in combination with the 2026 class.

Class of 2028 representative George Asante reported upcoming administrative meetings.

Student Government Advisor and Dean of Student Life Trae Yeckley requested that everyone wear appropriate attire in consideration of the weather.

SPORTS EDITORIAL

Philadelphia Eagles win Super Bowl

By **ANTON HODGE**

Staff Writer
hodge01@allegheny.edu

The Super Bowl of the 2024-2025 NFL season ended 40-22 in favor of the Philadelphia Eagles.

It never even felt close.

To summarize the factors that led to the outcome. A polished, well oiled defense, highlight-reel producing offense and photogenic football product™ (now sponsored

by DraftKings) took the field against a real, NFC East-grown, football team that got there by playing some real ground game-based, pound-the-rock-football. Thank you, by the way, New York Giants, I’m sure you had a great season with Daniel Jones this year.

The scorecard at the end said “40-22,” but I think the score most viewers remember is “40-6,” the score the Eagles led by as the fourth quarter began. The Kansas City Chiefs, 1.5 point favorites, had less yardage to that point than Kendrick Lamar. The Chiefs were penalized multiple times, had no answer to the Eagles offense and could not stop Patrick Mahomes from being pressured.

Mahomes was sacked six times, pressured constantly and all without the Eagles calling

a single blitz all night. The Eagles only had to put four guys up front, and Mahomes folded like a bag under actual D-line pressure. Eagles Defensive Coordinator Vic Fangio put up a defensive masterclass, due in large part to never needing to stock more than four guys in the trenches. The Eagles leaned on Cover 4 in the secondary for the entire game to completely shut down any air offensives.



It is a time-honored tradition for the city of Philadelphia to riot, win or lose. I respect it, I really do think American football needs that kind of culture in more places.”

—ANTON HODGE
Class of 2027

The plan was to never let Mahomes throw the deep ball, entirely deny the splash plays and leave two guys up close and personal in the secondary to make interceptions happen or bat down balls. The Eagles kept a 38.1% pressure rate on Mahomes without blitzing a single time. The secondary coverage, the run game prevent, the core of this game was decided in the trenches like most football should be.

Mahomes, welcome to the Sam Howell experience buddy. Being intercepted twice

and run over in the Super Bowl is a rough way to lose the three-peat. Unfortunately, a meteor did not hit the field and someone had to win so, the Eagles had to. Theoretically, this would put the Eagles in the “hero” role of the story, but no, “protagonist” will do fine. I’m a Commanders fan so I know for most people the Eagles are just a random team, but I’m not rooting for them, end of story. I mean, credit where credit’s due, they’re better than the Dallas Cowboys, but that’s because, one, it’s the Cowboys, and two, the Eagles can respect a union and I got standards.

I don’t have that much commentary for the Eagles offense or the Kansas City defense, because that’s not where the game was decided. It was pivotal — Kansas City got out-coached, out-played and out-footballed on both sides of the ball — but the real fact of the matter is that the Eagles won because they have the best defense in the league.

The Eagles of course, participated in their ritual of recreating the street safety record of Jin Roh regardless of winning or losing in the playoffs. It is a time-honored tradition for the city of Philadelphia to riot, win or lose. I respect it; I really do think American football needs that kind of culture in more places.

The Eagles took a great victory against the

corporate empire. Really, if anything convinced me why I should root for the Chiefs to lose this year, it was seeing Mahomes’ and Andy Reid’s faces literally everywhere. Bundleruuuwsskiiiiii bundleruskiiiiii. Mahomes was in literally hundreds of ads on official NFL broadcasts. According to iSpot, Mahomes was in 423 ads, literally double the amount of some entire team’s players. The representative avatar of State Farm and nine other brands got run over for sixty minutes on the field this Super Bowl, that’s why I can deal with the Eagles winning the thing. The most-sponsored player in the league, the most shoved in the audience’s face. With the NFL pushing sports gambling and private equity ownership while refusing to fix basic officiating and league office issues, the choice to root against Patrick Ma(mmon) homes was pretty easy.

In short, a great evil was felled by the hands of another great evil. But the Eagles are a homegrown kind of evil. An earnest evil. A plague upon America that smiles with glee. When push comes to shove, I’d rather have the Super Bowl winners be the guys who eat horse feces than lawyers, sponsors and bandwagoners.

Thank you, Eagles. Now respectfully, never win another game again.

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CORRECTIONS

In the article “ASG recognizes two clubs, denies another,” from the Feb. 7, 2025 edition of The Campus, a quote from Oliver Schneider was missattributed to Aubryanna Snyder.

CRIME BLOTTER

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

February 7, 2025

Investigation

McKinley’s Dining Hall

Pending Investigation

THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

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Love is simple. So why did dating get so complex?

By **JAY SHANK**
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Recently, I was walking to McKinley’s with a close friend of mine. I asked her about her relationship — she’s engaged — and how it started, because my own love life was looking pretty bad for the unforeseeable future. What I thought was most interesting about our conversation was how she and her fiancé defined their relationship at the beginning.

“We were dating,” she said. But, they weren’t officially committed to each other, so I was confused. How were they dating when they weren’t girlfriends? I had a revelation that night: that the modern version of “dating” is not only completely different but unnecessarily complicated.

The truth is that they were dating because they were going on dates. But now, we call that a “situationship.” I referred to a girl I was flirting with as a “talking phase.” When my friend explained to me that night that she and her now-fiancé were literally just dating, my entire view of my own love life changed completely.

Nowadays, relationships and dating have become so overcomplicated that it’s honestly hard to avoid the negative self-talk if you’re not talking to multiple people at once. Not only is there so much stigma around wanting to settle down with one person, but you can’t just be dating someone. Instead, if they’re not your situationship or just a phase, then that automatically equates to being committed forever. The worst of it is that if you don’t find yourself in any of those categories, then

you’re a ho, and that’s that.

The most confusing part of it all is that you can’t date to marry someone without being called a loser and you also can’t date for fun without being a ho, and there’s no inbetween. Throw in a mix of homophobia, sexism and racism, and then it’s just impossible to date anyone altogether. But, if you’re



not dating anyone — or at least talking to someone — then you’re unlovable.

I guess I’m wondering why there are so many new stipulations to love. A couple years ago, if you were dating someone, that was it. But now, there’s all these new terms and conditions to dating that no one can truly master, and no matter what you do

someone has an issue with it. If love is what drives out hate, why are we so controlling over what love looks like for different people?

The weirdest bit is that everyone has to be dating someone. If I walk down the street with my friend who is a man, we must be dating — even though I’m a lesbian and he

intimate relationships only and it’s impossible to just be friends with someone.

This Valentine’s Day I want to express my love for my friends and not feel weird about it. I want to be okay with the fact that I’m single and not feel ashamed for not having a girlfriend on the one day of the year where everyone’s supposed to have someone. I don’t have a Valentine and that’s okay! I love my friends and my family unconditionally and that’s enough for me.

I wish people were more open to loving each other, because love does not have to equal dating. I wish there were no such things as situationships and talking phases and that we could just like each other with no tribulations. I wish friends felt more inclined to tell each other they loved one another. I wish people didn’t feel ashamed of being single, or having a fling or wanting to settle down with someone forever.

If you’re like me this Valentine’s Day, I encourage you to take a walk around campus. Appreciate the love around you; it’s in the water people use to hydrate their plants, the giggles from friend groups as they pass, the snowman that sits outside Bentley Hall. Appreciate the sunlight and the fact that you’re alive. Call your friends and tell them you love them, because love knows no bounds. There will always be dogs on the sidewalk that will jump eagerly at the sight of you. Birds will always chirp for you in the early mornings of May.

This Valentine’s Day, remember that there is love all around you, and how lucky you are to be here to experience it.

Why The Beatles’ 2025 Grammy is so special

By **EVAN BELKIN**
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Over half a decade after the international superstars broke up, 44 years after the death of John Lennon and 23 years after the passing of George Harrison, The Beatles released their 2025 Grammy-winning song, “Now And Then.”

During the recent Grammy Awards ceremony on Feb. 2, The Beatles won their eighth Grammy Award, receiving nominations for record of the year and best rock performance, winning the latter of the two.

Because of the death of half of the members of the mid-20th century pop group, the recording of the new Grammy-nominated record was unlike any other.

The origin of the song is derived from an unreleased demo that the late Lennon made three years before his assassination in 1980. In 1994, the three living members at that time came together to work on three previous demos: “Free as a Bird,” “Real Love,” as well as “Now and Then,” releasing the first two in 1995 and “Now And Then” in November 2023.

“Free as a Bird” was quite successful, winning best music video, short form, as well as best pop performance by a duo or group with vocal at the 1997 Grammy Awards. In addition, the single peaked at number two on the UK Singles Chart and number six on the US Billboard Hot 100.

This newest song, however, was made differently from “Free as a Bird” and “Real Love.” While the earlier songs were really just continuations of the early demos, “Now and Then” was almost completely remade and reworked using McCartney and Starr’s current work as well as some help from ar-

tificial intelligence to smooth out Lennon’s vocals throughout the song.

Due to the subpar recording quality of Lennon’s demo, pulling the vocals out of the mix was not an easy task, especially with the technology that was available when the band initially revisited the demo in the mid-1990s.

With the many improvements to technology and AI over the past three decades, Lennon’s vocals were finally able to be cleanly separated from the piano in the raw demo, allowing the surviving Beatles to come together and finish their final song.

Harrison compiled some guitar parts prior to his death in 2001. In the newer recording sessions, McCartney played some guitar and added on to Harrison’s work.

Giles Martin, the son of famous Beatles producer George Martin, arranged a string



section for “Now and Then” reminiscent of some of their most famous songs like “Strawberry Fields Forever” and “Eleanor Rigby.”

All of these components coming together and creating a Grammy winning song is something that most likely will never happen again. A band with as much fame and status as The Beatles releasing a song that wins a Grammy decades after a break-up and the passing of two of their members is something that more people should be

talking about.

In addition to all of this, McCartney called “Now and Then” the “the last Beatles song.” For around three generations, The Beatles have been around in some capacity, but it seems now their time is finally coming to a close. There are not many bands left with the illustrious career and impressive resume that The Beatles have, so it’s very important to acknowledge the impact that they are leaving behind, both musically, as well as socially.

Musically, the boys from Liverpool changed the way songs and albums were recorded, piloting the use of 4-track recording in 1963. They also combined multiple genres of their era, including rock ’n roll, skiffle, folk, jazz, blues and show tunes, making their music more appealing to any demographic. And even when it seemed the band was done revolutionizing music, they made

one final bang with “Now and Then,” making them one of the first major bands to use AI in assistance to making music.

Socially, they completely took the world by storm in every facet of their being. The Beatles became a staple of teenage culture in the

60s and brought the idea of rebellion to the younger generation. The Beatles would transform the fashion of the 1960s with their collarless suits and unique haircuts.

They were also big believers and essential to many racial equality movements, anti-war protests and other peace-led principles. Their contributions and choice to be vocal on these topics led to other young people becoming more socially active.

With this latest achievement by The Beatles, it’s important to realize how special this Grammy is and how spectacular their career has been. Their latest Grammy became their eighth all-time, they revolutionized music, transformed a generation and now they have potentially made a big leap in music with AI. The Beatles’ careers have been truly special and now is the perfect time to talk about their multi-generational impact.

Groundhog day: a Punxsutawney odyssey

By **EMMA CONTI-WINDLE**

Opinion Editor

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On the Thursday before Groundhog Day, while at lunch with my friends, I hatched a brilliant plan. This is a common occurrence for me. But this plan out brilliant-ed all of my previous brilliant plans because it involved me, a college kid, going on my first ever road trip in my own car, The Duchess, with my own boyfriend, my own little sister and my own friends. We were going to see Punxsutawney Phil, a meteorologist-groundhog worshipped by people, emerge from a burrow and predict the weather for the next six weeks.

The thing about being someone that makes brilliant plans all the time, is that when those plans don't go the exact way you imagined they would — they never do — you want to die. And the fact is, after I'd driven through the night to Punxsutawney, gotten on a school bus at a Walmart at 2:30 a.m., accidentally arrived at Gobbler's Knob four hours early with nothing more than one seventh of a meat stick and one bite of a long-form breakfast sandwich (sausage in a hot dog bun with egg and cheese) in my tummy, lost feeling in my toes and then walked two miles on frozen foot back to said Walmart, I did die. Rest in peace, me. But I've come back to life to share my story.

It has been a longtime goal of mine to live in a Bill Murray film, and since I am afraid of ghosts, not so great at golf and dabble in feel-good journalism, I thought that this was my best shot. I ended up only living through this day once, however, which was probably a good thing because about 67% of it was Hell on Earth. The other 33%, I am chalking up to valuable research, as I am currently taking

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She did end up forcing us to sing ‘The Wheels On The Bus’ with her until we reached Gobbler’s Knob two miles down the road.”

—EMMA CONTI-WINDLE
Class of 2027

an ethnography class, in which we are encouraged to fully immerse ourselves in potentially uncomfortable situations in order to understand people unlike ourselves in a detailed and complex way.

And so, like any good student would, I collected some field notes:

First I should describe one of the first people I met on my journey to see Phil: the drunken middle-aged woman whom I first noticed when she fell in the middle of the Walmart parking lot and then immediately started cackling, taking a swig of whatever mysterious juice she was drinking from



EMMA CONTI-WINDLE/THE CAMPUS
Numerous attendees dressed as groundhogs to honor Phil on Feb. 2.

an unmarked bottle. She was layered up and ready for action. We never caught her name, but she did end up forcing us to sing “The Wheels On The Bus” with her until we reached Gobbler’s Knob two miles down the road. I hoped she wouldn’t be embarrassed about her fall and almost everything else she did. She was loud, she was boisterous and to the lay-person her actions probably would’ve been jarring in the wee hours of the morning. But lay-people don’t go out and do things like this. They lay. It’s literally in their name. Besides, she kept telling us that this trip was on her bucket list and I was proud of her for crossing it off. Who knows? Maybe her Groundhog Day was but a small piece of a much larger journey, about which we will find out more in a biopic about her life in 20 years or so.

Drunk Lady wasn’t the only endearingly deranged encounter of the morning. The next friend I met was a police officer given the task of making sure no one burned to death around an otherwise unsupervised bonfire that continued to gain a crowd as more and more people showed up to Gobbler’s Knob. There was no fence or barrier around the fire. People could literally stand in the wood that waited to be burned. As more of a crowd accumulated, people began to push and shove, and for people like me, who assume that tragedy will follow us anywhere, it began to feel as though this fire was a horrible accident wanting to happen. The police officer seemed to be on my wavelength and gruffly called out, “Everyone, please! Phil wouldn’t want you to behave like this! Take 10 minutes maximum near the fire and then let someone else have a turn. Phil is a nice guy and would want you to be nice too! We are all friends of Phil’s here.” At first, I found this cute. Then just insane. But the newborn ethnographer in me knows not to judge, and instead just to note. And so I noted, and I tried to make sense. This event was about Phil. We were all here for Phil. So when things got borderline dangerous, and stampede-y, why couldn’t we look to Phil for guidance on the correct way to act? In this case, the correct way to act was to not let thy neighbor freeze to death, yet not push thy neighbor into a pile of flames. Phil was helping us walk that line.

Referring to Phil for all reason and hope seemed to make more and more sense to me throughout the night. Between the hours of 4 a.m. and 6 a.m., people got quieter and fell into what I think was a bout of despair. Whatever special juice they had smuggled in was no doubt depleted, and the fun and frivolity of a large plot of land with one fire and three tents, none of which were selling large soft pretzels, had fizzled out. Surprising, I know.

I was at the hopelessly depressing part of my Bill Murray movie. I had lost feeling in my toes completely. I was fighting a mental war over whether to stay or leave the fire and

give someone else a spot, and I will admit that the decider of this war was a small ro- dent named Phil. Shit was hitting the fan and the fan was freezing the shit.

“

I ended up only living through this day once, however, which was probably a good thing because about 67% of it was Hell on Earth.”

—EMMA CONTI-WINDLE
Class of 2027

To fill the cursed silence, I would periodically remind the people I was with that this was Phil’s first prognostication as a dad. It was either that or try to convince myself that I was waiting to see the Lorax and not a groundhog. This got annoying I’m sure, but it kept my mind busy for all of 27 seconds at a time. I wondered if Phil’s new children, Sunny and Shadow, and his wife Phyllis were aware that 40,000 people emerged from their own burrows to stand in the cold for over four hours and see their own father and husband chatter into a bearded man’s ear just to find out when they should put away their galoshes. Regardless of whether or not Phil’s family knows it, people love that groundhog.

When the sun finally rose, and I lost all my toes, the men in top hats finally decided that it was time to Simba the poor guy and ask him if he saw his shadow. It was then that I met my favorite Phil-disciple of this entire trip. He was a shorter man, definitely an out- doorsy type, as he seemed to have the best hiking tights, Patagonia vest and a large stur- dily fashioned backpack, the best that mon- ey could buy. Because of the way his gloved hands excitedly clutched the straps of his backpack under his armpits, I call him Back- pack Dad. Or, maybe just Backpack, because while his children were present at Phil’s re- veal, Backpack had relinquished his duties of fatherhood to fully immerse himself in Phil’s glory. I heard a boy who I assume used to be Backpack’s son say, “Dad, I’m so cold. I want to go home.” Before I could silently com- miserate with the child, Backpack whipped around, stooped to the young boy’s level and softly, yet terrifyingly said, “I hope you learned an important lesson today. I told you to wear boots and you wore those sneakers. Now your feet are cold, but we’re here to see Phil, so you’ll have to suck it up. Learn some- thing. It’s time for Phil.” The boy sniffled, and Backpack spun back around, his eyes focused on the stump. Honestly, I don’t blame Back- pack. The journey is treacherous and to find no reward at the end all because of poor foot- wear choices would be maddening. At this point, Phil was the priority. I would never let my spawn hold me back.

Moments later, Backpack, along with a crowd of over 40,000 began to cheer, “Phil! Phil! Phil!” Becoming more and more excit- ed with each chant of Phil’s name, Backpack began to hop and then jump, reaching what I’m sure was a three-foot vertical, still clutch- ing the straps of his backpack, a deranged smile encompassing his face. I was happy for the guy, who with each jump, began to resemble what I imagine Clark Griswold would look like if they made a “Groundhog Vacation” movie. I hope one day to feel Back- pack-level happiness. Or Backpack-level in- sanity, whichever comes first.

Instead, I must admit, I was none too compelled by this groundhog, especially af- ter I heard that he saw his shadow, and that I would be in for six more weeks of winter. I was honestly too captivated by Backpack’s performance to notice that from my vantage point, Phil’s reveal was blocked by a large tree, and the rest of Phil’s disciples had al-

ready snatched up the other available real es- tate. But I didn’t care. Because Phil’s appear- ance meant that this journey was finally over.

Once they put Phil back inside of his

burrow, I saw a stampede turn toward me, standing at the back of the crowd, and start running at me in a mass exodus of Gob- bler’s Knob. It was as if the splendor of Phil had finally worn off and all of his disciples once again became aware of the blistering cold. My friends and I decided that instead of waiting for the bus, we would keep our-



EMMA CONTI-WINDLE/THE CAMPUS
Hundreds of people wait for the opportunity to get closer to the stage to watch Phill at Gobbler’s Knob.

selves busy by walking two miles back to the Walmart. I hoped that the walk would force the blood back into my toes, but I wasn’t so lucky. It wasn’t until two hours later, after we’d made it to the car and drove ourselves to a small dinor in Clarion, that I was able to take stock of what I had just experienced while stuffing my face with a breakfast sand- wich, this time, in bagel form. Even though what started as a brilliant idea had caused me extreme pain and early onset frostbite, I re- alized something: This is what younger me was thinking about when she thought of the good times she would have with her college friends. These are the trips I had only hoped I could execute with a 48-hour-notice and a 2008 Pontiac Vibe. This was the first road trip I had taken without a parent, the first de- cision I had made on my own, and so, minus a few time-management oversights and a few lost toes, I’m proud of Groundhog Day 2025.

In terms of my ethnography report, my journalistic findings, and my life lessons learned, here are my takeaways:

If you never (or barely) saw a rodent in the arms of a man in a top hat, does it really matter if said rodent saw his shadow? And if a girl can’t feel her toes, does it really matter if there are six more weeks of winter, or if daf- fodils start sprouting by sunrise? No, maybe not. I certainly did not think so. But now, almost two weeks after my perilous journey, even though my toes are still frozen, my heart has shed a layer of ice under the warmth of the realization that we need more things like Groundhog Day. We need more drives through the night with new friends. We need more long-form breakfast sandwiches. We don’t need more human soup roasting over an open flame, but we could use more time spent holding our loved ones close. We need to make more memories. Because all of these things do matter. Just as long as they take place indoors and begin after 9 a.m.

Do more things that matter. Phil would want you to.

Comedy Corner: Meat sweats, coke and Medicaid

By **JOSEPH KLEPEIS**
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USA Today reported on Feb. 5 that people involved in anti-Trump rallies around the U.S. are feeling galvanized.

“I feel ready to help with some construction,” one of the protestors said, “maybe even some irrigation.”

The Baltimore Sun reported on Feb. 5 that the replacement for the Key Bridge that collapsed into the Patapsco River in March will be Maryland’s first highway cable-stayed bridge.

“Cable is the way to go,” said a Maryland Transportation Authority official. “We’ll be able to get anywhere from 30 to 70 channels with this new design.”

The Meadville Tribune reported on Feb. 5 that the former Cookie Walk in Meadville will now be going by a new name: the Sweets & Treats Walk.

“I’d be lying if I didn’t say I’m a bit disappointed,” said the owner of The Whole Darn Thing Sub Shop. “I was really hoping they would rename it to the Meats & Sweats Walk

so we could get an influx of customers.”

The public will soon get additional opportunities to weigh in on the future of the Erie Coke property at the foot of East Avenue, according to The Erie Times-News on Feb. 6.

“I’ve got some thoughts for sure, I have a few plans on what we could do with all that coke,” said an Erie resident. “I could just take it. Just give it to me. I’ll take care of it all, no need to get anyone else involved, like the cops or anything like that. You’re not a cop right?”

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported on Feb. 6 that the Pittsburgh Pirates are signing veteran outfield Tommy Pham to a 1-year, \$4.025M contract.

“What a Phamtastic signing,” said Pirates owner Bob Nutting. “Hopefully fans will see this as a solid signing to address gaps in the current roster and not a signing that’s akin to putting a bandage on an amputation.”

In a blockbuster trade that figures to impact the Western Conference balance of power for years to come, the Lakers, Mavericks and Jazz completed a three-team trade that sends Luka Doncic to Los Angeles and An-

thony Davis to Dallas, according to ESPN on Feb. 2.

The Lakers received Doncic, Maxi Kleber and Markieff Morris from the Mavericks. Dallas acquired Davis, Max Christie and the Lakers’ 2029 first-round pick. The Jazz received Jalen Hood-Schifino, the LA Clippers’ 2025 second-round pick and the Mavericks’ 2025 second-round selection.

Lakers General Manager Rob Pelinka is either the world’s best con man or Mavericks General Manager Nico Harrison is actively trying to get himself fired.

The Oregonian reported on Feb. 6 that the Portland Trail Blazers sat out an active NBA trade deadline.

“This is ridiculous,” said an upset Trail Blazers fan. “They might as well change their name to the Portland Laggards.”

Politico reported on Feb. 5 that Democratic polling finds Elon Musk is unpopular.

Water is wet.

The Hill reported on Feb. 6 that President Donald Trump suggested CBS News’s “60 Minutes” be taken off the air after the program released a transcript of an interview

it aired last fall with former Vice President Kamala Harris amid a federal investigation into the broadcast.

So much for freedom of speech I guess.

NBC News reported on Feb. 6 that Casey DeSantis is considering running for Florida governor in 2026, as her husband and current governor Ron DeSantis faces term limits and cannot seek re-election.

Glad to hear that Florida has the potential to become an ass-backward monarchy.

The Arizona Republic reported on Feb. 4 that a recent decision by the federal government to reimburse tribal providers for some traditional healing through state Medicaid programs in California, Oregon, New Mexico and Arizona means Sage Memorial — a hospital funded by the nonprofit Navajo Health Foundation — in 2025 could begin receiving money for the sacred Navajo traditional healing services that Jim has been growing at the hospital since June.

Just in time for GOP cuts to Medicaid.

DISCLAIMER: All quotes are fictitious unless noted otherwise.

LUNAR from page 1



TESS BURSIC/THE CAMPUS

Viewers watch the lion dance at A5 and IDEAS Center’s Lunar New Year event in the Henderson Campus Center lobby.



MAX PRAZER/THE CAMPUS

Aria Zong `25, Jeremy Zengzhou `27, Prakriti Shrestha `27, Zhanybek Sharsheev, `27 and Ritesh Ojha `28 serve food to attendees of the Lunar New Year celebration on Feb. 11.

A Valentine’s Day Crossword

By **RAY KRISHTUL**
Social Media Manager
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- Across**
2. Historians credit the English poet Geoffrey ___ with connecting romance to Valentine’s Day (author of Canterbury Tales) (7 letters)
3. The chocolate ___ has been around for centuries (typically excessively decorated) (3 letters)
8. In the 5th century, Pope Gelasius forbade the celebration of ___ (10 letters)
11. ___ roses represent passion (given to someone you want to be more than friends with) ()
12. Professor of Biology studying “differences in health outcomes in counties with and without health departments in Pennsylvania” (6 letters)
13. Go ___ ! (winners of the Super Bowl) (5 letters)
14. ___ get more valentines than any other profession (8 letters)
17. The ___ won a Grammy in 2025 (English rock band) (7 letters)
20. A bird that represents peace, love, hope and renewal (4 letters)
21. The most popular Valentine’s Day gifts are ___ and flowers (10 letters)
23. ___ prints more than 500 Valentine’s Day card designs (8 letters)
24. ___ roses are given as a token of appreciation (4 letters)

- Down**
11. Chocolate covered ___ (romantic desert) (12 letters)
4. The first valentine was sent from ___ (ends in son) (6 letters)
5. ___ has roots in Greek mythology (chubby, arrow-shooting baby) (5 letters)
6. Saint inspiring the name of a holiday of love (9 letters)
7. The country that the tradition of exchanging love notes on Valentine’s Day originated in (6 letters)
9. The inventor of candy hearts started out producing medicinal ___ (8 letters)
10. ___ roses are given to platonic friends (6 letters)
15. Common flower given to show affection (5 letters)
16. ___ roses represent love and romance (3 letters)
18. Alexander Graham Bell filed a patent application for the ___ on Feb. 14, 1876 (9 letters)
19. ___ is the state with the most chocolatiers (10 letters)
22. Americans send 145 million Valentine’s Day ___ each year (5 letters)

Answer Key

- Across**
2. Chaucer 3. Box 8. Lupercalia 11. Orange 12. Dawson 13. Birds 14. Teachers 17. Beattles 20. Dove 21. Cupid 6. Valentine 7. France 9. Lozenges 10. Yellow 15. Strawberries 4. Prison 5. Cupid 6. Valentine 7. France 9. Lozenges 10. Yellow 17. Beattles 20. Dove 21. Cupid 6. Valentine 7. France 9. Lozenges 10. Yellow 15. Strawberries 4. Prison 5. Cupid 6. Valentine 7. France 9. Lozenges 10. Yellow
- Down**
1. Strawberries 4. Prison 5. Cupid 6. Valentine 7. France 9. Lozenges 10. Yellow 17. Beattles 20. Dove 21. Cupid 6. Valentine 7. France 9. Lozenges 10. Yellow 15. Strawberries 4. Prison 5. Cupid 6. Valentine 7. France 9. Lozenges 10. Yellow