

CPDC advises students to focus on their mental health

By **BREE GRAY**
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The Counseling and Personal Development Center said they advise students to focus on their mental health, especially during midterms.

“This semester, ‘good enough’ is great,” Director of the CPDC Trae Yeckley said. “We know that students are tired. We know that students are stressed out, so taking time to make sure that you are okay and taking time to take care of yourself ensures that you can finish this semester.”

Last week would have been fall break, however due to COVID-19 calendar changes, the break was canceled.

“Our students are very academically rigorous and push themselves, but they look forward to a break, which we did not have this semester,” Yeckley said. “With everything else going on in the

world it is a very stressful time. (Students) have the stress of what is going on with the pandemic and the country, and on top of that they are students — (being a student) is a stressful situation. It is really hard to navigate all of those stressful situations and perform at your absolute best without taking care of yourself.”

Yeckley advises students to take time out of their day to unplug from electronics and put down the textbooks to focus on themselves and their mental well-being.

“You can push yourself and burn yourself out by the end of October to get the grades that you want,” Yeckley said. “By the end of October, though, you will be burnt out. We want you to finish this semester strong. It is okay to take a break. It is okay to tap out. It is okay to recharge so that you can finish this semester.”

Students can schedule a counseling session or call the 24/7 Line if they would like additional support. This semester, the CPDC has changed operations to accommodate COVID-19 regulations.

“It is a really lonely time right now, and it has been for the last six months,” Trae Yeckley said. “We want to reiterate that even if we cannot be physically close to each other ... we can still connect — virtually or from a safe distance apart.”

This semester, therapy sessions have been moved to remote sessions and all associated paperwork can be completed online. The 24/7 Line is available as usual and the CPDC plans to introduce drop-in hours for students again ahead of the presidential election in November.

Yeckley mentioned that there has been an increase in the amount of students interested in attending a counsel-

ing session, including among seniors who have never attended a session before.

“Last year, we served 270 students with at least one session by the end of the fall semester,” Yeckley said. “As of Thursday (Oct. 15), I believe we had already served 206. That was 45 students more than the previous year by this time (in the semester) ... We are also seeing an increase in the number of students using the 24/7 line.”

To accommodate the increase in requests, the CPDC staff have filled their schedules and also rely on outside hours to check in on quarantine students.

“We do not want students to think that just because our schedules are full that we do not care about them,” Yeckley said.

In addition to traditional operations, the CPDC has been training Residence Life staff to be equipped to handle residents’ mental health needs.

“This is a really unique situation, especially with first-years coming in and trying to get connected (on campus),” Yeckly said. “This is something that most of our (Resident Advisors) have not had to deal with before.”

CPDC has hosted several events to reduce stress this semester, including both remote and in-person events, Yeckley said.

“With first-years, we did a meet and mingle, which was a physically distant event where students were able to get to know and meet each other,” Yeckley said.

It is important to distinguish between “physically distant” and “socially distant” because they imply two very different meanings, Yeckley said. The first-year event was only physically distant, not socially distant.

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Photo courtesy of kristyforcongress.com

‘The stories we tell’

Forum held for local democratic candidates Kristy Gnibus and Matthew Ferrence

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Photo courtesy of electferrence.com

IN THIS WEEK’S CAMPUS

BLACK LIVES MATTER IN PHILADELPHIA
When BLM movement was sparked and sustained this summer, Photographer Tito Maz-zucchi, ’21, captured images of Philadelphia- area protesters.
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POLICE BRUTALITY PRO-TESTED IN AFRICAN NA-TIONS
Nigerians demand abolition of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad while South Africans call for police accountability.
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BLACK GIRL MAGIC
As part of the Culture, Identity & Leadership Coalition, BGM exists to create space for conversation and build community to empower black women.
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TITO MAZZUCCHI/THE CAMPUS
Above: On July 4th, a U.S. Army Soldier stands on the stairs leading to the Municipal Building in Philadelphia.

Below: In Love Park, between City Hall and The Philadelphia Museum of Art, a protest sign reads “Justice for Breonna (Taylor).”



TITO MAZZUCCHI/THE CAMPUS
Above: As protesters stand in solidarity, the face of George Floyd is prominent on a sign, with a quote from Benjamin Franklin that states “Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.”

Below: Near Philadelphia City Hall, protesters march, one side reads “Blacks Lives Matter,” and another states “The revolution will be tele-vised.”

CIVIL RIGHTS PROTESTS

BLM protests take place over the summer in Philadelphia



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“When this all started nationally, we had this concept of socially distancing ourselves and staying six feet apart, but that implies loneliness, isolation and being separated from people — not just physically, but also socially,” Yeckley clarified. “We do not want that. We want people to be physically distant and be safe, but we want them to be connected — connected with us, with peers, with family and with professors.”

On Oct. 10, the CPDC and Spiritual and Religious Life hosted “Yoga on the Lawn,” which was a physically-distanced event as well. Students brought their own yoga mats and the session

was held on Murray Lawn.

The CPDC has hosted other events such as “Work out your Stress” and “Gator Care Week.” Both of these events were hosted remotely.

Counselor Danielle Pecar hosts virtual cardio and yoga classes on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. and strength training classes on Fridays at 3 p.m.. The sessions are held over Zoom, and interested students can access the link on the CPDC Instagram. Students must sign a waiver to participate in the session.

“Don’t let COVID-19 derail your physical or mental health,” the flyer reads. “These group classes are designed to improve

fitness, lower stress and elevate your mood.”

The classes can be taken anywhere because it is remote, and no additional workout equipment is required to participate.

The CPDC hosted “Gator Care Week” on Instagram from Oct. 12 to Oct. 16. The account featured videos by the counselors offering self-care tips and advice to manage stress and prioritize mental health during midterms and COVID-19.

On Oct. 13, the video featured ways to create goals for oneself.

“The first thing you always want to do when setting up your goals for the day is to do a self check-in,” Counselor Charity

Grace said. “This means that you assess ‘where am I at today?’ ‘What is my mood?’ ‘What is my energy level at?’ ‘How many resources do I have to give today?’ (After this), you adjust your goals for the day based on that.”

Grace advised students to use the S.M.A.R.T. goals acronym — Specific, Measurable, Achievable or Attainable, Realistic and Timely — when creating goals for the day.

“Students need to recognize that as much as you are putting out, you need to put back in or the next day you will start with less resources than you had today,” Grace said. “Self-care is always important so make sure

that you are building that time in your schedule.”

Other videos featured topics such as positivity, meditation and unplugging from technology.

“We are spending so much more time in a virtual world and that is more mentally fatiguing for our brain,” Grace said. “The amount of stimulus that we have to take in really compounds that fatigue and energy loss and is increasing our rate of saturation. This means that we are looking at the information, but it is not really being encoded.”

Grace advises students to take at least four hours over the weekend to unplug from electronics

and meet with friends in a physically distanced manner.

“Gator Care Week” also included the first bi-annual self-care competition. Students, faculty and staff were encouraged to submit short videos of them engaging in self care activities. The winner of the first bi-annual self-care competition was Aa-daya Davis, ’24.

“There is no time like the present to choose you,” Grace said. “Take some time out for self care in your schedule.”

The 24/7 Mental Health Crisis line can be reached at (814) 332-2105 by any Allegheny student, regardless of current location.

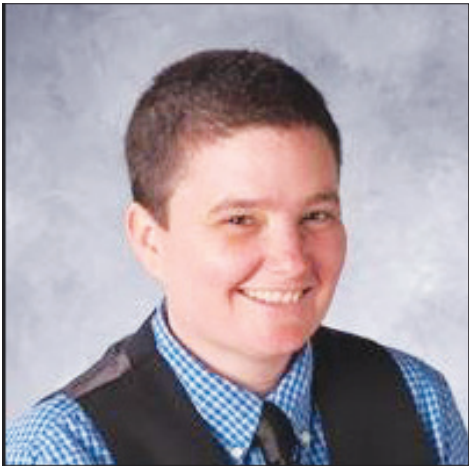


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GRACE

Finance director announces club budget hearing dates

Bonfires, campus safety discussed at ASG weekly general assembly

By **ALANA SABOL**
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Allegheny Student Government revealed the dates for budget hearings and discussed student life initiatives such as installing fire pits around campus.

With no guest speaker, ASG's general assembly began promptly with cabinet reports at 7:05 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, via Zoom.

Chief of Staff, Emma Godel, '21, began her report by announcing that she will be discussing the process of filling student vacancies in college committees with the Chair of Faculty Council Rachel Weir.

"If there's any student vacancies in any of these groups, it's my job to nominate someone and it's the senate's job to then approve or not approve that person," Godel said.

Godel continued, reporting that she believes the ASG constitution should be updated to be more accessible and to include plans for problems involving COVID-19.

"In the event that (a member had) to step down (because of a family emergency or contracting COVID-19), we'd have to get a permanent replacement and the constitution does not have a succession plan for each office lined up," Godel said. "So long story short, I think that the constitution could use some revisions and that's something I hope to work on with Trevor (Mahan, '21) and the Rules Committee."

Godel concluded her report by suggesting that ASG take action to destigmatize mental health on campus and suggested that within the next few years, there should be the Crisis Text Line printed on student ID cards.

"In a perfect world, this would be able to happen for the class of 2025," Godel said. "Beyond that being said, again, a pandemic basically hits the pause button on all campus operations and affairs. Stickers are also a good idea, and in the meantime, we can always do things like put up posters."

After the Chief of Staff's report, Director of Organizational

Development Bennett Westfall, '23, reminded senators to tell their constituents how and when to vote on election day. He also suggested creating a brochure that includes guidelines and the best practices for having club meetings in person.

"Clubs are very important to campus," Westfall said. "(They) raise morale, keep people happy and it's a good thing to be plugged into, so it's good to see that as a starting back up. We just need to make sure they're safe."

After Westfall, Attorney General Mahan said that ASG should strive to be more inclusive.

"I think with the rise of Black Lives Matter as well, we want to make ASG really inclusive," said Mahan. "We want to make our clubs inclusive and we want to make sure we're following the best practices in that regard. So there's a lot of ways that we want to update our constitution and then I will be working on that."

To finish his report, Mahan reminded the members to tell any new clubs to register with ASG.

Following that, Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs William Walker, '22, announced he plans to partner with Sustainability Coordinator Kelly Boulton to plan ways that the college can increase sustainability and environmental outreach this semester.

After Walker's report, Co-Director of Student Affairs Genesis Pena, '22, reported that Director of Public Safety James Basinger is searching for two students to be a part of the Subcommittee for Cameras and that senators can reach out to her or the respective director if they have any questions regarding a certain committee and the responsibilities that being a member would entail.

Following Pena, Director of Finance, Noah Tart, '22, announced he is working on a potential timeline for budget hearings. The dates for budget hearings are Nov. 4, 5, 6 and 8.

"I'm going to send the club presidents an email outlining what the goals for the budget hearings are this year," Tart said. "This year, we're going to see a reduction in club budgets because the period of time that we're going to be having budgets will be the end of November to the beginning of April, which really isn't a lot of time."

Due to this, Tart explained that he plans on encouraging clubs to focus on long-term investments.

"So an example of (long-term investment) might be club soccer, for example, or any club sport, if they want to get equipment, this is the year to do it," Tart said.

After Director of Finance, Director of Community Relations Elias Bullock-Moreno, '23, announced that he plans to use the television studio in the Vukovich Center to create professional-looking content for ASG.

"(Having professional videos and content) adds a lot of authenticity to the things that we say and do, which I think is important to keep that in order to

have good community relations," Bullock-Moreno said.

Director of Communication and Press Bree Gray, '23 began her report by addressing her goals of inclusivity, accessibility and transparency. Regarding inclusivity, Gray asked the members to include their preferred pronouns in their screen name in order to make all members and constituents feel welcome and comfortable.

Gray continued her report by announcing that she is redesigning the ASG website and social media to make them more accessible and convenient.

Following Gray, ASG moved into class reports.

The Class of 2021 reported that they are still looking for potential senators and the Class of 2023 announced they will be having weekly meetings and are discussing ideas for virtual events this semester.

President Abdikadir Lugundi, '21, announced that on the next diversity podcast the guest is an Allegheny 2017 alumnus, Jack Orhman, who is an African American photographer and award-winning filmmaker.

"With everything that is going on in the world with social justice, I think it is pretty important to bring him on and talk about his experiences with him and being in the movement and being there kind of as an anthropologist and a photographer," Lugundi said.

Lugundi continued by reporting that he and the cabinet discussed hosting a philanthropy event for providing educational

support for at-risk youth and marginalized communities.

"The whole goal is to promote real activism and a sense of community within clubs and organizations," Lugundi said.

Following the President's report, during unfinished business, a discussion ensued about having bonfires around campus to improve student life.

"I definitely think a bonfire would be a great idea," Lucas Biniewski, '23 said. "I mean, bonfires are fun, it's like an outdoor activity that could be something that you can do socially distanced and we can adhere to college guidelines."

Pena included that the tentative areas for fire pits would be the Gator Quad, Brooks Quad and College Court.

ASG then moved on to discuss the safety of crosswalks on North Main St.

Gray explained that there is an issue with people following the speed limit and the visibility of the crosswalks themselves. She suggested that adding flashing installations by the crosswalks could be a possible solution.

"(We're) kind of working on a way that we can, A: ensure our student safety and B: fix a problem that has been ongoing and has yet to be addressed," Gray said.

After some more discussion and tabling it to be discussed further at a later meeting, ASG reappointed Sophie Adams, '22, to the Finance and Facilities Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Photo courtesy of ASG

Allegheny Student Government holds weekly general assembly over Zoom on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

THE CAMPUS

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CORRECTIONS

In the Oct. 16 issue of The Campus, in the article, "Greek Life finds creative ways to hold fall recruitment," David Roach was incorrectly stated to be a member of the Class of 2022. Roach is a member of the Class of 2021.

CRIME BLOTTER

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

Oct. 17, 2020
Alcohol Violation
Caflich

•••••••

Navandrea “the nomad” Artemis Bean

•••••••

A love letter to a very special cat

By **CLAIRE KLIMA**
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I would not be the first to say that this year has been one of the hardest and most absurd I’ve experienced, but I would like to share a really great thing that came out of mine. Navy is a gray cat who has joined me on Allegheny’s campus this year, and the way she came into my life was through a series of unfortunate events.

Navy initially lived with another family with another cat and a dog, but they had to give her away because she had difficulty getting along with the other animals. My mother heard about Navy and thought she would be a great companion for my grandpa. Grandpa had lost his wife a few years back, and he lost the dog they shared together — a miniature poodle named Misty, like the cigarettes — shortly after. He lived alone and had trouble going for walks like he used to.

Over the summer, my grandpa was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer. Navy came to live with my family while he was in hospice. We had two cats and



Photo courtesy of Claire Klima

Navy loves to romp about, especially in the form of hiding underneath blankets.

a dog, and she was too nervous to leave my parents’ room. She walked really low to the ground and rarely came out from under the bed. I wound up leaving home to work for some time, and I didn’t get much of a chance to know her well.

I returned home at the beginning of August, and my grandpa died two weeks later. I stopped by to see my mother that morning and happened to be in the room when he passed. The experience really broke a part of me that I have worked to repair, and it all occurred shortly before I was supposed to begin school again and move back (is it even worth adding it was in the middle of a pandemic?) and I was not sure how I was going to handle it all.

At some point, I had the brilliant idea to bring Navy with me. I adore cats, and I knew she would appreciate a more compact space without the presence of other animals, but I also knew she would be a great reason to get out of bed in the morning. I rushed the paperwork along, begged director of Disability Services John Mangine to get approval in time for move-in, and here we are.

There was no way to anticipate the level to which this lovely little creature would take over my heart.

Shortly after moving in, I noticed that Navy really is just a pretty neurotic cat. She is incredibly anxious, but she adores people and attention. Her most endearing characteristic is her tendency to lick—she grooms herself often, but is always more than happy to give any volunteer a bath. For a while I thought this was her giving kisses, but I soon found out that there was something else going on.

A few weeks in, I noticed she had a scab on her tail. I inspected it as she allowed, and verified it was not a bug or a rash. I went down a Google search rabbit hole, because I was not sure I could afford a visit to the vet at that time. What I found was incredibly illuminating to her behavior. Navy seems to exhibit signs of Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome. Little is known about this neurological condition, but it seems to be related to Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Anxiety in cats with hypersensitivity of the skin.

This explained so much. Symptoms of FHS include rippling or rolling in the back, obsessive grooming and general frantic behaviors. I, of course, looked up treatments, and it seems she needed a more well-established routine. There were also pill cocktails and such that can treat symptoms, but I wanted to start with smaller measures and see if it helped her at all.

Understanding this about Navy has given me a different sense of purpose. I think a lot about post-human history and domesticated animals. Humans genetically engineered entire species to serve them in companionship. This little fuzzy poop machine that I feed experiences complex emotions like I do, but on her own plane of existence that happens to rely on mine in some capacity. This realization has led me to new understandings about myself and the relationships I seek out with other people.



Photo courtesy of Claire Klima

This is a Navy, in her natural state of neurotic beauty and infinite grace.

I know people aren’t like cats, unfortunately, but they aren’t that far off. I have always been a firm believer that dog people are not to be trusted, since they always hate the fact that cats want to do their own thing. As someone who has ferociously fought against being controlled, I have always identified with cats. Dog people prefer their domesticated animals to be subservient.

Regarding Navy, though, I understand that her need for independence comes more from a place of fear and self-preservation. This gets to me because I, too, isolate myself to avoid overstimulation. She often prefers to be under a blanket, and will burrow under one given the opportunity. To be a Navy burrowed in a comforter is to be completely at peace. I, too, like to burrow myself in a comforter. Sometimes it all gets to be a little too much, and that’s okay. I have learned to be kinder to myself in being understanding of her, and that is something I’m very thankful for.

I can look at this in terms of my friends and other people in my life, too, in a more general way. I think we all should, actually. We are not the dogs and cats of the world — we don’t need

to ostracize one another when they have different needs. Navy, unfortunately, faced this wherever she went, but she had other people to come to and she made her way to me. People don’t really have this same luxury. I have had a difficult time this year, and so has everyone. I can’t say I know anyone who is doing well right now. I want to help everyone I love, but sometimes, their coping mechanisms clash with mine. However, when I want to give Navy a hug and she’s not feeling it, I leave her be or she’ll fight me on that. She is a cat. This is something I try to understand in my relationships, too. Sometimes I need to be left alone when someone needs a friend, and we can meet each other in the middle, but only if we see outside of ourselves. I can not expect Navy to do that, but I can expect that of myself and others.

Maybe the nitty-gritty is a lot to think about. At the very least, I hope reading about my dear troubled cat is a story of something good coming out of something bad. I’m not saying the good makes the bad worth it, but it is hard to think about how things would look without this cat, given how they look with her.

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International admissions recruitment moves online due to COVID-19

By **BREE GRAY**
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International recruitment of prospective students has to be done entirely online this semester due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and college safety procedures.

“September and October traditionally would be the time during which we are travelling for the fall,” said Senior Assistant Director of Admissions & Coordinator of International Recruitment Christopher Segur. “I was on the road for about eight weeks last September and October traveling to high schools to meet with counselors and students and going to different educational agencies and organizations. (I did) a lot of in-person networking and a handful of events working with members of the United States and different embassies as well.”

Segur notes that this semester is very different than he is accustomed to because, normally, he would have been abroad traveling to different countries.

“Last year, I travelled to 13 countries in September and October,” Segur said. “During the summer and again in November, there are two big conferences that I would typically attend as well. March also brings a shorter two-and-a-half to three week trip as well to visit countries where we receive a lot of applications from.”

The entire recruitment process for international students has become remote. Despite this, Segur said the transition was not as drastic for him.

“I do a lot of online events working with students so for me, the transition into the virtual world was not much of a transition; it has just meant more time (online),” Segur said. “It is certainly disappointing (being fully virtual) because I am a people person. I love meeting with counselors and students and I think Allegheny is a school where we take a very personalized approach — we want to get to know students and we want to know what they are all about. For

us, a lot of (the admissions process) is about connecting.”

International student Hanna Nguyen, ’23, recalls her connection with the admissions counselors at Allegheny as having been very influential in her decision to enroll at the college.

“I submitted my application at the end of January and ten days later, the international admissions counselor, (Segur), reached out to me,” Nguyen said. “He is the fastest counselor I have ever seen in my life. Allegheny was the first school that I received an acceptance letter from ... He was very accessible; I was able to reach him any time that I had any questions. It was very easy to reach him, which was different from other schools where I had to wait a week or two for them to respond.”

Segur mentioned it may be difficult to connect virtually, but he has experience teaching students both in person and online so he feels comfortable establishing a connection with prospective students.

“I know that it can be a struggle to connect virtually,” Segur said. “I feel comfortable doing it because I spent probably seven years in a classroom teaching (students) so for me, whether I am in person or in front of a camera, I feel like I can access students to give them a sense of what (the college) is all about. In that sense it has just been ‘all right, I cannot be there in person so I have to do what I can virtually.’”

Despite changes to recruitment methods, Segur still feels that the college is able to connect with the prospective students even if it has to be done in a virtual setting.

“I do not feel like (the college) struggles (with virtual meetings),” Segur clarified. “Obviously, the big struggle has been getting students in front of a computer screen because I think they are very much ‘Zoomed out’ at this point. Colleges and universities were running a ton of events over the summer so I think in that sense, students are already overwhelmed with the

I think Allegheny is a school where we take a very personalized approach — we want to get to know students and we want to know what they are all about.”

—CHRISTOPHER SEGUR
Senior Assistant Director of Admissions & Coordinator of International Recruitment, Allegheny College

transition.”

In an attempt to increase accessibility for international prospective students, Admissions created an Instagram account dedicated to international students and the admissions process.

“Applying to college itself is a very stressful experience so having the (Instagram account) as a resource for international students who often need more help, I think, is very helpful,” Tiaralei Cade, ’23, said.

Cade — an international student from England — works for the Admissions Department. She also added that students who cannot visit the college are able to take a virtual tour.

Segur mentioned that he always tries to be as accessible as possible to students, especially international students. He posts videos on Instagram where he gives prospective international students advice about the college search process.

Segur acknowledged these virtual events may be tiresome to students, especially with the college search process.

“The disappointing aspect is that there are so many different virtual events happening that everyone is online and I feel that it has kind of diluted the quality of the experience that students are having,” Segur said. “You have virtual fairs and 210 schools show up so the (students) do not know where to

start. What kind of service are we doing for them in the long run by overwhelming them?”

Cade mentioned that the virtual tours gave her an idea of what the campus looked like before she arrived. They also helped her get into contact with current international students, who hosted the tours for her.

“If you are interested in coming and applying to go here, show initiative, even if you cannot visit,” Cade said. “I was unable to visit even when there was not (COVID-19) just because of where I lived, but I was still able to do virtual tours. I got to see the campus and I had some enrolled international students help by giving me virtual tours. It is still possible to connect with students and faculty here even with (COVID-19) and travel restrictions.”

Nguyen was able to visit the college before enrolling and she recalled having a positive experience.

“I visited the school and I felt like the people here are very welcoming to international students,” Nguyen said. “Allegheny also offers a lot of virtual tours, which you can attend. International students and admissions are having an open house that is student-run, which international students can (virtually) attend. Those resources are really helpful because we did not have them before so we literally just joined video calls. I think that will help international students so much more and they will benefit because before we only had one video call, but now we have a bunch of them because of (COVID-19).”

Nguyen encouraged any student who is unable to visit campus to attend a virtual tour or reach out to Segur to be put into communication with an enrolled international student. Nguyen works closely with the incoming students from Vietnam — this mentorship also helped her feel comfortable at the college.

“Segur does an amazing job connecting with (international) students before they ever get to Allegheny and building a sense

of community with our current students — both domestic and international — with prospective students,” Lucinda Morgan, Director of International Education said. “Whether they choose Allegheny or not, I think that they get a really good feel for our students and get connections ... I think we are doing great things with connecting students before they get here and we have every intention to continue doing that — even more so now that we have to do everything virtually.”

Morgan said that connections with current students tend to be more authentic and relevant to the prospective student. Current students that are a part of the Culture 2 Culture program serve as mentors to the new international students. These mentors arrive on campus before everyone else moves in and help the new students acclimate to the culture.

“Students can be themselves here,” Morgan added. “They can find themselves here and explore things while being around people that support them ... Our students find good niches here and that is done through connecting with current students, which makes us really special. At a bigger school, this would be nearly impossible to do. We are small and flexible so we are able to connect people a lot faster ... I think we are very authentic and very genuine in our approach to communicating with students.”

Prospective students who may be nervous about applying can rest assured that they will be well-cared for at Allegheny, Nguyen indicated.

“When I came here, the In-

I think we are very authentic and very genuine in our approach to communicating with students.”

—LUCINDA MORGAN
Director of International Education, Allegheny College

ternational Education Office became my second family,” Nguyen said. “The International Education Office takes care of us. They are very protective of us. They teach us how to talk and say ‘hi’ as well as the culture and how to get a job on campus. They are so helpful that I never feel like I am falling behind.”

Nguyen recalled the International Education Office hosting several sessions for international students to get their social security cards and any paperwork completed so they can have an on-campus job. Bank representatives came to the college and helped students set up a bank account and fill out all necessary paperwork.

The transition into the United States will be different for every student because the culture and the people are different, Nguyen said.

“At first, you will feel like the transition is nothing,” Nguyen said. “Later, you will feel homesick and ask yourself why everything is so different than your home country. You might want to go home, but just keep going ... Talk it out with anyone. We have mentors here and they are your friends so you can talk to them.”

Nguyen advised international students who feel homesick to reach out to the mentors that are assigned to them because they understand and are willing to help. Students also have the ability to reach out to the International Education Office if they are feeling sad or need advice.

Overall, both Cade and Nguyen agreed that they have had a very positive experience as international students at the college.

“You know, I really like being an international student here,” Cade said. “I get to form so many relationships with other international students and I think that is a really important community to have ... It is nice to have that community where people can relate to my own experiences. Allegheny, overall, is very inclusive, or at least they try to be. I have never felt awkward because of my international status.”

Imbalanced power structures overseas lead to protests

Police brutality in African nations made visible through U.S. movement

By **ROMAN HLADIO**
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Nigerian protestors were attacked last week by a group of men armed with firearms and machetes during a protest to end police violence in Lagos, according to The Associated Press.

“They were shooting and attacking people with machetes — I saw them injure someone,” Tola Afolabi, a protestor, said in an interview with The AP.

On Oct. 15 — the eighth day of protests — the AP reported that 10 protestors had been killed and hundreds injured in Lagos alone. The spokesman for the People’s Democratic Party, Kola Ologbondiyan, as well as other demonstrators suspect that the armed individuals were hired by the police in order to break up the protests, though there is no evidence to support this.

The primary goal of the demonstrations is to abolish the police group known as the Special Anti-Robbery Squad. Although referred to as SARS, the group has no relation to the pandemic or severe acute respiratory syndrome. The group is accused of committing widespread abuse by various human rights organi-

zations, according to the AP.

ForeignPolicy.com reported that a large proportion of the deaths are related to breaking a curfew put in place as part of Nigeria’s efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. By March 30, two weeks after Nigeria’s nationwide lockdown, 18 people had been killed by law enforcement, with the number continuing to rise.

The New York Times described scenes in Johannesburg, South Africa that were similar to those seen in the U.S. over the summer: clouds of tear gas wafting overhead, protestors facing a line of police wielding riot shields, shrines for those killed covered in flowers and stuffed animals, and signs with slogans such as “Say His Name” and “Coloured Lives Matter.”

The Times specified that while in a majority of countries, describing a person of color as “coloured” is offensive, it still sees use in South Africa as a remnant from the apartheid.

According to History.com, the apartheid — meaning “apartness” in Afrikaans, the language of the area — was a period that began when the National Party took power in 1948 that brought about extreme segregation considered equal to, or even worse

than, the civil rights era United States. Repeals to the racist legislation began in 1991 when F.W. de Klerk took the office of President, but echoes of the apartheid still remain today.

South African people of color are more susceptible to distrust of police forces, as the police were a main accessory of the apartheid, the Times reported.

In late August, 16-year-old Nathaniel Julies, who suffered from Down syndrome and was a prominent community member, was shot multiple times by police for breaking curfew, according to The Times.

“We couldn’t count,” his mother, Bridget Harris, said to the Times while describing the wounds. “It’s too many.”

Julies is one of many, as at least one South African dies by the hands of police every day, according to ViewFinder.

ViewFinder is an investigative journalism project headed by Daneel Knoetze which reports on abuses of power in South Africa.

“In a nutshell, we’ve got this flagship project on policing accountability (and) oversight issues,” Knoetze said. “What we’re hoping to do is bring investigative journalism methods

and impact to issues that affect marginalized working class communities in South Africa and the systems and processes which perpetuate inequality.”

Knoetze explained that while much of the apartheid era segregationist values have dissipated, some issues continue without a resolution.

“I think many state institutions are also geared towards re-marginalization of people in areas like housing, ... health, education, where people live — access to services and opportunities,” Knoetze said.

These and other injustices have occurred in African countries longer than many across the world realize, but the protests that began in the U.S. over the summer sparked by the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other people of color high-



Photo contributed by ViewFinder
Daneel Knoetze

lighted race issues around the globe, according to ForeignPolicy.com.

“In South Africa, before Black Lives Matter happened, there was already a refocus on the issue of police brutality,” Knoetze said. “One of the things that we — through a long term data-driven investigation — are trying to bring to view is that discourse and debate. Even though there’s a lot of public recognition of it ... it establishes the fact of how many people are killed annually, how many torture and assault cases, how many people are raped by police officers on duty. Those statistics are remarkably assistant.”

Both Knoetze and protestors agreed that bringing attention to relevant issues on social media — or even just recording injustices occurring — has been an extremely useful tool over the past few months.

“(The attention) contributed to the protests which have received support globally, including from the U.S., where international rapper Kanye West and Black Lives Matter have shown interest,” said protestor Timi Olatunju in an interview with the AP.

In South Africa, before Black Lives Matter happened, there was already a refocus on the issue of police brutality.”

—DANEEL KNOETZE
Founder and Editor, ViewFinder

Knoetze expressed that with such large scale issues spanning the entire world, it is important to recognize the commonality in the struggles all people endure.

“Even though the contexts were different ... the timeline was off by a good 30 years ... South Africa and the United States have — in terms of the issues of race, class, policing and abuse of working class communities — a lot of continuity between the two societies,” Knoetze said. “It’s really important that cross-Atlantic conversations between South African activists grappling with the history of racial segregation and policing and the impact there of, and in the U.S. These issues are not unconnected around the world.”

Ferrence, Gnibus speak at CPP local candidate forum

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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Around two dozen people gathered virtually on Monday, Oct. 19 in two local candidate forums hosted by the Center for Political Participation. Each forum was divided into three parts. First, the candidates had five minutes to introduce themselves and give an opening statement. They were then given 30 minutes to talk about three different topics, divided into three 10-minute periods, before the digital floor was opened to a town-hall-style question-and-answer session. Kristy Gnibus, a middle-school teacher from Erie who is challenging Representative Mike Kelly for Pennsylvania’s 16th congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives, spoke at the 6 p.m. forum. Kelly was invited but could not attend. Plans are in the works for another forum for Kelly to participate.

For Gnibus, this election is personal.

“When I’m fighting for PA-16, I’m fighting for my family (too),” Gnibus said. “I’ve been working two-to-three jobs ever since I graduated college just to make ends meet. I have school debt. I understand a lot of the plights that Western Pennsylvania is going through”

The first of Gnibus’ three topics was jobs and the economy.

“(Jobs are) the bread and butter,” Gnibus said. “It’s what people think about the most. Even though healthcare and all these things are important, here in Western Pennsylvania we think about how we’re going to put food on the table. How we’re going to be able to pay for our rent or mortgage. How we’re going to be able to pay for our car payments.”

Gnibus argued that the path to fresh job and economic

growth was through sustainable development, particularly sustainable infrastructure. In her second topic, focused on the environment, Gnibus noted that Erie County has potential when it comes to renewable energy.

“Being the most wind-rich county in all of Pennsylvania and not utilizing that at all is horrendous,” Gnibus said. “We have a real opportunity; there’s so much wind here in Erie County that they believe it could even power a quarter of the state. Think of the revenue there. Think of the investment that folks should want to make in that industry here in Western Pennsylvania.”

On public health, her third and final topic, Gnibus went after Republicans — including her opponent, Mike Kelly — for failing to enact restrictions related to the virus. She also attacked Republicans for trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act, or ACA, without having a plan to replace it.

“I am someone that is considered (to have) pre-existing conditions, even though I have been cancer-free for almost 14 years,” Gnibus said. “That’s terrifying. We have to protect our current healthcare system, and hopefully we can make it better ... Without actually seeing a plan to replace (it), we have to protect it.”

During the town hall session, Gnibus fielded a number of questions on topics from promoting diversity and raising the minimum wage to QAnon and court packing. On the question of college affordability, Gnibus again spoke from personal experience.

“It looks like at the rate I’m going, I will finally pay off all of my school loans when I retire,” Gnibus said. “I feel this burden, and I think about it all the time: if my children decide to go to college, and what that looks like.”

The second forum of the night, at 7 p.m., belonged to Matthew Ferrence, English Department Chair and Associate Professor at Allegheny College. Ferrence is running for the 6th District seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives against incumbent Brad Roae. Roae declined to participate in the CPP forum. For Ferrence, the race traces deeper narratives than just that of the current election.

“We live the stories we tell and the stories that are told about us,” Ferrence said. “There are persistent stories that are told about Appalachia and also the Rust Belt, which comes across Ohio. We’re at the confluence of Appalachia and the Rust Belt. Part of why I’m running and how I’m running is a recognition that our politics reflects too often the stories that are told about us that eliminate a lot of the realities of the experience on the ground and actually cut a lot of people out of the picture of how we might imagine doing better in a region like this.”

One of the key issues of Ferrence’s campaign is that of economic justice and equity. Like Gnibus, his first topic was jobs and the economy.

“Ranking 56th out of 67 (counties in per-capita income) is not good, obviously, and it’s been consistent for a long time,” Ferrence said. “The point I would make to that is that’s not by accident. If you look at the history of Appalachia or the history of the Rust Belt post-industrial areas, what you see is that the people have been used as commodities to be exploited.”

Ferrence’s second topic was education, which he used to criticize his opponent, Brad Roae.

“You have been shortchanged another hour tonight that Brad Roae is not here tonight, because he decided that ... instead of

coming to participate in a forum sponsored by the college that is a cultural, economic, community foundation, he would instead criticize the CPP for being biased simply because I work here,” Ferrence said. “The reality of him as a representative has been phenomenally toxic to education at all levels.”

Emma Godel, ‘21, is a CPP fellow and moderated Kristy Gnibus’ forum alongside Allison Peasley, ‘23. She said that all four candidates received the same email inviting them to the event and noted that the CPP is a neutral organization that does not favor any one candidate.

“It’s important to note that Dr. Ferrence’s position here at the college preexisted that of his candidacy,” Godel said. “Those are two separate entities and if (Ferrence is) elected, I assume he will assume two separate roles — that is, one at the State House and one here at the college.”

Ferrence’s final topic before the floor was opened for the town hall was healthcare. He pointed to local medical centers as evidence that there was a need for what he called, “a radical change in the way we provide healthcare for everyone.”

“Seventy percent of the billing at Meadville Medical Center comes from individuals who need services who are either on Medicaid or medical assistance in some way,” Ferrence said. “(This) means that 70%, ultimately, of the patients at the medical center cannot afford private insurance on the open market.”

At the state level, Ferrence believes in a single-payer system sponsored by the state. He pointed to a current bill at the State House, which would tax the employer 10% and the employee 3%, as an example, and did the math on his own insurance costs.

“In (my) particular case, if we went to 3%, my family medical costs would drop to \$2,500,” Ferrence said. “My family would save almost \$5,000 off the top by having a new tax of \$2,500. My employer would save more than (\$7,000).”

Like Gnibus, Ferrence fielded questions on a wide variety of topics from gerrymandering to reopening the local economy. In response to a question from Director of the Center for Political Participation Brian Harward, Ferrence noted that the demographics of the 6th district would be an advantage when making deals with Republican legislators.

“Representing a rural, Republican area would give a unique position in the house to be a dealmaker and a bipartisan strength,” Ferrence said. “The issues that the constituents I would have would face in Crawford and Erie County would be very similar to other constituents who are Republicans ... Suddenly you have the ability to talk about issues with legislators in different ways. The longer, harder answer to that is, we’ve got to find a way

to change the tenor of what’s happening in Harrisburg ... to try and break down that intractability.”

This was not the CPP’s first virtual or physically-distanced event. Two weeks ago, the center hosted Anne Geran, ‘85, White House correspondent for the Washington Post, and Quigley Hall has hosted socially-distanced debate watch parties and town halls on local and global issues.

“We haven’t been doing nearly as many events as we have in the past, and I don’t think that’s necessarily a bad thing,” Godel said. “All of us are focused on our health and navigating a completely new environment ... We regularly get tested for COVID-19, and we want to make sure those tests remain negative.”

Professor Matthew Ferrence and Representative Brad Roae will both participate in a live question-and-answer forum at 7pm on Oct. 27, hosted by the Meadville Tribune. The event will be broadcast on Armstrong cable channels 23 and 100, WM-VL-FM, and Cool 101.7 FM.



We live the stories we tell and the stories that are told about us ... Part of why I’m running and how I’m running is a recognition that our politics reflects too often the stories that are told about us that eliminate a lot of the realities of the experience on the ground and actually cut a lot of people out of the picture of how we might imagine doing better in a region like this.”

—MATTHEW FERRENCE
Democratic candidate for District 6, PA House of Representatives

A semi-modern “Romeo and Juliet”

By **CHRISTOPHER WAKIM**
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Finding myself locked in my humble box for the Corona-education has left me with an unhealthy amount of boredom in simply focusing on my studies and other responsibilities. So I decided, what better course of action then to dive into the cryptic world of classic movies to alleviate this troubling boredom? I figured: what better place to start than the classic story of Bonnie and Clyde?

Arthur Penn’s 1967 “Bonnie and Clyde,” played by Warren Beatty as Claude Barrow, and Faye Dunaway as Bonnie Parker, recounts this classic American rendition of a Romeo and Juliet tale. These two bank robbers ran amuck in the American Midwest primarily robbing small convenience stores and gas stations despite their infamous bank robber title. During the film, Bonnie approaches Clyde after catching him attempting to steal her family’s vehicle in the side yard. After, Clyde explains he has just been freed from being imprisoned for armed robbery. This catches Bonnie’s attention and she asks him, “What’s it like?,” to which Clyde replies, “It ain’t) like anything.” Bonnie then follows up with “Shoot, I knew you didn’t commit no armed robbery!” Clyde produces a Smith & Wesson Model 10 revolver from his jacket pocket, to which Bonnie begins touching the barrel out of curiosity and says, “I bet you don’t have the gumption to use it.”

This is where the story begins. When Clyde robs a small store owner and flees outside with a hand full of cash, the store owner approaches him — and Clyde fires a warning shot at him, making him retreat back to his store. The couple flee to a vehicle and take off, signifying the beginning of their armed robbery crime spree.

Now fugitives from justice, Bonnie and Clyde travel to a diner and steal another vehicle after their meal. After settling into an abandoned farmhouse, Clyde tries to teach Bonnie how to use a firearm in a very intimate scene. Bonnie is a natural, hitting the target on the first try. All of the sudden, the rightful owner of the farm appears. Clyde immediately draws down on him, but in response the farmer explains this used to be his home before the “bank took it.”

The concept of an anti-hero implies that an individual is repugnant in almost every capacity. Bonnie and Clyde rob, murder and cause general mayhem in nearly every single way — but you can see that Clyde feels bad for this now homeless farmer. This is Bonnie and Clyde’s glimmer of humanity, which is essential for the anti-hero persona. This point is illustrated as Clyde goes so far as to hand him a loaded revolver, despite drawing down on him not even three minutes prior over such a short exchange — so that he can fire into his dearly departed homestead. Anyone familiar with the story of Bonnie and Clyde should know this story took place during a time of unparalleled economic collapse and these homesteaders are just another refugee from the Great Depression of the 1920s.

After some more crime-filled shenanigans, Bonnie and Clyde pick up another member of the Barrow gang, H.W. Moss, en route to their brothers home.

Bonnie and Clyde flee to his brother, Buck Barrow’s, home — where he and Blanch Barrow, his wife, are caught in an intense gunfight with the police. While they are making their escape, Bonnie, Clyde and Buck Barrow all end up shooting police officers while Blanch flees down the road after their pet dog. Blanche is picked up while she chases her dog, and pleads to put this madness to an end. Buck shouts, “I

killed a guy, Blanche. I am in this for life now too.”

Perhaps the peak moment of this movie’s action is during the bank robbery scene in which they successfully clean out a bank and hold up a police officer. My favorite part of the whole film is the recounting of the police officer who was held at gunpoint by Buck Barrow, having his sunglasses removed by Buck, who says, “Take a good look, pop. I’m Buck Barrow.” This interaction actually occurred, and it illustrates the dramatic nature of this bizarre American tale. As they make their escape through a shallow creek, a police officer on a nearby log fires a shot into Bonnie’s right shoulder in a very sudden and loud interaction. Following this injury with a predictive and understandable loud scream fairly shook me to my core during my first viewing of the film. Clyde spins around and fires at the police officer saving Bonnie and the other members of the Barrow gang once again in a very close exchange on a two-way live firing range.

Now flush with cash but still doomed fugitives in the American Midwest, they have earned a reputation for murdering police officers and are actively being hunted. After fleeing to H.W. Moss’s father’s home, his father is polite and implores them to take care of their injuries while fleeing the bank. The father soon betrays them, as they are gunned down by federal agents hiding in a nearby bush in their vehicle.

Bonnie and Clyde could not be buried together, due to Bonnie’s family absolutely forbid it. This movie is perhaps one of the first and best entries into the dynasty of American romantic drama film culture. It offers a mostly true recounting of a great American tale of lawlessness, love at first sight and rebellion — and is an action-packed journey into one of the strangest relationships in American history.

7.5/10

A review of “Emily in Paris”

By **TAYLOR HAYES**
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“Emily in Paris” is about a young marketing woman who gets a job opportunity to be a marketing associate in Paris and give the company an American point of view. She moves from living in Chicago with a very supportive work system and serious boyfriend to having to leave it all behind to her new life in Paris.

In the first episode, Emily questions herself a lot. The company, Savoir, was expecting someone who could speak French. After discovering that Emily could not speak French, her bosses think of her as unintelligent and incapable. They question her on her ideas constantly and many times call her rude names in French, knowing she will not understand. Her boss, Sylvie, is the worst to her. Sylvie makes it very apparent she does not like Emily and finds her presence unneeded. Emily, to cope with this harsh

work environment, tries to find comfort in her long-time boyfriend, Doug. Doug promises to visit Emily in a week, upon Emily’s wishes he comes to the “most romantic city in the world.”

Emily and Doug’s relationship, sadly, does not last. Doug cuts ties with Emily after deciding long-distance and different time zones was too difficult for him to handle. Emily is now forced to take on all her struggles on her own.

As the show progresses, we see Emily build strong relationships as she improves her French. Emily befriends a spunky Chinese woman named Mindy. Mindy helps her understand the mindset of the French people around them, and how to handle some of her conflicts at work. Mindy’s relationship with Emily becomes stronger and more important as the show goes on.

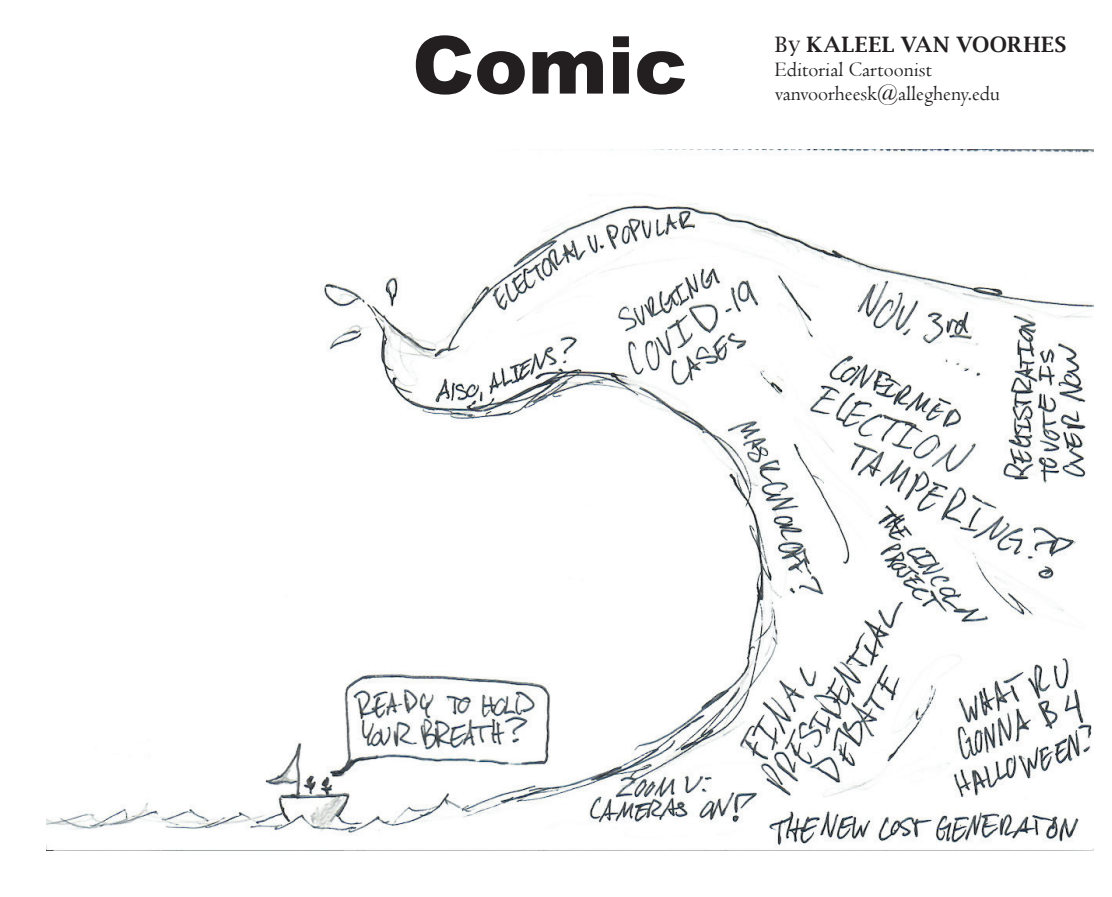
Emily’s love life becomes a huge part of the story after her breakup. As she branches out in Paris, she meets many men. One

man in particular, her neighbor Gabriel, becomes very important to her. Their relationship is friendly, but they do become romantically involved. This becomes difficult because Gabriel’s girlfriend, Camille, is one of Emily’s friends. Emily feels incredibly guilty and both Emily and Gabriel fight their feelings for each other throughout the show.

We see Emily’s confidence in her job grow as her American point of view becomes valuable to many of Savoir’s clients. Her opinions and guidance for campaign events lead to huge success, and her coworkers who were earlier mean become her friends and her work environment improves.

The show ends with a precursor to the next season. She and Gabriel share a moment after learning that Gabriel and Camille break up. Emily also has the greatest day since her time in Paris, pulling off a very successful PR stunt for a designer.

See **EMILY** | page 7



Black Girl Magic provides safe space for women of color

By **BREE GRAY**
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Black Girl Magic encourages and supports the development of women of color within the campus community and the Meadville community. The organization is a part of the Culture Identity and Leadership Coalition, which is guided by principles for development and growth. BGM is one of the 18 CILC organizations advised by the Director of the Inclusion Diversity Equity Access and Social Justice Center Angelica Perez-Johnston.

“CommUNITY’. . . unity among our community,” the CILC website reads. “That is the driving force of (CILC). Comprised of over twelve of our diverse student organizations of under-represented student populations, CILC provides space for organizations to collaborate, share experiences and maintain and develop (a) sense of unity within the diverse student community.”

The organization meets on Zoom to discuss potential events, organizational affairs and mentorship for members. The organization is open to anyone who is interested in attending the meetings, regardless of race or gender.

“BGM is inclusive,” President Benedicte Musimisa, ’21, said. “For example, boys can come to our meetings, not just girls. You also do not have to be Black to

“

(BGM) showed me that I should not hold myself back. It was eye-opening to me that if I wanted to get something done, the color of my skin should not hold me back or me being a woman should not hold me back.”

—ROSSLIN WATSON
Class of 2022

attend. We do not discriminate against anyone — our club is an inclusive space.”

The organization is intended to provide its members with a space to express themselves and their feelings while educating fellow members and establishing a community, Musimisa said. BGM does focus on women’s empowerment — in particular Black women — but encourages anyone that is interested to attend, she added.

“(BGM) just wants to have a place where people can come to learn about others,” Musimisa said. “Our meetings are spaces (for members) to talk about anything . . . We have spoken about everything —mental health, culture (and) identity.”

BGM’s meetings will all be virtual this semester, but Musimisa said she is confident that the members will still have a positive experience with the club.

“It helped me realize that my voice is important and that my voice does matter,” Rosslin Watson, ’22, said. “(BGM) helped me find more confidence within my voice.”

Watson was on the executive board serving as historian during her first year and co-president during her sophomore year and the start of her junior year. She recalled holding herself back, especially in the classroom, out of fear of stereotypes regarding her identities

before joining BGM.

“(Confidence in myself) was something that I did not really know until I joined because I was not too sure of myself being a Black woman,” Watson said. “I can be a Black woman unapologetically. I do not have to change myself because of what other people’s stereotypes of me (as a Black woman) already are — that was very helpful for me (to learn). I did not realize how much that (concern) held me back, especially within classroom settings.”

BGM typically holds events throughout the semester that provide members with the opportunity to foster a sense of community. These events have included discussions about identities, culture and microaggressions. BGM’s objective is to provide a space for members to discuss their thoughts, experiences and feelings with people who want to listen and learn.

“We try to do things that are fun, but we have those difficult conversations as well (in BGM),” Watson said. “We always try to provide a space where if you need to come and get something off your chest like I know what you are going through and the other women of color know what you are going through. Also, other members who are not women or are not students of color can listen and sympathize with what you are going through. This is something that I believe BGM does really well.”

Watson commented about the effect that being a member of BGM has on her and the realizations that the members helped her discover as a first-year student.

“(BGM) showed me that I should not hold myself back,” Watson said. “It was eye-opening to me that if I wanted to get something done, the color of my skin should not hold me back or me being a woman should not hold me back.”

Watson recalled being a first-year student without a support network during her first semester.

“I did not realize that I put myself in a box, especially starting out (as a first year) at Allegheny,” Watson said. “I put myself in a little box and I stayed in the box.”

Throughout the semester, members host Sister Sunday events that enable students to come together as a community to play board games, engage in self care practices and participate in paint and sip sessions. Due to COVID-19, Sister Sundays will not be held this semester, Musimisa said.

Aside from member bonding events, BGM collaborates with other student organizations on campus throughout the semester.

During last semester’s Black History Month, the diversity organizations collaborated to celebrate and raise awareness for individuals of color on campus. BGM collaborated with Association of Caribbean Students, Men of Color Advancement Association and Advancement of Black Culture to host the ABC Awards ceremony on Feb. 28 to honor students who have shown Black excellence and pride in their heritage. BGM, MOCAA, ABC and ACS hosted the annual Ebony Ball later that evening. This event marked the 50th anniversary of Allegheny’s ABC organization.

Black History Month featured images of students from Flexin’ my Complexion, an event hosted by BGM, ABC and MOCAA from Nov. 23 to Nov. 24, 2019, to showcase the beauty of students of color. These images were posted throughout the Campus Center during February and were open to the public.

The organizations also brought speakers to campus to discuss their struggles, experiences, and excellence as individuals of color. On Feb. 14, BGM hosted an event with ABC that brought Joan ‘Lyric’ Leslie to campus to discuss her strive for female empowerment through poetry, storytelling, and comedy.

On Mar. 5, BGM and MOCCA hosted a movie night featuring “Harriet” in Quigley Hall. On Mar. 13, BGM and the Gender and Sexuality Alliance held a collaborative event that brought Kai Davis to campus to discuss her experiences as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. Reggae Fest was held Mar. 6 in Schultz Banquet Hall. The event was a collaborative effort between BGM, ACS, Latinas on the Rise, Union Latinx and the Allegheny Student Government that featured music and cuisine from the Caribbean palate.

Collaboration between organizations for events has increased in recent years, but the ability to host events has been limited due to COVID-19 guidelines, Musimisa said. BGM did collaborate with ABC and Queer People of Color to host a discussion about any concerns that people may have on Zoom.

“We created a space where we could address (President Hilary) Link’s post that was on Instagram and we asked people how they felt,” Watson said. “This was basically just a check-in to see how everyone was feeling.”

Besides virtual discussions, BGM hosted a Zumba event in the David V. Wise Center on Oct. 2. The dance class was choreographed by BGM’s Co-Event Coordinator Daline Saintelus, ’21. The event was physically distanced on the blue courts.

On Sept. 4, the organization hosted Scrunchies & Stickers, which served as a meet and greet with the new executive board. The event was hosted in the Campus Center and attendees received scrunchies and stickers.

“Events will still happen, but we have not planned any personal events because they are too interactive and it would not be safe,” Musimisa said. “We will continue to have meetings and discussions on different topics, but some events we just cannot do this semester or they have to be different.”

Outing Club returns with safety in mind

By **GEORGE ACKERMAN**
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Allegheny’s Outing Club, which gives students the opportunity to go on a variety of trips, has been dormant until recently. This past Saturday, Oct. 17, the club held their first event and began to plan opportunities for students to take part in a variety of activities.

“We are really trying to do more,” said Jeremiah Sullivan, ’21, president of the Outing Club.

For trips this semester, the Outing Club is staying on-campus, or slightly off-campus, Sullivan explained.

“In past semesters the club had access to a large budget, but with the delay in club budgets being administered, all expenses have to come out of the leader’s pockets.” Sullivan said.

Leaders are members of the Outing Club who take the responsibility of leading two trips per semester, and go through an application process to become leaders. With the delay in the administration of budgets, the club has had to rely on their existing resources, and resources of their leaders to go on trips.

Along with budgetary limitations, the COVID-19 pandemic has played a major role in how the Outing Club is operating this semester.

Luis Mendoza, ’22, who is an Outing Club leader, explained the challenges of the semester saying, “at first we had an initial shock, of like, obviously (COVID-19) is going to (play a role in) the semester, so how do we look different and how do we adapt to what’s going on.”

“At first we didn’t touch it because we just thought, oh, we aren’t going to be able to get out, let’s put the club on hold for a little bit,” Mendoza said, “but then we started to think about what is possible to do on campus.”

Will Harrod, ’21, who has been a leader since the fall semester of his sophomore year, said that his year has

been really hard. The Outing Club used to lead trips far off-campus.

“Some trips were just a little day hike out to Bousson, or Erie National Wildlife Refuge, and other times it was a two day backpacking (and) canoeing trip, or whitewater rafting trip,” Harrod said.

This semester has been different for leaders. “It’s been really hard compared to last semester,” Harrod said, “In the past, we would have trips with 20 people going to one spot to do one big thing.”

In the new world of COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions, the Outing Club has not been able to do anything like what they used to, but this does not mean no trips can happen, Harrod explained.

“We are trying to limit the trips we do by car this semester, so we are trying to stick to things we can do on campus, or in the area we can walk to around campus.” Harrod said. “(This) has been different, considering in the past we had led a lot of the same trips year after year, especially the popular ones, and now we can’t lead any of those.”

According to Harrod, there have been many brainstorming sessions recently and the club has found a way to do trips that follow social distancing guidelines. Despite the challenges, safe and accessible trips have begun to happen again.

The Outing Club hosted their first event this past Saturday, Oct. 17, which was an outdoor lawn game event. Emily Kauchak, ’21, who is the vice president of the club, and helped to lead the first event.

“

It is totally possible to get up, get out and have a ton of fun just outside of your door.”

—EMILY KAUCHAK
Class of 2021

“The Club has, sort of, just gotten our feet under us right now” Kauchak said. ”

The event was an opportunity for students to enjoy being outdoors and socialize.

“It was a huge success, we had students raking leaves, playing games and just hanging out.” Kauchak said.

Along with the return on safe trips, the Outing Club is still renting gear such as tents for camping. This enables students to organize their own outdoor activities, but the Outing Club emphasizes using their gear responsibly, which includes being safe and following guidelines whenever leaving campus.

Kauchak mentioned that the Outing Club is always looking for new faces to go on trips, especially those new to the Allegheny community. Interested students should email outing@allegheny.edu to be on the email list and look at their Instagram account or website. The club is available to any interested member of Allegheny College.

Coming up this weekend is a bike ride, led by Harrod and another leader, Ian Manning, ’22, and pumpkin smash and lashing workshop event led by Sullivan, Mendoza and the club’s gear manager, Ray Marszalek, ’21. Further into the future, the club is planning a Halloween-themed, on-campus scavenger hunt for the last weekend in October.

“It is totally possible to get up, get out, and have a ton of fun just outside of your door,” Kauchak said.

EMILY *from page 6*

We can tell from the last episode that there is more to come for “Emily in Paris.”

I found this show very entertaining. Watching a young woman overcome her insecurities and find herself in a whole different country was very inspiring. Emily is a very determined person and watching her never take no for an answer made the show very dynamic.

Watching Emily playfully banter with her coworkers and earn her place was interesting. Many scenes made me laugh with her witty comebacks to comments thrown at her. Julien and Luc, two men that work with her, have very interesting personalities and watching Emily learn to keep up and put the two ambitious men to shame many times was impressive. Some of my favorite scenes were when Emily was at work, interacting with the people who were different from what she was used to.

Another one of my favorite scenes from the show was when Emily asked her friend Mindy to sing for her in the park. Mindy was on a singing show when she was young and froze on stage. Since then, she did not want to sing in

front of people ever again. Emily gets her to sing for her as other people in the park catch interest and praise Mindy. Seeing Emily help her friend with one of her biggest insecurities was heartwarming and enjoyable to watch.

The romantic relationships we see Emily experience with many different men in Paris was relatable. She had many casual dates with many different personality types. Many of the men I found pompous and annoying and I was glad to see Emily feel the same way.

Emily is a very relatable person and her story was enjoyable to watch. I overall really enjoyed this show, having binged the whole show in two days. I couldn’t stop watching it. Every episode has its own unique plot that contributes to the whole of the season. I found every episode entertaining and many times, very funny. This is a good show to watch that is easy to follow and it will put you in a good mood.

This show was very entertaining and had a great plot that was easy to follow. It’s a must watch in my eyes.

8/10 



Photo courtesy of Allegheny Outing Club Instagram
Students play cornhole during an event hosted by the Allegheny College Outing Club at Robertson Athletic Center on Saturday, Oct. 17.

Towler discusses Black athletes and Black voter turnout

By ADAM COHEN
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“How far have we really come and what did Barack Obama’s presidency really represent for our country if it is followed up so quickly by a conservative president who has expressed very racially conservative views?” Assistant Professor Christopher Towler of California State University Sacramento asked.

Towler is the principal investigator for the Black Voters Project — an organization that polls scientific data of African American populations across the U.S. He gave a lecture via Google Meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 15, titled, “The Politics of Sports: How Black Athletes Can Change the Game.”

Towler began his presentation by taking a look at the African American political participation under the Obama administration. When Obama ran in 2008, there was historically high political engagement in the African American community. According to Towler, Obama’s successful presidential campaign was a peak of racial progress in America.

“The election of Obama in 2008 arguably was the culmination of 50 (to) 60 years of rising African American political engagement across the country since the 1965 Voter Rights Act,” Towler said.

A year after Obama was elected into office, a reactionary conservative movement called the Tea (Taxed Enough Already) Party was created. The Tea Party disagreed with Obama’s progressive policies and was in favor of small government. Towler mentioned that the Tea Party had a lot of political influence and helped Republicans win back the House and Senate in Obama’s second term. Towler deduces that the Tea Party movement was the antithesis of the racial progress that allowed Obama to be president.

The 2013, the Black Lives Matter movement was formed after the death of Trayvon Martin. Incidentally, BLM came head-to-

head with the Tea Party, which eventually led to the “Make America Great Again” movement led by Donald Trump. Several years later, another historic event happened in the name of racial justice: in 2016, Colin Kaepernick took a knee against police brutality during the National Anthem. Towler believes there is a connection between the Tea Party, BLM, Kaepernick’s protest and the election of Donald Trump.

“(Kaepernick’s action) caught the attention of the nation and sort of became a sounding board both for the Black Lives Matter movement in support of his action and the conservative Tea Party in opposition to him, the Black Lives Matter movement, and potential police reform suggested,” Towler said. “Then later in 2016, we see the successful election of Donald Trump and sort of solidifying the end of an era of racial progress.”

Coincidentally, the 2016 election saw a significant drop in Black turnout rates. Towler alluded to the idea that because there was not another strong African American nominee running for office, there was less Black voter turnout. Yet Towler illustrated that the main reason for the drop in African American voter rates was because of Shelby County vs. Eric Holder Supreme Court case. The Supreme Court ruled that Section 4A, which stated that the U.S. had jurisdiction over voting rights was unconstitutional because it was outdated. Therefore, Congress had to update Section 4A, which negated Section 5 — the power for the Attorney General to oversee voting rights. The aftermath of this ruling allowed states to change up their voting policy, and allow more restrictions to voters such as the requirement of voter ID.

Since Section 5A was negated, there was more voter suppression, apathy and alienation within the African American community during the 2016 election. Consequently, Trump won states with significant African American populations in 2016, which may be due in part to the decrease in Black voter turnout. Without the proper use of Section 5A, and without a person of color being the favorite in the 2020 election, the voter mobilization of African Americans from a positive standpoint has been difficult. Nevertheless, some African



Photo courtesy of csus.edu
TOWLER

Americans’ negative viewpoint on Trump may be enough to prevent him from a second term. Towler’s polls demonstrated that a majority of African Americans had an unfavorable opinion of Trump. Moreover, a 2019 Black Voter Project poll found that a significant number of African Americans found Trump specifically as a racial threat. Even though Trump is seen as a racial threat by African Americans in swing states, that may not be enough to remove him from office. Towler claims that African Americans respond favorably to enthusiastic and positive stigma, rather than anger or fear.

“It is not always appropriate for African American people, especially in political settings, to become angry or show emotional behavior because then they get boxed in then into an angry Black man or angry Black woman stereotype,” Towler said.

“Their wants, their needs and statements are not taken with the same seriousness.” Towler also talked about how Black celebrities and, oftentimes, Black athletes have been political mobilizers. Although there have not been many African Americans in positions of power, the community has looked towards athletes such as John Carlos, who showcased defiance in the 1960 Olympics, and Mohammad Ali, who did not abide by the draft for the Vietnam War to protest racial injustice.

Today, Colin Kaepernick and LeBron James are inspirational political activists. Towler noted that African American voters are more likely to side with their beliefs and statements. Towler also pointed out that many African Americans find Joe Biden and Kamala Harris uninspiring candidates, which could negatively affect the Black vote for Democrats in this year’s election. In a recent ad campaign, Biden specifically addressed Black voters by including Black mayors in the commercial. While Towler believes this is a step in the right direction, he would like to see a similar inspiring ad without bringing in politicians. “Even though these are African American representatives, the fact that they are political representatives will push them more to Joe Biden’s camp, than to LeBron James and Colin Kaepernick’s camp when provoking emotion,” Towler said.

Football fans raise concerns over NFL COVID-19 policy

By TRAVIS LUXBACHER
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“Simply put, compliance is mandatory,” National Football League Commissioner, Roger Goodell said regarding the league’s COVID-19 policy. “Now is the time to recommit ourselves to our protocols and best practices for the duration of the season.”

The first NFL regular season game affected by COVID-19 was a matchup between the Tennessee Titans and the Pittsburgh Steelers. In the week leading up to the game, 20 organization members of the Titans, including 10 players, all tested positive for

the virus, leading to the game being postponed until week seven of the season.

Goodell emphasized that any violation of the COVID-19 protocols set forth by the NFL by players, coaches or other organization members would lead to disciplinary action and possible fines.

Goodell recognized the danger and health risk of allowing a team to play who were in contact with a teammate who tested positive for the virus.

“The consequences of rescheduling or even missing games are obvious,” Goodell said. “Our fans will be deprived

of games. Competitive inequities will be introduced into our season. Players will not be paid for games not played and clubs will similarly suffer financial consequences.”

Jack Barron-Sluga, ’22, explained his view of the NFL’s handling of the pandemic and how he feels they have approached the situation.

“I think the NFL has done an all right job with the handling of the virus,” Barron-Sluga said. “While I know there are a lot of safety measures put in place behind the scenes, some of the optics haven’t looked great, such as having a number of cases confirmed, especially compared to other major sports leagues where there haven’t been as many.”

Although Barron-Sluga expressed concern at how the NFL will adapt to the current situation, he discussed the way he ultimately feels about the NFL’s COVID-19 policy.

“They have done a good job of stopping a spread before it gets crazy but I think some more

measures could be put in place so that they don’t need to postpone any more games,” Barron-Sluga said. “Also, I know that there is a strong push from the teams for fans in attendance and to get ticket revenue, but I don’t like that they have fans in the stands.”

Barron-Sluga pointed to other major sports leagues around the country and worldwide that have not allowed fans to attend professional games, and he feels that the NFL should follow suit. “I’m just worried about a possible spread and tracing it back to



I know that there is a strong push from the teams for fans in attendance and to get ticket revenue, but I don’t like that they have fans in the stands.”

—JACK BARRON-SLUGA
Class of 2022

a sporting event,” Barron-Sluga said. “I know that only a few have allowed fans and that is because the state allows it, but it would be nice to see the league officers come out and say that they shouldn’t allow any fans in the stadiums.”

Another NFL fan, Tyler Znaczk, ’24, had a slightly different opinion of the NFL’s handling of COVID-19.

“I think for a multi-billion dollar organization, the NFL had handled the virus very poorly,” Znaczk said. “With respect to the game procedures, I believe they have done just about all they can to minimize risk, but for training and outside of team functions, more needs to be done.”

Znaczk emphasized the importance of taking initiative against the virus in such a crucial and potentially dangerous situation.

“It is, in my opinion, irresponsible to send players home at the end of the day and just tell them to do their best to limit contact,”

Znaczk said. “I feel to provide the safest possible environment for these players is to implement a situation like the NHL bubble to truly minimize risk to players, staff and league officials.”

Nick Tarasi, ’21, suggested the NFL could model other athletic leagues’ COVID-19 approach.

“I feel as if the NBA model and NHL model were both incredibly successful containing the virus considering there were no positive cases in either league’s bubble,” Tarasi said. “With fans being re-allowed back into stadiums, it gives football a new sense of importance as compared to the NHL or NBA which has zero fans throughout their seasons.”

Although Tarasi admired the way in which these other leagues approached COVID-19, he believes that the NFL should continue its practices.

“Obviously, more outbreaks could change the regular season completely, so we will just have to wait and see,” Tarasi said.



Photo contributed by <https://www.sportingnews.com>

2020 GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION

Make a plan to vote

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3

Important Deadlines

October 27- deadline to register to vote absentee or by mail for the general

November 3- **General Election Day!** All absentee/mail in ballots must be processed by 8 p.m. today

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

For more information, visit sites.allegheny.edu/vote.

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