

The Campus

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Spring involvement fair kicks off student organization action



MAX PRAZER/THE CAMPUS

Students gather in the Henderson Campus Center lobby at the Spring Involvement Fair on Thursday, Jan. 16. A variety of student organizations presented to potential new members.

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ASG adds new senator

By **ANTON HODGE**
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Allegheny Student Government met Tuesday, Jan. 16 to discuss numerous changes, including a new senator, Finance Committee changes and a report from Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley that Crawford Area Transportation Authority will soon open a new bus line. Senator Sydni Junker was sworn in for the class of 2026 in a unanimous vote, filling another vacant seat in the senate. Finance Committee members reported a constitutional issue because they only had three members, one lower than

the required four. To amend, the Finance Committee requested to be able to provision multiple members from the same class. The motion was approved without much debate. The largest budgetary item this week was a \$4,872 allotment to Ultimate Frisbee for their spring tournament/trip. Most clubs should at this point in time have budgets, according to Dominic Juliana, '26. Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Kaleialoha Froning, '25, reported continued work on Sustained Dialogues groups and driving Indigenous speakers to make appearances on campus. See [ASG](#) | page 2

Public Safety director retires

By **AUBRYANNA SNYDER**
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Jim Basinger, former director of Public Safety, is retiring from service after five years with the college. Mark Weindorf is set to replace him, effective Monday, Jan. 27. “Big shoes to fill,” Dean of Student Success Ian Binnington said of Basinger. “Just an amazing human being — compassionate, smart, knows when to follow the rules and when to provide a little bit of grace. Has been such an amazing support to a lot of students who are going through legal difficulties or other sorts of things. He’s not a lawyer, but he’s taken his own time to walk students through procedures, he was a presence at

sporting events and all around campus.” Basinger was hired in 2019 after retiring as a major from his career in the Pennsylvania State Police. He started at the college just before the pandemic and was responsible for many of the structural changes to the Department of Public Safety in the years since. “Over the last two years, I don’t know that a single day has gone past that I haven’t spoken to Jim about something,” Binnington said. Administration was given about two months’ notice of Basinger’s retirement, and the process for finding a replacement began in the fall, according to Binnington. “Given that we had got two months’ no-

tice, I had hoped that we would be able to have a candidate in place by the time he retired,” Binnnginton said. As there is about a two-week gap in between Basinger’s retirement and Weindorf’s start with the department, Public Safety Detective Kurt Sitler assumed the role as interim director. Sitler has been with Allegheny College since February 2022 and had worked closely with Basinger even before coming to campus as they had both served in the state police. When Basinger graduated from the academy and came to Meadville, Sitler was his first coach; and when Sitler retired from the state police, Basinger recruited him to work at Allegheny.

“I trained him, and then he was my boss. Twice,” Sitler mused. In addition to Basinger’s retirement, Public Safety saw changes to staff and structure after two other staff members retired at the same time as Basinger: Assistant Director of Public Safety William Merchbaker, after nine years with the college, and Office Manager Marilyn Moore after 38 years of service. Because there were previously two assistant directors of public safety, the responsibilities of Merchbaker were absorbed by Assistant Director Joe Johnston. “Once the new director comes on board, he and I will review staffing and see if we need a second assistant director,” Binnington said. See [SAFETY](#) | page 2

NFC and AFC championships

By **ANTON HODGE**
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At the end of this NFL season, we at the Campus decided to offer some preview coverage and being the fan of football I am, introduce you to this season finale two-parter: preview coverage on the championship games, the teams, who to

bandwagon, and next week, the Super Bowl preview. The final four competitors? The National Football Conference champion will be determined in a divisional grudge match between two teams which 1-1 against each other in the regular season: The Washington Commanders and Philadelphia Eagles. The American Football Conference will fea-

ture a matchup familiar to longtime viewers: The Buffalo Bills vs. the Kansas City Chiefs. The Washington Commanders vs. the Philadelphia Eagles will be a hard grudge match, with both teams having everything to play for, especially with this NFC Championship game serving as the tiebreaker for a regular season which saw the Eagles win the

first game 26-18, and the Commanders take the second 36-33 in a hard fought win. The Eagles play with an explosive offense fueled by quarterback Jalen Hurts and former New York Giant Saquon Barkley, alongside strong defensive and offensive lines that produced a 14-3 record on the season. With a point differential (amount of points scored points against) of 160, the winners of the NFC East represent a relative Goliath which has threatened to be superbowl-bound for multiple years in a row. The addition of aforementioned superstar Barkley has taken a strong running attack and turned it into a scoring threat on every play.

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<i>In this week's Campus...</i>		
ASK ALLEGHENY Opinion Editor Emma Conti-Windle, '27, and Features Editor Aubryanna Snyder, '27, shares Allegheny student's goals for the semester and beyond. Page 3	UNITEDHEALTHCARE CEO KILLING Contributing Writer Tristan Marinch, '27, shares his opinion on the assassination of the UnitedHealthcare CEO and the ways we should move forward. Page 4	PROFESSORS WEIGH IN ON AI Staff Writer Paige Kageni, '27, shares the thoughts of Allegheny professors on generative AI tools and their place in our world. Page 5

ASG

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The new director of communication and press, Hailey Herring, ’26, reported progress on revamping ASG’s social media presence and introducing senators.	they would be holding an event in the Henderson Campus Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to talk about goals for the semester and to give out free popcorn.	ship program between ASG and the local bus service, CATA.	grating Allegheny’s campus and downtown more closely, as explained by President Ron Cole, ’87 during the ‘In for Allegheny’ event last semester, Yeckley responded positively.
Class Reports:	Class of 2027 Senator Liam Shields reported progress planning a students vs. faculty volleyball game to be held before spring break.	“It’ll run from campus, downtown and to Chipotle and Giant Eagle, then back through downtown and back to campus. I believe there will be three stops on campus, one by Loomis, one by Baldwin, and one on the other side of campus by Park Avenue,” Yeckley said. When asked about whether the return of the Loop ties into the goal of inte-	”Absolutely,” Yeckley said. “We used to run the Loop prior to COVID and it was a great way for students to get to places in town and students have been asking for a way to get out to Walmart, the movies, so we’re happy to bring that back.”
Class of 2025 Senator Akari Brown reported a meeting with their respective dean of students to continue to make progress on Senior Week plans.	The Dean of Student Life took time to report on the return of The Loop, a partner-		
Class of 2026 Senator Iris Styers reported			

SAFETY

from page 1

Similarly, Moore’s position of office manager was renamed the communications and operations manager after merging the responsibilities of the office manager position with that of the dispatch office. Dispatcher Kelly Thakur was promoted to the new position.	Weindorf worked for 31 years in the state police and retired in April 2024 at the rank of lieutenant. In the last year, he has worked as a detective for the District Attorney’s office in Erie.	position, Weindorf said that he appreciated the lengths the college was able to go in order to conduct an in-depth hiring process and that he himself was impressed with the colleges’ thoroughness.	fit into the campus community and into our Public Safety Department.”
Overall, transitions within the office have gone “fairly smooth,” according to Sitler, with Public Safety currently fully staffed and the director position the only job that had to be filled from outside the college.	Weindorf initially heard about the position at Allegheny through previous director Basinger as the two had worked together for a number of years in the state police in the 1990s.	“They were very intentional about their search,” said Vice President of Allegheny Student Government Joseph Leszczynski, ’25. “They wanted someone who could do as good a job as the departing director did.”	For the role of director, the committee looked to hire someone with both supervisory and law enforcement experience, and Weindorf was selected as the best fit for the job.
Both Sitler and Binnington were a part of the hiring committee tasked with the responsibilities of the vetting process of candidates for the director position, along with a number of faculty, administration and students.	While he may not have experience working on a college campus, his experience as a lieutenant with responsibilities that spanned over several counties has helped him to prepare for the role, Weindorf said. He is also familiar with the area as a lifelong Erie resident, as well as the campus. He previously volunteered multiple times for the state police Camp Cadet summer program that takes place at Allegheny.	Leszczynski was asked to be a part of the hiring committee because of his role in ASG, though it was not his first experience. He had previously been a part of faculty searches for Community and Justice Studies, as well as the search for the new director of Spiritual, Religious and Personal Wellbeing that took place last semester.	“I’m hopeful that he will do the job well, and I think that the best way he can do that is in a way kind of being noticeable,” Leszczynski said. “If we’re not even questioning whether or not there’s an issue, then there’s no issue, because he’s doing his job well. So, I’m optimistic.”
The committee reviewed the applications, held Zoom interviews with three candidates and then brought two candidates to campus.	As for the specifics of the position, Weindorf said that both Basinger and Binnington had done a good job of preparing him for what to expect.	Leszczynski’s involvement mostly took place during the preliminary interviews.	Basinger, after a vacation to the Caribbean, will be returning to campus to help with Weindorf’s transition to the position. “We’re not going to throw him [Weindorf] into the fire,” Sitler said.
Candidates met with students, professors, Residence Life, President Ron Cole, ’87, the Meadville City police chief and the director of the 911 call center, as well as everyone in the Public Safety office, said Sitler.	Weindorf felt that the committee and administration had a “very intense hiring process” that included two intense days of interviewing. Given the importance of the	“They wanted somebody who could create cohesion,” Leszczynski said. “There were a lot of questions asked of these individuals and trying to discern how they would behave in the role, which is difficult to do from just asking questions, but doing what they could to get a really good sense of who the people were and whether or not they would	Given Basinger’s career of roughly 30 years in law enforcement, Binnington said he understood the decision to retire.
Of the two candidates brought to campus, Weindorf was hired.			“He deserves a break,” Binnington said. “I wish him the best, and I’m really looking forward to working with Mark.”

CHAMPS

from page 1

The Commanders, on the other hand, entered the season with absolutely no expectations. The team, sold by Dan Snyder, to a new ownership team led by Josh Harris in the past offseason, along with the replacement of the general manager, head coach, and coordinators, gave the team an entirely new identity in the offseason. Drafting of rookie QB Jayden Daniels gave the team a fresh face under center, donning the red and yellow number five. Finishing the season 4-13 last year, most analysts predicted the team to achieve six or seven wins this season.	playoff run since Desert Storm, anything could happen.	the AFC championship game with a rerun of 2020’s matchup, though the circumstances are very different.	tiple flags — penalizing the Houston Texans when two of their players ran into each other, as unnecessary roughness against Patrick Mahomes, who the pair failed to make contact with — it can be left to anyone to decide whether the narrative is true or not. Either way, Mahomes is one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL, and that is indisputable.
The Commanders finished the season 12-15. More than that, Daniels has emerged as a superstar a year ahead of schedule. The Commanders offense features a supporting cast of rookies making names and league veterans turning the team around. On offense, Terry McLaurin entered his sixth season with his 11th quarterback in that timespan. On defense, league veteran Bob Wagner was brought in to revitalize a record-breakingly awful defense from a year prior. Considering they’re making their first	The Eagles represent a statistically superior team in almost all metrics, with a longer recent record of success, including versus the Commanders, having gone 6-2 in the last eight matchups between the two teams. However, they split losses in the season, and the Commanders have only lost one game this season by more than a single score — and that was the first game of the season. From the Eagles themselves to beating the 15-2 Lions last week, it would be foolish to count the Commanders out until the clock hits zero: Almost all of their games are close contests, with over half being decided in the last two minutes, no matter the opponent.	The Buffalo Bills theoretically entered a minor rebuilding season this year, though with Allen under center, they were never out of contention. One of the last two quarterbacks of the gunslinger lineage — the other being Jordan Love — the outcome of this game will rest largely on his shoulders. With a high-flying offense and respectable defense, the Bills present a threat to take the game into the last seconds or overtime, like they have in these two teams’ last few matchups, one of which the Bills took off them to give the Chiefs their first loss, in week 11.	Mahomes, who the pair failed to make contact with — it can be left to anyone to decide whether the narrative is true or not. Either way, Mahomes is one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL, and that is indisputable. The Chiefs defense has picked up offensive slack all season, and when Mahomes is on the field, the Chiefs offense has the potential to score on anyone. While the Chiefs have continuously played down to opponents, they clearly have the potential to play superbowl-caliber football.
	Predictions? 55-45 in favor of the Philadelphia Eagles, but the Goliath’s David could be wearing the number 5. For full transparency, I’ll be wearing my Washington Football Team Taylor Heinecke jersey come gametime, 3 p.m. on Jan. 26.	The Kansas City Chiefs are the most fraudulent 15-2 team since the Vikings did it with a negative point differential. There is no better argument against the morality of DraftKings than the 2024 Kansas City Chiefs. Nearly every game the Chiefs have played in this season, they have received numerous penalty calls in their favor that have decided the outcome of games. With the referee crew for their last game throwing mul-	My projection for this game? If Allen and the Bills play disciplined football where the refs never have a chance to get involved, it should come down to turnovers and whether the Bills can get one or two stops. 50-50 Bills/Chiefs. Both teams have the potential to be better than the other, and without outside factors, it’ll come down to who wants it more. The game is at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 26.
			Next week, the road to the Super Bowl.

Ask Allegheny

What are your goals for this semester?



Left: Akari Brown '25
Major: Political Science
Minor: Film and Digital Storytelling

“I want to be able to edit more for the school and that means finding more time to balance out so my goal for this semester is balance.”



Left: Lorenzo Scarnati '26
Major: Physics
Minor: Energy

“I’d like to keep really organized with everything. I’ve been really struggling with keeping track of my assignments and tasks that I have to do every week, so I’m hoping to get better with that.”



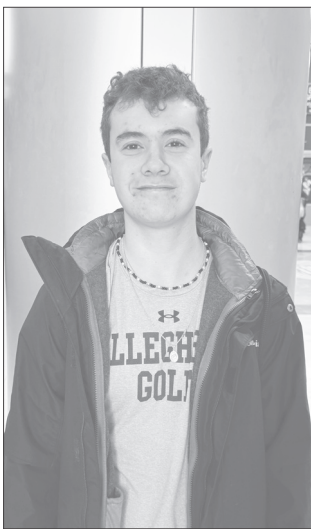
Left: Lena Pickett '25
Major: Psychology
Minor: Communication & Media Studies

“My goal is to get more sleep.”



Left: Anne Moise '26
Majors: Data Science & Biology
Minor: Arabic

“My goal is to stop procrastination.”



Left: Nate Meyers '27
Major: Business
Minor: Data Science

“I’d like to work out more, like six times per week, and drink more water.”



Left: Sara Gilroy '28
Major: Psychology
Minor: Undecided

“I want to time manage everything really well. I want to have a set schedule. I’m trying different things, I’m rushing a sorority this semester, we’re just trying to time manage it.”



Left: Erin McGee '28
Major: Art, Science & Innovation
Minor: Creative Writing

“Engage with new forms of art this semester so I can figure out exactly what I want to go into.”



Left: Ray Colabawalla '25
Majors: Economics & Political Science
Minor: Communication & Media Studies

“My goal for this semester is to finish my comp and to get into grad school.”



Left: Sydney Cernansky '28
Major: Environmental Science
Minor: Spanish

“I’d like to manage my time better and just get my homework done earlier in the day.”



Left: Giovanni Natalie '26
Majors: Neuroscience & Psychology

“Be more grateful for everything around me. There are so many good people on campus, so many good programs, so many good professors and I only have a year and a half left, so it would be nice to soak that up as much as I can before I go.



Right: Emily Adams '25
Major: Theatre
Minor: Mathematics

“To work on my comp and graduate and hope I find a good job out there.”

THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

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CRIME BLOTTER

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

November 21, 2024
Criminal Mischief
Delta Tau Delta
Unfounded

November 23-25, 2024
Act 64 (Drugs)
North Village 1
Referred to Dean

November 22, 2024
Harassment
Crawford Hall
Title IX

November 21-27, 2024
Criminal Mischief
Off Campus
Closed

December 8, 2024
Alcohol Violation
Off Campus
Referred to Dean

December 13, 2024
Alcohol Violation
Edwards Hall
Referred to Dean

December 19, 2024
Theft
On Campus
Referred to Dean

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New year, same unrealistic expectations

By **JAY SHANK**
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“New year, new me” flooded social media and echoed through public spaces after the clock struck midnight on New Year’s Eve. I’m sure most people have said they’re going to be new versions of themselves internally too.

Every year, people make resolutions in the spirit of the new year and every year, they stop trying to maintain those goals within two weeks of Jan. 1. For most people, the stress of life catches up to them and it’s impossible to maintain the goals they set. Then comes the intense wave of self-hatred, which doesn’t really solve the issue, but it continues throughout the year and makes functioning as a human being much harder than it would’ve been had the perhaps unrealistic and unsustainable goal not existed in the first place.

This is absolutely not to say that having goals and resolutions is bad. This is also not to say that this happens to everyone. I applaud anyone who can be disciplined and consistent enough to not let life get in the way of their goals.

This is to say, however, that the new year almost always brings an unrealistic and dangerous standard of how people should live their lives. I hear people say they’re go-

ing on a diet for their “summer body” or striving to look like that one model they saw on their Instagram feed. I can agree that maintaining healthy habits is, after all, beneficial and important to a person’s physical and mental well-being. The key words, though, are “healthy habits.”

My goal for this year was to get back in shape. If I end it there, that sounds like a perfectly normal and reasonable goal. When I started adding things to that, like going on a 1,000-calorie diet, doing intense exercise everyday for at least 75 days, walking 10,000 steps a day, etc., I ended up pushing myself so hard that I got physically ill and ended up weaker than when I started. My question is, why and how do we turn perfectly reasonable expectations of ourselves into ones that harm us in the end?



Whether your goal is to read more, practice better self-care, pay attention in class more, or to get in shape, it is completely okay if life gets in the way."

—JAY SHANK
Class of 2028

I think a lot of the reason why people make themselves sick over losing weight

and sticking to unrealistic goals is because society asks them to. I jumped into doing intense cardio after not exercising consistently for a year because I felt like if I didn’t lose a massive amount of weight by May, I’d have done it all for nothing. I think it has so much to do with the fact that that’s how people have acted about others setting healthy goals for themselves. Everything has to be “all or nothing.” In the modern day, New Year’s resolutions that were once feasible have become dangerous.

The reality is that people have lives and goals like “a summer body” are not nearly as easy and attainable in four months as people make them out to be. I also argue that the fact that we have goals that are specifically for things like “summer bodies,” with the intent to receive outside validation and acceptance makes attaining those goals harder than they would have been had we set them just for ourselves. When I set the goal to get in shape, it wasn’t because I wanted to feel happier. It was because I wanted to look skinnier. The motivation to go to the gym every day diminished because I would look in the mirror and see no progress — which doesn’t happen in a week regardless — and I would completely forget the fact that I am bettering myself even if the mirror didn’t show it.

In complete honesty, writing this is what’s making me realize what I’ve been

doing is actually more unhealthy than not doing anything in the first place. And sadly, I think that’s true for most people and their New Year’s resolutions.

If you are reading this and you find yourself agreeing with what I’m saying, then I’m here to tell you that it is ok if you do not meet your resolutions. Whether your goal is to read more, practice better self-care, pay attention in class more or to get in shape, it is completely ok if life gets in the way. If you lose motivation because you’re not in the same mindset you were when you started, that’s ok. If you get to June and you’ve only read one book, that’s ok too.

The biggest piece of advice I could give anyone is that it is truly not the end of the world if you slip up. Nobody will hate you for taking a break from the gym, or taking a mental health day from class, or forgetting to turn one assignment in one time. The most important part of all of this is that you are still you at the end of the day, and you’ll lose yourself trying to maintain something you physically cannot continue.

I hope for nothing but the most successful year for everyone, resolutions or not. You are no less a person than your peer who seems to have it all figured out, because the truth is that they probably don’t.

Welcome back. Go Gators.

When passion becomes violence *Thoughts on the murder of UnitedHealthcare CEO*

By **TRISTAN MARINCH**
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Violence is rarely an answer, even when frustrations boil over and the cause seems just. The recent killing of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson has sparked a divisive debate across the nation. For some, the act is seen as a desperate cry against a system that many believe has prioritized profits over human lives. For others, it’s an indefensible crime, an attack on the rule of law that undermines the very principles of justice and democracy.

But here’s the core question: Is it ever right to celebrate an act of murder, even when the person killed is viewed as a symbol of systemic injustice? If our society crosses that line, what does it say about us?

Luigi Mangione is a murderer, and his actions cannot and should not be celebrated. No matter how justifiable his anger might seem, taking a life crosses a moral and legal line that we cannot afford to ignore. If society begins to tolerate or even celebrate such acts of violence, we risk descending into a dangerous cycle of retribution and vigilantism.



Real justice comes from addressing the root causes of systemic injustice not from taking the life of another human being."

—TRISTAN MARINCH
Class of 2027

Thompson — as the CEO of UnitedHealthcare — held one of the most powerful positions in the American healthcare industry. Under his leadership, the company be-

came synonymous with the broader debates about the privatization of healthcare and the ethics of for-profit health insurance. Critics accused the company of denying coverage to vulnerable patients, raising premiums and failing to prioritize patient care, according to MSN.com .

Yet Thompson’s tenure wasn’t without its positives. He spearheaded initiatives aimed at expanding insurance coverage for underserved populations and invested in programs to modernize healthcare delivery, according to The New York Times.

While those efforts fell short for some, they represented an acknowledgment of the system’s flaws and an attempt, however imperfect, to address them.

On the other side of this tragic story stands Mangione, a 26-year-old activist with a history of railing against the American healthcare system. Described by friends as passionate and uncompromising, according to ABC News, Mangione saw the system as fundamentally broken and viewed corporate executives like Thompson as the architects of its injustices.

According to ABC News, Mangione confronted Thompson outside the Hilton Hotel, and ended the CEO’s life. While he may claim his actions were born out of righteous anger, they have sparked intense debate. Was this a tragic but inevitable result of a broken system, or was it the unconscionable act of a man who took justice into his own hands?

The healthcare system in the United States has been a source of frustration and heartbreak for millions. Despite being one of the wealthiest nations in the world, the U.S. remains an outlier among developed countries, with millions of citizens unable to afford basic medical care, according to Westhealth.org.

It’s within this context that Mangione’s

actions have struck a chord. His anger reflects the genuine frustrations of countless Americans who feel abandoned by a system that prioritizes profits over people. But systemic problems demand systemic solutions — not personal vendettas.

Mangione’s actions do not represent justice; they represent a breakdown of it. Killing Thompson does nothing to fix the problems he was so angry about. If anything, it distracts from the real issues at hand, turning the focus away from systemic reform and toward the act of violence itself.

Thompson’s death doesn’t bring relief to those suffering under the flaws of our healthcare system — it simply leaves another family grieving.

The problems in American healthcare are real, and the anger many feel is justified. But meaningful change comes from building better systems, not from acts of destruction. History teaches us that violence rarely solves systemic problems. Instead, it breeds more division, chaos and suffering.

For example, successful healthcare reform movements, like the establishment of the Affordable Care Act, required years of advocacy, negotiation and legislative work. These efforts succeeded not through violence but through persistence and coalition-building.

Mangione’s act doesn’t empower reformers or strengthen the cause for healthcare justice. Instead, it undermines the rule of law, creating a dangerous precedent where individuals feel justified in taking extreme measures to address their grievances.

According to Boston University Today, progressive politicians, public figures, journalists and advocacy groups argue that Mangione’s actions, while extreme, highlight the desperation of those failed by the system. They say that his act of violence was not the cause of the problem but a symptom of it. To

them, Mangione’s actions are a wake-up call, forcing society to confront the human cost of a broken system.

Others go even further, likening Mangione to historical figures who used radical means to spark change. Some at Smithsonian Magazine point to figures like John Brown, whose violent actions against slavery helped ignite a national reckoning.

While these arguments might explain Mangione’s motivations, they do not justify his actions. Violence is not a solution — it’s a shortcut that ultimately leads nowhere. Advocates for healthcare reform have achieved progress through peaceful means, from grassroots activism to legislative change. If Mangione had channeled his anger into productive action, he might have been a force for real change. Instead, he chose destruction, and that choice should not be celebrated.

Mangione’s actions are neither heroic nor justifiable. The killing of Thompson is a tragedy on multiple levels: for Thompson’s family, for Mangione himself and for a society grappling with the deep flaws of its healthcare system.

If we want to honor the frustrations that fueled Mangione’s anger, we must reject his methods. Real justice comes from addressing the root causes of systemic injustice — not from taking the life of another human being. Thompson’s death should not be a rallying cry for violence. Instead, it should remind us of the urgency of reform and the importance of pursuing it through peaceful, constructive means.

Justice for Thompson must come through the courts, and justice for those suffering under our healthcare system must come through the hard work of systemic reform — not through violence, but through hope and action.

Generative AI and the Future of Academia

By **PAIGE KAGENI**
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With tools such as ChatGPT and Grammarly, generative AI has never been so easy to use. Simply entering prompts can produce paragraphs or entire essays in just a few seconds. Large language models, or generative language models trained on massive amounts of pre-existing text, are expected to grow in usage and become implemented in more everyday uses in the near future. However, what happens when these uses stretch into the academic sphere? Where does this leave students, faculty and staff working in fields where authentic writing is prioritized? If these tools borrow from pre-existing work, how much does generative AI border on plagiarizing? These burgeoning questions will find their answers in the coming years, but three faculty members shared their current thoughts on these tools with The Campus.

Professor of English and Director of Writing Alexis Hart previously wrote a piece

for The Campus concerning the humanities and generative AI. In an interview, she expressed optimism, hoping students understand how to safely utilize AI in their own writing. To be a conscious user of these tools, Hart recommends realizing that they're limited in their output as a result of their lack of lived experience.

"I think that the reality is that when students leave campus, they're going to be asked to use generative AI," Hart said. "So, my attitude is that I would like them to be able to leave our campus as critical users and being aware of the benefits and detriments of using AI to generate texts and other kinds of communication."

Hart compared tools like ChatGPT to Wikipedia in its infancy, as both tools should be referred to as general reference sources. To rely on ChatGPT for all academic thinking and communication doesn't advance the user's writing or analytical capabilities when engaging in research.

"You can't stop at Wikipedia. Similarly you can't stop at generative AI," Hart

said. "You've got to take the time to get in and wrestle with it and then think about producing your own language to engage with it."

Department Chair and Frederick F. Steely Associate Professor of English Jennie Votava also spoke to the relevance of the tool, but voiced concerns about what creative processes might look like when it comes to generative AI.

"Obviously, English professors on both sides of the equation have a lot of concerns about questions of plagiarism," Votava said. "Any branch of the college where students are doing writing, that should be their own personal writing."

Votava has also done research on prompt engineering in preparation for her Literature and the Mind course being offered this semester. The course includes analyzing literature and how artificial intelligence is represented in literature, so she plans to help students productively use AI and recognize its limitations. Votava stresses that the tool cannot take the place of a student's creative voice, which is no-

ticeable in the repetitive nature of the predictive text.

"If you tell students don't use it at all, that seems like nonsense," Votava said. "But, if you say, here are some ways you can use it potentially to do good things and here are places where I don't want you to use it, maybe that's more productive."

One useful way she recommends to use ChatGPT is to paraphrase difficult-to-understand texts, then comparing the result to your own interpretations to further develop your analytical skills. In addition, using tools such as Grammarly to check spelling and grammar in student writing should be employed strategically.

"I always have them tell ChatGPT 'Don't analyze it,' because if you give ChatGPT a passage to paraphrase it will also start to analyze it and will do a really bad job," Votava said. "Sort of find ways to, strategically and very limited ways, that ChatGPT can boost student writing that don't detract from the writing process."

Entrepreneur in Residence and the Co-Director of the Bruce R. Thompson

Center For Business & Economics Chris Allison, '83, also weighed in on the conversation. He agreed that students should become proficient in using tools like ChapGPT while not completely replacing all creative input they may have. He raised the concern of hallucinations, or false citations that ChatGPT creates when looking for citations.

"Our attitude in our department is if you're gonna use it, you've got to tell us," Allison said. "So, in my classes, that's what I tell them — if you're using it, just let me know. When Google came out, we would say you could only use the library. It's a tool."

Allison, who was CEO of Tollgrade Communications Inc. for nine years, said he had been utilizing artificial intelligence since the 1990s. He understood the significance of machine learning, but is also cautious about what specifically the tools are being used for.

"The thing we all have to worry about is that people are using these for bad purposes. You've got people that are using AI-generated voic-

es and committing fraud, catfishing people," Allison said. "There's a saying that locks are for honest people. If someone has to abuse a piece of technology, they're going to be able to abuse that piece of technology."

In the future, faculty are hopeful that rules and regulations can be formulated with nuance and understanding. The rules concerning generative AI could be most successful when decided upon by individual professors, taking into account their different concentrations and how the tools could aid students.

"I think we really need more dialogue so that the professors really know what their students are doing," Votava said. "I think that one way to achieve that is to do what I'm trying to do this semester — is have a really clear generative AI policy. Where one of the stipulations of the policy is if students want to use generative AI, come chat with me and let's decide what's appropriate and not appropriate."

Comedy Corner: Pluto, rats and Nintendo

By **JOSEPH KLEPEIS**
Co-Editor-in-Chief
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CNN reported on Jan. 10 that Astronomers have for decades tried to figure out how Pluto captured its largest moon. Now, there's a new theory.

"We're pretty certain Pluto used a big net," said a NASA official, "like they use in seine fishing."

Luxury condos are rising in West Hartford Center according to The Hartford Courant on Jan. 14.

"It was one of the most terrifying things I've ever seen," said a Hartford resident. "I was walking my dog when the earth opened up in front of me and this huge condo shot out of the crack toward the sky."

A purported rat colony in a downtown Houston police property room ate some

mushrooms intended as evidence against two defendants, according to The Houston Chronicle on Jan. 13.

"We didn't know it was evidence or we wouldn't have eaten any of it," said one of the members of the rat colony. "We only learned how to read and speak English after eating the mushrooms, not before."

The Pioneer Press reported on Jan. 14 that the Midway McDonald's in St. Paul has been McDemolished.

"There was a serious lack of McDemand for McDonald's in the area," said Courtney Henry, the operator of the location. "It McDidn't make any sense to keep the restaurant open when it didn't make a McDime."

Steve Bannon has called Elon Musk a "truly evil person," according to The New

York Times on Jan. 13.

A broken clock is right twice a day.

Donald Trump said on Jan. 14 that he wanted to create an "External Revenue Service" that would collect tariffs and other revenue from foreign countries, according to The Hill.

This is a pretty radical idea coming from someone who has alluded to cutting the budget of the Internal Revenue Service in order to save money and limit bureaucracy.

The Record-Argus reported on Jan. 11 that Greenville is looking to remove two stretches of brick streets from the town sometime later this year.

"We're going to get rid of these roads brick by brick," said a community leader. "We hope to get them out in a timely manner and re-

place them with new yellow bricks."

A woman's social media post about marijuana making its way into her child's order from a Hamilton, Ohio Burger King restaurant is going viral.

Several buds of marijuana were found in the order of chicken fries.

"That was my mistake," said the fired employee who put the marijuana in the bag. "I didn't expect to get fired though, most people pay for that and they got it for free."

CNN reported on Jan. 16 that soccer fans in Brazil were left astounded as Volta Redonda upset Fluminense to clinch a 1-0 victory in the Taça Guanabara following a bicycle kick goal — set up by a bicycle kick assist.

I would like to dub this style of goal, the tandem bi-

cycle kick goal.

The Meadville Lions Club will host Dr. David Almeida from Erie Retina Research on Jan. 27 in a bid to offer vision care to the community, according to The Meadville Tribune.

"We hope to improve the vision of all lions in the community," said a leader of the club. "That way we can get as many zebras as possible."

The Boulder Daily Camera reported on Jan. 15 that a new quantum facility opened in the city.

"It took a big leap to get this facility open," said a Boulder city official. "But I bet if you jump to the future it will show its worth."

Nintendo has announced a Switch 2, due to release later this year.

This begs the question,

what are they switching to?

The Alamo is offering two free travel opportunities to Texas teachers according to the San Antonio Express-News on Jan. 15.

"We had to do something to get people's attention," said a leader of The Alamo Trust. "People were starting to forget us."

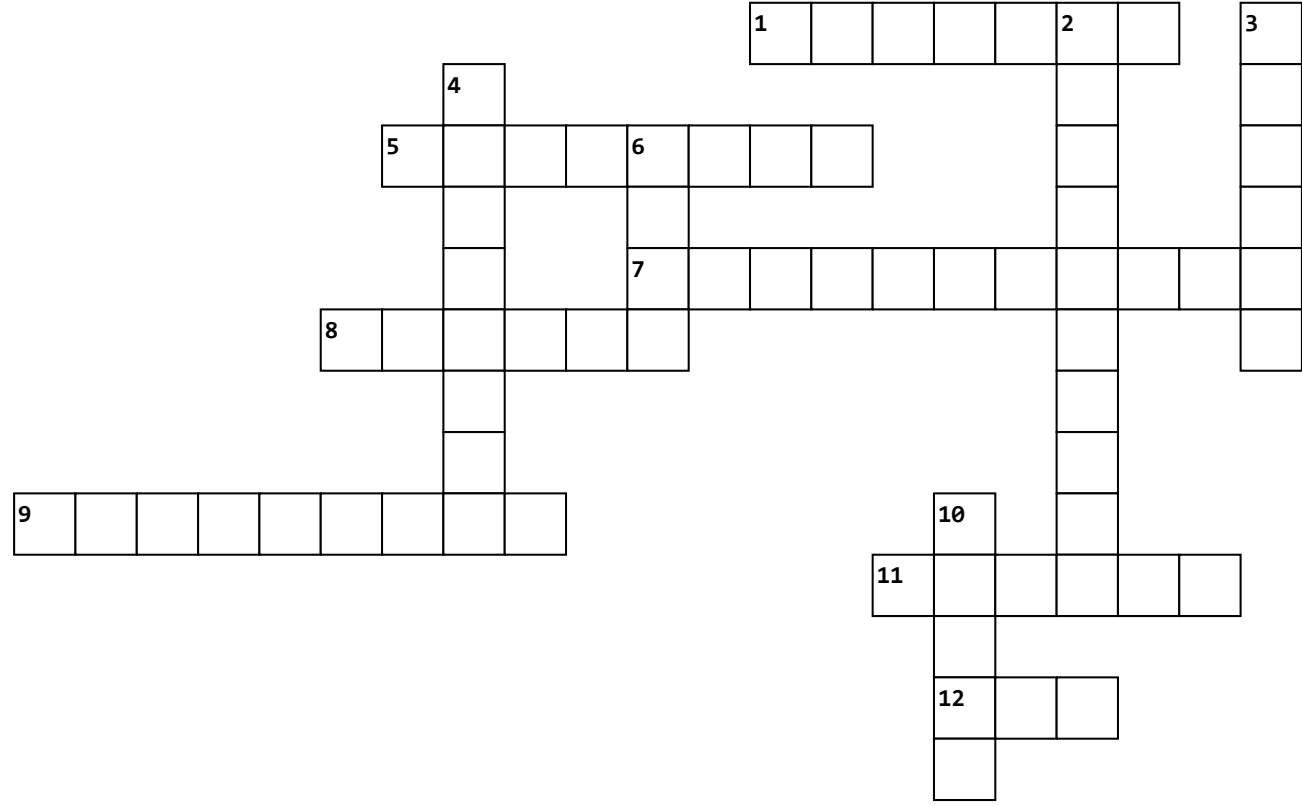
Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has picked a replacement to fill Marco Rubio's Senate seat, according to ABC News on Jan. 16.

"I don't understand how or why he picked me," said Paul Westerberg. "I mean, I live in Minnesota for goodness sake."

Disclaimer: All quotes are fictitious unless otherwise noted. Any lack of joy as a result of this article is unintentional and we claim no responsibility.

A crossword for a cold day

By **NOELL FRITZ**
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- Across**
- Popular Generative AI Program
 - Website that replaced MyAllegheny
 - Fair where students meet clubs and organizations
 - Who Bills will play in the playoffs
 - __ and __ new co-editor-in-chiefs
 - Blast
 - Inauguration day fell on what holiday

- Down**
- 24/7 food place on campus
 - __ the snowman
 - Who is alleged to have assassinated a CEO
 - Construction on campus
 - 47th president

Answer Key

- Across**
- ChatGPT
 5. GatorHub
 7. Involvement
 8. Chiefs
 9. Joseph Ben
 11. Arctic
 12. MLK
- Down**
2. Pine Market
 3. Frosty
 4. Mangione
 6. Reis
 10. Trump

FAIR

from page 1



MAX PRAZER/THE CAMPUS

Students at the Winter Involvement Fair walk around to each table to get a look at the current clubs and organizations on campus.



MAX PRAZER/THE CAMPUS

The Winter Involvement Fair in the Henderson Campus Center lobby where faculty were conversing with clubs and students.

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today!

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Cover events on Allegheny’s campus as they happen, through photos and written stories

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For more information, stop by our General Meeting, which is held Mondays at 8 p.m. in CC 303.

You can also email newspaper@allegheny.edu for more information