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Annual Meadville Halloween Parade cancelled

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Halloween festivities, like many other events this year, will be altered due to COVID-19 safety protocols both on and off-campus. Halloween brings the campus community together as many students celebrate the holiday with one another clad in both retail and homemade costumes.

"(My advice to students would be) that the Gator Pledge still applies to all on campus and off campus events as well as all organizations and students," said Regional Advancement Officer & Assistant Director of Gift Planning Matthew Bocchi. "Also, (students should ensure that) celebrations are complying with the recommendations of the Allegheny College Health Agency and organizations are checking in with the agency to see how they may safely and professionally host potential events."

Bocchi advises Fraternity & Sorority Life organizations across Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

The Gator Pledge will still be in effect for the holiday, and students are advised not to attend large-group gatherings, such as parties, Bocchi added. Every student signed the pledge upon arrival to the campus, pledging to obey all safety policies, including masking, social distancing, and not congregating in large groups.

See **HALLOWEEN** *page 2*



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS
The exterior of McClure's Fish House & More, a newly opened Black-owned business, located on Park Ave in Meadville.

A fin-tastic business

New black-owned business opens in Meadville

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Commencement ceremony moved to November

By **ALANA SABOL**
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Since the postponement of the 2020 commencement ceremony and the March ending to their senior year, graduates have needed to consider a variety of factors such as safety, value and expenses, that determine whether they will return to Allegheny for the event.

The commencement ceremony for 2020 graduates will be held on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020. Originally, the ceremony was set to occur in October. According to the Allegheny website, the change was due to the fact that students would still be present on campus during that time, making it unsafe for the college to hold the ceremony on-site.

Many changes have been made to the ceremony in order to follow the state and federal COVID-19 safety guidelines.

"Due to mandates from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we will not be able to hold the ceremony for thousands that you were expecting before (COVID-19), and you will not be able to be housed on campus because the rooms will have just been vacated," President Hilary Link wrote on the Allegheny commencement website.

There will also be a 250-person limit in outdoor spaces and no more than two guests per graduate. There will be a live-stream of the event so that anyone that cannot attend will be able to participate virtually.

See **CEREMONY** *page 2*

Public safety incident escalates, local police get involved

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Adrean Velez, '21, was walking to visit his friends on Loomis Street just after midnight, Friday, Sept. 18, when an incident between him and two public safety officers escalated into both officers pinning Velez to the ground, according to two witnesses.

"I thought it was actually one of my roommates," Jessica Margraf, '21, said, who called campus security when her and her housemate, Tomoka Mano, '22, did not recognize the individual who was knocking on their door. "It sounded like someone was throwing up, so I'd say probably two or three times I heard that noise."

Margraf and Mano said they called aloud twice asking who was at the door, and heard no response, but once they approached their front door, Margraf said she could hear someone talking on the phone.

"I did call Public Safety explaining that someone was there," Margraf said. "We didn't know who it was, and we were just like, kind of scared and unsure of what the whole situation was about." "I told him there was someone at our door. We weren't sure who it was. We heard a few knocks but we were hesitant to open it because we were unsure. I told him that it sounded like a male's voice and he was on the phone with someone … and I stated that he seemed like he was drunk."

While on the phone, Margraf said Public Safety was responding to a call at College Court and remained on the phone with her for a few minutes until an officer arrived.

When the officer arrived, Margraf and Mona could hear the exchange between Public Safety and Velez.

"He asked him where he lived," Margraf said. "We, at the time, were not sure if this was a college student or a townsperson, so that had us on edge a little bit. They talked through a few things, he had asked where he lived, the individual responded, and then the officer had directed him to go home ... a lot more back-and-forth started going on, and we couldn't hear everything."

The witnesses were unable to hear the full conversation between Velez and Public Safety, but Margraf notes the tone of the discussion got audibly louder and more aggressive.

"We heard some yelling going on, some hysterical laughter, also you know, indicative of sort of the drunken state he was in," Margraf said.

On the other end of the call was Claire Klima, '21, who said Velez was on his way to his friend's house. Klima heard a brief exchange between Velez and campus security before the call was disconnected.

According to Klima, in her witness report sent to April Thompson, vice president for student life and dean of students, Klima said that there was a man talking to Velez, that the man communicated that they had received a call about a drunk guy banging on a door, that Velez communicated that he thought that it was his friend's house, and that the man said that Velez made the inhabitants feel threatened.

Klima states that this is when the call dropped.

Velez said he did not realize it at the time, but he had knocked on the wrong door, causing those student occupants to call public safety.

See **INCIDENT** *page 3*

IN THIS WEEK'S CAMPUS

DELAYED
Allegheny Student Government delays approving club budgets until the end of October.

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AWARD WINNER
Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing Mari Christmas awarded the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award.

Page 6



'GO PLAY OUTSIDE'
Playshop Theatre presents new physically-distanced performance, "Go Play Outside."

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FRIDAY — H: 68° L: 56° — Rain: 10% — Sunrise: 7:27 a.m. — Sunset: 6:48 p.m.

SATURDAY — H: 70° L: 54° — Rain: 20% — Sunrise: 7:28 a.m. — Sunset: 6:46 p.m.

SUNDAY — H: 67° L: 56° — Rain: 40% — Sunrise: 7:29 a.m. — Sunset: 6:44 p.m.

HALLOWEEN

from page 1

"I am a little concerned about what is going to happen with the first years, especially with Halloween occurring on a weekend this year," said Baldwin Hall Resident Advisor Liam Jones, '23.

"We will probably see more social activity than other weekends — there may be a lot more students gathering than there have been (this semester)."

Jones recommends all students, especially first-year students, avoid attending large-group gatherings for Halloween this year.

"I know that it is tempting to party your first Halloween, but we need to get through (this year) to make sure that we have next Halloween (on campus)," Jones said.

Students found violating the Gator Pledge during the holiday will be subject to existing protocols.



THE CAMPUS

Participants dressed as characters from "Alice in Wonderland" march and ride floats in Meadville's annual Halloween parade in 2016.

"We have a Gator Pledge instant referral form if students are violating the Gator Pledge and putting others (students) at risk — the college has no tolerance for that," Jones said. "(Resident Advisors) will take care of (the concerns) as to not put any other students at risk."

Baldwin Hall has yet to announce any dorm festivities for the holiday; however, Jones mentioned that a door decorating contest may occur this month. Any festivities that occur will be arranged in accordance with the institution's COVID-19 regulations, including social distancing and masking.

"(Resident advisors) mainly tell students to break up large groups, keep their masks on, and just make sure that they are practicing and maintaining social distance (with one another)," Jones said. "We want to make sure that they are being safe and preventing the spread of COVID-19 as much as we can. (Students) have been doing a good job with (preventing COVID-19 spread). (The college) has not seen a spike in COVID-19 since the first cluster."

While large-group gatherings are prohibited, students are able to attend local festivities to celebrate the holiday this year. The City of Meadville is hosting several events to celebrate the holiday, including both virtual and in-person events, such as magic shows, painting and Fright Night.

"Richard Preston's Halloween Magic Special" will occur Friday, Oct. 9, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Zoom. Tickets are $20 for anyone interested in participating in the virtual magic show. World-renowned magician Stuart MacDonald Penn plans to create an interactive show, where the audience, despite virtually attending the event, can perform magic tricks as well.

Fright Night is set to occur on Friday, Oct. 30 at the Meadville Area Recreation Complex from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. This year, Fright Night will feature a haunted drive-thru trail and a roller-skating session.

"We want to do something that is safe and in smaller numbers to accommodate everyone," MARC wrote on their Facebook page. "You can either participate (by) driving your car through a haunted trail from the MARC to the back of the baseball field or on the back of a hay trailer through the grounds in the dark with the access road filled with all kinds of spookiness."

Admission to the outdoor event is $5, however, anyone interested in attending the roller-skating event must pay an additional $5 admission fee. Due to COVID-19 regulations, the roller-skating session is limited to 125 people.

Students can also visit neighboring cities' pumpkin patches. Wooden Nickel Buffalo Farm & Corn Maze in Edinboro, Pennsylvania hosts an annual pumpkin patch event in which participants can visit the petting zoo, navigate the corn maze and pick pumpkins.

According to the Crawford Area Young Chamber of Commerce, the 54th annual Meadville Halloween Parade has been cancelled this year due to concerns regarding COVID-19 and the inability to obtain the parade's permit. The themed parade is normally held in late October, and attracts crowds of residents, students and tourists. Student organizations on campus participate in the parade by creating floats and passing out candy to attendees.

"Unfortunately, we were not able to obtain the permit needed to hold the parade," CAYCC announced on the parade's website. "Also, the current CDC guidelines would not permit a gathering of more than 250 people. We apologize and cannot wait to be able to hold the 2021 Parade!"

CEREMONY

from page 1

"They're making sure that they have a live stream," Jason Ferrante, '20 said. "(So) if you don't want to invite your immunocompromised or elderly (relatives) to campus, they can still get the same or similar experience."

Now, graduates are contemplating whether to attend the ceremony due to factors such as finances and ability to travel.

The graduates most likely to attend are from within the state and surrounding areas because of proximity to the college, Ferrante said.

"(The college) wants to make sure, (however), that if you live in Arizona, California and places like that, you're not barred from coming," Ferrante said. "(They're) trying to make sure that there's a way that those students can participate in some way, if they can come to campus."

Not only is traveling a potential obstacle, graduates also discussed financial concerns as well.

"I think it's hard, especially (with it) being November, people are going to be with family because it's close to Thanksgiving, so travel expenses are going to be (costly)," Hannah Kitchen, '20, said.

Due to the financial burden, Allegheny is considering ways it can reduce the cost to attend the ceremony, Ferrante said.

"(The college) realized a hotel for two nights, plus gas, plus tolls or an airplane, plus your cap and gown and food could easily turn into a thousand dollar trip," Ferrante said. "(They) know students don't necessarily have (those finances), especially given the job market right now."

Besides travel and finances, graduates also have to take their health into account and whether they consider back coming back to Allegheny in November safe or not. Ferrante explained that, though he plans on attending commencement, the uncertainty around how the COVID-19 pandemic will be in November has been a primary factor to consider for him.

"I guess I'm kind of at the point where I obviously want to go back, but I need to weigh if we can do it safely, which I believe Allegheny can do, but you know there's an inherent risk in going back to campus and bringing graduates back," Ferrante said.

Graduates also have to weigh the value of the ceremony for them in tandem with the other factors.

"I think the main reason it's a difficult decision is just that, I don't know if it's even gonna really be worth it, like risking my health to not even be able to really hug my friends whenever I see them," Kitchen said.

Whether graduates consider the ceremony valuable or feasible to them will affect the amount of people attending, Elyse Cinquino, '20, said.

"For some people it's not necessarily worth it for them, just because of the distance and that it's been a couple of months now (since we've been on campus). So, I kind of have a feeling that not everyone's going to come," Cinquino said.

Despite this, 2020 graduates still find value in the ceremony as a means of closure and a proper goodbye after being removed from the college in the spring, Ferrante said.

"If you think all the way back to March, we were kind of ripped away from Allegheny," Ferrante said. "We were going on spring break and you know, you could have tried to say that we knew we weren't coming back, but not everyone knew that, that's back when we had our first cases in Pennsylvania. So, I think the real desire to come back is that students feel like they were just ripped away from their college experience."

Saying a proper goodbye to professors is also a determining factor for graduates going to the ceremony. Additionally, meeting with professors in academic buildings was being considered to be a part of the event in order to spread attendees out across campus, Ferrante said.

"I didn't get to say goodbye to my comp professors and, you know, a lot of students didn't even get to (present) their comp in-person," Ferrante said.

Link explained in her letter on the Allegheny website that the commencement ceremony held in November will not make up for the premature ending of the spring semester, but rather, it serves as a way to bring the class of 2020 together again and to honor their work.

"This is kind of a celebratory thing for everyone who graduated and be able to be recognized for their achievements and that kind of thing is really important to people," Cinquino said. "Even though it has been several months since we've all been back since the 2020 spring semester, I think it's still important just for tying up loose ends and being able to move on and just finish the chapter."

ASG, club budget approvals delayed until mid-October

By **ALANA SABOL**
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After one month into the semester, Allegheny Student Government has yet to begin regular weekly meetings and budget hearings.

ASG President Abdikadir Lugundi, '21, explained that, because senate and cabinet elections did not occur during the spring semester, they had to be held this semester. Meetings were also further postponed by the lack of senate applications.

"Right now, we're just wrapping up senate elections and I'm hoping to fill in the class years that, for some reason, didn't want to participate (in senate elections)," Lugundi said. "(We're) trying to get everything together so ASG can fully start moving as one, so student participation is very important."

The newly appointed ASG advisor, Regional Advancement Officer & Assistant Director of Gift Planning Matthew Bocchi, explained that the postponement of elections was primarily decided by the previous senate.

"The Senate from last year decided it wouldn't be fair to hold elections virtually, just given access and equity among students, and it just really would not be beneficial," Bocchi said. "So, obviously that puts us a little bit behind of where we'd like to be. (However), as of now, the polls are closed and we will have our first meeting (on Tuesday, Oct. 6)."

According to Bocchi, no club budgets have been approved because of the lack of an elected senate.

"We can't approve budgets because then it would just be a dictatorship more or less, and (Lugundi) and (Vice President Patricia Gaxiola, '21) don't want that," Boochi said. "They want it to go through the proper process. So again, (we're) compressing the timeline a little bit to get that money out to clubs."

Lugundi hopes to hold budget hearings by the end of October after the cabinet is approved by the senate and proper training is completed.

Clubs, however, are experiencing postponements because of the lack of budget hearings.

President of the esports team Jacob Walters, '21, explained that the absence of meetings has prevented the team from continuing the process of making the club official through ASG.

"Because ASG is not meeting normally, we're not able to go in and propose a constitution," Walters said. "At the same time, there's a pandemic going on and ASG has a lot of other things to worry about."

Not having a budget or being approved as an official club has impeded esports from joining tournaments and becoming an official club sport.

"We have only been able to participate in one tournament because in order to join tournaments you need a budget, and we haven't been able to get a budget because we can't get through ASG," Walters said. "This semester, the biggest fear is not getting a budget or any sort of money to join the league because, if league sign-ups pass and we haven't signed up yet, that's another year that we are inactive as a club and it's a waste of money to the school."

Despite this, Lugundi explained that ASG has been transparent to clubs about the process and delays.

"(ASG bookkeeper) Stacy (Gerber) sent out a mass email to all the clubs and organizations," Lugundi said. "I think we addressed most of the questions they had and (explained) that this is just a ripple effect of us having to leave campus (last semester)."

In order for the budget hearing process to go smoothly, clubs also need to make sure they have good communication between them and their executive boards, said Bocchi.

"If folks don't know that their budgets haven't been approved, I would say that might be a communication issue with their executive boards, from the clubs," Bocchi said. "But I think there's been a lot of communication and if folks haven't gotten it, that's something to bring to our attention, but we're moving as fast as we can."

> "(We're) trying to get everything together so ASG can fully start moving as one, so student participation is very important."
>
> —ABDIKADIR LUGUNDI, '21
> President of Allegheny Student Government

Despite the setbacks, both the president and vice president expressed enthusiasm about starting meetings.

"We're just excited to get everything finally in action," Gaxiola said. "There has been a lot of holding back since we have to get (through) a lot of technicalities and just doing the whole process takes time as well. There were a lot of challenges. So now we're excited to finally be done with senate elections and to finally start doing what we said we were going to do on this campus."



THE CAMPUS

Allegheny Student Government holds its weekly general assembly in Feb. 2020 in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center.

INCIDENT

from page 1

"We were in our living room and we heard someone yelling, saying that they were being assaulted," said Zoe Konzel, '21, a student who witnessed the incident with her housemate, Autumn Blaisdell, '21, that night. "So, obviously, we looked outside and we saw someone on the ground, like being pinned to the ground by two people. At first we were like, okay, we don't know what's going on … And then we kept hearing the yelling, and I recognized the voice because (Velez) was a good friend of mine, and also my roommate (Blaisdell)'s. Konzel and Blaisdell then went on to their front porch and watched everything that happened.

According to the Public Safety Crime Log, 15 minutes after Velez's interaction began there was a report of criminal mischief at College Court, where Klima was at that time. According to Klima, a Public Safety officer knocked on her door and said he was investigating an incident report of a rock thrown through the window of a student's dorm residence nearby. He asked if she had seen Velez around earlier.

"What does this have to do with anything?" Klima recalled saying to the officer. "I knew that (Velez) was not in the area when I got off the phone with him."

According to Klima, she asked the Public Safety officer where Velez was, and he told her Velez was in transit with the Meadville City Police. When the Public Safety officer left Klima's dorm, she proceeded to call Meadville Police Department to verify where Velez was. The first call was placed around 1:00 a.m., and the police could not provide any information on Velez's whereabouts. Klima then called Public Safety approximately 10 minutes later, and they informed her that Velez was in transit to the police station. Klima called two more times and received no additional information.. At approximately 1:30 a.m., Klima drove to the police station.

"In this political climate, s--- just happens, okay," Klima recalled of her conversation when she arrived at the Meadville precinct. "I just need to see him with my own two eyes."

Klima stated that an officer on duty "said (Velez) could not leave for a minimum of six hours, and that he was not allowed a phone call because that was county policy … it was just super weird, and after a while, they called the (Director) of Public Safety out of sleep."

> It is infuriating and embarrassing to see how campus security handled this situation and were able to treat a student."
>
> —ZOE KONZEL
> Class of 2021

Klima said this was the point when Director of Public Safety James Bassinger arrived at the station; he told Klima that Velez could be released that night if he was calm.

"The irony of this whole thing in my opinion, is that the college is trying to act like (Velez) is some sort of danger to this community, but I don't understand how that could be the case if they let him come home with me," Klima said.

On Sept. 28, Velez pleaded guilty to "Disorderly Conduct Engage In Fighting" and "Public Drunkenness And Similar Misconduct," and paid around $400 in fines, according to court documents. The arresting officer is filed as Cprl. Quentin Shevitz, and Allegheny College, Safety and Sec. are listed as the arresting agency.

Velez believes that this incident is a part of a pattern of animosity between himself and a specific Public Safety officer who responded to the incident. The Campus was unable to confirm the identity of the officer.

Velez was the artist behind the controversial art piece which caused outcry in the local community and led to it being removed from public display.

According to Velez, an incident between him and the officer occured over the summer of 2019. Velez was moving between his summer housing and fall housing prematurely and, when Public Safety encountered Velez, the situation escalated. Velez believes that the officer responding to that incident was the same officer who interacted with him on Sept. 18.

"I literally thought I was going to die," Velez said. "If I was a white student, it wouldn't have gone that way."

Velez stated that he was pinned on his stomach for 10 to 15 minutes, and that Public Safety officers escalated the situation. Both Blaisdell and Konzel, the students who witnessed most of the incident, confirm the length of time Velez says he was pinned.

Velez noted that his neck, back, wrists and head were sore, but he did not go to a doctor due to an inability to afford health insurance.

"I do not believe (Velez) was a threat of any type to the safety of this community," Konzel said in her witness statement given to Maureen Muckinhaupt, director of student life operations & planning. "It is infuriating and embarrassing to see how campus security handled this situation and were able to treat a student."

In the spring of 2019, an incident took place off-campus that led to Interim Director of Public Safety William Merchbaker removing a student from class to notify them about a warrant for their arrest.

In response, students organized protests and devised documents for changing policy regarding protocols for student privacy. Many students and faculty were alarmed and upset at the lack of privacy provided to the student, and demanded answers on questions regarding campus security and Meadville police protocol demanded answers.

Administration hosted two public forums to discuss potential action plans the college could take. During the forums, students and faculty expressed their feelings regarding police interacting with students of color, and concerns of racial profiling.

Administration proposed a plan to have student and faculty sessions regarding protocol when interacting with law enforcement for the following 2019 fall semester, along with mandatory sensitivity and bias training for all employees who work in the Office of Student Life scheduled to take place the following summer.

The Office of Public Safety declined to comment on individual incidents, but Bassinger clarified Public Safety's policy on incidents like the one in spring of 2019 and the incident regarding Velez.

According to Bassinger, Public Safety has established policies for responding to intoxicated students, including when it is appropriate for the Meadville Police Department to become involved, as well as the appropriate time for use of force on students. Bassinger said that Public Safety cannot let students become a danger to themselves and officers make an effort to understand the situation when responding to calls.

According to Bassinger, when interacting with intoxicated students, Public Safety officers make an initial assessment of the situation then take appropriate action whether it is calling emergency medical services or getting other Allegheny College offices involved.

Additionally, Public Safety officers do not carry weapons, so if a student is acting aggressively, Meadville Police have the ability to intervene and take students into custody. Public Safety has a protocol when uses of force come into question. First, Public Safety arrives and acts as a visual deterrent. The officers will then engage in verbal communication to allow for an understanding of the situation by all parties involved. Then, officers may restrain students, and some officers carry handcuffs.

"The number one priority is for safety," Bassinger said. "It is always better if Public Safety shows up first because they have other avenues of safety enforcement."

Public Safety also has an agreement with the Meadville Police Department which gives Meadville Police the ability to come onto campus if a person is out of control, Bassinger said.

"Honestly, we thought it would be one officer taking care of it, coming to talk to us, and leaving the scene," Mona said. "We believe it went on longer than it should have (and that) getting all the police involved was unnecessary."

The morning after the incident, Velez received an email from Muckinhaupt, telling him that he needed to leave campus by the end of the day. Velez then left his on-campus housing. He has been in negotiations with, primarily, Muckinhaupt, and has recently agreed to learn remotely.





CORRECTIONS

In the Oct. 2 issue of the Campus, President of Allegheny Student Government, Abdikadir Lugundi's, '21, name was misspelled as "Abdikar" in the article "Candlelight vigil held for Breonna Taylor."
In the same issue, the article "Womxn in Accounting club to support women in business and economics," the student run club was referred to as "Womxn in Accounting."
The club is called "Womxn in Economics and Business" club.

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.

Oct. 2, 2020
Theft
N. Main Street

Oct. 4, 2020
Harrassment/Dating Violence
Caflisch Hall

THE CAMPUS

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An open letter to Allegheny College's administration

By **PEYTON BRITT**
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To all administrators at Allegheny College: I am tired of your emails. "Tired" is actually somewhat of an understatement — I am beyond exasperation, somewhere into the realm of infuriation, and I can only imagine plenty of other students feel the same way. I believe that the experience and expression of anger can be productive in catalyzing change; for this reason, I feel it is my responsibility to convey my discontentment in a public, candid manner.

I have been made aware that Dean for Institutional Diversity Kristin Dukes recently met with the Culture, Identity, and Leadership Coalition to discuss racial injustices on campus. During this meeting, students in CILC presented a list of seven demands, several of which have been met, albeit not to total satisfaction. The demands were as follows: administration should email professors to encourage them to address the many instances of racial violence that have occurred recently, acknowledge Breonna Taylor's tragic story by saying her name, apologize for using the term "blacks" to refer to Black people, address student activism on campus, inform students that they planned to remove signs and posters left on the Campus Center after the vigil for Breonna Taylor, acknowledge the potential for a response of racial violence following the vigil and make a statement condemning the forced hysterectomies occuring in immigration detention centers at our border. The last two of these demands have not been met, at least at the time of writing this.

Before I get into my critique of how most of these demands were met, I would like to point out the fact that these requests were really quite simple and could be accomplished with little but a handful of emails and some reflective thinking. The bar is so low.

Let's talk about how President Hilary Link addressed the Breonna Taylor vigil in her email titled "Activism and Advocacy on Campus." She stated that the administration supports "BIPOC community members," adding that "[w]e hear your voices." Seeing as her next paragraph immediately changed the topic to Campus Center guidelines for posting content and peaceful assembly, I feel that these words of support were largely empty. Despite the fact that she returned to her initial effort to express solidarity in her closing, nearly half of the email was about Campus Center policies — for this reason, I really feel she missed the point, both of the vigil and the demand she was addressing. The priority is clear: upholding rules about posters is more important than actually showing empathy for Black students, and more important than the woman whose life the vigil was meant to honor. I don't know about you, but I feel like the world we live in necessitates sometimes breaking rules to do what is right, and there is no doubt in my mind that the vigil was the right thing to do — posters, chalk and all.

Regarding Link and Dukes' email with the subject line "An Apology Regarding the May 31, 2020 'Statement on Recent Racial Injustices,' " I want you to stop and think about everything that has happened between the end of May and now. It has been months, and racial injustices have certainly not disappeared, yet it seems that this email was not important until CILC pressed the issue. The subject line also omitted the reason for the apology: using "Blacks" instead of "Black people." For those who are not yet aware, the noun "Blacks" is dehumanizing in that it reduces the people to whom it refers to the color of their skin, whereas "Black people" asserts the humanity of persons who have Black skin while still acknowledging that skin color is often an important element of peoples' identity.

The email ended with a few links to articles of varying relevance. There was a nice Scientific American blog that asserted the importance of prioritizing impacts over intent when it comes to offensive language. What was less nice were the articles regarding casual misogyny and accidental sexism. Although they made some good points, they were entirely tangential to the issue of racism. Had these articles been about misogynoir, a term that refers to misogyny specifically as it disproportionately affects Black women, it would have been a different story, but as it was, these articles merely detracted from the point: Black lives are constantly under surveillance and the threat of violence in the United States. Why can't you just say that, and leave it at that? This apology, which does not even apply to me, was honestly insulting.

I could go on — and maybe I will in future articles — but I think I have made my point sufficiently clear. I could criticize administration for failing to meet two of CILC's seven demands (acknowledging the forced hysterectomies happening at the border and the potential for racist backlash towards the Taylor vigil), but somehow I do not think merely checking these things off the list would be all that productive, anyways.

In conversations about race and racism, I can only speak to what I have learned from Black authors, theorists, educators and peers, and I do not mean to position myself as an authority on racism by writing this. All I know is that in my years at Allegheny, I have seen administration misstep far too many times to give the benefit of the doubt anymore. I am tired of it, and I am angry that Black students are forced to defend and demand their own humanity on a regular basis on this campus. I have seen Link's name all over @blackncac, an Instagram account that allows "Black students, alum, faculty, staff and parents (to) share experiences" of racism on campus anonymously, and these submissions do not exactly make me think well of her.

More than anything, I want administrators to ask themselves a few questions: what can you do to lessen the emotional burden Allegheny College has carelessly dumped on Black students? Why are you okay with repeatedly making Black students feel out of place here? Seeing as these issues keep coming up, what do you need to change? What do you need to do to let Black students rest? They are far more tired of this malarkey than I am.

Whether or not this recommendation for self-reflection is taken or not will be evident through your future emails.

Beyond grass: golf culture

By **PEYTON BRITT**
Opinion Editor
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Golf ball photo courtesy of Tord Sollie via flickr; devil horns courtesy of Needpix.com

In the Sept. 11 issue of The Campus, I wrote extensively about the environmental harms of grass lawns, and somewhat less extensively about the ostentatious bourgeois wastefulness and patriarchal white supremacist ideas underlying the imagery of the well-manicured lawn. For a comprehensive understanding of my hatred of grass, refer to that article, titled, "Grass is trash."

Since taking this stance on grass, I have thought extensively about the issue and why I find it so viscerally condemnable. My conclusion is this: I blame golf. Golf is trash.

Being skilled at golf requires an enormous amount of money and resources compared to other sports, and thus has an air of exclusivity or elitism surrounding it. Golf skills are not taught in school gym classes, which means that kids who want to play golf likely have to pay for lessons rather than merely joining a scholastic team.

Having enough extra income to pay for something as inessential to sustaining life as golf lessons is inarguably a privilege, which cannot be ignored in discussions about the talent and discipline that may go into becoming an excellent golfer.

For contrast, consider basketball, a sport that can be enjoyed with nothing but a ball and a hoop, the latter of which is often available for public use. Basketball is spatially compact, with courts generally taking up a space measuring about 94 feet long and 50 feet wide. This applies to lone hoopers at a park as well as professional games.

Your average eighteen-hole golf course, however, takes up thousands of yards, a distance that often requires that players travel from hole to hole via golf cart. Because land is a valuable resource, urban areas are highly unlikely to justify constructing golf courses for city residents. This forces city kids who could potentially excel at golf to travel if they want to play, which is simply impossible for many working parents.

Although I imagine you could practice smaller-scale golf skills on any given swath of grass, it still stands that you cannot play a full game of golf with strict spatial limitations. Furthermore, all the grass required for golf is also valuable in the sense that it is a limited resource. All that grassy land, pimpled with sand pits and white balls, could be used for a plethora of more productive, useful projects, such as community gardens or affordable housing.

At the very least, we could turn control of the land back over to Mother Nature, rather than wasting it on the hobbies of the rich — I am sure they could find something else to do, seeing as they have the capital necessary to unlock a world of options from which to choose a wasteful pastime.

Looking at golf attire certainly does not improve my perception of the sport. Take Titleist, a golf equipment and apparel brand, for example — the name of the company is so laughably close to the word elitist, I almost wonder if it was intended to be ironic.

The clothing itself is not only arguably tasteless, but also reflective of the sort of bland, upper-middle-class, clean-cut, conformist standard of what is considered presentable that has become almost synonymous with whiteness.

The regalia of suburbia has long been a means of visually ostracizing those who either cannot or do not fit the picture — this often means the poor and people of color.

Social media humor and discourse has played a role in identifying this trend. For example, a photo of a young man wearing salmon shorts, Sperry's and a Vineyard vines t-shirt might be met with replies such as "you look like you pay $30 a gram," and most Twitter users would understand that it is a joke about white privilege and lack of street knowledge.

It should be noted that I do believe in letting people enjoy things that I do not personally enjoy; forgive me if I have sounded too curmudgeonly. I have my own interests and fashion choices, and I do not care much to be criticized for these personal decisions.

What I mean to assert is that golf as a cultural practice is inherently classist and does a lot to support the exact sort of elitist attitudes that perpetuate racism.

It is hard to ignore these associations, especially while our sitting president, the quintessential figure of white supremacy and classism in the United States, has squandered over $141 million in taxpayer dollars on his dozens of golf outings just since he was inaugurated.

Trump contracts COVID-19
And I get a good chuckle

By **PEYTON BRITT**
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On Oct. 2, President Trump revealed that both he and First Lady Melania Trump have contracted COVID-19. As was to be expected, people immediately took to social media to express their opinions about the matter. These opinions ranged from your typical conservative bootlicking rubbish to death threats.

Personally, what surprised me the most about the whole ordeal — given that I am totally unsurprised that he got the virus based on literally all of his recent actions — was how many liberals and others who are anti-Trump were defending the man or wishing him a speedy recovery.

The Coronavirus has seriously impacted so many people, like those who have lost loved ones, small businesses owners whose livelihoods have been imperiled and vulnerable groups who have had to live in fear for their lives, to give a few examples. Trump, on the other hand, is disgustingly wealthy and therefore has access to the absolute best medical care imaginable. His wealth and position of power also insulate him from any concerns about loss of income while he is receiving treatment.

On top of that, he has exhibited little to no social responsibility and absolutely no empathy for those who he has put at risk by not only refusing to wear a mask himself, but also by pouring gas on the asinine fire that is the anti-mask movement. His illness is entirely and undeniably his own fault — why on earth would I feel the slightest bit sympathetic for him, regardless of whether he is in good health or not?

What's more is that his borderline fascist political views are definitively violent by nature. He has blood on his hands for how poorly he has handled the pandemic, allowing hundreds of thousands of Americans to struggle to support themselves and their dependents with a single, measly $1200 stimulus check, not to mention his immigration policy, his actions in the Middle East, his racism and too many more abhorrent crimes against the human lives. If I were to account for his influence on public attitudes towards people of color, women, LGBTQ+ identities, immigrants and other marginalized groups, his death toll would only be all the more immense.

For the record, I am not a part of the group of people who have been publicly wishing death on him — in fact, I wish him a long, long recovery, because if he kicked the bucket right now, Mike Pence would take the reins until the upcoming election and we would have to look at his terrible little homophobic face in the history books forever.

So yes, Trump contracting coronavirus is funny — hilarious, actually, considering how he called this virus a hoax for months while the entire world was hurting from its impact. The jokes nearly write themselves. It is akin to someone ridiculing space suits and then getting launched into orbit. It's like he made fun of seatbelts just to get in a car accident and sail through the windshield. It's like someone told him his shoes were untied and he got angry, stormed away, and immediately tripped and cracked his skull open. It's like medical experts all over the world told him that taking just a few simple precautions would not only keep himself safe, but also ensure that he does his part in protecting public health, and he turned it into a partisan issue, refused to heed their advice and got himself sick — oh wait, that is exactly what actually happened.

He could have just worn his mask, washed his hand and shut his mouth, but instead he decided to act like a power-drunk toddler and, for God knows what reason, endanger everyone who has the enormous misfortune of being anywhere near him. Unlike a toddler, however, he deserves much more than a slap on the wrist for the gravity of his transgressions. Weighing the immorality of Trump's conduct, especially during his presidency, against that of the people online who are making jokes at his expense, the latter is utterly dwarfed.

The idea that one should be tolerant, even toward those who themselves are dangerously intolerant, needs to die. Tolerating intolerance merely perpetuates the intolerance and nullifies the good behind the tolerance. I would like to consider myself a pretty tolerant person, but I haven't got a single molecule of empathy in my body for the well-being of a man who is adamantly opposed to socialized healthcare — it is only right that a man who is so sickening to his very core is sick. Thus, as I jibe at Trump's misfortunes, my conscience is unabashedly pristine.

> "Tolerating intolerance merely perpetuates the intolerance and nullifies the good behind the tolerance."
>
> —PEYTON BRITT
> Class of 2022

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Latinas on the Rise celebrate Hispanic History Month

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Latinas on the Rise is a student organization dedicated to empowering Latinx individuals on campus as well as creating a safe space for Latinas.

"(Latinas on the Rise) is dedicated to the entrancement of women self-empowerment," President Natalie Corral-Gutierrez, '21, said. "(We create) a safe space where Latinas can come together and embrace their culture and identity."

The organization is a part of the Culture, Identity & Leadership Coalition advised by Director of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access, and Social Justice Center Angelica Perez-Johnston.

Due to COVID-19, Latinas on the Rise meet biweekly on Zoom on Thursdays at 6 p.m. to discuss upcoming events, mentorship and internal affairs. The organization is open to anyone interested in attending the meetings.

"Even though we are not meeting in person, the remote meetings are so much more accessible," Corral-Gutierrez said. "There is a little bit of a downfall that we do not get to see our members face-to-face and interact in a room, but they are still getting a sense of us. We try to show them our personalities and our stories to make it as normal as possible."

Corral-Gutierrez recalled having culture shock during her first year at Allegheny because it was very different from California, where she grew up in a predominately Hispanic area.

"Coming into Allegheny, it was so different, especially during Hispanic Heritage Month because I did not get those experiences anymore," Corral-Gutierrez said. "My first two years, I did feel like I was losing my identity and it was just recently when I started on the board (of Latinas on the Rise) that I realized how important it is to continue learning and practicing your culture … I want to make sure that no one looses their identity and embraces it … A lot of people do not understand the Hispanic culture, so it is important to practice it within yourself and then show it to the world."

Latinas on the Rise was created to focus on women's empowerment as well as to create a space for Latinas to embrace their own identities. The organization was more central and focused than existing Hispanic organizations.

"It is so hard, especially for first-year students to go through that culture shock," Corral-Gutierrez said. "I reach out to them when I realize who that group will consist of, over the summer, and I tell them that it is going to be hard, but that you can join (Latinas on the Rise and Union Latinx) because it is super important to embrace your culture and not be too scared of it or feel different or left out … We are with you, we have been through it so let's talk about it and we will still celebrate just like any other Hispanic Heritage Month."

Hispanic Heritage Month occurs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, commemorating the independence of Latin American countries.

"Hispanic Heritage Month is super important to any Hispanic and Latinx-identifying cultures because this month provides us with a safe place to help others learn more about our culture and it helps us embrace (our heritage) within our own community," Corral-Gutierrez said. "We are aiming to help the community of Meadville learn more about different Hispanic cultures and for us that do identify as Latinx to be more comfortable embracing our culture within the community."

Latinas on the Rise have numerous events this semester, despite COVID-19, and have been able to celebrate and share their culture with the campus community in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

"All (Latinas on the Rise) asks for other students is to have an open mind and to really dive into learning about our culture with us," Corral-Gutierrez said. "The Hispanic culture is so diverse and there are so many countries involved with Hispanic Heritage Month and we try to incorporate (all of them) by doing different things. We are teaching people our music, how to dance and the importance of food — this is a huge part of any culture … We really try our best to teach people different aspects of our culture."

While Hispanic Heritage Month is a time on campus where Latinas on the Rise and Union Latinx host interactive community events, this month holds great significance to Latinx-indentifying countries, cultures and students.

"To me, Hispanic Heritage Month is such a huge deal because I (was) born in the United States," Corral-Gutierrez said. "My parents were born in Mexico and they came to the United States when my mom realized she was pregnant with me because they wanted me to have better opportunities."

Corral-Gutierrez recalled Hispanic Heritage Month in California being a big celebration where her family from Mexico would come to celebrate with them. Festivities included their favorite foods and discussions about the Hispanic culture. Corral-Gutierrez wanted to create a similar experience on campus for Hispanic Heritage Month by teaching the campus and local community about her culture through events.

On Sept. 18, the organization and Union Latinx hosted the Latinx Faculty Panel via Google Meet, where students and faculty could learn about one another's culture and identity.

From Sept. 19 to Sept. 20, Latinas on the Rise collaborated with Union Latinx and the IDEAS Center to host a food-centric event in the gator quad featuring churros and chocolate.

"I wanted to do the churros and chocolate event because it is honestly one of my favorite desserts," Vice President Crystal Hernandez, '23, said. "I loved eating churros growing up as a kid, and I never had them with chocolate until I went to Spain, which was back in the summer of 2018. When we were looking for desserts, we found that there is a Cuban-style churros and chocolate so we decided, why not bring that on as one of our events."

This event held sentimental significance to many members of the organization.

"I resonate a lot with churros because I have a lot of memories from Christamas because (my family) would have churros with hot chocolate; the cinnamon and dough brings back Christmas memories," Treasurer Rachel Olivares, '23, said. "(Churros) are very integrated into my holiday traditions."

On Sept. 23, in collaboration with Union Latinx and the IDEAS Center, they hosted another food-centric event in the gator quad featuring flan, which is an egg custard dessert with a caramel topping.

"When I think of flan, I just always think about my childhood, and especially my uncle because it was always his favorite food," Philanthropy Chair Eisa Patino, '21, said. "I love that flan is not like cake because the texture is smoother and it is so delicious, sweet and the little bit of caramelized sugar on top just makes it."

On Oct. 3, Union Latinx and Latinas on the Rise hosted Elotes Preparados, a food-centric event, in the gator quad. Elotes are traditional street-style corn that can be topped with numerous additives, such as mayonnaise, cheese and chili powder.

"For those who do not know what an Elote Preparado is, it is basically a corn on the cob topped with mayo, butter, cheese and chilli powder — trust me, this is really delicious," Publicity Chair Jasmine Ramirez-Soto, '21, said. "When I think of Elotes Preparados, they remind me of back home, specifically of the Elotero man — the corn man. He usually goes around the block honking his horn to let everyone know that he is near and people rush to the door and street just to get that delicious corn."

Due to COVID-19 safety concerns, the organization provided elote kits and a step-by-step tutorial on how to make them. The kits contained corn, chili powder, mayonnaise, parmesan cheese and butter.

"I have been eating elotes ever since I was little, which are just corn on the cob," Secretary Angela Cruz, '23, said. "How I prepare my elotes is that I squeeze lime juice all over it and then I add mayo and parmesan cheese, and depending on whether I want it to be spicy or not I add chilli powder or I add Valentina — either way all of the combinations are really good and I really like it."

Latinas on the Rise handed out self-care kits, on Oct. 6, in the IDEAS Expansion Center that featured avocado masks and hot cocoa to help people de-stress.

On Oct. 8, in Murray Lawn, the organization hosted an in-person and virtual event to teach people how to dance the Bachata. The event had a maximum capacity of 25 people to ensure appropriate social distancing, but the event was available on Zoom as well. The event was choreographed by Ramirez-Soto and Hernandez.

The final event for Hispanic Heritage Month is planned to occur on Oct. 13 and it is the Brown Bag Lunch, another food-centric event featuring traditional Hispanic snacks.

On Oct. 15, the winner of the raffle will be announced. The winner will receive a free photoshoot with "Billionaire" Dez Harris, a local photographer.

"We ran through so many difficulties (with COVID-19)," Corral-Gutierrez added. "Last year, we had great events which involved a lot of involvement, but this year it is different because instead of interacting (with people) and having big gatherings to teach people, we have to have more of a grab-and-go style (for events) that only have quick interactions."

To compensate for the loss of interaction at events due to COVID-19 regulations, the organization is utilizing their social media to teach the campus community about Hispanic culture. They made several interactive videos to help teach the community about the significance of the events that Latinas on the Rise are hosting for Hispanic Heritage Month. Videos will be posted on their social media platforms and some feature cameos from Union Latinx members.

"We have been making so many videos as far as teaching people about our cultures," Corral-Gutierrez added. "(We are) having our board members speak broadly as far as what their culture means to them and what these events mean to them. We tackled a lot of obstacles with COVID-19, but I think, with all of the events that we have, and with the use of our social media platforms, we can help (the community) still learn (about hispanic culture) in the same way that we did in previous years."

Professor Mari Christmas wins Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award

By **KALEIGH WHITE**
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Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing Mari Christmas was awarded the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award for her work in fiction writing.

The Rona Jaffe Foundation Award was established in 1995, and aimed to give women with promising careers in writing the financial support and encouragement they needed to be successful. The program brings the difficulties women writers face in finding fulfilling careers to the surface and gives them support to find more time to write. This award, unlike many writing awards, did not have an application; a person has to be nominated by someone on the award committee, which is usually made up of people who are successful in the field and often see new writing happening. Nominees are not told how many other people are nominated for the award, nor who nominated them to begin with. Additionally, the nominator does not have to know the nominee personally; they can nominate any writer whose work they may come across, be it in a well-known journal or a small town newspaper. Winner of the award Mari Christmas explained the secrecy surrounding the award.

"I did not know I was a finalist until the end of the spring semester … there is a lot of secrecy in the process," Christmas said.

According to Department Chair and Associate Professor of English Matt Ferrence, "(the Rona Jaffe Award) is among the most prestigious fellowships that an early-career fiction writer can win."

Professor Christmas was hired during the fall 2019 semester and did not start teaching at Allegheny until January 2020. Prior to coming to Allegheny, she was finishing her doctorate at the University of Albany while also working as an adjunct professor at Idaho State University. During this time, she also had another child and learned a lot about the struggles that come with balancing her life as a writer and the family she was building. This is another reason, she said, why the award meant so much to her; the grant has allowed her to lessen her teaching load this fall semester and pay for child care so that she can have more time to dedicate to her current novel.

"It tends to be a career-launching prize," Christmas said. "It makes the writing a lot more possible. It is not a luxurious field, and it does not pay a lot, so having that extra financial support for (early-career women writers) can allow them to finish their project and be recognized by the larger literary community."

She was nominated for two of her short stories, titled "Baby" and "A Non-Orientable Surface," the latter of which was published in the New Ohio Review, and additionally when prompted she submitted a work titled "Beam," which was published in Cosmonauts Avenue.

"(The English Department) was impressed with the haunting depth of the fiction (Christmas) writes," Ferrence said. "It is realistic fiction that has not so much a supernatural haunting, but a deep sense of how characters' pasts and presents are intertwining. It is beautiful, emotionally evocative prose… (the Rona Jaffe award) is a really welcome and appropriate recognition."

Thanks to the support from this award, Christmas hopes to continue work on a novella that stemmed from her dissertation. She is hoping it will turn into a novel and plans to have a complete manuscript by the end of next summer.

"It's a story of two sisters and their complicated relationship that sort of circles around reproductive experiences and decisions that these women have to make and their haunting effect on their relationship at large, and how they work through that," Christmas said.

There are also themes of a woman's right to make decisions, abortion and birth control. The story, while not a biography or memoir, is actually based on real-life events. The characters are often based on situations Christmas herself has faced, but not always the decision she came to; in fact, she finds a lot of inspiration in thinking about how her life would have been different depending on the decisions she made.



Photo courtesy of ALLEGHENY.EDU
Professor Mari Christmas, winner of the 2020 Rona Jaffe Writers' Award for Fiction

"A lot of times, it isn't something that I have done, but a situation that is like a shadow of something I have felt … It rhymes with life, rather than being a replication of it," Christmas said.

She also said that having children and having been through the pregnancy process herself is very beneficial in making her writings realistic and relatable.

Ferrence explained that he believes this award says a lot about the high quality of education students receive at Allegheny, and that students can feel assured that they are working with and learning from dedicated writers.

"At Allegheny we have this long tradition and habit of not celebrating ourselves, and not thinking of ourselves as being something," Ferrence said. "We are humble to a fault as an institution, and every now and then, we need to be rattled out of that humility and recognize that a lot of our faculty and students are (doing extraordinary things) on a daily basis, and that is what Professor Christmas is doing, and what this is a marker for."

Playshop Theatre returns with 'Go Play Outside!'

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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For the last two weekends, the courtyard of the Vukovich Center for Communication Arts has echoed with the sounds of the Playshop Theatre's "Go Play Outside!," a series of socially distanced short plays and dance productions.

The 11 performances varied from comic, like "Sure Thing" to serious, as seen in "Chiaroscuro." They discussed societal issues from domestic abuse, explored in "Poof!", to homophobia and sexual assault, examined in "Habitat" by Professor of English Ben Slote.

The acts were divided into three shows, each running 50-60 minutes and running on a rotating schedule between the three showtimes. One such show focused almost exclusively on the climate, featuring plays like "Pond Life," a conversation between two frogs in a polluted swamp, and "The Rubik's Cube Solution," which comments on the complexity — or simplicity — of lowering human carbon dioxide emissions.

Due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19, the theatre's standard fall season — which included a production of "Sweat," the winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama — was canceled. "Go Play Outside!" was born of the Playshop's efforts to put on a show despite the pandemic.

"Over the summer we were talking about, 'how could we possibly do theater?'" said Michael Mehler, professor and chair of the communication, film and theatre department. "We started investigating ways in which we might be able to spread the audience out in the theater ... Still, most of the recommendations, especially at that point, were not to do anything inside. For anyone who paid attention to what was happening in live theater and live performances in general, everybody just shut down."

Moving the performance out to the Vukovich courtyard shifted the format from a traditional "proscenium" to a "thrust" arrangement. A "proscenium" arrangement is the traditional auditorium — the audience faces the stage head-on. But in a "thrust" arrangement, the audience surrounds the stage on three sides, adding complexity to the performance.

"When we're down there, and we're performing in front of these people, we're face-to-face," said Isabella James, '24, who performed in "Habitat." "In the auditorium, the lights would be blinding you, you wouldn't really be able to see, so in that moment you're in the moment on stage, but here you get to be in the moment while also connecting with the audience because you can actually see them and see their reactions."

> Our actors and our stage managers, like myself, have never really had to think about movement in a space like this and (have never) thought about voice in a space like this."
>
> —BRITTANY JOSEPH
> Class of 2021

Emily Tekelenburg, '24, attended some of the performances. She appreciated the deeper connection between the audience and the actors that the format enabled.

"You do feel like you're being interacted with a bit more with the actors in this environment compared to one where you're spaced apart and watching them on the stage," Tekelenburg said.

All of the performers wore masks and were socially distanced, which altered the way they approached the show.

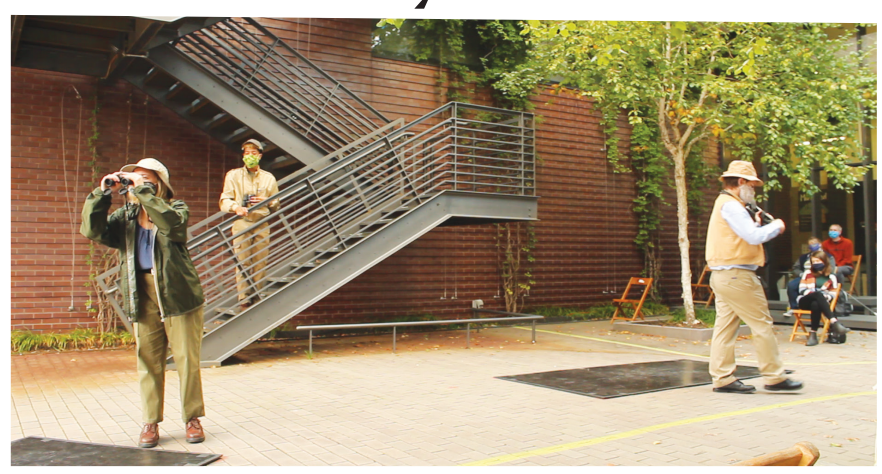
"(Acting) is very, I wouldn't say physical, but you do form connections with your castmates as well as the people in the scenes with you," James said. "I know in "Habitat," for example, there was a stage direction (where) two of the characters were supposed to embrace, which obviously we couldn't do. It was definitely difficult forming those connections within the scenes, but it was also kind of cool to find those connections in ways where we could be physically distanced and still convey that same information to the audience."

Mehler noted that the dynamics of the space dictated a different approach to acting.

"Thinking about gesture, posture, taking things in, releasing them, making the body work much broader, because it is more challenging to hear a performer," Mehler said. "We've basically got about a 40-by-60 foot box here, and not the world's best acoustics. They're not bad, but they're hard with a mask."

All of the plays were held outside, a first for both James and Brittany Joseph, '21, who stage-managed three of the performances.

"Our actors and our stage managers, like myself, have never really had to think about movement in a space like this and (have never) thought about voice in a space like this," Joseph said. "I think that's been the biggest change for us, working in a space where you have, in some ways, a lot less limitations than in a place like our theater in Vukovich."



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS
Draigh Ricketson, Avantae Gonzalez, and Isabella James perform in "Habitat" by Professor of English Ben Slote.

Mehler saw performing outside as a benefit for his students as it gave them experience for working on shows beyond the Playshop itself.

"I think it's a great opportunity for students to know what outdoor performance is like," Mehler said. "Some of their first jobs are probably going to be in outdoor theaters ... and, in all honesty, pessimistically, this is not the last pandemic we're going to face in our lifetimes."

As the weather grows colder, however, outdoor shows like "Go Play Outside!" will be much harder to produce, while indoor shows are still too risky to host. Thus, many groups — like the Student Experimental Theater — are shifting their performances online

"I know (SET is) planning some Zoom performances," Mehler said. "They're going to distribute opportunities for lots of students to be involved, but they're going to do those things on Zoom. I think people who, again, pay attention to live theater have seen various forms of video-recorded and/or live video performance, and so I think that's what's going to happen during the colder months."

But for Tekelenburg, Zoom performances wouldn't be the same as an in-person experience.

"People truly need to be there in order to get the true experience from a play and to gain that perspective that both the actors and the writers are trying to demonstrate to them," Tekelenburg said. "That separation with the camera between the audience and the actors, the writers, or even the musicians is something that has to be (dealt) with."

Mehler hopes that, even after restrictions are lifted, he hopes to return to the Vuk's courtyard for similar events.

"I want to come back to this next fall even if we're all allowed to hang out without masks on and we can cram in 75 people as opposed to 25 people," Mehler said. "I still think this is a wonderful opportunity … (Grounds for Change) came. We partnered with them to come serve hot drinks to get people out and about. I think it's good for everyone's social well-being."

The final four performances of "Go Play Outside" are this weekend, Oct. 10 and 11 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Reservations can be made online by visiting the Playshop's website.

McClure's Fish House and more brings fish to Park Avenue

Reviewing Meadville's newest Black-owned business

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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Just north of Arch St. on Park Ave. stands McClure's Fish House and More, Meadville's newest Black-owned business.

The establishment, the first of its kind since Meadville's Long John Silver's closed several years ago, offers five varieties of fish, chicken wings, chicken tenders, shrimp and more. Some also see the restaurant's Aug. 21 opening as a step forward for Meadville's — and Allegheny's — Black community.

When I tried McClure's for the first time, I ordered two pieces of their haddock and a side of cheese sticks. My first reaction upon opening up the take-out container was that I had gotten my money's worth. The box was filled with two well-sized pieces of fish, both approximately eight inches long and around three to four inches wide. The fish came with a slice of bread, fries and tartar sauce, though the fries were completely covered by the fish.

Upon first taste, the haddock was savory, and unlike other fish I've tried, the flavor was strong and noticeable. Most of the taste did come from the breaded exterior, which is to be expected considering that is where most of the spices were.

In terms of texture and feel, it was quite firm and consistent, but a little dry without the tartar sauce, which ran out around one-third of the way through the haddock. That dryness was consistent throughout the meal, and I was glad to have a glass of water with me while I conducted my review.

Despite a 20 or-30 minute delay between when I got the food and when I tried it, the cheese sticks stayed warm. The exterior had remained stiff and crunchy, while the interior was still melted into a delightful mess of cheese.

The breaded exterior contained a hint of the same savory taste as the haddock, the first time I've experienced such a continuity across a meal. This savory flavor was, of course, quite good, and it was nice to taste the connection between the main course and the side dish.

However, like the haddock, the cheese sticks were a little dry, and again I found a simple glass of water to be quite helpful.

Overall, I would recommend McClure's Fish House and More to my fellow students. Not only is the food flavored with an excellent blend of spices, but it's also quite economical. For just under $17, I received two large pieces of fish and a decently sized set of sides, an amount of food easily amounting to a couple meals. Despite the pandemic, Maurice McClure, the owner of McClure's Fish House, is feeling optimistic about the restaurant.

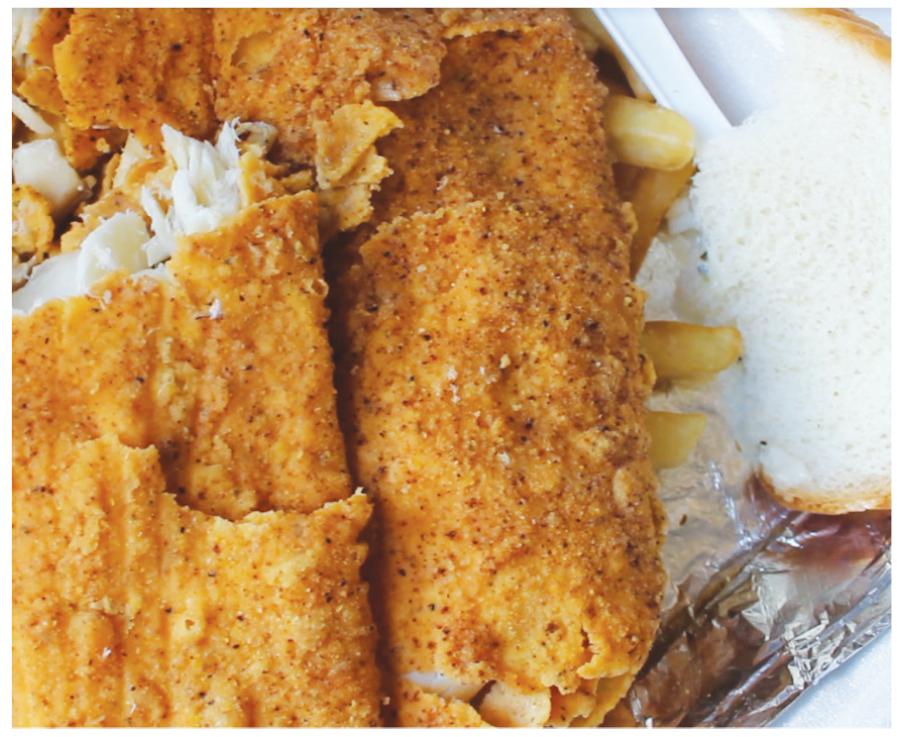
"Business has been good. We're probably doubling our projections right now," McClure said. "We've been getting a very good response from the city, from Allegheny students, from everybody in general."

Nijon Kirkman '21, director of social media for the Men of Color Advancement Association, was one such Allegheny student.

"I'm glad that there's finally a Black-owned business near here that I can support, and try and go taste their food," Kirkman said. "We've been trying to get a lot of people on campus to go and visit it and spread the word about it because it's not only setting an example for us, but it's setting an example for younger (people) in the future, that anything is possible."

For McClure, a Meadville native and graduate of Meadville High School, the opening of his restaurant was the culmination of a lifelong dream.

"I'm not sure I was thinking about a restaurant when I was a kid, but I always wanted to own something in Meadville, just didn't know what, as I was growing up," McClure said. "But to have your dream come true in your hometown, a lot of people can't say that."



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS
Haddock from McClure's Fish House and More. The restaurant uses a family recipe, modified for the Meadville palate.

Because of his local connections, McClure isn't concerned the current racial and political tension seen across the nation will manifest in his establishment.

"To me, it's not a worry," McClure said. "We're a respected family out here. I do worry for others. I think about it for others. When I go to the bars, or to the restaurants, we don't get into those types of debates and conversations because everyone has their opinion, and they can go for it if they want, but I prefer it not to be on my time."

Kirkman sees McClure as an example for how to trailblaze as a Black business owner in an area with few Black-owned businesses.

"(McClure's Fish House is) showing that they don't care what people think, and they want to strive to make a change, and it starts there, it starts here," Kirkman said. "It gives me the power, the will to one day start a business in a community that really doesn't have Black-owned businesses"

McClure also wanted to encourage people to pursue their aspirations and goals.

"Don't be scared to chase a dream," McClure said. "If you feel it in your heart and you're willing to give your time, if your family is willing to let you take that time, go for it."

October baseball returns: MLB Wild Card series recap

By **THOMAS SMITH**
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October baseball has finally arrived and fans across the world are ecstatic in anticipation for their favorite ballclub to hopefully get hot at the right time.

"October baseball is just gritty, it's cold, you're seeing starting pitchers come out of the bullpen. Adam Mascio, '21, said. "What is tough is that there's not packed stadiums with fans but it's still exciting."

For the twentieth straight season in Major League Baseball, the World Series will not feature a back-to-back champion due to last year's champs, the Washington Nationals, failing to reach the postseason.

The MLB managed to play a regular season consisting of only a mere 60 games. There originally were 16 franchises playoff-bound and eager to hoist the World Series trophy.

"I love the new format of the playoffs because it allows for more teams to compete for the World Series which then keeps fans invested in the season for a longer duration," Sam Craig, '22, said.

For the first time in Major League Baseball history, the regular season featured new rule changes. One of these rules will continue into the postseason which is the usage of a universal designated hitter. The rule that was applied for the regular season but will not be utilized in the playoffs is having a runner on second base for the start of an inning once the game reaches extra innings.

"Being a pitcher myself, I would like to see them hit also but I understand that the universal DH is better for the marketability of the sport," Nick Tarasi, '21, said.

Tarasi also gave his thoughts regarding the automatic base runner on second base for extra innings rule.

"I don't think that should've been a rule put in place, to begin with," Tarasi said. "I definitely think having that rule in the playoffs would be unjust."

Shane Bieber, a pitcher for the Cleveland Indians, who has recently crowned the Triple Crown Award for leading the American League in earned run average, strikeouts, and wins aimed to defeat the number five seeded New York Yankees. The Yankees are known for the long ball with the consistent power they possess throughout their lineup through hitters such as Aaron Judge, Luke Voit, Giancarlo Stanton, Gio Urshela and Aaron Hicks. The Yankees' ace, Gerrit Cole, set up the pathway to the World Series for New York as they took down the Indians in two games.

An outfielder for the Atlanta Braves, Marcell Ozuna nearly achieved the rare Triple Crown award in the National League as he fell just short of the league lead for batting average but did crank the most home runs and runs batted in. Ozuna, alongside fellow stars Freddie Freeman and Ronald Acuna Jr., lead the Braves past the Cincinnati Reds in the first round. This would be the Braves first world series title since 1995.

The top-seeded Tampa Bay Rays of the American League faced off against the talented but youthful Toronto Blue Jays. The top end of the Rays' pitching rotation features stars Tyler Glasnow, Blake Snell and Charlie Morton which lead them to a win of the series in two ball games.

The Houston Astros opposed the Minnesota Twins in the first round. The Twins have now lost 18 straight postseason games as the Astros wiped them out in two games. The Astros, who were scolded this past year by fans for cheating their way to the 2017 World Series, just barely skimped into the postseason with a record of 29-31 but they are staying hot in the Division Series against the Athletics.

The Chicago White Sox traveled to Oakland to take on the Athletics in a matchup that featured a lot of power swinging hitters. It was one of the most evenly matched series on paper and lived up to that as the Athletics won in a three game series.

The Milwaukee Brewers played the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Brewers barely squeaked into the postseason and suffered the difficult task of taking on one of the most talented ball clubs in the MLB. The Dodgers have minimal weaknesses to their team and have a lineup that features all-stars from the top to bottom. The Dodgers also paid MVP-caliber player Mookie Betts this offseason who typically bats leadoff for them. Betts' 12-year record-breaking deal worth $365 million allows him to be the face of the Dodgers franchise until 2032 at the least. The Dodgers took care of business with the Brewers in two games.



Photo contributed by espnpressroom.org

The St. Louis Cardinals squared off against the San Diego Padres in round one. The Padres have not tasted the postseason since 2006 and are now a contender for the National League pennant after beating the Cardinals in three games.

The most intriguing matchup of the first round of the playoffs featured the Miami Marlins traveling north to oppose the Chicago Cubs at famous Wrigley Field. The Cubs' offense had been stale for months so they tried to rely on their ace, Yu Darvish, to take care of business for them. The Marlins who served as the underdog had not reached the postseason since they won the World Series in 2003, and now they will oppose the Braves in the second round after defeating the Cubs.

October baseball sure is a great time of the year and is always filled with electricity and tears.

The dawn of a new Premier League season

By **TRAVIS LUXBACHER**
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The 2020-21 English Premier League season started just one month ago, the league that former Barcelona and current Manchester City Manager, Pep Guardiola, dubbed "the best competition in world football." 20 teams have been training in preparation for the 10-month schedule ahead.

Last year's Premier League champions Liverpool Football Club strengthened in key areas of the field, specifically in attacking positions. They signed Portugese Winger Diogo Jota from Wolverhampton (another Premier League club), and they signed Spain International and Bayern Munich Midfielder Thiago Alcantara.

The teams that finished behind Liverpool in the league table last season have all invested money into player transfers over the course of the summer, and according to Everton Manager Carlo Ancelotti, the teams chasing Liverpool will make a strong run at the title this season.

Thiago Nardi, '22, who described himself as a huge soccer fan, discussed his expectations for this season and what he is most looking forward to following the Premier League.

"To me, the most exciting thing about the new Premier League season is the transfer window closing, and also the number of goals that have been scored in the first games of the season so far," Nardi said.



Photo contributed by footballdictionary.net

There have been more goals in the first three weeks of the season then any other season in the 28-year Premier League era. One of the newly promoted clubs from England's second division, the Football League Championship, has played a large part in the increase of goal scoring of late.

Leeds United is one of the most successful clubs in English football history, winning three English League titles and one Football Association Cup. The new Premier League club has drawn praise from some of the most well-known managers around the world.

Mauricio Pochettino, former Tottenham Hotspur Manager, described Leeds United as a great team under Manager Marcelo Bielsa, that have been producing "dizzying football" so far this season in England's top flight.

"Leeds United is my favorite team in the league at the moment," Nardi said. "They produce really good soccer and their manager, Marcelo Bielsa from Argentina, is one of the world's best."

According to Andrew Strobel, '24, this Premier League season will prove to be one of the most competitive seasons fans have seen to date.

"I think this season will be one of the most competitive seasons as many clubs have signed new players and the first few games have been great and have produced some upsets," Strobel said.

One recent upset occurred at the hands of Aston Villa, a club that barely survived relegation last season. The teams finishing a season in the last three of the Premier League season are relegated, or, in other words, are demoted to the second division.

Liverpool, the defending league champions, came to Villa Park this past Sunday, and according to Manager Jurgen Klopp, the result was unexpected. Aston Villa beat Liverpool 7-2, with goals coming from new players they had signed over the summer transfer period.

"To me, the most exciting thing about this Premier League season is that most teams seem to be really competitive against the top competition," Strobel said.

Strobel, talked about a club he supports fully and expects to have a successful season.

"I am a Chelsea fan," Strobel said. "I became a fan about six years ago because they had some legendary players. This season they added a lot of young players and spent a lot of money so they need to do well in the cup competitions and the Champions League."

Although Strobel does not expect Chelsea to battle Liverpool for the title this season, he expects continued growth and improvement, especially with the new players in the squad.

"In the next few years, we should be challenging for the title," Strobel said. "As for this year, I would be disappointed if we didn't place in the top four."

The Premier League, however, is ever-changing as the aspects of promotion and relegation lead to change. There are three new teams in the league every year, the three best teams from the second division the season before. The worst three teams in the Premier League are therefore demoted to the second division.

Connor Nazarcyzk, '22, who grew up a fan of the Premier League elaborated on the league changing from season to season.

"Growing up, I supported Chelsea for the most part, not because I liked the club, but more because I liked their key players," Nazarcyzck said. "But now they are starting to get rid of the players I liked, like Willian and Eden Hazard, so now I'm not 100% sure who to support."

These player changes have happened and will continue to happen, according to Manchester United Manager, Sir Alex Ferguson. Ferguson also acknowledged the element of competition in that change and the never-ending pursuit of trying to improve your club for the Premier League.

"It's going to be difficult now because of the financial implications of all the top Premier League teams, in terms of them being able to go and spend so much money for next season to be much more competitive," Ferguson said.

2020 GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION

Make a plan to vote

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3

Important Deadlines

October 19- deadline to register to vote in-person
October 20- encouraged deadline to submit a absentee/mail-in ballot
October 27- deadline to register to vote absentee or by mail for the general
November 3- **General Election Day!** All absentee/mail-in ballots must be processed by 8 p.m. today.

Voting information was provided courtesy of the Center for Political Participation and the Andrew Goodman Foundation.

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