

The Campus

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Theta Chi to sell house before next academic year

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**
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The Theta Chi fraternity house has been listed for sale for \$175,000 on Zillow since Dec. 14, 2022. Built in 1923, the house has been home to Allegheny’s Theta Chi brothers — the Beta Chi chapter — since 1942. The highlights of the 5,599 square-foot house include its 22 bedrooms, nine bathrooms, an industrial stove and fire suppression system in the kitchen and parking for approximately 12 vehicles.

According to President of the Beta Chi Building Association for Theta Chi Fraternity at Allegheny College Ken Kutzer, ’18, the decision to put the house up for sale was not easy to make.

“There’s a lot of love for that house,” Kutzer said. “There were a lot of emotions involved in that vote. Nobody was screaming at each other, but I guarantee there were some tears shed.”

Assistant Dean for Student Leadership and Engagement Eric Stolar said Theta Chi is currently the only Greek life organization at Allegheny to own their place of residence; all other Greek life residences are owned and operated by the college, similar to special interest housing. Because Theta Chi owns its house, it handles its own property maintenance.

Kutzer said there have been ongoing challenges with the house for multiple years. He cited issues with the water pressure, boiler, electricity and plumbing,

among others. Kutzer said it is difficult for him and other members of the Beta Chi Building Association Board of Trustees to manage recurring property maintenance issues while also working full-time jobs.

Additionally, Kutzer said significant property maintenance posed financial difficulties for an organization already experiencing decreasing enrollment; currently, only nine brothers live in the 22-bedroom house.

When Kutzer was a student at Allegheny, he was the vice president of the Beta Chi chapter during the 2016-17 academic year and president during the 2017-18 academic year. He said that serious decreases in enrollment were a major concern even then.



IMAGE SOURCE: ZILLOW
Built in 1923, the Theta Chi house has been home to Allegheny’s Beta Chi chapter brothers since 1942.
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Students face new lockdown fees

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**
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The Student Life Team announced that there will now be a limited number of dormitory lockdown requests per student before they are charged a fine, according to a campus-wide email sent out on Jan. 17, 2023.

“If a student accumulates 3 lockdowns, their 4th and any subsequent lockdown requests will result in a \$25 per lockdown charge to the student’s account,” the email stated.

There was a grace period during the move-in weekend, so if students were locked out of their room before Jan. 17, they will still start the spring semester with zero lockdowns.

Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley said the new policy is designed with the intention of trying to prepare students for life after college.

“What we want to kind of get students in the habit of is taking accountability and responsibility,” Yeckley said.

Yeckley later clarified that lockdowns from apartments which require a card swipe for access and can be unlocked remotely by the Office of Public Safety will also be held to the same fee standards.

Rian Watson, ’24, thinks charging for lockdowns is too extreme of a policy.

“I feel like that’s a little unfair because mistakes happen,” Watson said. “As freshmen, it’s a big responsibility — or even sophomores who have the actual key for their room — it’s something new that they have to learn to remember to always keep their key.”

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‘LIGHT IN ODD SPACES’ Community theatre explores Oddfellows Hall’s history



Photo contributed by **A NEU IMAGE**
Doug Lodge acts as the director of the Oddfellows orphanage marching band. The band, from front to back, is Ahmaya Andrews, Autumn Vogel, Lee Scandinaro and Dan Winston.

By **ROMAN HLADIO**
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A farmhouse, an orphanage, an elusive society, a preschool, an academic building: Many have called Allegheny College’s Oddfellows Hall home over the near-150 years it and a smaller predecessor have sat atop the hill. With each change in purpose, new rectangular arms were added to the structure, creating the misshapen, elaborate corridors reaching out across a grassy field on which children still play.

The many types of relationships binding generations of Meadville residents and Allegheny students to the aging building are explored in Meadville Community Theatre’s upcoming “Light

in Odd Spaces.” An original production collaboratively devised by the company members, the play is directed by Beth Watkins and will be performed next weekend inside the building that inspired it.

“It’s both a celebration and a kind of an elegy to the building,” said Joshua Searle-White, the MCT president who also performs in the play.

Oddfellows is haunted, according to Allegheny lore and the experiences of many a humanities professor, whose offices line the northernmost wing of the building. That belief combined with questions about the building’s future, Searle-White explained, provided the original inspiration for the show: A local magician was scheduled to do a show and thought a “séance-y tour” of

the building would draw quite a crowd.

“Ultimately, he wasn’t able to do that piece,” Searle-White said. “But I got the idea, ‘Oh wow, we should do something about the building because it’s likely to be at least mothballed, if not torn down soon.’”

Searle-White sought out Watkins, recently retired from her position as theater professor at Allegheny, to spearhead the project because he had previously seen and been enamored by her devised theater productions. While play scripts are typically the product of one or two writers, devised productions are developed collaboratively by the entire company involved in the show. At the approval of the MCT board, Watkins began research for the project.

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ACHA drops return testing

By **SAM HEILMANN**
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Allegheny College is currently in the process of reviewing its COVID-19 policies for the spring 2023 semester. Rapid testing was a requirement as students returned from fall break in the fall 2022 semester, but a Friday, Jan. 6, email from Residence Life announced that testing would not be required following winter break.

Associate Professor of Biology and Global Health Studies Becky Dawson believes this change is a cultural shift, rather than a policy shift, in light of ever-evolving COVID-19 research. Dawson explained that surveillance testing — or testing a community as a whole regardless of the presence of symptoms — has, in a way, become obsolete.

“When we all came back and we all went to Robertson in the fall of 2020, (rapid tests) were still really effective,” Dawson said. “But as the virus has mutated and evolved, the tests actually aren’t catching the asymptomatic cases.”

With a background in epidemiological studies, Dawson referenced research from the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America in an update she released to community members in December 2022. Citing SHEA in an email, Dawson wrote, “the use of asymptomatic screening is a unique yet resource-intensive tool that arguably has been overused.”

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TWITTER HAS RUINED OPINIONS

Editor-in-Chief Roman Hladio, ’23, thinks the social media platform Twitter has ruined our ability to have opinions, and also says you should not kick dogs at fairs.

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HAMLIN UNIVERSITY ART DEBATE

An art professor was fired from Hamline University for showing pictures of Prophet Muhammad, p.b.u.h., in class which has sparked controversy among institutions of higher education.

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WOMEN’S BASKETBALL HEATING UP

The women’s basketball team has been active throughout winter break and is on a three-game win streak.

Page 8



FRIDAY

H: 36° L: 27°
Snow: 63%
Sunrise: 7:42 a.m.
Sunset: 5:20 p.m.

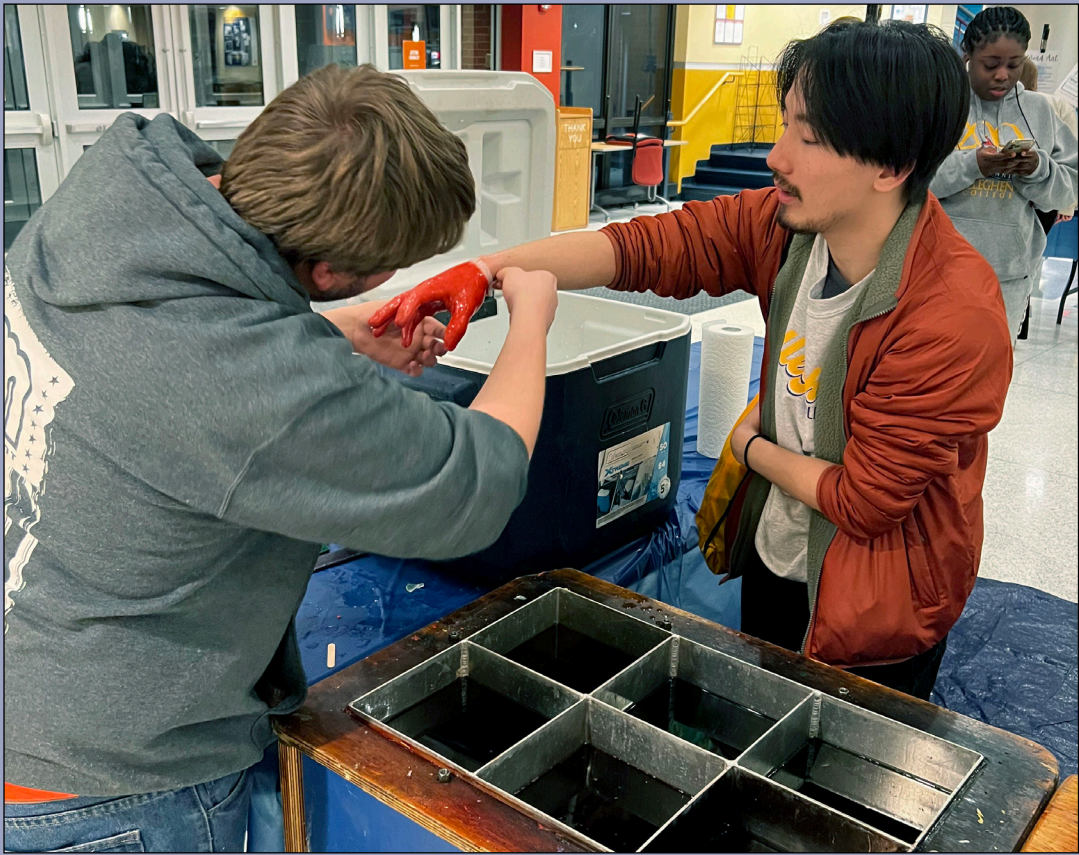
SATURDAY

H: 33° L: 26°
Snow: 24%
Sunrise: 7:41 a.m.
Sunset: 5:22 p.m.

SUNDAY

H: 36° L: 29°
Snow: 83%
Sunrise: 7:41 a.m.
Sunset: 5:23 p.m.

Welcome Weekend



Photos Courtesy of Student Leadership and Involvement

Top left: Anthony Ennis, '23, makes a wax mold of his hand. Many activities were made available to students at the Henderson Campus Center lobby from 7 to 10 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 15 as part of the “Campus Center Takeover” event during Welcome Weekend.

Top right: alex martin, '24, picks out letters to fill their frame as part of the “Campus Center Takeover.”

Bottom left: Students came out in numbers to attend “Drag Show Bingo” hosted by Gator Activities Programming in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 16. Prizes included gift cards and vouchers.

Bottom right: GAP board members pose with special guest Carmen Adore of the famous reality television show RuPaul’s Drag Race after “Drag Race Bingo.”



ODDFELLOWS *from page 1*

“Devised theater can mean a lot of things to a lot of people, but fundamentally the way I define it is that you begin with a group of people and an idea,” Watkins said last week. “There is no script. When you do a play production, what you all have in common is the script. But when you devise you really begin without that, it’s more of just an idea.”

The “Odd Spaces” company ranges in age from 11 to late 60s, according to Searle-White, and is composed of Allegheny College students and retired faculty, Meadville City Council members, MCT veterans, and city residents who were itching to participate.

The production’s parameters were loose, according to Watkins and Searle-White. Some scenes are puppet-centric, while others are full musical numbers, the songs composed by Searle-White and Bob Michel, a friend of Watkins. Dance and Movement Studies instructor Besty Sumerfield also contributed as a choreographer for a few numbers. Watkins explained that those who come solely for a tale about the Oddfellows society will be surprised, and those

who come for a historic piece on the building will also be equally surprised.

Common across all the genres, modes and personal flairs that make up the eclectic show is the shared love for the idea that Oddfellows Hall holds stories greater than one person could tell.

When the group first got together in March 2022, Watkins sent everyone to walk the halls, then asked them to write about their experience. Searle-White’s writing, for example, morphed into a speech he gives as part of the play.

“I collected (the writings) up, and if not every single one, virtually all of those are represented in the play either in full script or in a portion of it,” Watkins said. “Because they were really powerful, they discovered really interesting things.”

Dan Winston, a 2010 Allegheny graduate who now works as a teacher in Meadville, has worked with Watkins on a number of other devised theater projects and has performed in the MCT since he was 11. Winston explained that the concrete nature — in the literal sense, as

the others had been inspired by concepts such as “electricity,” “dirt” and “death” — of this piece makes it different from any other of Watkins’ projects he’s participated in.

Beyond personal exploration and writing, Winston and his fellow company members were asked to interview at least two sources who had a connection to the building, ranging from professors who work there or Meadville Cooperative Preschool alumni to adults who had been raised in the Odd Fellows orphanage.

For his part, Winston interviewed a former Allegheny student as well as a founder of the MCT. Launched in 1967, the theater moved to Oddfellows in 1983.

Winston was struck by the intense emotion the building evoked within his two interview subjects. The student described nights she would crawl onto the roof of Oddfellows to gaze down at campus and Meadville below, and the MCT founder provided anecdotes that align with the similar mythos the building has today.

“One in particular was that one member of the early theater group was the wife of a former director of the orphanage,” Winston said. “There was a tragic story about him running into legal trouble over some financial stuff... but he actually ended up taking his own life within the building, at least according to legend. (The founder) talked about walking through the building, alone at night, kind of feeling the presence of some spirit of something.”

Like so many legends associated with the building, however, company members were unable to confirm the veracity of the story.

Between rehearsals in the tiny theater that, like the building as a whole, has seen better days, Watkins would curate the collected material. When they next met, she would give the group a selection she found intriguing and ask them to create something from it, be it a monologue, choreography or other type of art or performance, according to Winston. From there, curation began once more, the group continuing to laminate their creativity and research until the production

began taking shape.

Watkins called the process “accidental collaboration.”

“I mean, this kind of thing happens all the time when you’re devising,” Watkins said. “You can’t plan it, it just ...”

“Happens,” chimed in Brian Thummler, piano accompanist and artistic collaborator for the production.

“Right,” Watkins replied. “Well, it happens because we create the conditions for it to happen.”

For the production, Thummler created a “crankie” — a type of moving panorama — based on a video that production contributor Sydney Emerson, '23, shot of chimney swifts circling their roosts in Oddfellows’ roof. For Searle-White, who contributed a song about the swifts, the swirling birds beg the question: What happens when this building goes away?

While the college has made no formal announcement on the future of Oddfellows Hall, Winston remarked that he believes it will most likely be demolished within the next decade or two. The college’s 2019 campus master plan lists “decommissioning”

of the 55,000 square foot building among several high-priority recommendations.

“In taking a tour of the building, we got to see parts that the general public, like students and theater people, don’t see, and it is kind of a mess,” Winston said.

Winston described holes in the ceiling, walls with exposed insulation and rooms flooded and abandoned for decades. He believes the cost of restoration will prove too high.

“What will take its place?” Winston said. “I don’t know. Another dormitory, or another academic building to replace it, or just, you know, a f----- parking lot. I don’t know. But it gives a special kind of weight to being a part of telling the story of this building.”

“Light in Odd Spaces” opens on Friday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Meadville Community Theatre, with additional showings on Saturday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the door or on the Meadville Community Theatre’s website.

THETA

from page 1

In 2019, Beta Chi leadership even thought they would be forced to close the chapter due to financial limitations. Kutzer said the organization was able to recover and keep the house open largely due to his predecessor's leadership. Kutzer said Theta Chi is not currently in a financial crisis and that there are a variety of historical reasons why enrollment and donations have fluctuated.

Kutzer declined to elaborate on further financial details, saying that that information is meant solely for Beta Chi's members.

Before making the decision to sell, the Beta Chi Building Association considered hosting a capital campaign — essentially a large-scale fundraiser. However, the national Theta Chi organization and the Beta Chi Board Treasurer advised that raising the necessary money would take too long and that they simply didn't have the resources to sustain the Theta Chi house. The combination of recurring property maintenance augmented by larger financial shortcomings due to enrollment and insufficient donations led the Beta Chi Building Association to consider selling the house.

“We want to be there to help (the brothers), not just keep putting out fires,” Kutzer said.

In the summer of 2022, the building association held three general meetings open to all Allegheny Theta Chi alumni interested in the fate of the house. Kutzer said that everyone present was given an equal vote in deciding whether to sell the property. Theta Chi New Member Education Chair and former President Ian Eggert, '23, said the current Theta Chi brothers were present at the summer meetings, where they gave their input on the decision to the alumni. The brothers did not get to vote in the final decision. Some alumni adamantly felt that the chapter would die if the house were sold. In the end, though, the majority agreed it was time to sell the building and focus on the chapter's future going forward.

“We're a little bummed out, of course, because it's a really old house on this campus and we were all excited to come into it,” Eggert said. “But at the end of the day, it's probably the best decision to make. It's a good thing to do because it opens up a lot of options for us. It's an adjustment period, but everybody seems ready for it.”

Since it was listed, there have been multiple potential buyers interested in the house.

“We were surprised, given that it's a fraternity house and it was built not as a standard residence or commercial property,” Kutzer said. “But given its proximity to the campus and the city of Meadville — just being at the crossroads of College Street and North Main — I think that's just very appealing to some potential buyers.”

Realtor Dennis Zahora said the price for the house is set lower than what may be expected because they anticipate that a buyer would have to invest significant funds to renovate the building. Kutzer said there have already been approximately seven showings and one offer from a property investor that was \$75,000 below the asking price.

Currently, the house is located within residential zoning lines, though Zahoor said it would be possible for a buyer to take an appeal to the local zoning board during a special exemption hearing if they wanted to use the building for a commercial purpose.

“The applicant's proposed use would (have to) be less injurious or more in conformance with the ordinance than the current

fraternity house,” Zahoor said. “It would have to be used for something about what the fraternity house is currently being used as.”

Zahoor said, for example, that the building would serve as an excellent boarding house or social service agency but that a restaurant would not be allowed to operate there. Zahoor said that as long as the buyer's appeal to the zoning board is reasonable, the special exemption hearing would not be an arduous process.

The college will not have control over who next occupies the Theta Chi house, but Kutzer said he talked with President Ron Cole, '87, about the sale in Nov. 2022.

“We essentially have been given the blessing of Ron Cole of, 'Do whatever you want to do. We're supporting you, whatever you want to do with the property,’” Kutzer said. “I'm not really sure (who) the school would like to buy the property, but it's not their decision because we own it. It just depends on who's willing to pay the price we're looking for. For us, it doesn't make a difference one way or another what their intentions are with the property. Once we sell the property, we'll have way more financial flexibility in terms of investing in the chapter and its future.”

Stolar said he and the Beta Chi organization have been working together to ensure that the brothers currently living in the house will be easily able to reintegrate into on-campus housing. No buyer will be able to close on the house before the beginning of May 2023, which ensures that the brothers currently living there can stay until the end of the academic year, according to Zahoor. Stolar said it is likely the Theta Chi brothers will live in suite-style residences once they move back onto campus.

Kutzer said the contract with Zahoor runs through October 2023 — time enough to go beyond the May 2023 sale goal if necessary. They will renew the contract if the house is still on the market, but they are anticipating it will have sold by then.

Although the sale of the Theta Chi house is a dramatic event for the chapter, those involved believe it will lead to a bright future.

“The chapter is not the house — it's the brothers who are in it,” former Theta Chi President Justin Osborne, '23, said. “Regardless of whether or not we have the house, everything remains the same. We're still going to operate with the same kind of passion that we would if we had the house.”

Stolar said the sale of the house would be a good opportunity for the fraternity to evaluate how they want to evolve. Kutzer agreed and is eager to move forward and focus on the future of the chapter at Allegheny.

“I don't want anyone at Allegheny to think that just because we're selling the house it means it's the end of Theta Chi as it is now,” Kutzer said. “It's not coming to an end. These brothers are very eager to plow into the future and really start a new chapter for the chapter, if you will. This is the biggest transition we've had for the fraternity probably for as long as it's been at Allegheny College, so there are going to be challenges, but there's also a lot of excitement and hope for what's going to happen.”

On Jan. 12, 2023, Allegheny announced in a campus-wide email that the purchase of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house is in the process of being finalized. The sale of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house and the sale of the Theta Chi house are not involved with one another.

ACHA

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From here on, the solution Dawson sees is one that requires a cultural shift toward individual accountability. Testing is a part of that picture, but it is not the only system of personal accountability, she said.

“If I wake up tomorrow morning and I have a scratchy throat, I can test myself to see if that sore throat is COVID-19,” Dawson said. “But if it comes back negative, it could be a host of other things. The best thing that I can do for my students, for

myself, is to stick a mask on.”

This system of accountability prioritizes big-picture community health over short-term priorities, like missing a few days of class.

“If we can stop those chains of transmission, trust each other and build this culture of protecting each other, that's transformative,” Dawson said.

Vice President for Enrollment Management Ellen Johnson explained via email that Allegheny will be releasing its

future COVID-19 policies in February, testing will still be available for students and masks are encouraged for those feeling unwell. These decisions, Johnson explained, “were made by the College leadership guided by the health expertise of (the Allegheny College Health Agency).”

She added that ACHA added a student representative this fall to “provide the student voice in discussions about our policies and procedures.”

Students should continue to mask when unwell, and are encouraged to test if they are experiencing COVID symptoms. Winslow Health Center offers rapid tests and is available for walk-ins or appointments Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

LOCKOUTS

from page 1

There were a total of 1,083 lockdown requests processed through Public Safety during the fall 2022 semester, according to the email.

“Considering that we're a campus of 1,300 students, that number of lockdowns is significant,” Yeckley said. “While it may not seem like that big of a deal to students, like, ‘Oh, it's just a few minutes and they'll come let me in,’ that takes a public safety officer away from their rounds — away from their duties to go unlock a door.”

Sasha Holguin, '24, thinks public safety officers have enough time to respond to the lockdown requests.

“All public safety does is handle lockdowns — it's what they mostly do, so I think (the lockdown fee) is really annoying,” Holguin said. “I think it's unnecessary. I think most people aren't locking themselves out as many times as the email made it seem. It seemed like it was an egregious number, and most people I know at least don't lock themselves out super regularly.”

Most students who filed lockdown requests with public safety during the fall 2022 semester incurred less than four lockdowns, while 34 students incurred more

than four, and a “good number” incurred eight or nine, according to Yeckley. One student experienced 11 lockdowns. Last semester, it came to Yeckley's attention that some students even opted to purposely leave their keys in their residence hall, counting on public safety to assist them later.

“Those are the people where I want to change their behavior to help them know that they need to carry their key,” Director of Public Safety James Basinger said. “Because if you're an adult and you do this and you have to call a locksmith to unlock a car or to unlock your apartment or your house, it's going to cost you a lot of money. I expect people to forget their keys. That's normal, but not 11 times. That's the target, is to eliminate that excessive person who just doesn't care what their actions are — at least that's the way it feels after you're going over multiple times for the same person.”

Basinger said when officers have to respond to an “inordinate number of lockdowns,” it detracts from the time they use to complete their other regular duties and responsibilities. Officers complete regular patrols and rounds on campus, assist students with car difficulties,

issue parking tickets, respond to student emergencies and fire alarms and secure campus buildings, among other tasks.

After approximately 4 p.m., Basinger said Public Safety is the only active department on campus, so they also then act as a switch board for students and stand in for Physical Plant. On top of that, the officers try to be generally present and available to respond to events quickly if they need to.

“We want to make sure that Public Safety is utilizing their time to best serve our students' safety,” Yeckley said. “While it may seem like, ‘Oh they're just walking around,’ they actually have a lot of responsibilities — especially on the night shifts — just to make sure the campus is secure.”

The development of the new lockdown policy has been in the works since August 2022. According to Yeckley, the topic was not initially broached by public safety officers, but instead was brought up as a result of student complaints about officer response times to lockdowns.

As part of a general review of how public safety officers regularly spend their time, Yeckley, Basinger and a Student Life team analyzed its data and came to the conclusion that officers were allocating a disproportionate amount of time to responding to student lockdowns.

To address the issue, the team gave out free lanyards to students and posted flyers around campus reminding students to take their keys with them when leaving their residence halls. Only when those efforts failed to lower the number of lockdown requests did the team decide to implement the new policy.

Yeckley said they recognize that emergencies happen and that the \$25 fee can be significant for some students, which is why there is an appeal process if the student is unable to pay the fee. Yeckley said they encourage students to always call Public Safety if they experience a lockdown, regardless of their financial situation.

“We're not trying to be extra harsh,” Yeckley said. “We're trying to have a way to remind students, ‘Hey, did you check your pockets?’ Because sometimes if you don't check your pockets, it might cost you \$25.”

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.

December 27, 2022

Criminal Mischief On Campus

Referred to Dean

December 30, 2022

Theft Walker Hall

Exceptionally Cleared

January 8, 2023

Rape On Campus

Title IX

January 15, 2023

Simple Assault North Village II

Active Investigation

THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

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Upon reflection, I can't remember a time in which I wasn't a feminist. I also can't remember a time in which I wasn't at war with femininity.

My friends always joke that I have "not-like-the-other-girls syndrome" — a diagnosis pulled from the depths of pop culture tropes, and one that I cannot categorically deny. The "not-like-the-other-girls" girl is, as Alisa Bristow writes, "An outcast but that's ok because she's deep. She's got skills that make her stand out. She's smart, too — you won't see her getting hung up on all that superficial stuff like relationships, or fashion, or diets, or make-up, or shoes." Some popular examples that people throw around include Arya Stark from "Game of Thrones," Kat Stratford from "10 Things I Hate About You" and Katniss Everdeen from "The Hunger Games."

Current wisdom dictates that the "not-like-the-other-girls" trope is sexist. I don't necessarily disagree. It does have a tinge of misogyny about it in the way that things perceived as feminine or primarily created for female consumption are often disparaged, such as boy bands, fruity cocktails and fancy bath products. The idea of there being "other girls" whose personalities and lifestyles are not only common but also inferior is downright belittling. It is no surprise, then, that any self-respecting feminist in 2023 does well to steer clear of any association with that trope, whether it be in the media they consume or their relationship to gender expression.

Nobody is 'like the other girls' and that's okay

How the patriarchy creates recursive feminism



I am admittedly right at home in the confines of that particular trope. I was never the most popular girl in school, nor did I really want to be. I was happy with my books. I don't consider myself to be particularly superficial and have had many storied clashes with diet culture. Katniss Everdeen was and still is one of my favorite fictional characters, one that I felt I could really relate to. Does this make me "not like the other girls"? Worse — does this make me a bad feminist? Sexist, even? Groaning under the weight of internalized misogyny and Emma Stone movies?

Until I started truly examining the "not-like-the-other-girls" trope and its subsequent criticism, I thought that I was somehow failing my fellow women by remaining thoroughly disinterested in certain parts of so-called feminine culture they were working so hard to normalize. But the reason the current popular critique of this trope bothers me is not because I am a vehement defender of those girls who claim that they are not like the others — it's because this critique seems, to me, to only enforce the gendered stereotyping of activities and presentation, ultimately coming full circle and eating its own tail. It's a social justice paradox, and one I can't get behind.

For example: I don't particularly care about getting manicures. Through the "not-like-the-other-girls" lens, I am shirking an unnecessary and highly aestheticized display of vanity because I'm not frivolous or vain. Through the critical lens, I am refusing to engage in a traditionally female activity because I see it as demeaning and well below the feet of my high horse.

The truth is, nail polish feels weighty on my fingertips. I like to keep my nails as short as possible, since I am a writer and pianist that spends the majority of her day pecking away at a keyboard. It has nothing to do with social stigma or perception and everything to do with my own personal levels of comfort and self-expression.

I can't help but feel that my understanding of gender — much like the rest of society's — is deeply, confusingly, irrevocably tangled with the gendered roles dictated by the patriarchy. I've tried to distance myself from the structure. I've tried to subvert it like a good feminist. But even the best, most self-aware feminists fall victim to it at the end of the day.

It's true; I shy away from feminine things for the most part — hence the "not like the other girls" label I've been given by some friends. I'm much more at home in my hiking pants and sweatshirt and I'll take a day of canoeing over a day tanning on the beach anytime. My resistance to the feminine things I've been told I should love is not because I see the "other girls" who watch rom-coms and collect makeup as inferior. In fact, a rewatch of "The Proposal" and playing around with my new eyeshadow palette sounds pretty nice right now.

My resistance instead comes from a deep-rooted red flag. I'm hesitant to engage in a form of femininity that's so heavily regulated by feminists and patriarchal hardliners alike, one that's deeply aestheticized and, quite frankly, a bit performative to me. On top of that, at the end of the day, I can't help when I'm not into something — not for the sake of a trope, and not for the sake of letting my fellow feminists down.



I can't help but feel that my understanding of gender — much like the rest of society's — is deeply, confusingly, irrevocably tangled with the gendered roles dictated by the patriarchy."

—SYDNEY EMERSON
Class of 2023

All the popular critique of this trope does is give the patriarchy and its plethora of strict gender roles more power by further drawing lines around what is feminine and, more importantly, what is not. It forces hobbies and interests and media and clothing and even colors into distinct pastures and nails "NO TRESPASSING" signs on the gates. Surely this is not the way to transcend the patriarchy, an outcome which we all claim to desire.

Perhaps the most damning evidence against this critique is if we were to transpose it to men instead. Men are allowed to be quiet, bookish and unfussy about their appearance. They're also allowed to love sneakers and nice clothes and the value of a good haircut. They can meticulously plan their diets and workouts or adopt a more laid-back lifestyle, all with no critique. Why? Because, when applied to men, tropes fade away and simply become personal preferences. They are not political statements and they certainly aren't pro- or anti-men. They can contain multitudes with no justification or potential angle required.

Conversely, women are culturally regarded as performers no matter what they're doing, every move calculated, every sentence premeditated, and all in the service of male attention and approval, which is really the crux of this debate. "Not-like-the-other-girls" girls

are regarded as attention-seekers by being deliberately unfeminine, while the "other girls" are regarded as attention-seekers by being deliberately feminine.

A few months ago, a very recent acquaintance told me — after only three short conversations which he dominated, I'll add — that he had me "all figured out." He told me that I was smart and a high achiever. Fair enough. Then he told me that I don't drive, I don't play sports and I don't drink beer. I got no small amount of pleasure in informing him that I drive a pickup truck, played soccer for ten years and come from a German family in Pennsylvania — of course I drink beer.

He thought he knew me because I presented as a studious girl who crossed his path and expressed no romantic interest in him. The rest of the pieces fell into place in his mind: I must be meek and delicate and drink only those fruity cocktails I mentioned earlier. Much like the two camps in the "not-like-the-other-girls" debate, this is how he, too, understood femininity: deliberately submissive or deliberately subversive. It's time to end that silent acceptance once and for all and throw that definition of femininity, whatever it is, out the window.

It's true. I'm not like the other girls — but only because nobody could ever be like another girl.

Jump off the Twitter 'brandwagon'

Editor-in-Chief shares his opinions about opinions

By ROMAN HLADIO
Editor-in-Chief
hlador@allegheny.edu

Twitter has ruined our ability to have opinions.

What? You want more? A one-liner isn't a sufficient opinion for you, let alone the editor? Fine.

Last semester, I made the heinous mistake of implying to an acquaintance of mine that the pizza at Brooks had improved over the course of the semester. "No, it's so bad," they responded. "I never eat it, but it's just not good."

I could have sat there all day and argued how the crust has been more consistently cooked through, is generally less burnt and is not at all a frozen pizza shell anymore. But I was talking to a brick wall, and I knew it. I had encountered what I've come to call a "Twitter opinion" — a reductive take truncated by a short word limit, making it oh-so-easy to misunderstand or misrepresent.

For nearly two decades now, a little blue bird has taught us that if our thoughts cannot be summarized in 140 characters — 280 if you're feeling particularly verbose — no one cares to see them. Through the power of this reductive thinking, the only options that seem viable are to brand yourself a supporter of the opinion or an ardent denier.

It's not my goal to indict Twitter — I'm sure they'll do that themselves soon enough — because these aren't just the opinions that dwell on Twitter. They are simply human disposition.

The problem rests in the scope of it all. We build walls around ourselves and our supporters, aim the barrel of our reply cannon directly at the enemy

encampment, and enter a battle for glorious bragging rights that this opinion is in fact the correct one, all because we want to be noticed in the sea that is the internet.



For nearly two decades now, a little blue bird has taught us that if our thoughts cannot be summarized in 140 characters ... no one cares to see them."

—ROMAN HLADIO
Class of 2023

The internet, to me, is like a plastic telescope you win at the county fair. It cannot be relied upon for precision or clarity. When you point it at a dog 30 feet ahead of you, you will indeed see something, but because the mirrors inside are cheap and poorly aligned, whatever reaches your eyes will always be off-center and blurry. But, most telescope users — that is, internet users — do not stop to wonder if the inner workings of the telescope are the problem. Instead, they throw their hands in the air and claim that the dog must be ugly, then go around kicking every dog at the fair until they are hauled away by security and banned from the fairgrounds. After all, you're more likely to remember the dog-kicker at the fair than any of the carnies.

Bottom line: opinions are starting to feel more and more like a ploy to stand out, a false personality trait to signal which camp you're in so you can either find another friend or make an enemy.

I'm guilty of this — I've constructed my opinion into this article because it feels nice to know that readers will nod along with each sentence and leave a comment telling me I'm right and I'm brilliant. I want people to like me so I have friends and get a sense of fulfillment through not being alone in life.

But that's not realistic — the part about everyone agreeing with me; jury's still out on the being-alone thing — and I wouldn't want it to be because there's so much joy to be had in seeing things from another person's perspective. But the walls went up as soon as I didn't agree that Brooks pizza is bad and now I'm left wondering if the texture is the issue, or maybe the flavor, or the lack of diverse toppings. The opportunity to gain that knowledge is gone, though. What a waste of shared experience.

This year, I'm going to stop arguing for the sake of arguing. I'm going to keep my walls down and really seek to understand more perspectives. I'm going to avoid making a mediocre, simplistic worldview my personal brand. Changing your mind doesn't invalidate you, and neither does disagreeing with somebody. Life experience is subjective, anyway, and sharing how I think things through, what I feel and what I see is the only real way to stand out as an individual.

I hope you hear from me again soon. I hope to hear from you, too. Until then, give Brooks pizza a try and let me know if you think it's gotten better. You know what I think, but then again, I could be wrong. There's a chance I've only had bad pizza all my life, and my acquaintance has never had Dominos.

New year, new me

By KAI MARIES
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The psychology behind New Year’s resolutions

A guide on making it past “Quitter’s Day”

By **CAROLINE MAYE**
Science/International Editor
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A lonely pair of gym shoes rests in the back corner of the closet. Once or twice at the beginning of each year, they go out for a quick jog or a walk around the park, only to quickly return to their solitude. Over the years, they are left to rot in the dark, like most New Year’s resolutions.

Every year, millions of people set their goals for the new year, promising to eat healthier, read more and be a better person, but 91% fail to actualize these goals, according to Inc. com. Just over two weeks into the new year, Jan. 19, marks “Quitter’s Day,” sending millions of resolutions face their demise.

“There’s something beautiful about it, that we stopped to reflect and we want to improve, right?” said Associate Professor of Psychology Lydia Eckstein, a specialist in behavioral psychology. “It’s this moment to say, ‘What do I like about my life and what do I want to do differently?’ The problem, of course, is that for most of us,

New Year’s resolutions last all of what? Six days? Six weeks?”

Most resolutions fail because they are either too ambitious or too vague, Eckstein explained. Common goals, such as losing weight, are often too vague. Without specifying an amount of weight to lose, it is hard to track progress, thus making it easier to get overwhelmed or even lose sight of the goal. Additionally, setting ambitious goals, such as losing a significant amount of weight or doing something every day, is unsustainable and makes it hard to follow through with.

Along with losing weight, drinking less, saving more money and spending more time with family are some of the most common resolutions, according to Eckstein. She explained that these particular resolutions are popular because they are areas where a lot of people tend to struggle.

For Kylee Hollerich, ’25, being more positive was her goal for 2023.

“Normally, I look at things pretty grim,” Hollerich said. “It’s something I wanted to try to improve on.”

She explained that, in the past, keeping resolutions was hard for her because they were often too ambitious for her to follow through with. She did not feel that they had any positive impact on her life. One year, her goal was to draw a picture every day. She gave up pretty quickly.

“It’s kind of difficult sometimes because I try to make it like a big jump for improvement instead of like smaller ones, which are the easier steps to get there,” Hollerich said.

For most people like Hollerich, who often find it hard to achieve their resolutions, Eckstein recommended a series of changes in crafting resolutions to make them more attainable.

For one, sharing your resolution with friends in a social setting greatly increases the odds of completing it. This is because, Eckstein explained, sharing resolutions with friends adds a social pressure to accomplish them. A person’s peers hold them accountable to actually working towards their goals. Also, working towards goals with the support of friends is a lot more enjoyable.

“Especially when it comes to friends and family, having an accountability buddy is so important,” Eckstein said. “If we can couple (resolutions) with something pleasant like hanging out with friends, that improves the odds that we’re going to follow through.”

Another way a person can increase their odds of accomplishing their resolution is by setting specific and attainable goals. This way, a person can monitor or track their progress, therefore setting themselves up for success. It is also a lot easier to accomplish a series of small goals than to try and attack one big goal, which can be overwhelming.

Eckstein also championed the use of technology to help people hit their targets. She referred to this as “the game-ification of goals.” Gesturing to her Apple Watch, Eckstein explained how its fitness-tracking capabilities have helped her stay on track with her goal of being more active this year.

“I don’t quite know where to stand on all these apps because I don’t inadvertently want people to spend more time on their phones,” Eckstein said. “But I

think there’s really something to be said for something like Duolingo, where you get rewards and you have this streak and you get points.”

The biggest change people can make, Eckstein explained, is to set an intention instead of a resolution. An intention is a broader goal that a person can carry out with many different actions.

“Instead of saying ‘I want to lose weight,’ or ‘I want to lift or swim half an hour every day,’ I may say something like ‘I want to move more,’” Eckstein said. “‘I want to be healthier.’ And so again, that’s also big, but it also gives me the flexibility to say being healthier may mean today I eat my fruit and vegetables. Tomorrow, I walk for half an hour and the day after that

““

If we really want to make a change, we can take any day of the week of the month of the year to reflect. What can I do today, even if it’s for 10 minutes, that gets me closer to that?”

I go swimming so ... it doesn’t pigeonhole me.”

Setting an intention also makes it easier to restart after making a mistake. It is not as strict as a traditional resolution and therefore has more leeway for errors, another one of the biggest reasons why people quit their resolutions.

Most importantly, Eckstein stressed, people do not need to wait for Jan. 1 to make a positive change in their lives. Any day is a good day to take a step back, reflect and plan to make a positive change.

“If we really want to make a change, we can take any day of the week of the month of the year to reflect,” Eckstein said. “What can I do today, even if it’s for 10 minutes, that gets me closer to that?”

—LYDIA ECKSTEIN
Associate Professor of Psychology,
Allegheny College

Chasing 2050

Is renewable energy the new face of the U.S.?

By **CAROLINE MAYE**
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The year 2050 seems so far away. For humans, it is, but for a planet that has been around for over four and a half billion years, 2050 could not come soon enough. With climate change ravaging the planet, it can be scary to imagine what the world will look like in 27 years. Will there still be icebergs? What about the Amazon rainforest? How far will Florida’s coastline have intruded?

With all of these negative possibilities, it can be easy to forget that the future brings positive change as well. In the United States, this means switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy. For decades, fossil fuel industries have been lobbying against the use of renewable energy, marketing it as expensive and inefficient. Recent advances in renewable

energy technologies, specifically relating to solar power, prove both of these claims to be false.

It is likely that the U.S.’ switch to renewable energy will take place sooner rather than later. Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Ian Carbone predicted that by 2050, there will be more renewable energy than fossil fuels consumed in the U.S.

“Even if we didn’t care about climate change, we are going to transition away from fossil fuels,” Carbone said. “(Solar power) is the cheapest form of energy we have. So it’s cheaper than fossil fuels. And I don’t think that can be overstated.”

Advances in solar technology are making the process even cheaper. By shrinking the size of the semiconductor, typically the most expensive element of most solar panels, scientists at the University of Michigan have achieved 9% efficiency in

using sunlight to convert water into oxygen and hydrogen, according to Science Daily.

“It represents a major leap in the technology, nearly 10 times more efficient than solar water-splitting experiments of its kind,” the article explained.

Another way that scientists have improved solar energy technologies is by modeling new energy creating technologies after leaves. In nature, plants, through their leaves, combine sunshine and water in a process known as photosynthesis. Led by chemical engineer Kevin Sivula of the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in France, a team of scientists have copied this process in their prototype, which harvests sunlight and humidity to create hydrogen energy, according to Science Daily.

With technology like this, Carbone predicts that it is in the United States’ best interest to make the switch to re-

newable energy. Not only is it cheaper, but it is also much safer for the environment.

“The only real downside is the intermittency issue, in that you need a way to store the energy on cloudy days or overnight or when the wind’s not blowing if you’re talking about wind,” Carbone said.

In order to aid the transition to renewable energy in the U.S., Carbone suggested using tax money to create incentives for making the switch. He argued that consumers need to be motivated to switch through the use of incentives rather than taxes because carbon taxes, while effective, are very unpopular among the general public.

To Carbone, the most important part of this switch is not eradicating the use of fossil fuels, but rather increasing the use of renewable energy and replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy where possible.

“There’s a couple areas where it’s really hard to use wind and solar,” Carbone said. “Like if you’re flying an airplane, you ... pretty much need either a fossil fuel or a biomass derived aviation fuel. So I think what you’ll see is very quickly, the vast majority of our energy system will transition to electricity and electricity and renewables supplying that electricity, but there will be specific applications where we’re still using fossil fuels. But maybe we’re using cleaner versions of those fossil fuels. Or maybe we’re using technologies like carbon

capture to pull the carbon out of the atmosphere after we use those fossil fuels.”

On campus, there are two solar arrays and four buildings with geothermal heating systems, according to Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, ’02. The solar arrays are located on top of Carr Hall, Doane Hall of Chemistry and Steffee Hall of Life Sciences. Bentley Hall, North Village I and II and the 454 House all have geothermal heating systems. She explained that while many people on campus, herself included, would love to see an increase in the amount of renewable energy created on campus, there are a number of restraints that complicate the issue.

“We don’t necessarily just have a pot of money sitting around waiting to put up a bunch of solar panels,” Boulton said. “So we need to think strategically about what are the opportunities that we can use to find the right solution, but also find the right financing.”

According to Boulton, installing a ton of solar panels on campus is not really feasible. With the age and height of buildings and trees on campus, not enough light comes through to power these panels. The only place that solar energy could be harvested is, surprisingly enough, the parking lots.

“You can do like a canopy over a parking lot,” Boulton said. “Right now that doesn’t make a lot of financial sense because the cost of steel skyrocketed during the pandemic because of all of the shipping and logistics.”

Currently, there are no projects in the works for increasing the amount of renewable energy generated on campus. However, as bills like the Inflation Reduction Act are carried out, the opportunities to create new infrastructure are appearing, Boulton explained.

“Just last week, I was looking through all of those opportunities and figuring out which ones, but most of them — the guidelines and the timelines for those funding possibilities — haven’t even been released yet,” Boulton said. “Just because we’re not actively installing anything on campus doesn’t mean we’re not working behind the scenes to find all of the right opportunities.”

Despite the United States’ current reliance on fossil fuels, it seems that the time has finally come to make a change that could actually combat climate change. With legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act incentivizing consumers to use renewable energy, it is just a matter of time before renewable energy takes over.

“There’s a lot of factors at play and I’ve seen things go badly for so long,” Boulton said. “So I’ll be cautiously optimistic, but yes, we need to get there.”



Image source: Allegheny College

One of two solar arrays on campus sits atop Steffee Hall.

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Entering Aquarius season

It's the age of Aquarius...

By **ANNALIESE STONE**
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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18)
Happy birthday Aquarius! Venus moved into your sign on Jan. 3, marking an exciting time for your connections with friends and loved ones. Take time to push yourself socially and open up to the people around you. You never know what could be waiting on the other side of the walls you've built. When Uranus — your ruling sign — ends its retrograde on Jan. 22, inspiration and progress will finally strike. Take hold of this motivation and run with it for as long as you can.

Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20)
It's looking like a good start to your year, Pisces. Neptune, your ruling planet, is in your First House of Self, bringing sparks of inspiration and self-understanding. Plan for your future, but don't let yourself forget to spend some time in the present, both with yourself and others. Mars is in your Fourth House of Home and Family, pushing you to fight for some stability and security in your life. Make yourself a schedule! Just make sure you're keeping to it. Allow manifestation and hard work to propel you forward into the new year.

ARIES (March 21–April 19)
2022's end may have left you feeling spun out and exhausted, Aries, but balance in your life is coming up quick. Though your ruling planet, Mars, has been in retrograde since October, January brings you a return to feeling energized and driven. Take charge of your life and your work this month. Be assertive. It suits you.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20)
Jan. 1 brings a surprisingly social start to your year, Taurus. Your ruling planet, Venus, joined Pluto in Capricorn before entering Aquarius on Jan. 3. Be prepared for deep and important conversations with your close friends or partner, especially if they're a fellow Earth sign. Listen closely. They likely have wise words

for you.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21)
Mercury's retrograde that began late December finally ended on Jan. 18 for you, Gemini. A return to classes and campus life means safe travels and good conversation are on your horizon. Give yourself time to settle down after move-in and practice some much-needed self-care. You should start feeling at your best now that classes have started..

CANCER (June 22–July 22)
A full moon shone in Cancer on the sixth of this month. Open yourself up to your emotions, letting them crash over you. It's okay to not be okay all the time. Do some journaling and drink lots of water. Let the full moon charge your intentions and empower you to achieve them this month. You can do this. Good luck!

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22)
Saturn moves into your Seventh House this month, Leo. Relationships of all kinds are challenging you, for both good and bad. There's strength in reflecting on what you bring to others and what they bring to you. Don't hold onto relationships that aren't serving you anymore. Open yourself up to new people who may enter your life, and push yourself to serve others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22)
Like Gemini, Mercury's return to a direct path will bring you some much needed balance in your social life, Virgo. Be careful to not let the positive wave of lunch meet-ups and house parties keep you from taking time to prepare for the semester ahead. Going to class every once in a while is — allegedly — good for your grades. Give yourself a good start this year.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 23)
Libra, your ruling planet, Venus, enters your Fifth House bringing you abundant love and good energy this month. Open your eyes to the people around you and their

actions. Take time for gratitude and some self-care this month to charge up your year to be one of strong relationships and a strong sense of self. Stop and smell the roses.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24–Nov. 21)
These are uncertain times for you, Scorpio. The full moon in Cancer on Jan. 6 entered your Ninth House of Philosophy, nudging you to rethink and overthink your recent goals, relationships and actions. Reflection can be a good thing, but you can't let it send you spiraling. Mars, one of your ruling planets, ended its retrograde on Jan. 12, bringing you some much-needed solace and peace of mind. Allow yourself to enjoy and take in what's happening around you. There is no single perfect path to anything in life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21)
This will be a bit of a whirlwind month for you, Sagittarius. Like everyone else, Mars and Mercury retrogrades have made communication and motivation rocky roads for you so far. Though things got easier when these planets went direct towards the middle of January, the new moon in Aquarius on Jan. 21 will reconnect you with your closest communities and grant you time to spend with loved ones. Expect good news around Jan. 26, when Venus enters Pisces and your Fourth House of Home and Family, bringing some stability to your apartment or finances.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19)
Pluto entered Capricorn in your First House of Self on Jan. 1, bringing you all kinds of renewed energy and self-worth to carry you through the start of the year. Treat yourself to the kinds of experiences you deserve. Push outside of your comfort zone. Energy put towards bettering yourself now will stay with you for years to come. This month is a great time to reevaluate the people, goals and habits in your life. Look outward for inspiration and inward for changes you can realistically make. New year, same you — just with a few software updates.

Hamline University fires prof. after art controversy

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
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Adjunct Professor of Art at Hamline University Erika Lopez Prater was fired after showing students images of the Prophet Muhammad in an art history class. The situation has sparked a conversation about academic freedom and religion.

Director of Spiritual and Religious Life Sami Alkyam explained that most Muslims oppose depictions of Muhammad or any other religious figures because they can be worshiped instead of Allah.

“The vast majority of Muslims oppose the depiction of the Prophet in images, statues or anything,” Alkyam said. “It may mystify many non-Muslims and I understand this, but it speaks very central to the issue and the pillar of Islam which is the worship of God alone.”

The Muslim Public Affairs Council released a statement in support of Prater, expressing that to them, it is important to support free inquiry, according to CBS. The article also mentions that students were warned before the showing of the images and were given the opportunity to speak up or leave, though none did.

The Minnesota chapter of the Council of American Islamic Relations, on the contrary, found the inclusion of the painting disrespectful and organized a new conference in support of the Muslim student who complained, according to NBC News. However, the national Council on American-Islamic Relations distanced themselves from that idea, saying in a statement they acknowledge that many Muslim artists have been drawing the Prophet for hundreds of years.

Alkyam did not agree with the statement and does not personally believe showing images of the Prophet is appropriate.

“I know that there are some Muslim scholars who argue that it is fine to show images of the Prophet,” Alkyam said. “But I know that the vast majority of scholars and Muslims do not do this themselves and do not accept it. Think of it as forbidden or taboo basically.”

In response to the debate surrounding academic freedom, Alkyam states that he does not believe that freedom of speech is a good reason to show images of the Prophet when it risks aggravating a whole community.

“Freedom of speech has its limits,” Alkyam said. “My point is that the professor started under the premise of academic freedom — which means that you can say whatever you want as long as you justify it by saying, ‘I want to teach my students.’ But what is it that you want to teach them about? The image of the Prophet? It doesn't really add much in my view.”

Alkyam questioned if the one Muslim student in the class should have been expected to speak up against the images beforehand after being given the opportunity by the professor several times. He also made the argument that if the professor continually made disclaimers,

then she knew images of the Prophet are prohibited by many.

“One of the Muslim students said that one of the most hated things for them is when people ask them to talk about Islam, because it is one thing if they are asking about (their personal views) and another if they are asking me to speak for a community,” Alkyam said. “My point is that the professor herself knew that this was problematic. I really think it's unfair to put the heavy load of deciding upon an issue like this on the shoulders of one undergraduate in your class.”

Hamline University's decision to not rehire Prater has been a controversial topic which, according to AP News, has resulted in Prater filing a lawsuit against the institution. Alkyam believes Hamline's decision to cut ties with the professor is a way of advocating for the Muslim community and representing their stance as an institution.

“They are basically performing a statement which is ‘we know that this is a forbidden issue for Muslims and we respect the Muslim community here and all over the world,’” Alkyam said. “What is the gain of showing an image of in a class other than, honestly, aggravating the whole community?”

At the same time, Assistant Professor of Art History and Director of Allegheny Art Galleries Paula Burleigh highlighted labor issues at play in the situation. Burleigh did not want to take a stance in support or against Prater's actions.

“They are an adjunct professor and that means they have minimal to no job security,” Burleigh said. “They were not given the opportunity to have a conversation around restorative justice for the student, and I think this speaks to the precariousness of adjunct labor where they are not being paid living wages and their jobs are very vulnerable.”

Burleigh believes that when it comes to religion and academic freedom in universities, an ongoing conversation with active negotiation needs to be had.

As an art professor, Burleigh thinks that when teaching with visuals it is important to situate the images in a historical context to make students better visual interpreters but also be mindful of blindsiding students with images that may harm them.

“I wish there had been more opportunity for productive dialogue afterwards to figure out how best to proceed going forward,” Burleigh said. “The faculty member issued an apology and it seems that apology was not given space to be heard.”

In the future, Burleigh thinks more conversations with students and other faculty should be had before showing images that may be sensitive to certain communities.

“I think it is really important to empower students by involving them in those conversations and I also think it's important for faculty members to be talking to one another because then we can learn more about what is happening elsewhere,” Burleigh said.

Allegheny Rec offers yard games, wintertime snacks

By **ELANOR BONTA**
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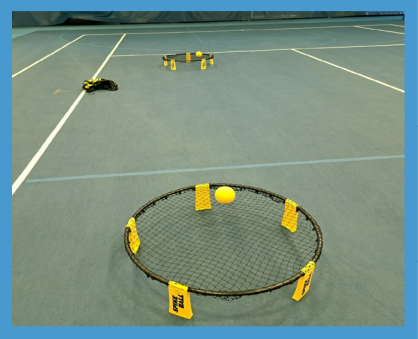
Skylee Lyons, '26, testing out the hot chocolate. “The hot cocoa was way too watery,” said Lyons, who did not finish the beverage.



A group of students sit in the lobby of the David V. Wise Center on Sunday, Jan. 15. Allegheny Recreations event was catered by Aramark Higher Education. The students munch on Rice Krispie treats and drink hot cocoa while catching up from break.



Corn hole sat with no indication that it had been used. Attending students frequented the snack bar more than the activities.



Spikeball, one of the many available games, left to its lonesome because students ate snacks instead.



The food display of Rice Krispie treats, still piled high in their bowl over an hour since the event began.

Women’s basketball heats up with playoffs around corner

By KYLE CHANDLER
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Allegheny’s women’s basketball team has rattled off three straight wins to move their record to 8-8 for the season. It is the first time this year the team has been at the .500 mark. After dropping their first four games, the squad rallied together, and has since gone 8-4.

“We know it’s about the win,” Sarah Santicola, ’26, said. “We’re all committed to the win.”

It is without question the team could not have saved the sinking ship without the exemplary play of Emily Lauer, ’25. In the past five games, Lauer has averaged 21.2 points, in addition to 6.4 rebounds per night. In her previous outing at Waynesburg, she netted 30 points and accounted for 60% of

the team’s total.

Still, that was not her top performance of the season; she dropped 32 points in a career-high game, while also snagging nine boards en route to a dominating 73-54 victory over Thiel on Dec. 3, 2022. Her offensive prowess cannot be overstated, as she ranks second in the conference in points per game and first in points scored.

“It’s important to be able to keep that rhythm,” Lauer said. “A lot of times I just go in and shoot on the gun (a machine that passes the ball back out after a make) or do workouts with Coach Jess (Vormelker).”

Despite Lauer’s abilities on the court, she has had some needed assistance from her teammates. Santicola earned the PAC Rookie of the Week award for the second week in a row on Monday, Jan. 16, for her per-

formances against Waynesburg and Westminster.

With both games being played on the road, Santicola did not let the hostile environment get to her. She averaged a double-double in the pair of Gator victories, totaling 11 points per game and 10.5 rebounds per game. She also accumulated seven total blocked shots, including a career-high five against the Yellow Jackets. She ranks first in the conference in the blocked shots category.

“My number one thing has always been, ‘Oh well, if all else fails at least I’ll get a block or two this game,’” Santicola said. “I have really long arms so I just jump in the way. It’s my main thing. I like blocking shots.”

Adding to the duo of Lauer and Santicola is Jess Bickart, ’26, who has also made her impact known on the court this year.



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

Sarah Santicola, ’26, faces Bethany College’s Sophie Morey in the opening tip-off of Wednesday night hoops.

She has almost double the assists of anyone on the roster, and is second in the conference for total dimes. She provides great court awareness, and always seems to find her teammates for the open look.

“It’s really easy with Emily getting to the basket all the time, and Sarah posting up all the time,” Bickart said. “They make it easy for me.”

Along with Bickart’s performance on the court, she is also a leader in the classroom. Bickart puts the student first in “student-athlete,” and came to Allegheny after earning a 5.0 GPA at Seneca Valley High School.

“A lot of it is time management,” Bickart said. “I try to put in time for both, and just pay attention in class.”

It is not always easy throwing the young guns out on the floor, expecting them to per-

form at a high level game in and game out. All three girls are the team’s leading scorers, and are all underclassmen. They have handled adversity well, and have stuck together like glue to build chemistry and continue growing.

“It’s really exciting that we’re all really young,” Bickart said. “There’s a lot of potential.”

Though these three young women have hauled the load of production throughout most of the season, the leadership they have gotten from the veterans has allowed them to perform at the level they do. The team will regularly hang out together off the court, which includes spending time at the upperclassmen apartments. They have learned some of their most valuable traits from the ones who have been in their shoes.

The team’s confidence is at an all time high. They were counted out by many after falling to tough teams including Carnegie Mellon University, No. 22 ranked John Carroll University, and No. 17 ranked St. John Fisher University early in the season. The team believes it geared them up for what was to come, and rather than getting down on themselves, it made them want to work that much harder.

“One of our big things right now is playing for each other,” Bickart said. “It’s about putting 110% effort in for us.”

With just nine games left to go until the PAC playoffs, the Gators will look to finish strong as it is their goal to bring home a conference title. They tip off at home against Franciscan University Saturday, Jan. 21, at 4 p.m., as they hope to keep the hot streak alive.



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

Branygan Bianchin, ’24, dribbles across the timeline looking to set up a play for her teammates.

Campus Conversations: men’s basketball team

Caden Hinckley, '23, Allegheny's four-year starting center. On Jan. 11, Hinckley earned a career-high 19 rebounds versus Westminster.

Kyle Chandler: Coaches always talk about senior leadership and its importance to a program. You have had to fill that type of role since your freshman year. How have you been able to handle and grow in that role?

Caden Hinckley: The group of guys are really close together, so there is not really any leading that I have to do. We’re all going towards the common goal of winning the PAC. The team gets on board and follows the coaches really well, so it makes it easy. We also have players like Holden Phillips, ’24, who does a great job of getting everyone prepared for the games. He’s another great leader on the team.

KC: What goes into being able to average a double-double for now the second season in a row?

CH: A lot of work, and a lot of trust from my teammates that I’m not going to get a bad pass running down the floor. Or, when I go up for a rebound that they’re going to box out their own guys so they don’t come from behind and poke it out.

KC: You are one of the taller players in the conference and the tallest player on the Gators roster. How are you able to use your size and your frame to your advantage?

CH: That’s how I do most of my scoring. I use my length and my size to score over players. I just use it to elevate and score.

KC: From behind the arc the last few games you have also been able to nail some three-pointers. Is that something you are looking to in-



HINCKLEY

corporate into your arsenal more?

CH: Yeah, me and Coach (Greg) Bean and Coach (Zach) Zoll, ’20, have been working on my shot. It can really only go up, as it’s been quite terrible, but hopefully I can continue to make some and that percentage will keep going up.

KC: You always find ways to keep yourself in the conversation for conference player of the week. This week, you were able to earn that achievement. What does that mean to you?

CH: It is a great accomplishment to get it. I have to thank the guys though, because I don’t get it if we don’t win and play well. They get me into good spots to throw me the ball, so it’s really a team effort. Whenever I win (an award like player of the week), I view it as the team won. We won both games, and played really well.

KC: You are into your senior season with only eight guaranteed games to go. Do you have any plans for after basketball?

CH: I’m looking for a job. Hopefully I’ll get one, and maybe play overseas if anyone wants me.

Andre Wilder, '24, is in his first full season as a starter this year. Wilder is near the top of every statistical category for the Gators.

Kyle Chandler: You are into your junior year now, but it is really only your second season on the court, given the COVID-19 pandemic. How do you feel you have developed as a player during your tenure?

Andre Wilder: It’s been really fun. During my freshman year we had a lot of really good leaders. We didn’t play that many games, but it was really valuable having those guys around in practice day in and day out. They sprinkle a lot of information onto me that now I’ll be able to pass down on people like Ryan (Lang, ’26) and Isaiah Portis, ’26. Last year, I had a lot of insights from Caden on how to get open and the effects of the pick and roll. Having leadership like that has really helped me elevate quickly.

KC: Does it feel weird to call yourself an upperclassman?

AW: Definitely, it’s super weird. Super weird. I feel like yesterday I was just a sophomore.

KC: You started seeing significant playing time last year in the second half of the season. Now, you have started all 17 games for the Gators this season. How are you able to consistently get better and earn that playing time?

AW: Just staying humble at the end of the day. In practice, just giving it everything I got.



WILDER

Just staying true to who I am as a basketball player, and letting the game talk for itself. I just try to stay on path and stay on track.

KC: You have grown to be quite the scorer this season, already amassing six games with 20 or more points. What has led to you consistently putting the ball in the net?

AW: With the help of our guards. Our assist numbers are through the roof, and everyone is looking for each other. Without the help of our guards, those 20 point games wouldn’t be possible.

KC: What is your mindset on the court?

AW: Before the games, Coach (Bob) Simmons would walk up to Hinckley and would give him a quote he would say in practice like, “it’s just pick up.” That is the type of stuff we talk about. It’s been very important to all of us keeping a level head, and just playing a regular game like it shouldn’t be anything too serious.

Ryan Lang, '26, a freshman point guard. After the first four contests, he was named a regular starter, and shoots it 49% from behind the arc.

Kyle Chandler: You are only a freshman, and you have stepped up big for the program this year. How have you been able to handle such a big responsibility so early in your career?

Ryan Lang: I got great leaders in front of me. Guys that have been through this, and that have taught me how to develop into a player that can play on the court for us. I have learned a lot since I got here, (including) different ways to score. I really just give it to our upperclassmen for getting me ready, and getting all of our younger guys ready.

KC: Brian Roberts Jr., '22, was noted by many as one of the best point guards to ever play for Allegheny. Comparatively, you have very similar freshman year numbers. Do you think you will be able to live up to that expectation and be the next star for the Gators?

RL: I hope so. It’s a big name to live up to, but we play similarly. It’ll be hard, but that’s my goal, to live up to what he left behind and add on.

KC: Why did you choose Allegheny?

RL: I fell in love with the coaching staff, loved the



LANG

campus and when I met the guys for the first time we just clicked. It was easy. It felt like home to me. I talked to my parents a lot and some other people I trusted. They were all on board and I felt it was the best fit for me.

KC: Now that you are here, how has your experience been since arriving on campus?

RL: It’s great, I wouldn’t give it up for anything in the world. I’m having fun playing basketball, I’m having fun on and off the court, learning a lot, and it’s been a great experience so far.

KC: What do you hope to accomplish throughout your years in a blue and gold uniform?

RL: Win a couple PAC Championships, or maybe an NCAA Championship. We have a lot of goals, and I just hope we get to reach them.