

SPECIAL REPORT:

Sexual assault survivors speak on Title IX experiences

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Photo illustration by BRITTANY ADAMS/THE CAMPUS

The Association of American Universities reports that 23.1 percent of female undergraduate students experience rape or sexual assault while in college. 5.4 percent of male undergraduate students also experience rape or sexual assault while in college. Nobody in this photo illustration is a subject in the story.

Editor’s Note: This article is the first of a two-part series examining sexual assault on Allegheny’s campus. The second installment will be published next Friday, Feb. 17.

Allegheny College is currently the subject of two federal investigations for allegedly creating a campus culture that perpetuates violence against women and potentially mishandling sexual assault investigations on campus. These investigations were triggered by complaints that allege the college violated Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, an act that forbids discrimination on the basis of sex in higher education.

The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that, since April 2011:

- 365 investigations of colleges for possibly mishandling reports of sexual violence have been opened
- 58 of those cases have been resolved
- 307 remain open
- More than 100 colleges have more than one investigation open currently

tigations were opened on Dec. 5, 2014, and July 30, 2015, according to David Thomas, a public affairs specialist at the U.S. Department of Education.

A copy of the 2014 complaint, obtained by The Campus via a Freedom of Information Act request, alleges Allegheny perpetuates a culture of violence against women.

The investigation opened on Dec. 5, 2014, is based on a complaint filed on Aug. 29, 2014, in which the complainant stated the college perpetuates an environment of sex discrimination that affects all women on campus.

“That culture, that tolerates violence against women, is evident by a lack of appropriate strategies and policies to discourage or prevent violence or sexual assaults of its female students,” the complaint reads.

In addition to perpetuating an allegedly discriminatory environment, the complaint alleges the college discourages its female students from reporting sexual assaults to the police.

“They are shamed out of reporting to legal authorities and too often this is done by blaming them for the assault in the first place!” the complaint reads.

Allegheny’s 2015 Clery Report, an annual report on campus crimes mandated by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, states that 12 sexual assaults were reported in the 2014 calendar year.

In light of these investigations, The Campus interviewed current and former

students who have gone through the sexual assault reporting process to gauge their experiences.

Karley Miller was hosting a party in her off-campus apartment in April 2014, her junior year at Allegheny College, when she was assaulted. Some of her friends had visited from Erie and they, along with Miller, joined Allegheny students in the apartment.

Miller said one of her male friends made repeated sexual advances toward her throughout the night and had pulled his pants down to around his ankles while alone in the living room. While some who attended the party had consumed alcohol, including Miller, she said her alleged assailant had not been drinking.

“He started making out with me. ... I laughed it off. He tried to touch me and I pushed him away. I thought he was drunk. I didn’t know until after that he didn’t drink anything,” Miller said.

Later in the night, Miller said she found herself alone with him in the kitchen, where he raped her. She said she told him “no” and to stop, but her attacker continued for several minutes before stopping.

“All of a sudden, it was occurring,” Miller said. “I just remember looking out my kitchen window the entire time.”

That night, Miller went to the Meadville Medical Center to have a rape kit done. She reported her rape to both the Meadville City Police Department and the Office of Safety and Security—now called the Office of Public Safety—within the next two days.

No charges were ever filed in the City of Meadville, and the only non drug- or alcohol-related crime listed in the college’s daily crime log in that time period was an incident of harassment that involved direct police assistance, which occurred on Ellicott Court.

According to the 2016 Annual Security and Fire Report—or the college’s 2016 Clery Report—available on the Office of Public Safety’s website, Miller is not alone in being a survivor of a sexual assault. The report states 12 incidents of forcible sex offenses, both on and off campus, took place in 2013, and the same number of offenses occurred in 2014. Eight forcible sex crimes were reported to have occurred in 2015.

The report states, “[A forcible sex offense is] penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. Attempts or assaults to commit rape are also included; however, statutory rape and incest are excluded.”

“They asked me what I was wearing, what I had to drink. They asked me if I had a history of infidelity, and they asked me what my relationship with my father was, and they asked me if I led [the assailant] on.”

Karley Miller
Former Allegheny Student

Fondling and the use of date rape drugs with the intent to commit sexual assault are also forcible sex offenses, according to the report.

In the event that a person experiences a form of sexual violence, Meadville Medical Center can collect physical evidence by conducting a rape kit.

Sharon DeMaison, coordinator for Meadville Medical Center’s sexual assault team, said the center currently keeps a staff of three sexual assault nurses on call at all times. These are the only staff members permitted to conduct a rape kit.

According to DeMaison, a person must be at least a registered nurse and must pass through rigorous training at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh to be certified as a sexual assault nurse examiner.

In addition to their certificate, nurses are required to proctor—or observe—exams of patients who have not been assaulted. Finally, each nurse is trained on how to perform a rape kit and handle survivors. Only then are they permitted to perform exams themselves.

When a survivor is brought to Meadville Medical Center, DeMaison said the staff gives them a variety of options, including counsel from Women’s Services.

Every year, Meadville Medical Center administers 20 rape kits on average, according to DeMaison.

Once evidence of hair, saliva, semen or any other bodily fluids is collected, the kit is sent to the Erie Regional Laboratory, a forensic crime lab. It is kept there until required as part of any subsequent police investigation.

Once sent to the lab, the kit is processed and tested, typically within two to three months, according to Forensic Lab Manager Bruce Tackett. After the kit is tested, Tackett said, it is returned to the police department under whose jurisdiction the case would fall. A report on the results is kept for at least 25 years, he said.

DeMaison said evidence can remain on a survivor’s body for up to 96 hours. Having a rape kit performed does not require a survivor to file charges with police, but it leaves the option open.

Because the results of rape kit are saved for so long, Miller could still access the results of her rape kit if she chooses.

After the police told Miller they were unable to make a case against her alleged rapist, she had meetings with Associate Dean of Students Jacquie Kondrot, who then served as the college’s sexual harassment officer, and Joe Hall, the college’s director of student conduct.

Over the next five months, Miller, who left the college shortly after the incident due to her assault, traveled to and from campus with her father and therapist to meet with Hall and Kondrot. She said both Hall and Kondrot were aware she’d had a rape kit

done but did not know of the findings.

DeMaison said the survivor can request the results and share them with the college, but for privacy reasons, no one from the college can directly request the results.

The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that, since April 2011:

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58 of those cases have been resolved

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More than 100 colleges have more than one investigation open currently

The student conduct process began by gathering witness statements from Miller and her alleged attacker. She said she was asked at one of the meetings to read his version of events.

“It was a very pornographic tale of what had happened,” Miller said.

His account said the sex had been consensual, Miller said. But his story changed multiple times throughout the investigation, she said.

As the meetings between her, Hall and Kondrot continued, Miller said the college officials grew hostile.

“They asked me what I was wearing, what I had to drink,” Miller said. “They asked me if I had a history of infidelity, and they asked me what my relationship with my father was, and they asked me if I led [the assailant] on.”

The Campus attempted to confirm Miller’s reports of conversations with school officials. Speaking for Kondrot and Hall, Dean of Students Kimberly Ferguson said in an email to The Campus that neither they, nor she or Ford, the current Title IX coordinator, would comment on

TITLE IX

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any specific cases, open or closed. Ford later said in a separate email that, “especially in light of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act,” none of them could comment.

After five months, Miller said, the college closed the investigation, taking no action.

Kondrot and Hall called her, Miller said, encouraging her to return to Allegheny after the investigation was completed. She refused.

A study by the Association of American Universities found:

23.1 percent of female undergraduate students experience rape or sexual assault while in college.

5.4 percent of male undergraduate students also experience rape or sexual assault while in college.

“I told them, ‘I have class with this kid,’” Miller said. Miller struggled with mental health issues related to the attack. She began to have panic attacks and said she self-harmed. After seeing a psychiatrist, she was placed on a variety of medications.

The medications put her into an almost “zombie-like” state, Miller said. She has only recently begun to wean herself off of them.

While she no longer attends Allegheny, Miller said, she still fears meeting her attacker again.

“I still look around and think I seem him downtown,” Miller said.

Miller said she does not speak of her attack to anyone. Following the assault, she posted a series of videos on her Facebook page in which she discussed it, but now she is trying to put it behind her and has discussed removing the videos from her Facebook page.

“This is the first time I have talked about this in a year and a half,” Miller said.

The second complaint, which led to an investigation opened on July 30, 2015, alleges that Allegheny mishandled a sexual assault investigation in multiple ways.

Allegheny, the complaint alleges, violated Title IX mandates by being “immediately” hostile and excluding witnesses and evidence.

The complaint says the college retaliated against a person or organization due to involvement in the investigation, although the name of the person or organization has been redacted by the Office of Civil Rights in the copy of the complaint obtained by

The Campus via a FOIA request.

The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that Allegheny is not alone. The Department of Education has 307 active Title IX investigations against 224 colleges and universities.

A 2015 study by the Association of American Universities found that 23.1 percent of female undergraduate students experience rape or sexual assault while in college. The study found 5.4 percent of male undergraduate students also experience rape or sexual assault while in college.

Patrick, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, was a first-year student when he was assaulted on Oct. 24, 2015, at the Student Experimental Theater House on Loomis Street. He did not file a complaint against Allegheny with the Department of Education.

He had been at a party at the SET House for about two hours, he said, when his assailant arrived.

“We were friendly, well-acquainted,” Patrick said. “I believe she was very intoxicated. I cannot say to what degree.”

During the party, Patrick said he found himself on the deck attached to the back of the house.

“She pinned me to the wall and I did not do anything because I didn’t expect anything at that time and she kept saying she wanted to kiss me. ... She was relentless, so I just thought I would kiss her to appease her,” Patrick said.

From the deck, Patrick said she led him into the kitchen, saying it was quieter there. Once they were in the kitchen, she took him straight to a bedroom off the kitchen.

“[She] proceeded to engage in acts that I did not consent to,” Patrick said. “I froze. I didn’t think I would behave that way. I just didn’t move.”

Researchers describe a state sometimes experienced by victims of sexual assault, referred to as tonic immobility, or rape-induced paralysis. Rebecca Campbell, a professor of psychology at Michigan State University, presented a webinar on the response to the National Institute of Justice on Dec. 3, 2012. Although people often discuss the “fight or flight” response to trauma, the third potential reaction—to freeze—is less well known.

Chemicals released in the brain of someone experiencing a traumatic event can physically inhibit their ability to make rational decisions or, in some cases, to move, Campbell said.

Hormones called catecholamines—a common example of a catecholamine is adrenaline—can cause temporary “structural cellular damage to [rational thinking] circuits,” according to Campbell.

The chemical damage prevents the brain from allowing the kind of thinking to occur that would prompt someone to fight against an assailant or try to escape.

Opiates such as oxycodone are also released by the brain in extremely elevated levels during traumatic events, which serve to block physical and emotional pain, one of the reasons survivors of trauma sometimes seem emotionless when they recount what happened to them, Campbell said.

Elevated levels of corticosteroids, which are also a kind of hormone, can drain the body of energy during an attack.

“It can trigger essentially an entire shutdown in the body,” Campbell said.

Tonic immobility is a state other mammals experience, Campbell said. She said that is an evolutionary development that makes the most sense in certain dangerous situations, such as when trying to avoid being chased by predators or being faced with an even worse situation, like one that could cause death.

Campbell said tonic immobility can affect soldiers at war, and it can affect survivors of sexual violence, like Patrick.

Patrick said immediately after the attack, he and his assailant remained in the room and talked.

“I think she immediately realized she did something wrong because once she got off of me she just kind of laid there, and we had a chat for about half an hour, which was strange,” Patrick said. “Like, I still wasn’t moving, and we were talking about our lives and stuff like that.”

During the conversation, Patrick said they did not discuss the assault. After about half an hour, Patrick said, they left the room together and then left the party separately. He said later, during the investigation, she would produce eight witnesses who said she had seemed troubled when she left the party.

Patrick said the full impact of what happened was not clear to him at first.

“

[Title IX Coordinator Gilly Ford] presented me with formal and informal reporting, and she didn’t really explain those. I was very confused for quite some time.

”

Patrick Sexual Assault Survivor

“I just kind of went to bed and washed my clothes,” Patrick said.

Patrick said he did tell a friend about the incident. The next morning he decided he wanted to go to church.

“I just felt like I should be there. I always liked going to church. During—when the priest was talking—it just hit me right in the gut and I started crying right there,” Patrick said.

Patrick said he then sought help from a friend

in deciding whether he wanted to report the incident to the college. On Monday afternoon, he went to the on-campus Counseling Center to report the assault.

After Patrick reported the assault to the college, the Office of Safety and Security did not add an entry to the daily crime log, according to the Oct. 30, 2015, edition of The Campus. Gilly Ford, the current Title IX coordinator, said that those who report sexual assaults to the Title IX Office can choose to report to the Office of Public Safety as well so the crime is added to the daily crime log. However, the Title IX Office does not report incidents to public safety.

After meeting with the Counseling Center, Patrick said he was referred to then-Interim Title IX Coordinator Ford, and he met with her later that afternoon.

“

I froze. I didn’t think I would behave that way. I just didn’t move.

”

Patrick Sexual Assault Survivor

During his meeting with Ford, Patrick said, she was “calm” and laid out his options for how to go about reporting the incident. Reporting to the police was something he said he never considered.

“She presented me with formal and informal reporting, and she didn’t really explain those. I was very confused for quite some time,” Patrick said.

The Compass Student Handbook explains that complaints brought to the college can either be handled through an “informal dispute resolution, referral to other college offices (where appropriate), and formal resolution pursuant to this policy.”

Hall said referral to other offices could occur in cases where someone goes to Ford to report something that happened years ago, in which case Ford could recommend them to the Counseling Center or even to the police. Ford said that referral to another office would not replace the formal or informal process but could occur along with one of those processes.

In cases of sexual assault or sexual violence, the handbook says an informal complaint “may consist of inquiries into the facts, but does not typically rise to the level of a formal investigation unless required by applicable law.”

The handbook says the informal process should serve to “resolve complaints quickly and efficiently, and to the mutual satisfaction of all parties involved.” It does not say what timeframe would constitute a “quick” resolu-



Photo illustration by ALEX WEIDENHOF/THE CAMPUS
U.S. News reported on Nov. 18, 2015, that 15 percent of women are raped while incapacitated from drugs or alcohol during their freshman year.

tion.

Ford said there is no set deadline, but the office tries to keep the process prompt. Hall said that the informal process typically takes 30 to 40 days when classes are in session, though it can sometimes take longer if the case is brought near the conclusion of the year. He said that if those involved cannot return to campus for continued meetings, they will confer over the phone.

The Title IX coordinator oversees these processes, which could include meetings between the coordinator, the complainant and the respondent, although the handbook says the coordinator would not meet with both the complainant and respondent at once. In formal cases, Ford said Hall can act as an investigator and collect information for the case.

Formal reporting consists of the complainant providing a statement to the college with the name or names of the respondent(s). The handbook says the Title IX coordinator is expected to present the “description of primary facts of the allegation at the first meeting set to discuss the investigation” to the respondent. Interviews with the complainant, respondent and any witnesses will follow. The handbook says all parties will have access to “relevant information and documents once the investigative file is complete.”

The Compass Student Handbook says most cases should be resolved within 60 days, and the Title IX coordinator can “recommend interim protections or remedies be provided by College officials,” which could include a no-contact order or making separate arrangements for classes.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Title IX coordinator issues a written report with “findings and recommendations.” The handbook also says sanctions are issued on a “case-by-case basis for violations,” and appeals are permitted as much as they would be for any other violation.

At the conclusion of Patrick’s case, the college took action against Patrick’s attacker. She was given mandatory counseling and training, Patrick said.

Though Hall was not speaking specifically to Patrick’s case, he said types of counseling that a respondent who was found

responsible could be required to attend would generally be with someone who has experience handling people who have committed sexual misconduct.

“We do have online education lessons people can complete,” Hall said.

The online education lessons would only be for low-level cases, according to Hall.

Patrick said he was not looking for any further action.

“I don’t think she is a danger to anyone else,” Patrick said.

Allegheny College’s 2016 Clery Report found:

8 “forcible sex offenses” reported in 2015

12 “forcible sex offenses” reported in 2014

12 “forcible sex offenses” reported in 2013

Patrick said he felt the college handled the situation well overall. He said Hall handled it “fairly,” but he was not impressed with the Title IX Office and said the process was often confusing.

Patrick said he has begun to move past the incident, but certain parts of his life are not as easy as they once were. He still sees his assailant on campus, although he tries to avoid her when he can.

“I just stay away from the theater department,” Patrick said. “I was really into theater in high school, but I won’t do it now.”

Although a total of 365 investigations have been opened by the Department of Education since April 2011, only 58 have been resolved. Neither of Allegheny’s have been resolved as of publication.

If you have a story you would like to tell The Campus about, email editor@allegheny-campus.com

Hall and Awadi discuss Student Conduct Report

Report on sanctions for academic, non-academic conduct given to ASG

By JOSEPH TINGLEY
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Director of Student Conduct and Development Joe Hall and Director of Public Safety Ali Awadi addressed Allegheny Student Government on Tuesday, Feb. 7, to present the Student Conduct Report for the 2015-16 academic year.

The report encompassed the numbers for both academic and non-academic conduct policy violations. Included in the non-academic violations are cases of violations of the sexual misconduct policy.

During the 2015-16 academic year, according to the report, the student conduct system reported six alleged violations, a decrease from the 2014-2015 report. The report says there were three suspensions, three “warning/probation level” sanctions and zero expulsions related to sexual misconduct.

The report found that for all other non-academic violations in the same period, 103 students received warnings, 56 were placed on probation, nine were suspended and zero were expelled.

Hall noted that the number of formally reported sexual assaults has declined since the 2014-15 report. Sen. Amy Currul, ’17, asked if there was a reason for the decline. Hall said he did not have a “perfect answer.”

“I would like to think that education, our bystander intervention program and other programs we have offered on campus have helped,” Hall said.

Hall said he, Awadi and the Title IX Coordinator Gilly Ford have also been speaking with the college’s athletic teams on sexual assault. He said while it is not an all-encompassing solution, he feels it may have made some impact.

“We are not targeting athletics, but we realize that is a significant population of our students. ... I think that helps, but I don’t know if that’s the primary reason,” Hall said.

Since the program began in August 2016, Hall said they have spoken to the majority of the athletic teams on campus.

Currul also raised concerns regarding why the college plays any role in investigating sexual assault and why such cases are not turned over to local law enforcement.

“It’s an actual crime. Why are you not handing it over to the police?” Currul asked.

Awadi said when an incident of sexual assault occurs, the student is always made aware of their options, which include reporting the assault to Meadville City Police. He said some prefer not to report to law enforcement and prefer to handle it through the college’s process.

“I would like to think that education, our bystander intervention program and other programs we have offered on campus have helped.

”

Joe Hall
Director of Student Conduct and Development

“It’s up to the complainant. It’s not up to us,” Awadi said.

Co-director of Student Affairs Matt Hartwell, ’18, said a student might feel more comfortable reporting to the school than filing a report with police. He said the school can also offer more protection to the complainant after they have reported than the legal system could and it also gives them more control over what happens next.

“Once you [file a report with police], the law does not protect the complainant. If you go to the public police, it’s out of the complainant’s hands. It’s gone,” Hartwell said.

Hall was also asked when a student is suspended in a case of sexual assault if any provisions are made to protect the complainant upon the respondent’s return.

“Before someone is approved to return, there are going to be some educational

requirements that they need to complete,” Hall said. “That could be counseling, that could be follow up through [the Title IX] office, it could be a return meeting with the dean of students and myself to put some stipulations in place.”

Stipulations, according to Hall, can include no-contact orders and ensuring the returning respondent is not placed in the same residence hall as the complainant. He said the college works to limit contact between the two parties as much as possible.

“We try to work with schedules as best we can to limit interaction,” Hall said.

Awadi and Hall acknowledged on a small campus like Allegheny’s it is not always possible to eliminate all types of interaction. Awadi said a no-contact order does not mean that the two parties cannot be in the same place, it just precludes either party from communicating with the other in any way. He said this includes all forms of social media and any contact through a third party.

“If they have done everything we have asked them to do, most likely they will be approved to return,” Hall said.

The most common violation of the student conduct policy, according to the report, is alcohol. The report found that 221 students went through the conduct process during the 2015-16 academic year, down from 274 the year before. Out of those violations, 70 percent “involved alcohol.”

The report also listed figures for honor code violations. The last academic year saw 35 “warnings” issued for honor code violations, six students placed on probation and zero suspensions.

Sixty-two percent of students who pass through the honor code hearing process are first-year students, according to the report.

Hall said the Class of 2020 was the first to receive a specific session just for academic integrity during its orientation. He said he hopes this will help to reduce the number of academic violations among first-year students.

The Campus is printed every Friday during the academic year, except during breaks and exam periods.

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CRIME BLOTTER

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

Feb. 4, 2017
McKinley’s
Underage consumption.

Feb. 4, 2017
Crawford Hall
Underage consumption/
Drugs.

Feb. 5, 2017
Schultz Hall
Drug possession.

Feb. 4, 2017
McKinley’s
Drug possession.

Feb. 5, 2017
Campus Center
Disorderly Conduct.

Feb. 8, 2017
College House
Criminal mischief.

Feb. 8, 2017
Wise Center
Theft.

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 2, issue of The Campus, a story on Irem Kurtсал misspelled her name.

In the same article, it was reported that “Comedy of Errors” would be performed in the Vukovich Center for Communication Arts. It will be performed in Arter Hall.

In the Feb. 3, issue of The Campus, an article on Tyvonn Green described his being linked to a second robbery. At the time of the publication, the charges had already been dropped.

Super Bowl goes Gaga

Halftime show focuses on inclusion

By SHEA BEAUMONT
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Despite the hype around Super Bowl LI's sacred political commercials, I decided to remain tuned in for the extra entertainment of the halftime show.

Although I was intrigued by a few commercials, I was absolutely blown away by the halftime musical performance from Grammy award-winner Lady Gaga.

Lady Gaga may have performed one of the greatest halftime shows in the history of the Super Bowl, but what you may not have noticed is that she wanted to do more than perform her average concert in front of some fans.

With little focus around politics, Gaga centered her performance around the idea of inclusion as she sang some of her greatest hits, such as "Just Dance," "Telephone," "Bad Romance" and "Poker Face," but only after performing some of America's most historic ballads.

She kicked off her halftime show by standing on top of the roof of NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas and singing both "God Bless America" and "This Land is Your Land" before transitioning to a quote from the Pledge of Allegiance—"One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," and jumping into the stadium.

Gaga emphasized the fact that this land, our country and our America, is in fact ours, and that everyone is included in the everyday existence of the United States.

That is where her performance began to hit home with me, and many others.

Gaga promised a performance based on the principles of tolerance and equality at the annual Super Bowl press conference, according to The Guardian.

Many have struggled with accepting Lady Gaga's polarizing persona within pop culture, which has shed much light on her overall image but has also given her an advan-

tage in igniting a new movement of acceptance within modernized culture. Since she has stepped onto the scene in the music industry, producing one chart-topping record after another, her unique rise to global fame cannot be matched.

Now that Gaga is becoming more and more accepted into our world of popular culture, it was her turn to spread that invitation of acceptance to the millions of viewers and fans watching her perform that night.

During the performance of her number one Billboard-song, "Born this Way," Gaga put a focus on a certain set of lyrics that modeled equality and inclusion. "No matter gay, straight, or bi, lesbian, transgendered life, I'm on the right track baby, I was born to survive," offered another clear-cut message of acceptance to the audience watching live.

Gaga emphasized the fact that this land, our country and our America, is in fact ours, and that everyone is included in the everydayexistence of the United states.

Shea Beaumont
Class of 2017

Everyone should be considered equal no matter their race, sex, class, nationality or religion. We need to break down the barriers of segregation and inequality in the world we live in today, and Gaga envisioned that through her performance.

In a pregame interview, Gaga hinted that her performance would not include overt political stances but rather visible evidence of who we are as Americans and what we should move toward in life as a unified nation.

"I have an opportuni-

ty with this performance to show a different part of this country that those who think that they are so different from me and my fans, to see that our hearts are really the same," Gaga said.

Gaga certainly took advantage of her opportunity to reach a major audience on a platform that gives her the capability of spreading a message of her choice to millions of viewers. Through her music she was able to orchestrate one of the greatest halftime performances in Super Bowl history.

FOX reported that Gaga's performance reached just over 117 million viewers, which makes it the second-most-viewed halftime show in Super Bowl history, only behind Katy Perry's performance in Super Bowl XLIX.

In light of the recent change in presidency, Gaga's performance could not have come at a better time. The group of anti-Trump supporters is becoming larger and larger since his inauguration and this population of people is worried about what will come next in our country. There is no telling what Trump's next move will be or what he is capable of doing in the Oval Office.

In a time when Americans are questioning their leader, Lady Gaga gave us a performance that revealed the light at the end of the tunnel. She showed us that everyone has a say so in our country and should be included in the conversation of making change. It has been a long struggle for the diverse group of Americans in our country to feel included in our society, but there is hope for further equality, and Gaga has proven that.

There is no question that she got her point across in terms of the social issues that have affected our country for years, but there is also no doubt that the fans loved her performance as she dropped the mic with authority before catching a pass and jumping off stage to end the show.

JUST THE TIPS:

Safe sex and how to have it

By REPROCO
Columnist
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In light of the country's new administration, women's health services have become increasingly hard to find. With the constant debate of "do we or don't we" defund Planned Parenthood, and the politics that have always surrounded women's ability to do as she sees fit with her body, women's health seems to have fallen to the forefront of the current political agenda. Back on Jan. 23, a group of white, male political advisers surrounded Trump while he signed a bill, reinstating the "Global-Gag Rule," which will make it impossible for over 27 million women worldwide to have access to family planning resources, birth control and typical yearly gynecological care that is standard practice in the United States. Trump's "Global Gag Rule" stipulates that non-U.S. non-governmental organizations receiving U.S. family planning funding cannot inform the public on the need to make safe abortion available, provide legal abortion services, or provide advice on where to get an abortion. This rule, while not directly at odds with Roe v. Wade, still has dire consequences for those seeking abortions and preventative services in the U.S.

We here at the Reproductive Health Coalition know you are most likely going to have sex. It is college, and more than a few of us know what it like to take a pregnancy test in the local Walmart at 1 a.m. We know the panic running through your head: "What if I need to get an abortion? How can I even pay for it? Where do I go? What if I have a sexually transmitted disease? How would I treat a urinary tract infection if I do not have insurance?" Despite administrative changes, resources are still out there. Let us start with the basics.

On campus, there are multiple places that you can pick up condoms or lube. Dental

dams, which are highly recommended for vaginal oral sex in order to prevent STDs, are harder to come by due to their lack of availability and high price. However, the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Social Justice Center, Winslow Health Center and multiple club boards such as the Reproductive Health Coalition, Gender and Sexuality Alliance and Young Feminists can provide you with free condoms and lube. Currently, both GSA and ReproCo have some dental dams for free as well.

Did you forget the condom? Do you think you missed a dose of your birth control after having unprotected sex? Winslow Health Center sells the Plan B pill for just \$15. I know this still hurts your pocket, and absolutely no one likes to go walking down to Winslow obnoxiously early in the morning to mutter, "I need Plan B," while the lady checking you in says, "You need what?" As someone who has done just that, I can tell you it sucks. I can also tell you that Winslow can diagnose and treat your urinary tract infection for free, and those suck a lot more when they go untreated. However, do not forget that Plan B needs to be taken within 72 hours of intercourse in order to be effective. Seventy-two hours is the absolute maximum. It should really be taken as soon as possible.

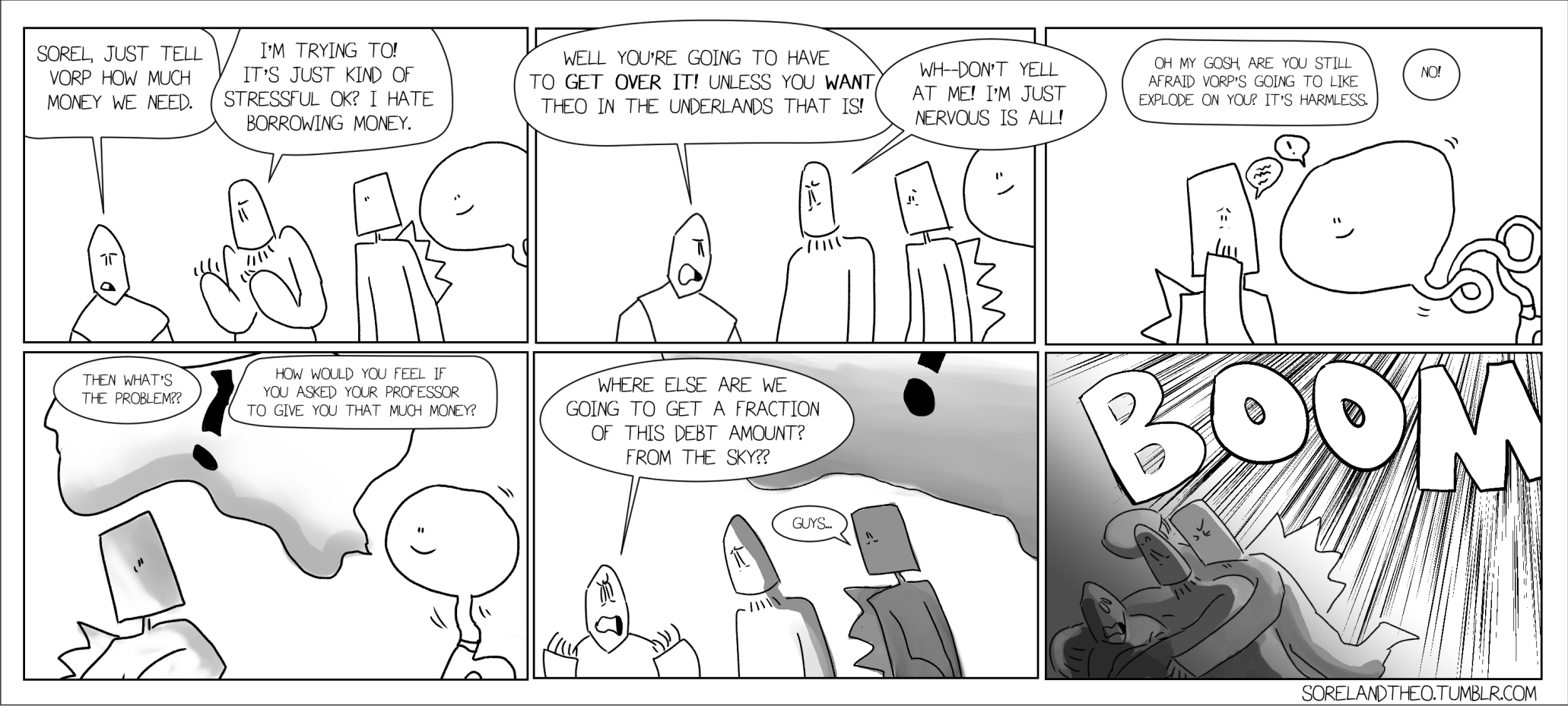
Do you think you got an STD from that hook-up last weekend? Winslow does STD testing about twice a semester. If you feel that you cannot wait or if you think you are having symptoms, you can get tested immediately at Family Planning on 747 Terrace St. in Meadville. Patients are charged on a sliding scale, which basically means you pay based on your income. It is possible to pay nothing. Family Planning can also provide counseling for abortion services and other options should you have an unwanted pregnancy.

If you have decided that

an abortion is right for you, for any reason, then let us steer you toward Planned Parenthood on 933 Liberty Ave. in Pittsburgh. Planned Parenthood offers counseling on all of your options, including keeping the child and adoption. This Planned Parenthood—with the emphasis on this specific center because while many Planned Parenthoods offer counseling, not all of them offer abortion services, especially in Pennsylvania—offers medication abortion (abortion pill), sedation options and the in-clinic abortion. Keep in mind that you can only take the abortion pill up to exactly 10 weeks after you conceive. However, there is also the option of the in-clinic abortion, where you may choose to be sedated so that you are more comfortable. The in-clinic abortion is available up to 18 weeks after the start of your last menstrual period. If, while you are there, you decide not to have an abortion, that is okay too.

Finally, do you just need birth control? Are you not sure which one to pick, since you are unsure of if your insurance will cover it once the Affordable Care Act is removed? Many women have been choosing to get an intrauterine device. IUDs are inserted directly into the uterus through a small surgery that will cause discomfort for a few days. After getting the IUD, many women experience an increase in minor cramping; however, most report that the cramping has not affected their quality of daily life. An IUD, depending on the type you get, can prevent pregnancy for three to five years or longer. Other options to consider are the pill, the patch, the shot, the implant and the NuvaRing. While I will not go into detail about all of these, it is important to have an in-depth conversation with a women's health professional to figure out your best option both financially and medically.

THE SIMPLE THINGS



College receives grant to construct greenhouse

By RACHEL BELSON
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Allegheny College received the E2 Energy to Educate grant in 2016. The grant awarded the college \$37,500 to build a greenhouse for the Carr Garden—often called the “Carrden”—this upcoming summer. The greenhouse has been a goal of Allegheny’s for many years, though no one could confirm specifically when the idea began.

Ian Carbone, professor of environmental science and studies, did research prior to becoming a professor at Allegheny. His research focused on greenhouses that could produce electricity.

“As soon as I was offered the job [at Allegheny], I was planning to do that here,” Carbone said.

Carbone began working at Allegheny in fall 2014. Before he was offered the job, Carbone said the environmental science and studies departments had plans to build a greenhouse for the Carrden. The Carrden was created about three years ago, accord-

ing to Kelly Boulton, the sustainability coordinator.

“The idea for the greenhouse dates back to before the [Carrden] even existed. We always knew we wanted to have a greenhouse,” Boulton said.

Boulton also said the garden needed to be successful before the greenhouse project could receive funds.

A large portion of the design for the greenhouse was planned by a junior seminar Carbone taught in spring 2015.

“Those students designed a new greenhouse that had a solar component and a bunch of other sustainability features like insulated walls and a biomass heating system,” Carbone said.

After this plan, Carbone worked with Rob Humphreys, a local architect, to design the greenhouse’s structure. Humphreys reviewed the junior seminar’s design and began working on a structural design.

After Carbone began teaching at Allegheny, he began speaking to Boulton and Eric Pallant, department chair

and professor of environmental science and studies, about building a greenhouse. During summer 2016, the three applied for a grant that would fund the project.

The current plan for the greenhouse is to generate electricity and create a heating system that uses vegetable oil waste from the campus’s dining halls to heat the inside.

“The sustainability features of the greenhouse are being funded by Constellation Energy as part of its ‘Energy to Educate’ program,” Carbone said.

The energy to educate program funds projects related to energy that are also educational and serve as a learning opportunity for students. They support those projects that use energy that would normally be wasted.

“When [Constellation E2 Energy to Educate] came up, we knew we wanted to do a lot of innovative heating and lighting, creating energy and capturing rainwater,” Boulton said.

Boulton said that the grant is for renewable energy technologies.

“[These are] renewable energy technologies including luminescent solar concentrator panels for the roof that will generate electricity and allows us to take the remaining waste oil from the fryers at the dining halls on campus,” Boulton said.

There is a separate budget that will cover the construction of the greenhouse, according to Boulton.

“There is two components of [the funding],” Bennett Gould, ’17, said. “There’s the greenhouse building itself, which the school got a grant for a while back, and then there’s a second grant that the school has obtained for purchasing and installation of the heating system as well as the solar concentrator panels.”

Constellation is an energy company from which Allegheny purchases its electrical generation and renewable energy credits from, according to Boulton.

This greenhouse has involved Allegheny students in various ways as it has been the focus of several independent studies and summer research. The grant is also going

to fund two students to design and build portions of the greenhouse over the summer, according to Carbone.

In addition, part of the project is the focus of Gould’s senior comprehensive project.

Gould said that his senior project is oriented toward designing the heating system for the greenhouse. He said that the boiler system will be fueled by the leftover oil from the college’s dining halls.

“It is a renewable energy source to heat the greenhouse,” Gould said.

Gould said he will work on the plans for the greenhouse up until graduation and, if he is living close by, he would like to spend some time with it after graduation.

Owen Ludwig, ’18, plans to work over the summer to help make sure everything comes together in the construction of the greenhouse, according to Boulton.

Gould said he believes that the greenhouse will be a valued addition to Allegheny’s campus.

“It’s a project we’ve been working on for a good while, and it is going to be a great

asset for the Carr Hall garden and as a demonstration model for pioneering some new technologies here,” Gould said.

Students will learn how to use various technologies and learn about agriculture, according to Gould.

Boulton believes there will be an opportunity for the surrounding schools to learn from the greenhouse and use it as a resource. This will include the Meadville high school, middle school and elementary school.

If everything is successful, this greenhouse may provide a later argument to build a larger greenhouse, according to Boulton.

“I think that the important thing is that the greenhouse will be a really useful educational tool,” Carbone said. “Students can learn about season extension when growing food; it will also be useful for teaching some optics and how some solar technologies work, and it will be a tool for teaching students about energy efficient building design and also a useful teaching tool for waste energy and biofuels.”

Health and Wellness: Motivation for Living a Healthier Lifestyle

By MAGGIE DUGAN
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I went to the pool a few days ago and found some of the varsity swimmers, doing a workout with what seemed like no effort at all. A runner myself, I felt out of my element, and I could not help but notice the weight of the possibility that I may be judged for my novice skill set. Sounds a lot like working out for the first time.

All too often, individuals find themselves afraid to go to the gym, or afraid to even begin working out for fear of failure. Living any kind of healthy lifestyle should be a positive aspect of life. Why does the thought of a healthy behavior seem to render the opposite effect? Maybe it has to do with why one even considers working out. The idea of beginning healthy habits holds a negative connotation, implying that one may not have a positive view of oneself

and therefore projects outwardly onto how they believe others might perceive them. Or maybe an entire athletic team is using all of the equipment, edging you out of options for where to begin.

The most challenging aspect of making any major lifestyle change often resides in the amount of gumption one possesses to overcome fear of failure. Some individuals find solace in taking classes such as spinning or zumba, where 20 other people all suffer for

an hour in unison. Others are intrinsically motivated and can decide that on Monday they will start running five laps around campus each morning before sunrise. Some people choose to begin by eliminating artificial products from their diets, replacing those three cans of pop with approximately three liters of water per day. Taking the stairs, parking farther away on purpose, going to sleep at a decent hour—no matter the change, making the change it-

self allows gumption to manifest into habits, which transform into strengths because individuals finally overcome the challenges they once believed they could not.

Nobody must be perfect to begin, just as beginning does not mean achieving perfection. We are all afraid to fail. Rather, altering one’s own life for the sake of a healthier you means one cares about oneself enough to be introspective, respecting the journey of healthiness, not the destina-

tion. We build our confidence by motivating ourselves and those around us to be better, to do better.

Jumping into a pool with six other division three swimmers may not bode well for confidence in that moment, but the mere ability to take a chance, attempting something completely out of one’s element, allows one to constructively—be it physical, mental, and/or emotional—improve for a stronger you.

CAMPUS ASKS: Student perspective on the president

What are your thoughts on Trump’s environmental policies?



“I find Trump’s environmental policies very dangerous. America’s already fallen behind in the steps to combat climate change and realistically with regards to the environment, we are really behind in combatting this. Most scientists agree that we are past the point of no return. So we need to make the drastic climate change now in order to combat this issue, and if Trump isn’t willing to make steps against it, then this environment isn’t going to have a fighting chance.”
- Brennen French, ’17



“[The pipelines] really are risks to the environment. We only have a finite amount of freshwater. It just seems like a totally useless, really risky kind of venture.”
-Brian Hennings, ’20



“He wants to make the country great, but how can we do that when Earth’s going to be destroyed in a few years?”
- Calli Lavarney, ’20



“I think there’s a reason we care about environmental issues beyond preserving natural beauty. We conserve the environment because we need it—that’s why we call it environmental justice. And Donald Trump clearly doesn’t have the word ‘justice’ in his vocabulary.”
- Gabriel Brinton, ’18



“I think he’s going to slow down or reverse what little progress we’ve made on making sustainability economically feasible.”
- Dillan Smith, ’17



“I just know that Donald Trump doesn’t believe in climate change. I’m really frustrated about [the pipeline] not only for the Sioux Tribe but also because of the endangers to the environment because we’ve had leakage in the past.”
- Emma Woodhead, ’20

2017 Super Bowl halftime show does not disappoint

By ALLISON COSGROVE
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Football lovers everywhere tuned in to watch the Super Bowl Championship game between the Atlanta Falcons and the New England Patriots. However, if you are like me, you tuned in for the real entertainment that came from Lady Gaga during the half-time show on Sunday, Feb. 5.

Lady Gaga has been producing music for almost a decade. She has made bold outfit choices, written unique music and inspired people of all ages to be unapologetically themselves. She showcased all of this when she hit the field during the famous Super Bowl halftime show.

She wore a sparkly silver one-piece short suit and knee-high sparkly silver boots. Her makeup was bold, with jewels surrounding her eyes and her lips dawning red lipstick. Her bleach blonde hair was pulled back into a low bun. For Gaga, this was a tame look. I am sure many of us were expecting her to wear another meat suit.

She began her performance standing on the top of the stadium singing two songs that America is known for—“God Bless America” and “This Land is Your Land.” Lights shone behind her in time with the music and ended in the shape and colors of the American flag. “One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all,” she said. This was the start of the political statement that I had been waiting for.

After she sang the two songs dedicated to the United States, Gaga jumped down from the top of the stadium, harnessed of course, onto a platform on her stage surrounded by a field full of her fans. Gaga’s unique music is what made her famous, and she started her set with one of her classics: “Poker Face.” She jumped down again to land on the stage.

“Born This Way,” began, and she was joined by dancers. Gaga has a specific style of dancing, including strange poses and jerky movements, all of which contribute to the experience that is Gaga.

When you add “Born This Way” to “God Bless America” and “This Land is Your Land,” there becomes a connection between the songs that relates to modern day America. We live in a country where we are told to be ourselves because that is what we are supposed to do, but if it does not meet a certain standard—a privileged and heterosexual standard—then it is judged. Be yourself, but do not overdo it. Gaga criticized this standard but without using words other than the lyrics from her song and the lyrics from the songs written for America — a bold but subtle statement.

The next song she performed was “Telephone,” which features Beyoncé. A few years ago, Beyoncé had her own Super Bowl half-

time show and then made an appearance a year ago with Coldplay and Bruno Mars. Was anyone else disappointed when she did not appear during her verse in “Telephone”? I understand she just announced her pregnancy, but it is Beyoncé—she can do anything.

Gaga’s first big hit, “Just Dance,” was the next song she performed. This time, she was holding a keyboard guitar. Gaga made her way across the stage and then into the crowd so that she could get herself up onto a smaller stage where a piano sat waiting for her.

The tempo of Gaga’s performance slowed down as she began to play the piano and sing “Million Reasons,” a song from her newest album. Before she began to sing, she spoke to the crowd and said “America, world, how you doing tonight? We’re here to make you feel good. Want to feel good with us?” It was an effective transition into her newest music.

As she finished up the song, Gaga walked into the crowd once more while singing a line from the song. “Baby, I just need one good one, tell me that you’ll be the good one. Why don’t you stay?” She sang. While doing this, she hugged one of the fans standing in the audience. You could see the fan shaking with excitement.

The music to her last song of the evening began and the cameras were directed back to the stage where we saw her dancers pump the crowd back up. As this happened, Gaga changed her outfit to a two-piece suit with a white top and sparkly silver bottom. Her dancers had also changed their costumes into all-white outfits with some silver accents, some wore different types of football gear.

She ended the night singing “Bad Romance,” one of her most popular songs of all time. Her performance made me want to dance along while posing “Vogue.”

She was lifted from the ground onto a platform above her dancers, but she followed their choreography. After a little dancing, a few of her male dancers picked her up off of the platform and carried her across the stage to a new platform. The camera showed the fireworks above the stadium before shifting back to Gaga as she reached the end of her song and looked out into the crowd. She yelled, “Super Bowl 51,” before throwing the microphone off the platform. She exited the show by making another jump off the stage simultaneously catching a bedazzled football.

I did not expect anything less from Gaga. From her outfits, and her music choices to her choreography, it felt like being at a condensed version of a concert. Although she wasn’t pointing any fingers, her message to America was subtle, and that’s all it needed to be.



JEVON COOPER/THE CAMPUS

Reverend Carl Terry delivers a sermon at Faith Night, a service for Faith Week, while Associate Director of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Social Justice Center Darnell Epps plays the piano on Feb. 8, 2017, in Ford Memorial Chapel.

Annual ‘Faith Week’ focuses on learning, fellowship and prayer

By JOE TINGLEY
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The Interfaith Fellowship kicked off Faith Week on Saturday, Feb. 4, with a Faith Crawl, which featured events at various religious spaces on campus. The week of events will conclude on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Faith Week, according to College Chaplain Jane Ellen Nickell, has been an annual event at Allegheny since before she arrived at the college 11 years ago. She said while the name has changed from Religious Awareness Week, the idea behind the event has remained the same.

“The students in all different groups host some kind of event—usually around a theme—and we just try to be more intentional about inviting people from the campus community,” Nickell said. “This is a week where we try to get more awareness on campus about the religious life that is ongoing.”

The theme for this year’s Faith Week is “Melting into Mindfulness.” Nickell said the fellowship typically tries to tailor the theme of the week to fit with the college’s yearly theme. The theme of the 2016-17 academic year is the

Year of Mindfulness.

Nickell said in order to go along with the theme, several groups on campus are stressing meditation, often in conjunction with prayer. On Tuesday, Feb. 7, Allegheny Christian Outreach hosted an event in which participants were lead by Joanne Spence, a yoga instructor, in a “whole body prayer.”

Also along the theme of mindfulness, Hillel hosted an event with guests from the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, for Tu B’Shevav Seder, which marks the new year for trees on the Jewish calendar.

In addition to the incorporation of this year’s theme, President of the Interfaith Fellowship Zach Shomo, ’18, said the fellowship has made an effort to include different types of campus and community groups in the week’s events.

“We have expanded this year to not just the main [faith-based] groups on campus,” Shomo said.

On Wednesday, Feb. 9, the Association for the Advancement of Black Culture hosted a Black History Month Church Night in Ford Chapel. The event brought pastors and musicians from predominantly black churches in Meadville and the surrounding area to

campus to speak and perform.

Nickell said finding ways to collaborate with local black churches is something that she and the fellowship have been working on.

“I think it’s more important than ever for our religious groups to talk to each other and keep talking to each other and keep learning about the people we share this town, this state, this country, this world with.”

Adrienne Krone
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Director of Student Life

The purpose of the event is to try and build better understanding of different faiths on campus, according to Shomo. He said it is also a way to build acceptance and a sense of community on campus.

“I think the hope is every year that people learn about the different religions on campus and that there are oppor-

tunities to engage with them. It’s nice to see new faces and to bring them in and show them that we have this whole network that is here for everyone,” Shomo said.

Adrienne Krone, assistant professor of religious studies and director of Jewish life, serves as the adviser to the fellowship and helped to organize the week’s events. She said the event helps bring people together and celebrate difference, particularly given political rhetoric over the last year.

“I think it’s more important than ever for our religious groups to talk to each other, and keep talking to each other and keep learning about the people we share this college, this town, this state, this country, this world with,” Krone said.

On Saturday, Feb. 11, the various faith-based groups on campus will gather at 2 p.m. in the campus center lobby to celebrate the Mid-Winter Festival, which marks the half-way point to spring.

At 4 p.m., Faith Week will conclude with an interfaith prayer gathering in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and its people’s continued fight against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

French house celebrates ‘La Chandeleur’

By KIMBERLY CHAVEZ
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The French House hosted “La Chandeleur,” the official day of crêpes, on Thursday, Feb. 2 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Day of the Chandeleur is celebrated 40 days after Christmas. Originally a Catholic celebration, it is now a day dedicated to eating crêpes.

“In France, it’s a big day,” said Amandine Brizard, a French teaching assistant. “It’s a special day when we make crêpes, and I usually do it with my family, niece and nephew because they love it. It’s more than of a family day with friends, but today I’m sharing with friends.”

The French House is located in the Max Kade International Wing of North Village I and houses both students involved in Allegheny’s French program and a French teaching assistant every year. Brizard, this year’s teaching assistant, is a native of Nantes, France. During La Chandeleur at the French house,

students could prepare their crêpes with ingredients like nutella or strawberry jam and drink either juice, tea or coffee. Some believe that Chandeleur celebrates the return of the sun and traditionally, crêpes look like and symbolize the sun even though they are eaten in the evening.

“I think it’s important that people don’t just focus on the language but also in the culture, because it’s altogether.”

Amandine Brizard
French teaching assistant

“I’m here to obviously make people learn and improve French but also to share my culture,” said Brizard. “You don’t have these kinds of events here and I wanted to show what we can do in

France, and that’s why I’m organizing events like these. I think it’s important that people don’t just focus on the language but also in the culture, because it’s altogether.”

Also known as Candlemas, Chandeleur marks the day Jesus was presented at the temple. A Pope during the fifth century would give crêpes to poor pilgrims while a candlelit procession happened in the streets of Rome.

Stefanie Cuellar, ’18, has been to Paris, France as a study abroad student and thinks one of the ways to really experience a culture is by eating the culture’s food.

“I specifically remember walking to the Arc de Triomphe and on the street corner before reaching the arch was a street vendor selling crêpes,” said Cuellar. “That was the first time I ate a crêpe, and somehow the caramelized sugar running down the crêpe onto my hand made watching the arch a whole other experience. I was tasting the culture.”

According to The Local

newspaper in France, one crêpe tradition involves a person holding a gold or silver coin in their hand while flipping a crêpe in their other hand. If the crêpes were turned over on the first attempt, there would be enough money for the family each year. Some people save the first crêpe in a drawer or on top of a wardrobe for good luck.

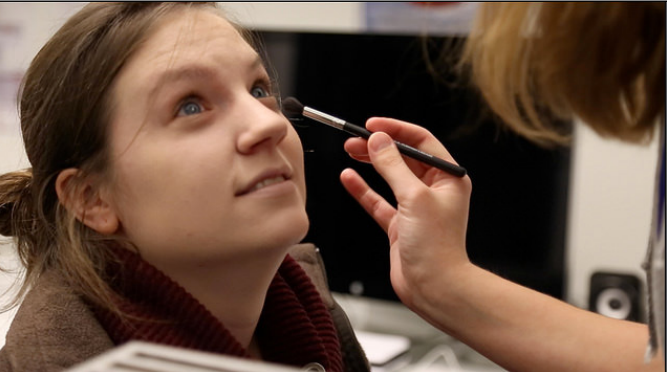
Brent Temeng, ’18, heard about the event through an International Club meeting, of which he is the treasurer. Temeng is from Ghana and learned some of the basics of the French language.

“I think [the event is] more for connecting people and trying to connect cultures as well because we are very diverse,” said Temeng. “I think events like these actually bring people together as far as good conversations.”

Brizard plans to have a “study abroad coffee” with students who have gone to France so they can share their experiences with others who want to study abroad.



Contributed by telegram.com



Right: Devon Pasternak, '17, holds a shotgun mic while filming Brennen French, '17, for their film titled, "50 years of Cat Cinema."

Top: Kelsi Nicholson, '17, gets costume makeup applied to her face prior to shooting a horror film scene for the AFTV's 48 Hour Film Festival on Friday, Feb. 3, 2017.

Bottom: Some of the teams for 48 Hour Film Festival were up all night editing together their films before the final screenings on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017.

Film festival returns to Allegheny campus

By ELLIS GIACOMELLI
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The Allegheny Film and Television club hosted the college's first 48 Hour Film Festival since 2013 this weekend. The event began Friday, Feb. 3, in the Vukovich Center for Communication Arts, where the teams gathered to receive the official rules of the competition as well as some words of encouragement from the AFTV members who organized the festival.

AFTV's first major event brought together students from inside and outside the video production realm, first-year seminar courses, Union Latinx and other clubs, dorm halls, international students and friends.

The teams had 48 hours, starting at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3 and ending at 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5 to write, film and edit a short piece to be screened at Sunday evening's closing celebration, a film production challenge that induced creativity as well as sleep deprivation for many teams that worked late.

According to the 48 Hour Film Project website, the fes-

tival is part of a global movement launched in 2001. It is dedicated to encouraging people to connect with one another and realize the imaginative power of film.

River Branch, associate professor of communication arts and adviser to AFTV, emphasized the significance of Allegheny's festival, as it is just one of places to hold the 48 Hour Film Project. She said that within the Great Lakes Colleges Association, Allegheny is fortunate to have the capacity to hold such a festival.

"Only a little over half of GLCA schools even have video production programs," Branch said.

So students of varying levels of experience had a notable opportunity to create, if only briefly, within the world of filmmaking, but the festival also marked a new era for film and television groups on campus.

AFTV was revived earlier this academic year as an integration of two former campus groups: Allegheny Film Union and Allegheny College Television. After the dissipation of AFU and ACTV, students reformed the two

groups into Allegheny Film and Television.

AFTV Co-Presidents Amy Currul, '17, and Cassandra Kyriakis, '17, took the lead on reviving the 48 Hour Film Festival.

Fifteen teams presented films on Sunday, with themes ranging from feline comedy to the paranormal. But they were all required to feature two curious elements: a pink rubber duck and a glowstick.

"AFTV board members thought, 'How random can we go with this to make people be creative?'" said AFTV treasurer Gina Checchio, '17.

The two props, along with the line, "And that was the last time we ever saw him/her/they," were required elements for the filmmakers, in addition to the restriction of doing all the work during the allotted 48 hours.

Many of the groups planned to implement some form of structure: conceive the idea on Friday, shoot on Saturday, and edit until the submission deadline on Sunday.

From the start, teams anticipated some—or perhaps a lot—of deviation from that structure.

"I'm sure there'll be scrambling that won't be planned," said Emma Rockenbeck, '18, a member of the team Pacific Productions.

While the general scramble was a common thread from team-to-team, the conceptual decisions were diverse.

I feel good graduating knowing that this will continue on. I think that Allegheny College film has a presence on campus again.

Kassandra Kyriakis
Class of 2017

Pacific Productions, winners of Best Use of Props, presented, "The Pond," in which Dipto Mukherjee, '19, was instructed by an electronic version of the pink duck to "find the light" before the locked room went dark. The piece ended with the glowstick illu-

minating Mukherjee's face.

More comedic films included Cat Cinema's "50 Years of Cat Cinema," and French Toast Mafia's "Looking for Love."

Dorm of the North's "Keanu's Journey" stood out to win the Audience Choice award. The character of Keanu, an overzealous Allegheny student, made it all the way to Woodcock Dam, some four miles from campus, trying to find her classroom.

An out-of-breath Keanu finally made it to class at the end of the film, and laughter erupted from the audience. Vanessa Carlton's "A Thousand Miles" played as the credits rolled.

The Best of the Fest award honored Oldies But Goodies' "Barefoot in the Woods."

Perhaps the most thrilling film of the evening, "Barefoot in the Woods" opened with radio dialogue describing mysterious disappearances. By the end of the film, two individuals and a car had disappeared within a wooded area, leaving the audience with a frightening image of a woman's blood-stained mouth and face.

Such variety made for a

compelling evening and satisfied The 48 Hour Film Project's purpose of cultivating imagination.

Currul and Kyriakis expressed their appreciation for campus support and participation, especially considering Super Bowl festivities had begun before they had completed screening the films and giving awards.

"I'm so proud that everyone showed up and made really great films. I'm always impressed with people with little production experience and what they can come up with," Currul said.

Because most of the participants had "little production experience," their motives seemed to be rooted in discovery, rather than the rigidity of a course assignment.

One of the best parts of the event was to see how much work people put in for fun, Kyriakis said.

"I feel good graduating knowing that this will continue on," Kyriakis said. "I think that Allegheny College film has a presence on campus again."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

14

“Love and Basketball”

Tuesday, Feb. 14

ABC House at 7 p.m.

16

Speaker Dr. Reyes

Thursday, Feb. 16

Quigley at 7 p.m.

17

Poetry Slam Night

Friday, Feb. 17

GFC at 8 p.m.

18

T-shirt Making Event

Monday, Feb. 20

Brooks at 6 p.m.

20

Ebony Ball

Friday, Feb. 24

Tippie at 8 p.m.

24

Steel City

Saturday, Feb. 25

University of Pittsburgh

25

“Barry” Showing

Monday, Feb. 27

CC 301/302 at 6 p.m.

An annual celebration of achievements by African Americans, Black History Month—also known as National African American History Month—aims to recognize the role of African Americans throughout U.S. history. According to history.com, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month since 1976. According to the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the theme for 2017 is “The Crisis in Black Education.”

MEN'S BASKETBALL NARROWLY LOOSES TO WABASH



Top: Guard Conor Macomber, '17, blocks Wabash College from scoring on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017. Macomber scored 16 points for the Gators.
Right: Center forward Zach Shedd, '20, dunks against Wabash. The Gators stayed even with Wabash before falling 68-63 in the last few minutes of the game.



Track and field teams compete at Mount Union Invite

By ALEX HOLMES
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The men's and women's track and field teams competed in the Jim Wuske Invitational at the University of Mount Union on Saturday, Feb. 4, earning multiple personal records and top finishes. Mid-distance runner Emmett Barr, '17, said the meet was longer the team expected, and they were there for about 17 hours. "People executed race plans really well and stayed pretty positive even though it was a long day," Barr said. Barr competed in the men's 800-meter and mile, finishing first of 45 in the mile with a time of 4:29.98. Barr said the meet was delayed due to more athletes participating than expected and the small size of the track. Barr was scheduled to run around 2 p.m. but did not

compete until 6 p.m. when the meet was supposed to be wrapping up. "Being there for a really long amount of time—it was hard to stay focused, and I was racing twice so it was hard to time when to warmup," Barr said. On the women's side, Amanda Balzer, '17, and Aubri Caslin, '17, earned top finishes for Allegheny, both placing second in their events. "In my races, I felt good, and normally that gives me an idea of how the race is going to turn out, just by listening to my body and seeing how quickly my lead legs are going over during drills," Balzer said. "As a team, our morale was where it needs to be. We're supportive of each other and rooting each other on at the end of the day." Balzer competed in the women's 60-meter hurdles, finishing with a finals time of 9.26.

"I think everything is starting to connect from sophomore year to now, I'm finally understanding the sport, and it's clicking," Caslin said. Caslin began competing in the outdoor season during her first year at Allegheny, but did not compete indoor until her sophomore year. At Mount Union, Caslin placed second of 48 in the weight throw with a distance of 15.42, the farthest this season and second best of her career. The performance was the fourth best in the NCAC this season. "I could not finish the ball. I threw a 15.42 and if I had finished it probably would have been about a meter farther," Caslin said. Even though many team members found success at Mount Union, Balzer said injuries and the strain on muscles from overuse is a challenge the team has faced this indoor season. "We're a young team and

not everyone is used to the workload that year-round track does to the body, so a challenge can be staying mentally tough and knowing that it might be hard now, but it's going to get better," Balzer said.
“
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”
Amanda Balzer
Class of 2017

Barr said the teams have done well executing race plans and staying focused at

meets, but they need to train harder. "We've been working hard, but I think we need to work a fair bit harder, and it needs to show on race day," Barr said. As outdoor season approaches, Barr is looking forward to the broader range of events that the outdoor season brings. "I run the 3,000-meter steeplechase, so there's water barriers and hurdles, which I really like. It's a lot more fun than just running on a flat track," Barr said. "Outdoors I get to do that because they don't have that event indoors. I'm one of the top returners for the 3K outdoors as well, so it'll be fun." Barr, Balzer and Caslin said that their goals for this spring include placing well in the conference and reaching the national competition. "I definitely want to go to nationals; it's not unreachable, but it's definitely going to be a lot of work. And I want to be in the top three of the conference. We have a couple girls who go to nationals every year so I want to get top three with them," Caslin said. Balzer said she is working to break the school record in the women's 100-meter hurdles and getting all-conference this season. "Outdoor season is my stronger of the two seasons, so if I can make it to the national stage, that would be a good way to end senior year with a bang," Balzer said. "I'm looking forward to having fun and being with the team that I like to be around. Being around friends and having that family aspect is something I'm really gonna miss when I graduate." The track and field teams will compete at The Big Meet at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Women's basketball to host 'Play 4 Kay' game for Kay Yow Cancer Fund

By ALEX HOLMES
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The women's basketball team will host their ninth annual "Play 4 Kay" game on Saturday, Feb. 11. "It's become an initiative from our Women's Basketball Coaches Association," said Head Coach Kate Costanzo. "Among all the women's basketball coaches in the country, that's become the charity of choice, and it was all a result of former [North Carolina State University] Coach Kay Yow." Yow battled cancer and later passed away from breast cancer, and the fund was set up in her honor. The Kay Yow Cancer Fund was founded on Dec. 3, 2007, and has raised \$5.28 million for women's cancer research. "You're playing for a woman who was a coach for 38

years in college basketball. She had over 1,000 wins and was an iconic person, so looking up to that and playing for her brings more passion to the game," said guard and forward Kaylah Pinkney, '19. To show their support for the Kay Yow Cancer Fund and breast cancer awareness, the women will wear pink warmup shirts, pink socks and decorate the gym with posters. Guard Madison Caufield, '18, said the game is in honor of women who have battled breast cancer and their families. "Everyone is touched by cancer and this is a chance to bring everyone together," Caufield said. "There's always huge support through the school. Lots of people come out to the game and everybody wears pink. ... It's always a great time and a great event that's put together."

Costanzo said the game is about raising awareness and is a unifying cause for college teams across the country. "Whether it's your opponent or other Division I schools, everyone is hosting a Play 4 Kay game, and it's unifying. Obviously it's fun to see everybody wearing the pink shirts and raising awareness in that way, and it's become a nice tradition for us," Costanzo said. The women participated in The College of Wooster's Play 4 Kay game when they played at Wooster on Wednesday, Feb. 8. The Gators will play Denison University for their own Play 4 Kay game. Caufield said in the first game against Denison this season, the team did a good job playing against Denison's All-American forward, Jordan Holmes. "Playing like we did and having confidence in one another, working well together

defensively and finding our open shots is what we're looking to improve," Caufield said. Pinkney said the team is excited to have the opportunity to play Denison again because the first game was close but the team lost in the end. "Every time we play Denison we know we have a chance of winning which is exciting. We want to come out on top every time we play them," Pinkney said. Following the Denison game, the women will have two conference games left and are hoping to finish the season with a solid foundation for next season, according to Costanzo. "We've got young players that are getting a lot of experience that will be invaluable in the next seasons," Costanzo said.

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