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Meadville, Pennsylvania
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ASG hosts class deans

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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The Allegheny Student Government approved funds to kickstart a food bank for students, spoke with the Class Deans about stronger support for students with mental health issues and provided an update on the reallocation of funds for club budgets at their weekly General Assembly on Tuesday, Oct. 18.

During the finance report — delivered by Financial Controller Hunter Goerman, '25, in the absence of Directory of the Treasury Adriana Solis, '23 — the Senate approved $14,106 in spending. This was divided into $5,109.39 from the General Fund, $5,376 from the Speaker Fund and $3,620.90 from the Culture, Identity and Leadership Coalition Fund. Among the disbursements was $500 from ASG itself to kick start a new food bank to be hosted in the IDEAS Center.

This $500 will be matched by Vice President for Institutional Advancement Matthew Stinson, who approached Green after ASG presented on food insecurity on campus to the Allegheny Experience Committee of the Board of Trustees.

"We have our first official donor for the food bank, thanks to that meeting," Green told GA. "Matt Stinson — who is probably not (watching) online — but I thank him personally and will be following up with him once again. He came up to us afterwards and said that he would match ASG's investment of $500. So now we have $1,000 to work with for this first initial wave of the food bank."

After the meeting, Green cited a 2019 study conducted by then-Dean of Students April Thompson that she said found 20-30% of the student body experienced food insecurity as the reason for the food bank's creation.

"With Aramark, we have seen inflated prices with smaller portion sizes," Green said. "We've also seen a lot of people apprehensive to eat at Brooks. The options for meal plans have (been) limited to the most expensive options now, so we're also hearing from low-income students that being forced into having a meal plan is making them even more food-insecure because the options here are not representative of their personal diets."

Green said the food bank will not be permanent and said she expects the college to respond to student feedback.

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Meadville residents protest rent hikes

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Dozens of Meadville residents, including an Allegheny College professor and student, protested rent hikes outside the Wheatfield, New York, offices of real-estate developer Calamar on Wednesday, Oct. 12.

The demonstrations are part of a larger outcry over what residents are calling unfair rent hikes of 30-40% at Calamar's Connect 55+ building in Meadville, which offers "community-style adult living" for seniors aged 55 and older.

"The point of the rally on Wednesday was to deliver a demand letter to the CEO of the Calamar Corporation — his name is Ken Franasiak," said Associate Professor of Communication and Media Joe Tompkins. "The tenants at Connect 55 Meadville had put together a letter demanding that the company implement a rent cap of 2% on all future rent increases and they ask that that be applied retroactively to people who had seen their rents go up 30-40%."

Residents have demonstrated on at least two other occasions, including a demonstration last month outside Calamar's Connect 55+ project in Erie County and a rally in August at Diamond Park.

A video of the protest livestreamed on the Crawford County Democratic Committee's Facebook page by County Chair Lindsey Helfrey Scott showed protesters gathered in the vestibule of Calamar's offices, listing their grievances and chanting a demand for fair rent.

Around six minutes and 30 seconds into the eight-minute video, a member of the Niagara County Sheriff's Office arrived and ordered the protestors to leave, which they did with chants of "Calamar abuses elders."

"When we got there, the doors to the lobby were already locked, there was no one visible," Helfry Scott said. "We were trying to call the different extensions to get someone to come down and open the door and that we could talk to."

According to both Helfrey Scott and Christopher Ratliff, '24, who attended the protest, the only member of the protest who spoke to law enforcement was a Buffalo-area attorney specifically brought for that exact situation.

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Fall Fest 2022, in photos



HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

Trustee John Sutphen, '78, speaks to students at the South Asian Students Society stall at the "Cultural Connection" event hosted by the IDEAS Center on Saturday, Oct. 15, as part of Fall Fest 2022.



HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

Students play a game of spikeball during the "Fall Tailgate" event hosted by GAP and ASG on Murray Lawn on Saturday, Oct. 15.

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12th Energy Challenge underway

By **HASSAN JAVED**
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The 12th edition of the Office of Sustainability's Energy Challenge is underway on campus. The challenge began on Friday, Oct. 7, and will conclude on Friday, Nov. 4.

Over four weeks, students are encouraged to be mindful of their energy use as part of the challenge, according to the Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, '02.

"Energy use is monitored by residential buildings and the money saved is reinvested into sustainability initiatives around campus that directly affect the student body," Boulton said. "The solar panels on (Steffee Hall of Life Sciences) and the automatic water refill stations were all the results of savings from the energy challenge."

The savings from the Energy Challenge have been significant over time.

"The average amount saved from the challenge over the past 12 years is $7,000," Boulton said.

The Energy Challenge is a collaboration between the Office of Sustainability, the Environmental Science and Sustainability department, Physical Plant and the student body.

Apart from its goal of saving energy, the Energy Challenge is also a way for the student body to learn more about the issues related to the environment, according to Department Chair and Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Beth Choate

Choate said that students in introductory environmental science courses are encouraged to find creative ways of integrating environmental and sustainability awareness within the student body.

"In the past, we have had more class involvement in the energy challenge," Choate said. "We've even encouraged students to do their senior projects that would incorporate the community."

Although students in environmental science classes are not a part of the Energy Challenge through their classes this year, they are involved via clubs and student-led organizations.

"Students for Environmental Action hosted a mending workshop at Grounds for Change on (Thursday, Oct. 13)," said SEA President Hannah Heutsche, '23. "We'll also be hosting a baked potato bowl night on Tuesday, Oct. 25, with potatoes from the Carden at the Murray fire pit."

Other events in the Energy Challenge include a candlelit rosary by the Newman Association and a spooky night hike by the Outing Club.

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In this week's Campus...

HOW MUCH SUSHI IS TOO MUCH SUSHI?

Given the presence of mercury and other toxic elements, is sushi dangerous to consume?

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A GOOD DAY FOR A WALK

Allegheny College Recreation took students on a weekend hike on Saturday, Oct. 15.

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WOMEN'S TENNIS WINS PAC

The Allegheny College women's tennis team ended its undefeated season as PAC champions.

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FRIDAY H: 59° L: 43°
Rain: 2%
Sunrise: 7:39 a.m.
Sunset: 6:29 p.m.

SATURDAY H: 66° L: 44°
Rain: 3%
Sunrise: 7:41 a.m.
Sunset: 6:28 p.m.

SUNDAY H: 68° L: 44°
Rain: 5%
Sunrise: 7:42 a.m.
Sunset: 6:26 p.m.

Fall Fest 2022: Clubs across campus collaborate for spectacle

By HASSAN JAVED
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HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

President of GAP Thion Lee, '24, and President of Union Latinx Yamilet Marquez, '23, address the crowd at the "Carne Asada" event at the Schultz Banquet Hall on Friday, Oct. 14.



HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

A piñata table decoration at the "Carne Asada" event presented by Union Latinx, Latinas on the Rise and Association of Caribbean Students.



HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

Bergas Anargya, '25, plays a shot at the mini-golf station at the "Carne Asada" event.



HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

Students pick out pumpkins at the "Mini Pumpkin Painting" event hosted by GAP on Sunday, Oct. 16, at the Henderson Campus Center lobby.



HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

Isaiah Romain, '24, attempts a "keepy up" at the "Cultural Connections" event.



HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

Students play a round of "ludo" at the South Asian Students Society stall at the "Cultural Connections" event. Ludo is a traditional board game hailing from India.

RENT *from page 1*

"We brought a lawyer in anticipation of a police confrontation," Ratliff said. "So establishing that we had a lawyer and he would know our rights to make sure that no one got arrested, because it was blatantly obvious that Calamar wanted us to be arrested for trespassing."

Following the protest, Calamar released a statement through their General Counsel Cheryl Green to local news station Erie News Now.

"We can confirm that yesterday, a group of protestors, primarily college students, led by Associate College Professor Joe Tompkins from Allegheny College, were removed by several law enforcement agencies after attempting to break through our secure entranceway doors at our corporate offices and the building was placed in lockdown," the statement read in part.

However, Tompkins said the only Allegheny student in attendance was Ratliff, who is president of the College Democrats.

"As far as the Allegheny angle, Allegheny has nothing to do with this," Tompkins said. "The statement that was put out by the legal counsel for the Calamar Corporation was wrong on many levels, including the part about it being primarily college students. There were other folks from Crawford County United and another affiliate organization called Erie County United. It was an attempt at corporate spin. They're trying to deflect from the truth, which is that they're gouging seniors and that's their business model."

Ratliff said that the statement was upsetting given that only two members of the Allegheny community were among the protestors.

"It seemed like they were accusing or directly attacking me and the college in stating that we were trespassing and that we wanted to cause violence at the offices," Ratliff said.

Ratliff was invited to the demonstration by Helfrey Scott, who saw it as a way for students to see how democracy extends beyond the ballot box.

"I knew that, out of all the different places in which to do direct democracy, such as advocacy that can turn into protest-type situations, that this would be a much more safe, planned, processed, controlled environment as you could likely get," Helfrey Scott said. "The idea of having a student come and witness the type of grassroots organizing that it takes to make effective change is just as important."

For his part, Ratliff sees the larger movement for Connect 55+ residents as a local response to a national problem.

"I think it's important to recognize that Calamar is probably not the only company that is doing rent prices like this, but they are in our community and they're affecting our elderly," Ratliff said. "The fact that they would try to bury something like this and the fact that we had to protest a peaceful protest as a last resort, just kind of shows where Calamar is at."

Helfrey Scott is not seeking to mass-recruit students for demonstrations, but connect them to the issues that they care about.

"Being a conduit to help people into their various things that they care about, that's kind of my role," Helfrey Scott said. "If I can ever marry a person to their cause more closely for democracy, I'm here for it."

According to July reporting from the Meadville Tribune, residents at Connect 55+ are seeing their rents increase by $300-$400. Some are going from paying $918 per month to paying $1,230 per month, while others are seeing rent increases from $1,344 to $1,744.

The Connect 55+ Meadville project is still under construction, with just 36 of 128 units complete, according to the Tribune. Residents are also protesting a lack of promised amenities, including a fitness center, chapel and movie theater.

Tompkins said that not delivering the promised facilities and services could lead to repercussions from statewide authorities.

"My understanding is that the Office of Attorney General cannot do anything about the rent, but they can potentially open an investigation into the failure to provide amenities as a possible violation of consumer protection law," Tompkins said.

Calamar's Connect 55+ chain has come under fire in other states. According to The Journal Inquirer, four contractors working on a new Connect 55+ building in Manchester, Connecticut, filed lawsuits last year against Calmar for a failure to pay them for services rendered. While several of the suits have since been withdrawn, court records show at least one is proceeding, with a "Trial Management Conference" scheduled for May 2024.

What happens next, Tompkins said, is for the residents to decide.

"They're doing the very courageous work of standing up and fighting back against this corporate landlord," Tompkins said. "From what I've discussed with them, they're planning on continuing what they've been doing, which is to draw public attention to egregious actions of the company and pursue whatever avenues are available to try to bring them to the table."

Calamar did not respond to requests for comment.



Photo contributed by LINDSEY HELFREY SCOTT

A protestor holds an image of Calamar CEO Ken Franasiak during a protest in Wheatfield, NY, on Oct. 12.

ASG *from page 1*

"We've met with the Board (of Trustees), and discussed with the Board and administration: if we are experiencing higher prices, smaller portions, people not wanting to eat at Brooks under Aramark and they are a new company, is there a means that the board can use to make Aramark change what they're doing — the Board or the administration — and if there isn't, is there another company out there that will do it better?" Green said. "This is our short term solution for the school to figure out what they need to do."

The guest speakers at the GA were First-Year Class Dean and Director of Allegheny Bound Niki Fjeldal, Second-Year Class Dean and Director of Transfer Advising Amy Stearns and Third- and Fourth-Year Class Dean Jonathon May.

May framed each Class Dean as managing a specific period of the college experience.

"(Fjeldal) helps you to transition as you're entering and enrolling; you're making social connections, building your awareness of what your needs are," May said. "Then Dean Stearns will step in and help you through the sophomore year to cultivate … what you might want to major in, what your future might look like, help you discover more of yourself. And then when you get to me, it's really thinking about life, after Allegheny. Where are you going to go with this education?"

Following their presentation, the floor was opened for questions from ASG. ASG President Veronica Green, '23, asked a question from Director of Organizational Development Kori Bower, '23, who did not attend the meeting.

"(Bower) had recently met with Provost Haddad in regards to advocating for mental health days for students, and the provost had since directed her to the Class Deans to collaborate in that kind of advocacy for mental health days and having mental health be excused absences rather than unexcused absences," Green said. "Are you willing to share your opinions on that? Or maybe some ways that you can join forces in that regard?"

May cited his background in counseling in suggesting that the college should push more preventative measures to help students before they reach a crisis point.

"There are resources: free counseling, free support services that are here that can help a student prevent getting to that point where they've got to miss classes," May said. "You never want to miss class, because studies have shown consistently that students that have the highest attendance are the most successful."

May said that, in his view, mental illness should be treated the same as physical illness when it comes to excused absences. The Compass, the college's student handbook, states that official medical absences require a diagnosis from the Winslow Health Center or an authorized off-campus medical facility, and that, "the illness or injury must be one which has been determined by medical authority to require bed rest for a period not less than 24 hours, immobilization, or treatment that can only be scheduled in conflict with class or laboratory work."

Individual professors are permitted — but not required — to penalize students for absences, and can set more lenient policies if they so choose.

"With the exception of official medical excuses, students are permitted to be absent from class only with the approval of the instructor," the section on attendance reads. "Unauthorized absences may result in grade penalty or other consequences at the discretion of the instructor. Course instructors are required to state their attendance policy at the outset of the course."

ASG Vice President Rudra Schultz-Ray, '23, told May in the meeting that the official policy should be more lenient.

"It's as (Haddad) said, she wants to leave it up to faculty and doesn't want it to just be a unilateral decision by her office," Schultz-Ray said. "I think most students would prefer if it's a unilateral position as opposed to having to argue with each — not argue, talk — to each one of your professors in each case as to why you couldn't get your work done."

Stearns thanked Shultz-Ray for the feedback, saying "that's very helpful."

After the meeting, Green said that ASG will continue to push for a more lenient policy on mental health, even if professors and staff do not agree with the initiative.

"We are committed to moving forward with this and fielding options," Green said. "If faculty and if administration is opposed, we do plan on moving forward with — hopefully a resolution and also working with other institutions as well to see if they have those options available."

In his report as Vice-President, Schultz-Ray said that more information about clubs who re-applied for budgets would be available soon. ASG reopened budget hearings last month after realizing that the surplus fund from last year was larger than expected.

"We've individually reviewed budgets, but (Solis) is sick and we haven't been able to meet yet," Schultz-Ray said. "Hopefully they'll get done as soon as possible because all the individual steps have been filled out and we just need to sit down and actually talk about it."

Solis and Bower were not the only Cabinet members absent from the GA. Also absent were Director of Sustainability Haley Hersh, '23, Co-Director of Student Affairs Amani Green, '25, Attorney General Abigail Estrada-Hernandez, '25, and Director of Community Relations William Lowthert, '23.

Green said that the absences were attributable to an event required for the college's English students.

"The English department had a mandatory event for t anybody who takes an English class, I believe — and we have a lot of people in English classes, so they weren't able to come tonight," Green said after the meeting.

Frederick F. Seely Professor of English Christopher Bakken clarified that the event was only mandatory for students taking the department's creative writing courses.

"The Single Voice reading (Tuesday) night was not required of all students enrolled in an English course," Bakken wrote via email. "However, since these authors are on the syllabi for all creative writing courses being offered this semester, students currently enrolled in a creative writing course in the English department were expected to attend."

As the final piece of business, Green asked the Senate what they wanted to do for the next GA, which is scheduled to fall on Gator Day: Tuesday, Oct. 25. A motion by Goerman to hold the GA virtually failed, with the vote tied at 8-8. Senator Nicole Recio Bremer, '25, then moved to cancel GA altogether, a motion that received a second from Senator Anh Nguyen, '25, but failed with only Bremer voting in favor.

The GA will next meet on Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m. in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center.

ENERGY *from page 1*

Students also do much of the footwork such as hanging up posters and doing logistical work for events, according to Heutsche.

"The challenge is mostly handled by the office of sustainability but the physical plant handles things such as monitoring savings and consumption," said Director of Physical Plant Joseph Michael. "We rally our data to the office of sustainability and students use it to provide updates."

Weekly updates of the Energy Challenge can be found around campus.

Boulton said that providing weekly updates via posters not only informs students about the challenge but also creates a sense of competition between residential buildings.

"The competitive aspect of the challenge serves as a motivator for students to get involved, Boulton said. "You'd be surprised at how much people get into it."

Boulton believes that everyone should care about the Energy Challenge and that it is not simply an event for environmental science and sustainability majors.

"We are all occupying and contributing to the environment, so it is relevant to us all," Boulton said. "Over my time at Allegheny, I have seen more and more people become passionate about issues related to the environment."

The Energy Challenge has a detailed history and has proved effective since its inception in 2010.

"A group of us (from the environmental science and sustainability department) published a paper with data showing the reductions in energy use as a result of the October energy challenge," Choate said. "We found that the challenge causes energy reduction beyond the month of October."

Part of the success of the Energy Challenge is the sustainability mission of Allegheny College.

Despite Allegheny's status as a private liberal arts college and its small student population, it became the eighth college in the nation and the first college in Pennsylvania to become carbon neutral.

Similarly, despite the general increase in the use of electronic devices on college campuses, Allegheny College has consistently reduced its energy consumption during and after the annual Energy Challenge.

"During my time at Allegheny, students would take notes on paper and it was rare for one of us to have a computer," Boulton said. "Nowadays, it is common for students to take notes on tablets and own multiple devices such as televisions and computers."

Boulton said that belief in issues concerning the environment has increased over time and is particularly prevalent in current students.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

An Energy Challenge update from the first week of the event on an entrance to Walker Hall.

"Our students have always been passionate about environmental issues, but the difference now is that we have more students than ever before who are trained to take action," Boulton said. "We have students involved in making change by doing real work and they are also encouraged to hold those in positions of power accountable for their neglect of the environment."

According to Boulton, more faculty members and administrators are also progressively committing to sustainability.

"Instructors involve topics concerning environmental action or awareness consistently in classes," Boulton said. "This allows students the opportunity to come across something they may truly care about and do their own research."

Boulton added that the Energy Challenge has come in good time due to the current effects of climate change being felt the world over.

"At this time, it's getting hotter and colder and many areas of the world are facing severe climatic disasters," Boulton said. "We can only change this if we hold ourselves accountable and take action."

As a result, Boulton hopes to enhance student involvement in sustainability initiatives on campus and the community.

A way of doing so is to expand the Energy Challenge beyond the designated month of October in the future, something Boulton said she would be open to in the future.

"The energy challenge is a part of the many initiatives of the office of sustainability," Boulton said. "I would love to create a general culture of energy saving on campus in the future and make the challenge an ongoing process."

CRIME BLOTTER

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

October 13, 2022
Act 64 (Drugs)
Brooks Hall
Referred to Dean

THE CAMPUS

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The long arm of the law

Trump's extreme policies live on in the 2022 Supreme Court session

By **SAM HEILMANN**
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Perhaps future generations will look back on this chapter of American history and see each event strung together as a product of everything prior to it. Think of the butterfly effect without such a charming name. This moment is not a beautifully transforming butterfly taking gentle flight and changing the world around it without intention, but rather a violent slash of a knife. This moment is cold. This moment stings. This moment is a bloody one.

Maybe it will take an outside reflection to understand the full implications of this moment. But for now, I would at least like to highlight the irony of the Supreme Court as connected to Donald Trump, and what their overlap may say about the 2022 session. Bear with me.

Trump and the law: now there's a story all on its own, and one I am in no position to analyze. Instead, let's look at what he intended his impact to be when he flooded the court with his conservative peers: Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett.

His goal behind this ultra-conservative court was power without regard for precedent. When it comes to multiple — completely baseless — claims of election fraud or an attempt to hide financial records indicative of tax violations, Trump thought he was in control. He assumed he could pack the court with his own ideology, with justices who would take his side over law itself. He failed. Or, in his eyes, they failed him.

While this would be a lovely place to end the story — Politics cannot stand in the way of Law and Order! Justice is alive in America! — the knife keeps slashing.

As we've seen, those who celebrated the decision by the court to reject Trump's emergency request to intervene after the Mar-a-Lago raid in August are not exactly safe from the court either. Yes, the court has proven itself not completely biased in following the rule of law over Trump's lawless politics, but has it really swung the other way, in full support of liberal ideology? Are those opposed to Trump seeing themselves represented positively in law in areas he is not?

Well if you've had any takeaway from the Supreme Court this summer, it likely related to the reversal of Roe v. Wade, which had protected abortion access nationwide. Not only that, but the increasingly conservative Supreme Court also made it harder to regulate guns and limited the authority the Environmental Protection Agency has on curbing carbon emissions to limit the impacts of climate change.

So, what a dilemma this is; the court, a third of which was hand-picked by Trump himself, has failed both liberals and conservatives. Whether you agree or disagree with these decisions, both sides can find reason to disagree with the court at this given moment. But are these contentions equal?

Absolutely not.

Let's take the case of Moore v. Harper, which is on the Supreme Court's 2022 case docket. The case, in short, involves which legislative body has the power to determine how congressional elections are conducted. In swing states like Pennsylvania, that means that GOP-led legislatures could gain an "unlimited ability" to decide not only how elections are conducted, but also who wins them, according to Ian Millhiser for Vox. Gerrymandering is a large factor in this case, as is the Supreme Court itself, which, under even a "narrow reading" of the independent state legislature doctrine would give the Supreme Court power over the state court in interpreting election law.

This case, along with cases like Merrill v. Milligan — which could reinforce racial gerrymandering in states like Alabama — are still potential wins for the Trump-brand conservative.

This is where these contentions differ: Trump supporters will take issue with the Supreme Court in its denial of election fraud. Women, people of color and believers in climate change alike will take issue with the Supreme Court in its potential, or current, denial of their rights.

See the difference?

In letting his selfish attempt to escape the law tarnish the court for the upcoming years, we all suffer at the hands of Trump long after his presidency. He has created a court that looks poorly on his most egregious supporters and most fervent critics alike. Those who live, breathe and even die by the — false — notion that the election was stolen suffer. Those who support the rule of law when it cracks down on the rich and powerful are reminded of their place in the U.S. Supreme Court, be it as a woman seeking abortion, or as a queer person hoping that marriage equality will stick around long enough to experience it personally, or as a Black voter wishing that every vote was treated equally.

Trumpism, then, is woven into our country, whether we like it or not. The consequences of selfish choices by one man are to the detriment of people far more impacted than he himself ever will be.

So we wait. We wait patiently on decisions by this court and wait for things to change for those of us who had nothing to gain, only to continue living, under the U.S. Supreme Court. Only time will tell how deep the knife will cut.



IMAGE SOURCE: **U.S. SUPREME COURT**
Nine justices comprise the U.S. Supreme Court. One-third of the current justices were appointed by President Trump in his single term.

'Blonde' is an insult to Marilyn Monroe's legacy

By **ALEXIS COSTANZA**
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Andrew Dominik's new film, "Blonde," is a sick nightmare to watch. It is a blatant, disrespectful exploitation of the deceased Marilyn Monroe — referred to in the film by her birth name of Norma Jeane — disguised as a modern and creative impression of her personal life.

Based on a novel of the same name, the incredibly-stylized, big-budget pseudo-biopic stretches nearly three hours, mostly consisting of unnecessarily long shots recreating iconic imagery from Norma Jeane's professional career as Monroe, while also depicting — without trigger warnings — multiple rape scenes, multiple instances of sexual harrasment, domestic violence, graphic scenes of a forced abortions, multiple talking fetuses, trauma-induced and drug-induced psychosis, unneccesary nudity bordering on soft pornography, actual soft pornography and frequent scenes of Norma Jeane being in agony or hysterics while being abused by her loved ones. It was simply painful to watch, and I anticipate the same viewing experience for anyone except a specific type of mysoginistic, pro-life, twisted viewer.

Throughout the film, Norma Jeane is presented as a helpless and fragile woman who cannot get a grip on her life and begs for others to support her and understand who she truly is — an intelligent, funny and talented human being with a desire to be loved and respected. However, the film never focuses on these things and all of her attempts to help herself are shown as fruitless. The movie does nothing more to demonstrate her positive traits than vaguely gesture at Norma Jeane's wit, attempts which are repeatedly breezed over in the plot.

In one scene, Norma Jeane reads a poem to Joe DiMaggio — one of her ex-husbands. The poem is paid no attention to or given any appreciation by DiMaggio. The scene is immediately followed by a graphic depiction of domestic violence. A few times, the dialogue references Norma Jeane reading classic literature and having a passion for learning cinematic history and acting technique, but these details are pitifully crafted into the story and are barely explored in the plot.

Throughout the film, Norma Jeane refers to each one of her partners solely as "Daddy," not only conflating her romantic partners with her absent father, but also with each other. It's uncomfortable to witness and suggests that Norma Jeane is unable to distinguish between her various relationships and create or maintain healthy ones due to her desire to please her absent father figure. The film finds every way to infantilize and persecute Monroe, concerning itself more with Norma Jeane's trauma than her humanity.

The film is ultimately guilty of subjecting the late superstar and her impersonator, Ana de Armas, to the same sick treatment she received while alive. Neither women were given the opportunity to showcase the broad range of their talent, as those who control their images don't care to invest time in showcasing the real, interesting sides of the women beyond their beauty and relationships.

Hollywood has repeatedly shown that it is not interested in learning and publishing anything more about the human being behind Monroe's legacy, and that they would rather continue to profit off the career that she saw as unfulfilling. They profit off of her continued sexualization, mischaracterization and exploitation, all the while tarnishing her legacy with no regard for the fact that she was a real person.

The repetitive graphic depictions of traumatic events in "Blonde" make it extremely difficult to watch. When I watched it, my emotions ranged from uncomfortable to confused to disgusted to angry. I felt like I had been lied to — when I first heard about the film about two months ago and watched the trailer, I was excited for what I thought would be a modern, imaginative take on the personal life of Monroe. So little is ever discussed about her aside from her tragic backstory, untimely death and her renown for playing "blonde bombshell" characters.

> "Hollywood has repeatedly shown that it is not interested in learning and publishing anything more about the human being behind Monroe's legacy."
>
> —ALEXIS COSTANZA
> Class of 2025

Instead, I was given the exact opposite. The only redeeming quality of the film was its stunning cinematography. Clearly, the production team did their research on how Monroe was presented in her films and appearances, certain shots were visually impressive and imaginative. De Armas is no doubt beautiful in her depiction of Monroe, and I believe she did a good job with what she was given. I think it's a shame that she was not given the opportunity to show a more interesting side of Norma Jeane. Due to the sexualization of Norma Jeane in the film, de Armas herself is indirectly, unnecessarily sexualized in the film. I wonder if she knew what she was getting into when she took the role, or if the directors simply promised her the Oscar for being the leading lady in their highly-anticipated film.

"Blonde" is another example of Hollywood loving and exploiting the "beautiful woman in horrible anguish" trope, and Monroe has once again become victim to the success machine that has made insurmountable profit from chewing up her lived experiences and spitting them out in new and increasingly unethical ways so that the public can consume and analyze her legacy again and again.

Do not watch the film at all. The majority of its scenes may be triggering for the average viewer, or at least make them extremely uncomfortable. It's not worth your time, and frankly, I think it deserves as little support as possible, as the entire thing makes a mockery of the lived experiences of a real woman, and relies heavily on shock value and graphic depictions of trauma and violence as a form of entertainment.

My only hope is that one day Monroe can get a depiction that truly does her personal life justice and explores the depths of her personality and character that has been misrepresented so many times by Hollywood. It would have been so interesting to understand more about the woman behind the image in a way that is realistic and respectful, but instead we were delivered the repetitive, male-gaze orientated, fetishizistic, exploitative passion-project that is "Blonde."

Send Letters to the Editors and Op-Eds to newspaper@allegheny.edu

Must include name, class year or faculty/staff position.

Letters to the editors should be 500 words or less.

Op-eds should be at least 750 words, no more than 1200 words.

All submissions subject to approval and edits by The Campus staff.

How much sushi is too much sushi?

Fish overconsumption, biomagnification and the dangers of mercury poisoning

By **ELANOR BONTA**
Features Writer
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Sushi just so happens to be one of the most popular food dishes on campus ever since it has been introduced by Aramark Higher Education. Often, one can stroll into McKinley food court and find some of the student body eating from Bento or the pre-made, store-bought California rolls. A sushi roll usually consists of rice, a nori sheet, some chopped vegetables and fish.

"When I eat sushi, I'll usually go for the California roll or spicy tuna," Sarah Csonka, '26, said. "And usually I eat one or two servings per week."

No matter how delicious sushi is, there is a potential health risk involved with consumption, more so overconsumption of raw fish. Fish are not only filled with mercury, but a twice-as-toxic mercury called methylmercury. Usually, if the fish is smaller, it has less mercury, but predators of those smaller fish are far more problematic.

"There's this concept called biomagnification," said Associate Professor of Biology Lisa Whitenack. "Where the fish at the top of the food chain or food web — they accumulate all of the toxins of what they eat have picked up."

Whitenack explained that it is important to analyze what part of the food chain a fish is, because that affects the amount of mercury. If it is a top predator, it will be filled with mercury. If it is at the bottom of the chain, it will have a lower amount.

This means that shrimp — which are not eaten raw in the first place — have very low mercury levels. On the contrary, fish like cape salmon, bigeye and bluefin tuna — often eaten raw when prepared as sushi — have incredibly high mercury levels. Both fish exhibit mercury levels around 0.6-0.8 parts per million, according to the Journal of Environmental Science and Health. This may seem low, but approaches the healthy limit of 1 ppm per week.

The World Health Organization considers mercury to be one of the top ten chemicals for "major public health concern."

It can sometimes be hard to gauge mercury levels, though. Fish mercury levels are also affected by the environment.

"How was it raised?" Whitenack said. "Was it wild-caught? Was it farm-raised? That makes a difference, too."

How the fish were raised can affect if parasites and neo-pathogens infiltrate our food, according to the Journal of Environmental Science and Health. Most fish, when raw, have bacteria that produce extended-spectrum beta-lactamases, which are enzymes that are naturally resistant to some antibiotics, usually found in the bowels. Like many bacteria humans have, as long as they remain there in small quantities are generally harmless. When there are too many within the human body, though, it can cause a life-threatening infection.

Whitenack offered resources on identifying not only what fish are safer for consumption, but also what fish are sustainable.

"The Monterey Bay Aquarium has this program named 'Seafood Watch' where you can actually go onto their website and print out a little card for your wallet that is specific to the region you live in — because that also makes a difference — and it tells you which seafoods are sustainable and healthy and which aren't," Whitenack said.



LOTTIE MATEYAK/THE CAMPUS

Since Aramark Higher Education became the food service provider on campus, sushi — through Bento Sushi — has been consistently available to all who shop and eat in the markets and dining halls.

> Doing research on the consumption of raw fish as a global health major I can say that overconsumption of raw fish can lead to illness and that this shouldn't be in everyone's option list for a daily food item."
>
> —SHA LILLEY
> Class of 2024

But how do you know if you have had too much sushi and are suffering from mercury poisoning? According to the Mayo Clinic, symptoms include tingling, numbness and poor muscle coordination — and it is hardly referring to general clumsiness or anxiety.

Mercury poisoning becomes consistent and requires extreme medical procedures thanks to potential threats to the central and peripheral nervous system; more specifically, the kidneys, lungs, immune system and digestive system.

Both Nicole Dann-Payne, Allegheny's dietician, and Aramark Dining declined to comment.

"Doing research on the consumption of raw fish as a global health major, I can say that overconsumption of raw fish can lead to illness and that this shouldn't be in everyone's option list for a daily food item," said Sha Lilley, '24.

General sushi consumption on a weekly basis should be no more than 10 to 15 rolls, according to Health Magazine. This should especially be taken into consideration if the sushi ingredients include tuna, salmon or any raw fish.

"I try to limit sushi consumption to, like, every other week, but I know that you're not supposed to have it more than, like, three times per week," Lilley said.

As tasty and popular as it is, it is also not the healthiest option and should be taken lightly. There is a limit to the amount of sushi — more specifically, raw fish — that can be consumed before health risks develop.

"I know it's not good to consume sushi frequently," Lilley said. "I always try to get the tempera because I know it's a cooked shrimp or cooked meat."

Hurricane Ian second Category 4 this season

Students, faculty feel effects in Florida and beyond

By **CAROLINE MAYE**
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Hurricane Ian is tied for the fifth-strongest hurricane to land in the United States, with wind speeds of up to 150 mph. Following Hurricane Fiona, Ian is the second Category 4 hurricane to hit this season, setting the United States on track to have yet another above-average hurricane season, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. So far, it has killed 119 people and devastated communities with its after-effects.

Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Matthew Bethurem pinpointed the reason behind this increase in storms: climate change — an issue that the U.S. government has known about for years and done very little to fix.

"It's going to take some kind of a revolution," Bethurem said.

According to NOAA, Hurricane Ian first passed through Cuba as a Category 3 hurricane on Sept. 26, wiping out the nation's power system. On Sept. 28, the storm intensified into a Category 4 hurricane and landed near Cayo Costa, Florida. By Sept. 29, Ian was downgraded to a tropical storm as it traveled across Florida and it fizzled out after briefly being a Category 1 in South Carolina on Sept. 30.

Despite only lasting a couple of days, the impacts from Hurricane Ian will take weeks, possibly months to recover from. Florida native Ocean Parodie, '23, explained that recovering from a hurricane is a tedious process that involves both waiting out the aftermath of the storm and restoring what it damaged.

> The thing that we should be doing literally right this minute — and that we should have been doing for a long time — is reduce our emissions. Every bit of carbon that we add to the atmosphere is making this problem worse
>
> —MATTHEW BETHUREM
> Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability
> Allegheny College

"You don't get to do much unless you like fishing," Parodie said.

Floods are a major issue to contend with in the aftermath of any hurricane. They are dangerous for a number of reasons.

"The water just sits there and turns into mud," Parodie said. "If your car wasn't lifted, it was getting destroyed."

Additionally, he said that after storms like Ian, it is common for alligators to get out of the canals and into other waterways.

Floods, however, are not the only issue to be dealt with after hurricanes. Parodie recalled that in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, kids at his school did not have power for months.

"It would be nice to receive more help from other states," Parodie said.

He urged others to do what they can to help out either by donating food, money or other important goods.

As for weather patterns, Parodie noted that he has seen an increase in the number and intensity of storms traveling across the east coast.

Bethurem backed up this claim, explaining how the warming of the atmosphere as a result of climate change led to these changes in hurricane patterns.

"What we've got is a warming planet and a lot of that extra heat is being absorbed by the oceans," Bethurem said. "Those hot ocean waters are what fuels hurricanes — the fact that more heat is being added to those systems means that those storms are going to be able to form easier in a lot of cases, and once they do form there's a much greater likelihood that they are going to be stronger storms."

Bethurem explained the solution to this crisis in two steps. First, reduce the amount of carbon emissions. Second, put in place more adaptation measures to fix the damage done to these coastal areas.

"The thing that we should be doing literally right this minute — and that we should have been doing for a long time — is reduce our emissions," Bethurem said. "Every bit of carbon that we add to the atmosphere is making this problem worse."

Adaptation measures are both physical changes to the environment to restore it and nonphysical policies to help those negatively impacted by climate change, Bethurem explained. One example he gave was resettling communities in coastal areas.

According to Bethurem, the only way that these changes will be implemented is if a group of people come together and push for change.

"It revolves around a lot of ordinary people coming together around these issues to force them into being a priority for the country," Bethurem said.

One solution, Bethurem hypothesized, is to bring together social and environmental justice groups over climate change and have them push the fight for change, similar to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Bethurem also noted that the rising push towards labor unions, for example the formation of unions at Chipotle, Starbucks and Home Depot, is a step in the right direction for the United States.

"People aren't going to sit down and just die," Bethurem said. "Maybe we can't stop a hurricane from coming, but maybe we can at least stop raw sewage from going out into the environment."

DOING THE TIME WARP (AGAIN)

"The Rocky Horror Show" returns to downtown Academy

By **SOFIA HASSAN**
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Two years prior to the 1975 release of the cult classic film "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," a theatrical production called "The Rocky Horror Show," written by Richard O'Brien and directed by Jim Sharman, premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in London.

"While it may not be the scariest flick," wrote Katie Coryell for Breaking Character, "it sure will get your toes tapping."

"Campy trash," wrote Time magazine.

A symptom of the cult status of "Rocky," audience members are encouraged to dress up as their favorite characters, shout at the stage and produce props on cue. These lines range from lighthearted and silly to raunchy and not safe for work. Props range from playing cards to newspapers to gloves. A script is available online that provides guidelines on what to call out when, and what to bring out when, and interested readers may peruse this script at their own discretion.

Why this pop culture lesson? Almost 50 years after the production's initial London run, for the third time in twenty years, the Academy Theatre in downtown Meadville is putting on "The Rocky Horror Show" during the Halloween season.

"Rocky" is a spooky show, making it ideal for October. But, despite what the name might suggest, the production dives heavily into comedic themes rather than horror themes, according to Darryl Whitney, administrator at the Academy.

"It's more about the hilarity of poking fun at the cheesy horror movies of the 1930s, '40s, '50s," Whitney said. "The song 'Science Fiction (Double Feature)' takes us through a lot of those different horror movies, like 'The Day the Earth Stood Still.'"

Another reason "Rocky" appealed to the Academy is the opportunity it presented to have live music accompany the show, which supported the theatre's mission of educating the Meadville community as a whole and involving a diverse demographic of individuals.

"We like to think of ourselves as a warehouse for all the community to come in and to pick out different aspects of art, whether it be visual, (musical), acting," Whitney said.

Whitney was very pleased with the turnout for the initial weekend. Between Friday, Sept. 30, and Saturday, Oct. 1, over 282 people attended, more than 100 per evening. These numbers are unusual, in a good way, for an opening weekend at the Academy, and translated to an energetic crowd, Whitney said.

"Typically, in the town of Meadville and the surrounding areas, a lot of people won't go out to see shows that they don't know anything about," Whitney said. "They'll wait for their more adventurous friends, maybe, to go and see those shows."

Whitney sees the large turnout those first two nights — and the amount of fun that attendees were having — as a good sign.

"It makes us very happy because we think that the community is definitely going to embrace this production," Whitney said.

The community, at least the college students in said community, will soon have another production of "Rocky" to embrace. Later in the month, the Student Experimental Theatre group at Allegheny will be bringing "Rocky" to the college via a shadow cast of the film. In a shadow cast, actors lip sync lines and songs while the movie plays in the background.

A notable dissimilarity between the play and a shadow cast, according to Whitney, is that the former contains live actors who can interact with the crowd.

What is unique to "Rocky" as a whole is the aforementioned script that originated during early screenings of the movie and that audience members refer to throughout the production, tossing out jokes and poking fun at the characters. Richard O'Brien is not able to respond to someone in the crowd should they throw out a line, but an actor portraying Riff Raff in a stage production can play off the quip to create a unique watching experience.

Aside from playing both Dr. Scott and Eddie, Whitney is also responsible for managing the box office, marketing and reaching out for sponsorships.

Another actor who plays a role at the Academy is Julia Kemp, '17, artistic director and usherette for "The Rocky Horror Show." Along with the production committee, she helps decide what shows to put on each season. With "Rocky," Kemp assisted with auditions and the casting process, working closely with director Ted Watts, Jr.

"We're a small nonprofit with just two full-time staff, and so we kind of wear a lot of hats," Kemp said. "For this show I was (also) costumer (and) choreographer … I also helped with the set and did a lot of the set dressing."

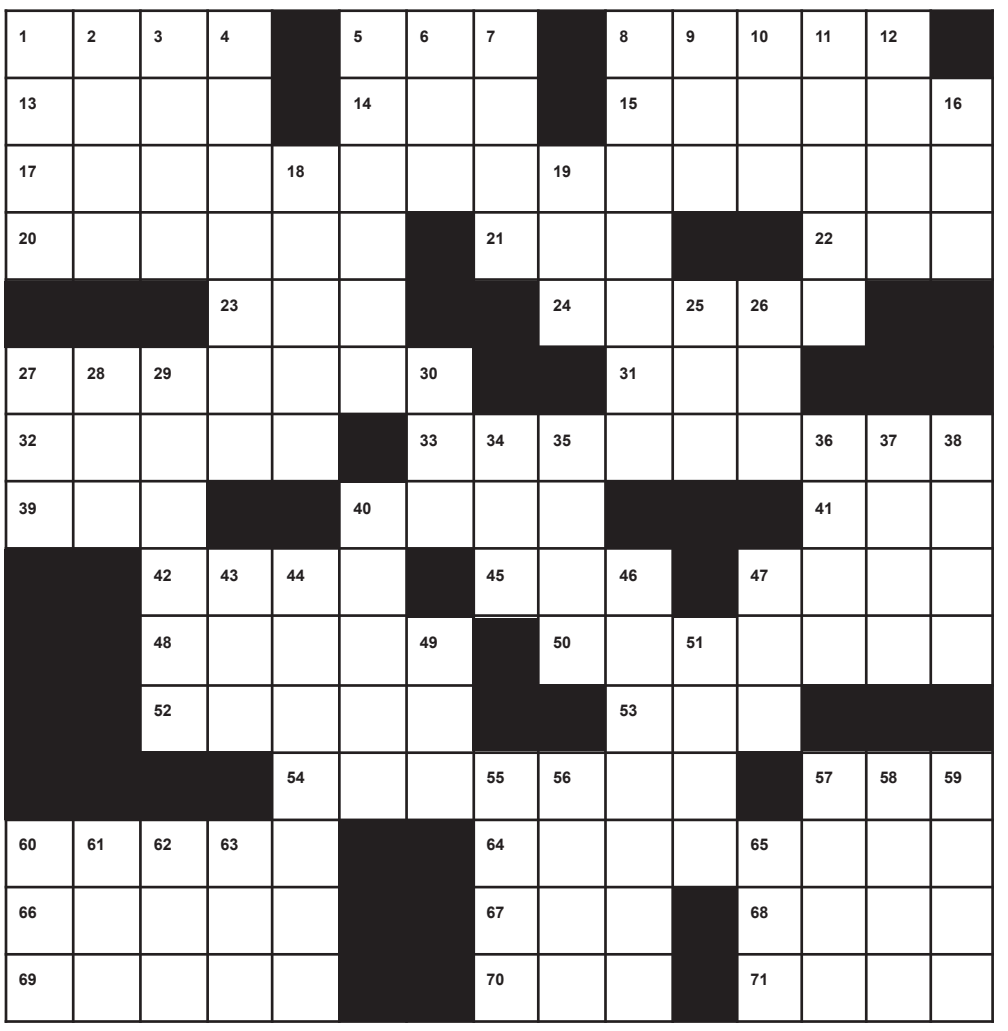
Given the high turnout for the opening weekend, Whitney is looking forward to seeing what word of mouth will do for future "Rocky" performances. Through articles in The Meadville Tribune and posters around town, the Academy ensures that the community is aware of its current goings-on, but what tends to draw people to the theater, especially those who might have been on the proverbial fence, is the encouragement of those they know.

Whitney believes that the 10 p.m. showing after the Halloween parade on Saturday, Oct. 29 — an already popular event — will bring in particularly large numbers.

As for Kemp, she is excited to continue the exchange of energy between actors and audience, since "Rocky" thrives on viewer participation and passion.

"The response has been really great," Kemp said. "People are having a lot of fun. It's a show that comes with a built-in fanbase, so the audience is already on our side before they even meet us."

"The Rocky Horror Show" will continue at the Academy on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. until Oct. 29. Tickets are available on the Academy website. Those who attend the downtown stage performance but are looking to time warp some more can swing by Allegheny's shadow cast production Friday, Oct. 28, or Saturday, Oct. 29, at 10 p.m. in the Henderson Campus Center lobby. Admission will be free for everyone — not just for those who are shivering with antici … pation.



By **RYAN SHEEHAN**
Contributing Cruciverbalist
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ACROSS

1: Fools
5: Sound made by a sheep
8: Flat and thick piece of stone
13: 'Hundred _____ wood', as in Winnie the Pooh
14: Language used to accommodate the deaf, abbr.
15: Bird of the shoulder of a pirate
17: Nickname for North Carolina
20: 'Trend _____'
21: Nickname for Stuart
22: Occupied a chair
23: Anger
24: Drive into something, say
27: Deadly poison
31: A potential athlete or frat member has to keep theirs up
32: 'The ___', movie series where crime is legal
33: Insect that lives in a big hive
39: Format for medical and research paper
40: Science building on campus
41: 'brain' of a computer
42: '_____ Lisa', famous painting
45: Massachusetts vacation destination
47: They come in sports or strapless varieties
48: Shellfish that form pearls
50: Implore
52: "Whether you like it _____…"
53: Charge
54: Lake in New Hampshire
57: Social media portrait, abbr.
60: Small bit of writing
64: Assorted items that might be found in an attic
66: Frowned upon
67: Divisions on a highway, abbr.
68: Wildly popular 2005 Nickelodeon series, abbr.
69: "I _____ a lot of money and I _____ a lot of time…" Steely Dan lyric
70: Consumed
71: Breaking Bad protagonist, casually

DOWN

1: Grain used to make milk or granola
2: Head or back pain
3: Mope
4: Preparing for a spike in volleyball
5: Species of owl
6: Campfire refuse
7: Drinks produced at a brewery
8: Go on a spending spree\
9: '_____ Vegas'
10: Like painting or photography
11: Rude
12: Top of the line, abbr.
16: Vietnamese holiday celebrating the new year
18: American Eagle sister company
19: 'and so on…'
25: Like interest on a car, for short
26: cutting tool
27: Accountant certification, abbr.
28: Exclamation after a satisfying meal
29: 'Saudi _____', world's largest oil company
30: Eco-friendly government agency founded in 1970, abbr.
34: _____ of the covenant
35: Shortened synonym for issue or complication
36: Amount of land one farmer can plow in a day
37: Organization founded solely to purchase another company, abbr.
38: Pull alternative
40: Patterns that blend in with their surroundings, for short
43: Office of Labor Relations, abbr.
44: Tiny robot
46: Offense alternative
47: Yellow and black bug
49: Residential roads, abbr.
51: A plant grows from one
55: Spanish for 'island'
56: Kick a football
57: Flat bread
58: Tipped over
59: Standardized test taken by high school sophomores
60: Korean boy band
61: Once around a track
62: Purple sweet potato
63: Harry Potter companion, Weasley
65: Like sushi

Time flies...or does it?

By **KAI MARIES**
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Hiking through fall foliage

Allegheny Recreation trip covers great ground in Erie National Wildlife Refuge

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
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Assistant Director for Facilities and Recreation Jared Luteran explains the purpose of the trip is to "have an easy walk that gives students the opportunity to get outside and appreciate fall foliage." Allegheny Recreation provided transportation and snacks during the trip.



Students begin Muddy Creek Holly Trail, one of the two trails the bus takes them to. This trail has a straight boardwalk through the middle of the forest and students completed the .75-mile walk in less than 45 minutes.



The second trail was the Trolley Line Trail which was 1.75 miles and had more challenging terrain. Students were advised to watch their steps as there was no cleared walkway. Manasvi Bantawa, '24, (right) said she encouraged Rutendo Mavunga, '24, (left) to come to the hiking event. They went through both hiking trails together and recommend taking advantage of outings like this as an opportunity to go out more.



Justin Christianson, '25, poses on the trail. He said he signs up for trips outside of campus because he enjoys the outdoors and it challenges him to socialize and go outside more often. This is his first time coming on a hiking trip with Allegheny Recreation but has participated in other outings by school organizations.

Single Voice(s)

Allegheny alumni returned to campus to read selections from their creative work on Tuesday, Oct. 18, bringing the English department's Single Voices Reading Series back to pre-pandemic setup

By **SYDNEY EMERSON**
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Ryann Stevenson, '10, reads from her first book, "Human Resources." Her poetry, which explores feminism and humanity in the increasingly artificial world of technology, was awarded the 2021 Max Ritvo Poetry Prize. Stevenson, in addition to writing and publishing poetry, works as an AI designer for Apple.



William Brewer, '11, reads an excerpt from his debut novel "The Red Arrow," published by Knopf this year. A former Stegner Fellow in poetry at Stanford University, Brewer recently made the transition to fiction. "The Red Arrow" explores depression and obsession through a labyrinthine first-person narration.

Allegheny Rec sponsors skating

By **MARIIA HLYTEN**
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Winter is coming to Allegheny, and so is ice skating.

In the middle of October, Allegheny Recreation provided a row of free ice skating opportunities for students to open a winter season.

Based on the success of previous one-time ice skating during COVID-19, the Recreation team tried to repeat that experience

"Our club hockey team was trying to figure out a way to get their ice rink fees down and the only way to get lower fees is if they reserved more ice time," Jared Luteran, assistant athletic director for recreation and facilities, said. "Allegheny Student Government and Allegheny Recreation agreed to reserve more ice time to help bring their fees down."

The agreement was that the college would pay for several of the dates so they could be used by the Allegheny community. Despite the fall break date, the last day of free ice skating was prosperous.

"I didn't expect a large turnout for Oct. 10 during fall break, but it was our largest event," Luteran said. "We had around 40 people there."

The rink is located at Meadville Area Recreation Complex, which is a 10-minute drive from the college. MARC provided skates. The first group of students got there on Oct. 3 by the college shuttle.

"I fell, and hit my leg for a little bit, but it was kind of a soft fall," one student said. "That helps me realize that hitting yourself on ice isn't that terrifying."

By and large, it did not matter how good students were at ice skating.

"I enjoy ice skating just as much as anybody else, but I am not the best ice skater," Luteran said. "I never played hockey so I didn't learn to ice skate until I was an adult."

"That's a great way to burst into excitement and get tons of emotions, especially if you are not very good at skating." said Anastasia Kityk, '24. "Grab your friends so you will never fall alone!"

Closer to upcoming breaks there will be more opportunities for skating since the initiative had a demand among the students.

"We will have more free dates in November, December, February and March," Luteran said.

Luteran also explained why the community stuck to the idea of making this activity open for everyone on and off campus.

"There is no limit to how many people can go skating, so it's a great opportunity to bring together members of the Allegheny community," Luteran said. "It is always nice to see students skating alongside employees and their families. It brings all Gators together!"

> That's a great way to burst into excitement and get tons of emotions, especially if you are not very good at skating."
>
> —ANASTASIA KITYK
> Class of 2024

Perfect season concludes with conference championship

Women's tennis defeats Franciscan in PAC Championship 5-4

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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The Allegheny women's tennis team brought home a Presidents' Athletic Conference Championship — their first championship win in 37 years — after defeating Franciscan 5-4 in a back-and-forth thriller. The team's perfect 15-0 fall season had lineup highlights from top to bottom, and the Gators defined a new era of tennis under the leadership of Head Coach Dave Hayden in his second year at the college.

"We're all pretty excited," Hayden said. "It was a great accomplishment, a great group of girls on the team, it was just a fun season."

The championship was held on Allegheny's home court at the Robertson Athletic Complex. The Gators fell behind early during doubles play, dropping two of three games to begin the match. Moving into singles play they gained the lead right back, thanks to victories from Jean-Arlette Legrand, '24, and Maria Lounder, '26, to make it 3-2.

Coming down to the wire, Franciscan's Maria Hererra and Claire Cardie put the Gators hopes on hold as they gave their team a 4-3 lead with back-to-back victories. Needing the next two matches, Ryan Cox, '26, and Ella Swan, '23, were called upon to be the heroes.

Cox got it going early, taking down the first set 6-4 against Franciscan's Estelle Leon. She followed the win with another in the second set 6-2, setting up a winner-takes-all for the final match of the season.

Swan trailed early in the first set, but prevailed 7-6 over Franciscan's Kina Ehlers. Swan carried the momentum into set two; after jumping out to a 3-2 lead she did not concede another point, and brought home the hardware for Allegheny in a 6-2 finale.

"Our women have been so strong all year," Hayden said "Even when we were down 4-3 I felt pretty confident we could come back to win."

The Gators had a rigorous preseason schedule to prepare them for the year. Early camps, practices and team lifts were all in order, in addition to the work players completed over the summer to gear the team toward success. When the trophy was finally presented, it was a surreal feeling for everyone on the team.

"I honestly couldn't believe it," Legrand said. "I just thought back on how hard we worked, for every single one of us that hard work paid off."

No other team has amassed this kind of run in the program's 46 year history. During the 1992-93 season, the Gators opened up the year with the second best start in program history; earning 13 straight victories before falling to Wooster and eventually ending the season at 18-4 including the spring.



Photo contributed by Gator Athletics

The Allegheny women's tennis team hoisting the championship flag after defeating Franciscan 5-4 at the Robertson Athletic Complex.

While the current team is yet to play their spring season they have already made history, as well as earning a bid for the NCAA Division III National Championships in May 2023. The Gators will compete in a bracket-styled format, matching up against the best schools in the country. They will be wasting no time getting to work for their trip down to the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Florida.

"We're gonna keep working hard for that," Rodriguez said. "That's our mindset and we're going to keep training our mental game."

Rodriguez was a major part of the Gators success this season. She played in all 15 singles matches while also playing in 11 doubles matches, winning every game for both competitions except one.

For her a big motivating factor this season was the atmosphere brought from the team. The Gator's lineup has talent from all classes, and the competition brought to the table encourages all players to keep working on their game to earn playing time.

"Seeing how hard working and talented everyone is on the team just inspires us to work even harder," Rodriguez said.

The Gators will open up their spring season with a trip to Hilton Head, South Carolina. They are set to open on Saturday, March 4, though it is not certain who their competition will be. The team will look to continue making their mark, as they keep their eyes locked on the NCAA tournament in May.

Swim and Dive team members, coach preview season

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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Allegheny's swim and dive teams opened their regular season on Friday, Oct. 21 with a home meet against the Washington and Jefferson Presidents. The event was hosted in the Mellon Pool at the Wise Center as the Gators dove back into the Presidents' Athletic Conference.

"The team is pretty excited — both men and women — that we can be in a conference where they can compete to score a little bit higher than in the past of the North Coast Athletic Conference, (where) it's frankly a competition for third, a lot of times," said Head Swim and Dive Coach Max Niggel. "Now that we're individually and team wise, in a place where we can perform, they're excited about that."

The NCAC's swimming and diving competitions have been dominated by Kenyon College and Denison University in its 36-year history. Kenyon has won 24 conference titles on the men's side, and 26 conference titles on the women's side. The remaining conference victories were claimed by Denison.

"Kenyon and Denison, they were big teams, and very strong and very fast, competing on a (Division I) level," said Jenna Halenda, '23. "Being in the PAC is exciting, because we have a lot of people who have opportunities to place well in the PAC. That's really exciting for the season and just being able to compete with people not only who are nearby, but also at a more even playing field."



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Jacob Anderson, '25, dives into the pool at the beginning of practice on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at the Mellon Pool in the Wise Center.

Allegheny will get an early look at the top of the PAC in their second meet of the season on Saturday, Oct. 22, when they make the 50-minute trip down Interstate 79 to Grove City College. Grove City was ranked #1 in the PAC's preseason poll, followed by Westminster College and then Allegheny.

Niggel took the helm of Allegheny's swim and dive program in September 2018, building the team to some of its best performances in a decade just before the pandemicin 2020.

"If we would have been in the PAC in 2020, we would have won (the conference)," Niggel said.

However, the pandemic pushed the teams' progress back, as health restrictions kept the Gators from swimming competitively.

"Two years ago, we didn't do a single meet except for one meet at the very end of the year: no conference meet, no nothing," Niggel said. "We did one, tiny dual meet. And then last year, we had to cancel all of our meets in the second semester."

Dan Logue, '23, was among the first swimmers recruited by Niggel when he first started coaching for Allegheny. He said that the pandemic has cut the depth of the men's team.

"We just have about 10 people on the men's side," Logue said. "I guess it's maybe like a rebuilding year is one way you could put it."

Though Halenda said the women's team has not shrunk as much as the men's, she said that the issue of depth remains.

"It's just hard because we don't have enough people to fill in where we need to get those second- and third-place finishes," Halenda said. "A lot of it just has to do with numbers, because we do have a lot of pretty well-rounded swimmers that are adaptable, it's just hard with numbers to get them in with a limited number of events."

Despite the small roster, Logue said that the team's individual talent is still strong and will show through throughout the season.

"We might have some people that end up being PAC champions or standing on the podium at least, so that's exciting," Logue said.

Another casualty of the pandemic was the teams' annual training trip to warmer climates in January, which will return this season. Niggel said the trip — a 40-year-old tradition when the pandemic cut it short — is a key time for his swimmers to refocus on the upcoming conference championships.

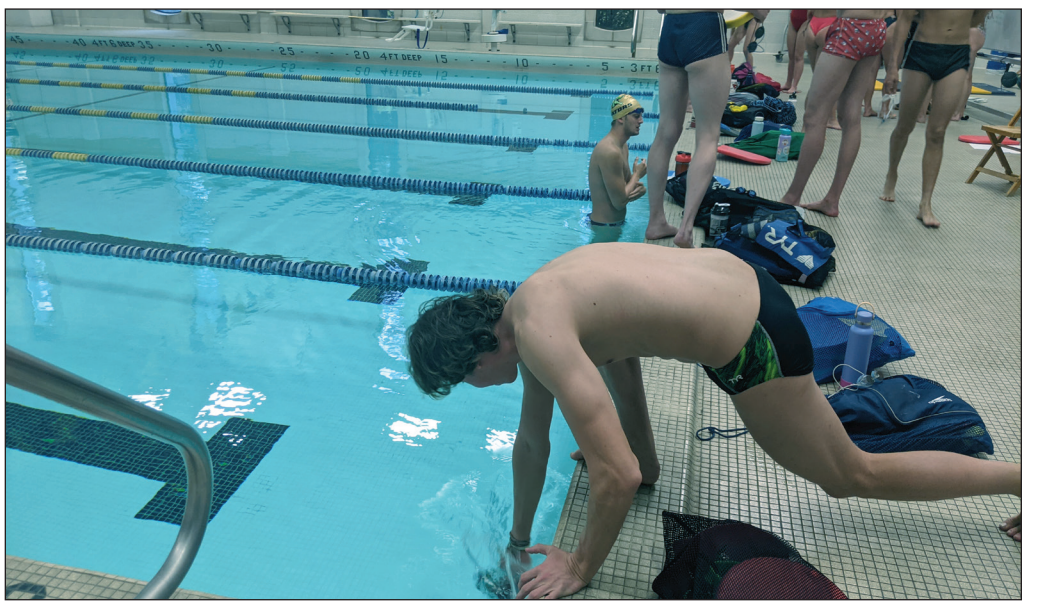
"They can basically be professional athletes for about 10 days," Niggel said. "They don't have school to worry about, we put them up in a nice hotel, usually right on the water and we try to swim outside and we work really hard. That trip is always so important for this team, not only conditioning wise, but also for our morale."

Halenda was a freshman when the last training trip took the team to Puerto Rico. She said that last year's attempt at a trip only showed

"With all the COVID cases, we had to cancel it and we came back to Meadville and swam, and it's definitely just not the same environment," Halenda said. "When you get to go somewhere new — swim in an outdoor pool that's (Olympic sized) — that's just a different type of training too and so it's good for people to get that experience."

Above all, Niggel praised the resilience of his squads.

"The athletes on this team are very poised for success, and they deserve to have a good year this year because they've been through so much."



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Emmet Fluharty, '26, wets his swimming cap minutes before jumping into the water during practice on Wednesday, Oct. 19.