

WIFI *from page 1*

In a phone call on Oct. 25, a service representative from Allegheny’s current network provider, Apogee, told The Campus that it appeared the entire Wi-Fi network was down across campus with the exception of two buildings: Murray Hall and Bentley Hall.

Tomer confirmed that the only buildings completely un-

affected by the network outages were Murray and Bentley. He said some technical limitations during Bentley’s renovations led Allegheny to install a new controller that solely supports Bentley’s and Murray’s networks. Since Bentley and Murray use a separate controller from the rest of the campus, the campus-wide network outages did not ad-

versely affect them.

The Oct. 26, reboot of the controller did not fix all students’ network connectivity problems.

“I still can’t connect to the Allegheny Students Wi-Fi, so I’m not sure what’s going on,” Kochik said.

For Harrington, the reboot not only failed to ameliorate her computer’s connectivity issues,

but also correlated with the deterioration of Wi-Fi connectivity on her phone.

In a follow-up on Oct. 31, Tomer said he had not received any more reports of students being unable to connect to the Wi-Fi.

Last spring, Allegheny opened a contract with Wi-Fiber, a new network provider.

Tomer said the recent network connectivity problems were independent of this change in providers, and that the actual switch will not happen for a few months.

“We can’t make any guarantees, but we expect to have the new network available for students when they come back in the spring semester,” Tomer said.

If students still experience network connectivity issues, they can call the Information Technology Help Desk at (814) 332-2755, stop in for Help Desk open hours Monday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. or open a technology support ticket on webhelp.allegheny.edu.

ASG talks Roe v. Wade, retention

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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The Allegheny Student Government passed a resolution in support of codifying Roe v. Wade into law nationwide at their weekly General Assembly on Tuesday, Nov. 1, appending ASG’s name to a petition started by Agnes Scott College in Georgia. The body also heard from Provost and Dean of the College Angela Haddad, and released updated club budgets following the second round of budget hearings.

In the time for constituent comments, ASG heard only support from students for the Agnes Scott resolution. Rae Robison, ’26, said that codifying a decision impacts not just the question of abortions, but those with female reproductive systems who may need treatment for a chronic condition.

“Even if they have expressed that they do not want children or they’re not interested in physically having children, they have doctors that will not give them treatments that would vastly improve their quality of life just because one day they might get pregnant and somehow decide they’d want to keep the baby,” Robison said.

The vote was cast in an anonymous ballot, with each Senator writing their vote on a slip of paper and handing it into to Attorney General Abigail Estrada-Hernandez, ’25. However, Senator Sam Ault, ’26, took issue with method and, in particular, the fact that ASG President Veronica Green, ’23, had offered it to the Senate as the only option.

“The president is not supposed to determine how votes are made,” Ault said. “The Senate is supposed to motion to vote however the Senate so chooses.”

In response, Green cited ASG’s founding document.

“In the Constitution, for voting along lines of sensitive matters, we use a ballot vote,” Green said. “It is not an option — it is how we use a ballot vote, and that is how we choose to interpret the Constitution.”

Article 1, section 1, subsection b of the ASG Constitution handles the ways that the Senate can vote.

“Ballots - normally used for secrecy, this vote is written down and counted with anonymity,” the segment on ballot votes reads. “Can be used on general

matters, however, is often reserved for matters regarding individuals or the organization as a whole that may not be privy to public knowledge.”

In an interview after the meeting, Green said that the decision was also made based on the precedent set by previous administrations.

“Ballot voting (has) always been presented to Senate as a non-option,” Green said. “It is determined by cabinet, typically, based on issues that we don’t want students to receive backlash for based on the way that they vote.”

Haddad was the meeting’s guest speaker, and discussed concerns with dips in the college’s enrollment. Among Haddad’s own initiatives is a plan to bolster the college’s advising system

“The idea is to begin to really understand what the specific needs of the student are and to do something about it before it becomes a problem,” Haddad said. “It creates initiative on the part of the institution, and puts the burden on the institution — not on the students — to reach out and try and find those resources.”

Haddad said that a task force was working on a study of the current advising system, and changes would begin to take place after the task force delivered their final report to her at the end of this semester.

ASG also released the numbers for re-allocated club budgets. The body originally underestimated the size of their funds for this year, and voted to reopen the club budget process at their Sept. 13 G.A. The new allocation adds about \$54,000 to club budgets, which now total around \$194,000.

Green said after the meeting that Director of the Treasury Adriana Solis, ’23, would be notifying club leaders of the re-allocation via email. The totals of each club budget are also available in ASG’s minutes, which are published online at allegheny-studentgovernment.org.

During Solis’ cabinet report, the Senate approved \$4,213 in spending, including \$2,980 from the General Fund, \$473 from the Surplus Fund, and \$760 from the CILC Fund.

ASG will hold its next GA on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center.

CAFE *from page 1*

Fenn Kathman, ’23, a former employee of the cafe, said that the original cafe served a range of products from coffee to frozen products.

“The original cafe was a large space and there was a lot of student engagement,” Kathman said. “Although I only worked at the Wrecking Ball kiosk, I remember the original cafe from my time as a freshman.”

After students were sent home in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wrecking Ball never saw a return to form.

“Amongst all the different logistical and infrastructural changes, Parkhurst determined that it could no longer run the bigger cafe,” Reash said.

In the fall of 2020, the cafe was replaced by a smaller kiosk. The variety of products sold at the cafe changed significantly, as only a few options — such as chips and protein bars — replaced the previous extensive menu.

The cooler that was used to house cold and frozen goods at the original Wrecking Ball Cafe was relocated to the Brooks Pine Market, according to Reash.

Although the reduction of the cafe to a kiosk and the limited food options were disappointing, the existence of a food option in the library was still encouraging, according to Kathman.

“The number of people that the cafe hired dropped and the types of food served were also slashed, but it was still conve-



HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

The “Wrecking Ball Cafe” sits empty as a kiosk at the Pelletier Lawrence Lee Library.

nient and satisfying that we could grab a quick snack while studying rather than having to go to Brooks or (McKinley’s) to get food,” Kathman said.

Reash added that it was particularly helpful to have a kiosk in the library during snowy weather.

“During the wintertime, there is a lot of snow and the general gloomy weather has students feeling down anyway,” Reash said. “It’s very difficult to concentrate and find a workflow and having to break that to walk across campus and get a snack sounds like a big pain.”

Unfortunately, the Wrecking Ball Cafe did not return at all with the start of the 2022-23 academic year.

As Allegheny parted ways with Parkhurst and entered into a new partnership with Aramark Higher Education, the Wrecking Ball Cafe was left out of the

equation.

Administrators communicated to Reash that the Wrecking Ball Cafe would not be manageable due to the abrupt transition from one dining service provider to another.

“I wasn’t told much about the issue except that the cafe wouldn’t be returning,” Reash said. “Currently, I have no update on when the cafe will return, if at all.”

The mainstay countertop of the Wrecking Ball Cafe is still present, however it remains empty and unattended apart from the small board that tells the story of the wrecking ball of 2007.

International Student Support Staff Member Angel Astaria, ’22, recalled the Wrecking Ball Cafe during her time as a student.

“My friends and I had the habit of studying late at the li-

brary,” Astaria said. “I feel bad for students now because they’ll have no food options during the late-night study sessions.”

Astaria added that having the Wrecking Ball kiosk was also very convenient for her during her experience working as a staff member.

“Many times I have gotten hungry and have bought something small from the kiosk,” Astaria said. “I’ve really been feeling its absence this semester and I really sympathize with the students.”

It remains uncertain if and when the Wrecking Ball Cafe will return to the library, but it is certain that students have demonstrated a need for it, according to Reash.

“I’ve been observing students in the library,” Reash said. “A lot of students have been asking about the cafe and even complaining about its absence.”

HAUNTED *from page 1*

The tour then continued up the stairwell and onto the second-floor hallway where an actor would come out of hiding to jump-scare the participants. The second-floor hallway also contained a room in which a fake dead body of a former society member was found along with books, candles and a dagger.

Towards the end of the second-floor hallway, participants came across a room in which two actors were in the middle of a sacrificial ceremony. The actor conducting the sacrifice was vocal and humorously interacted with the audience saying, “What are you staring at?” and “Get out of my sacrifice room.”

The final room of the tour was a pitch-black room in which all actors involved in the tour congregated to “welcome” the participants into the cult or “take them to their final resting place,” according to Hopkins.

The tour concluded with the tour guide leading the participants back into the Oddfellows lobby where they were greeted by AGC staff.

A majority of the actors were members of AGC, but many volunteered via outreach, according to Hopkins.

GAP Director of Marketing and Social Media Zula Stenger,

’25, said that GAP’s main contribution to the event was providing volunteers and promotion whereas all the other work was managed by AGC.

“AGC reached out to us earlier in the semester because they wanted to utilize GAP’s extensive social media outreach and because we have plenty of members that frequently volunteer for events,” Stenger said. “GAP was pleased with the event and the idea and we were more than happy to collaborate.”

Hopkins said that AGC began planning for the event long ago, with initial talks being held during the spring 2022 semester in May. He added that planning for the event continued during the summer and at the start of the fall 2022 semester.

“Our first meeting as a club after getting back onto campus for this year was talking about the haunted house,” Hopkins said. “The involvement fair was when we decided completely that we were going to have a haunted house and so about three months of planning have gone into the event.”

Hopkins believed the event to be a success due to the high student turnout. He added that diligently handling an event is important for AGC given it is a

newer organization on campus.

“We were only officially founded last year and this event was the perfect way for us to announce ourselves to the campus,” Hopkins said. “I’m also happy with the timing of the event, we really wanted to give everyone a memorable Halloween experience.”

Stenger, who also attended the event, agreed with Hopkins.

“I hope to see more events like this and hopefully next time AGC will have a higher budget to make the haunted house even better,” Stenger said.



HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

Students gather in the lobby of the Oddfellows Building during the Ghost Club’s haunted house on Oct. 27.

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.

Spring and Fall 2022	October 26, 2022	October 27-28, 2022	October 29, 2022	October 29, 2022	October 30 & 31, 2022
Dating violence	Stalking	Criminal Mischief	Theft	Theft	Alcohol Violation
On campus	Off campus	On campus	Phi Kappa Psi	On campus	Baldwin Hall
Title IX	Title IX	Unfounded	Active investigation	Referred to Dean	Referred to Dean

BOCCHI

from page 1

“(Basinger) said that Matt can’t come, he’s been banned from campus,” Goodman recounted in a phone interview last week. “I said, ‘oh, OK, I’m sorry, I didn’t know that, and Matt didn’t know that.’ He told me that he had been trying to reach Matt but wasn’t successful.”

Goodman added that Basinger did not give a reason for Bocchi to be banned.

“(Basinger) wouldn’t even tell me why, which, I don’t know if he’d even tell Matt why if it wasn’t a normal situation,” Goodman said. “(Basinger) said that he didn’t even know, and I don’t know if that’s how it normally works.”

Alleged inconsistencies

Despite these communications to FIJIs and Goodman, Bocchi said he himself has received no formal notification from the college of being banned from campus.

“My attorneys did reach out to them after I heard this,” Bocchi said, referring to Goodman’s May 2022 conversation, “and they also received no response back.”

Bocchi noted that this experience — being told through back channels that he could not come on campus and that he could not advise his fraternity — was inconsistent with past applications of college policy with which he was familiar. He pointed to another alumnus who was banned after an incident during Reunion Weekend in 2016. That alumnus, he said, received a formal letter informing him that he could not return to campus but was allowed to continue advising his fraternity.

The Office of Public Safety declined to comment on the ban against Bocchi returning to campus and referred The Campus to the college’s Office of Marketing and Communications.

The Campus reached out to senior administrators, including President Ron Cole, ’87, for comment. Vice President for Enrollment Management Ellen Johnson, who oversees the college’s Office of Marketing and Communications, provided a statement on behalf of the college stating that the college was legally permitted to regulate who was allowed on campus, though Johnson did not specify if Bocchi was allowed on campus or not.

“Allegheny College, as a private institution, has broad rights in terms of restricting access to its campus and/or to events held in-person or virtually,” Johnson wrote in part. “Each situation is evaluated individually by Public Safety.”

The initial charge

The cracks in Bocchi’s connection to the college began a year before he first heard of a ban, when he was still working in the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Bocchi supported his recollections of his final months as an employee with more than 100 pages of documents, including emails, internal records from Institutional Advancement and transcripts of conversations between Bocchi and his superiors.

In January 2021, Bocchi expressed concern about a push to return to the office and in-person conversations with donors. When the pandemic arrived in March 2020, Bocchi, who has type-1 diabetes and is immunocompromised, had obtained a “reasonable accommodation” from the college to work from

home pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Bocchi said he felt pressured to “get back on the road,” by his supervisor, and filed a complaint with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The EEOC is the agency responsible for enforcing federal anti-discrimination regulations in the workplace. Employees can file a charge of discrimination against their employer if they believe they have been unfairly targeted because of a personal attribute including race, sex, sexual orientation and disability status.

Bocchi is not the only Allegheny employee to file with the EEOC in recent years. In March 2022, former Associate Professor of Chinese Xiaoling Shi filed a charge relating to her firing at the end of the 2021-22 academic year. That charge is still currently being processed by the EEOC.

As he waited for a response from the EEOC, Bocchi said, he was also concerned by what he saw as a disregard for COVID-19 protocols within the Tippie Alumni Center.

At the time, Institutional Advancement shared Tippie with administrators displaced by the renovation of Bentley Hall. Bocchi said that administrators — including then-President Hilary Link and her staff — did not wear masks during trips to the copy room or down the hall, and did not keep their office doors closed.

In a July 8, 2020, message to the college community, Link wrote, “face coverings must be worn at all times in any shared workspace (shared office spaces, copier stations, etc.) and when moving through buildings or across campus.”

That regulation was reiterated by the Allegheny College Health Agency as the college prepared for spring 2021 move-in.

Bocchi’s unease grew when he learned of an Institutional Advancement staff member cutting short the recommended 14-day quarantine after a fundraising trip to Indiana in October 2021, citing internal documents that showed the same employee traveling again seven days later.

At the time, the Pennsylvania Department of Health recommended a 14-day quarantine at home after traveling to Indiana, while ACHA required students to quarantine in their room for the same period.

“As someone with an autoimmune disorder,” he recalled reporting to the college’s Human Resources office at the time, “I very much don’t want to be there,” Bocchi said.

The vaccine selfie

Bocchi’s concerns came to a head in the final days of January 2021, as the college began discreetly vaccinating its staff in partnership with the Meadville Medical Center. According to the Meadville Tribune, ACHA told Allegheny staff in an email, “We strongly ask that you understand the need for discretion, including not posting to social media or publicizing in any way.”

When the Tribune followed up with the college about the situation, Vice President for College Relations Susan Salton wrote that the request was an attempt to be “respectful” of the local community.

“Knowing this, but also knowing that I had been told there were legitimate questions about my disease, I posted on Instagram a selfie of me in the vaccine place,” Bocchi said. “No way

mentioned the college, didn’t say I got to hop the line.”

In the image, Bocchi is wearing a yellow mask adorned with green alligators, though he did not tag the location, the college or any current employees. “Freshly vaccinated,” Bocchi captioned the post. “PSA 40% of all USA COVID deaths are diabetics. For the love of god, get the shot.”

Bocchi met with two senior staff members via videoconference 10 days after posting the photo. The Campus obtained a transcript of the conversation, which Bocchi said was captured by a smart home device. According to the transcript, Bocchi was told the timing of the selfie, “did not sit well with a lot of people, quite frankly including the president.”

Bocchi felt a personal social media account was being treated as a professional account. Recalling his 2015 efforts to pass an anti-discrimination law passed in Meadville, he wondered if the college would limit posts that might upset the local community.

According to the transcript, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Matthew Stinson responded to these concerns by saying that he had higher expectations from the staff in his office.

For Bocchi, the criticism felt like a lack of support. As an out gay man in Meadville, he said, it made him uncomfortable and undermined his faith in the college.

“Administrative Bloat”

Later that month, Link began rolling out a new administrative plan for the college, and Bocchi shared an article from The Campus describing the plan with at least one donor to explain some of the changes. When Bocchi spoke with donors in early March 2021, two said they were concerned with the direction the college was taking, with one donor calling the plan “administrative bloat” and another saying the plan was a “yellow flag.”

When Institutional Advancement leaders saw the report, Bocchi was told not to contact any alumni until he met with his supervisors.

The report led Bocchi’s supervisors within Institutional Advancement to tell him not to contact any additional alumni. In a meeting the next day, the supervisors voiced concerns that Bocchi was portraying the college in a negative light to donors.

Chris Shipley, ’84, was one of the donors that Bocchi said provided feedback on the administrative plan. Shipley wrote in an email to The Campus that in her experience, Bocchi had always been a positive representative of the college.

“(Bocchi) was always cordial, professional, and a champion for Allegheny,” Shipley wrote. “He was always open to questions, feedback and critique, and I’m sure I gave him my candid opinion from time to time. I expected and trusted that my feedback would be shared with others in the Alumni office, but I have no knowledge of what he reported or how it was received.”

By the middle of March, Bocchi said, he was prohibited from contacting donors and was worried about losing his job if he did.

“I was like, ‘Well that’s terrifying,’ because again, we’re in the middle of a pandemic and I get health insurance from my job and I have a chronic illness,”

Bocchi said.

The EEOC complaint

Eventually, Bocchi scored another job offer and formally resigned on March 26, 2021, with his benefits running until April 30. In the first week of April, Bocchi got a phone call back from the EEOC, and the agency re-filed Bocchi’s charge with the incidents Bocchi alleged occurred after his initial filing in January. Bocchi agreed to arbitration between himself and the college, moderated by the EEOC.

Bocchi provided a copy of the college’s 17-page response, filed July 16, 2021 to The Campus. The response stated that the college had done nothing wrong and that Bocchi had voluntarily left.

“Bocchi was not constructively discharged, as he purports, given that his circumstances were not so intolerable that any reasonable person in his position would be compelled to resign,” the college’s response reads in part. “Indeed, Mr. Bocchi was being provided the very thing that he claims to have wanted – a remote work arrangement – and at no time did he face any adverse action – not even a single disciplinary action – prior to his resignation.”

“Constructive discharge” is the term for a scenario in which an employee quits their job due to working conditions that no reasonable person would stay in, according to Cornell Law School’s Legal Information Institute.

After the statement was filed, the matter went to the EEOC to investigate and arbitrate, though Bocchi said the agency did not bring the two sides to a mediation within 90 days. When that time period elapsed, Bocchi obtained permission from the EEOC to file his own lawsuit against the college.

“(The right-to-sue) means they aren’t saying anybody’s right or wrong, they’re saying, ‘we don’t have the time to investigate it, so go to the courts,’” Bocchi said.

Ultimately, Bocchi decided not to sue the college.

“I’ve worked through it, it’s like a marriage dissolving,” Bocchi said. “(FIJIs) are like the product of a marriage; the marriage is broken, I don’t want to talk to Allegheny, Allegheny doesn’t want to talk to me, but we’re in it for the kids ... Even if we got money, it’d be so miniscule, and I don’t care, because it’s clear that they don’t care.”

Bocchi saw what he took as an indication of this lack of care on Nov. 16, 2021, when Link fielded questions from students at an open meeting of the Allegheny Student Government. One question, posed by an anonymous FIJI, asked, “Why has VP Stinson not been investigated for his discriminatory behavior towards LGBT and disabled employees?”

In response, Link laughed, adjusted her seat, and said, “I’m not going to comment on that. There’s nothing to investigate.”

“Her reaction — that kind of cements everything I said, like, she doesn’t care,” Bocchi said.

Going public

Twenty-three days after the General Assembly — Dec. 9 — the ban against Bocchi was first articulated to a member of FIJI. In May, Jonathan Goodman learned of the ban from Public Safety and Tyler Miller said the issue came up again in October.

On Oct. 11, 2022, Bocchi publicly acknowledged the situation for the first time, commenting on a post made earlier that day by the college’s admissions team on the Instagram account @gotoallegheny. The post celebrated the fact that the college had scored 4.5 out of 5 on the “Campus Pride Index,” and Bocchi wrote, “Interesting. Would love to talk to others about being told that my existence as an LGBTQ employee was not how the college, ‘chooses to be represented.’”

“It felt like a slap in the face,” Bocchi said. “That comment happened because it felt like somebody saying, ‘our hotel is so disability-friendly,’ and in reality there’s dim lights and there’s no elevator. You can’t tell me you’re super accessible and so wonderful and then not be.”

Though he decided not to pursue a lawsuit, Bocchi said he is now speaking publicly in the hopes that the college can address his concerns about the circumstances that led to his resignation.

“I hope that there’s some accountability and some justice, and I have a lot of faith in Allegheny,” Bocchi said, citing new

leadership as a cause for optimism. “I worked with Ron as an undergrad and as an employee, and he was wonderful. I really feel like the soul of Allegheny has been in danger, and hopefully is on the right track.”

Stinson declined to comment, citing legal reasons. Former Senior Director of Institutional Advancement Tiffany Cipollone, who now works at Muskingum University in Ohio, did not respond to a request for comment.

The college also declined to comment.

“The College does not discuss confidential personnel matters for current or former employees,” Johnson wrote in the statement.

The dissolution of any marriage leaves unanswered questions and competing narratives. Bocchi’s version raises significant concerns about how the college’s employees fared during the pandemic. The college counters that an employee left of his own accord like countless other voluntary departures that regularly occur.

And yet, the question remains: Is Matthew Bocchi allowed on campus?

—MATTHEW BOCCCHI
Class of 2013

THE CAMPUS

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Int'l education month: learning is not a footrace

Tightened standards and speed are the antithesis of education

By **SYDNEY EMERSON**
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It's the second half of the semester and you're drowning. The readings are piling up, the exams are looming and you're starting to question why you signed up for this in the first place. Your friends are making jokes about dropping out; in fact, they're making them so much that you can't help but wonder if they're serious. It's getting too easy to wake up ten minutes before your 8 a.m. class and leave a paper until the last minute. Such is the life of a college student. It's been this way for a long time and will likely never change — not unless, to paraphrase John Mulaney, faculty get really cool about a lot of stuff really quickly.

There are very few positive outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially when it comes to education — young children lost key years of socialization and teenagers experienced arrested development, leaving high school as sophomores and coming back as seniors. On college campuses like Allegheny's, the shift to Zoom school put everybody's attention spans to the test and made skipping class all too easy — not to mention how Zoom is extraordinarily ill-suited to discussion, plaguing seminars with conversational lags and dropped calls, encouraging instructors to switch to more independent work like quizzes, discussion posts and worksheets. In short, the pandemic forced instructors to work against the grain of best educational practices, turning school into a Sisyphean slog of gallery screens and grading.

The only positive effect of COVID-19 that I experienced in my college journey was increased empathy from faculty, who were also struggling with disrup-

tions at work and home. Deadlines became more flexible and syllabi were often adjusted or downsized to reflect a sensitivity to others' workloads.

It turns out that everything which goes up must also come down. In other words, unless faculty adopt alternative or looser grading practices — more on that next week — they need to grade everything they assign. The actual usefulness and pertinence of assignments became crystal-clear under the microscope of pandemic workloads and most faculty, at least in my disciplines, adjusted accordingly.

This does not mean that everything is perfect. Even now, after the height of the pandemic, after we have returned to the classroom, students are still noticeably overwhelmed and disengaged, and everybody has a cure-all solution.

The most dangerous fixes are the reductive suggestions to return to normal — to tighten the reins, pack the syllabus and sharpen the battle-ax. Jonathan Malesic, professor of writing at Southern Methodist University, suggested in The New York Times this past May that the only way to get students to re-engage is to overcorrect to "high expectations," citing "loosened course structures ... flexible attendance and deadline policies, and lenient grading" as the causes of the downfall of quality education. He goes on to unleash a verifiable cornucopia of studies and anecdotes that back up his thesis: students have reported less learning during pandemic semesters; his colleagues have taken on an self-described "astronomical, exhausting" workload and found that students needed to rewrite or revise their papers; students admit a greater willingness to cheat on online exams and score lower in person; recorded lectures enable students to skip class, and now students

supposedly hold their RSEs hostage as they demand asynchronous options.

The most infuriating part about this article to me was the fact that Malesic is so close to understanding his own point. Yes, faculty are overwhelmed with work. Yes, Zoom is antithetical to the tight-knit connections we build in the classroom. Yes, when anxious about grades, students will likely engage in academic dishonesty. Yes, if a particular class's format relies upon students sitting still and unblinkingly listening to a lecture for 50 minutes with no engagement, these lectures might as well be recorded so they can watch them in their own time. Yes, when given the opportunity, students will revise their work to earn a higher grade or, heaven forbid, to produce something of quality.

Correlation doesn't equal causation. Students reporting less learning during the pandemic does not mean that loosened standards are to blame, and loosened standards are not the same thing as remote, disengaged learning. In fact, most of the problems Malesic cited can be easily remedied by loosened standards. When faculty lighten their syllabi or adopt more humane alternative grading practices, they generate less work for themselves, too. When they stop clinging to the bobbing detritus of a lecture-hall format and engage in a participatory pedagogy, they will find that students, too, will be more likely to show up and participate. When they accept that life is not a series of end-all-be-all exams graded on a 100-point rubric but rather a continuous series of opportunities for revision and correction and revise their own curriculum accordingly, they will be surprised by the intellectual output of their students.

The crux of these misconceptions about the purpose and process of ed-

ucation all comes back to one virus: speed. We love to be the first one to finish a race; the highest grade in the class or the one with the heaviest workload. Our culture, especially our educational culture, engages in an intense cycle of sadism and masochism that rewards burnout and self-punishment. It equates being overworked to genius. If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, this won't do. This center cannot hold.

“Our culture, especially our educational culture, engages in an intense cycle of sadism and masochism that rewards burnout and self-punishment. It equates being overworked to genius. This won't do. This center cannot hold.”

—SYDNEY EMERSON
Class of 2023

In her book “The Extended Mind,” Annie Murphy Paul writes “the way we're able to think about information is dramatically affected by the state we're in when we encounter it.” In other words, the human brain is not a computer. It does not perform robotically or consistently; instead, its abilities vary wildly based on a variety of factors: sleep, activity, physical surroundings and anxiety. In our current system, students frequently receive the subliminal message that their intellectual growth must take a backseat to their ability to run a mental marathon. If a student has one bad day, week or even month, they face the potential consequences of permanently setting back their academic career.

So, how do all of these loose threads tie together? Simple. In our current state, across all forms and venues of education, we do not actually value learn-

ing or thinking. We value achievement. These are not the same thing.

Paul explains in an episode of “The Ezra Klein Show” that the “brain-as-a-muscle” metaphor has warped our perception of how the human mind works. Learning is not about pushing the brain to its limits, but rather “creating a space and a set of capacities wherein you have more and better resources from which to assemble your thought processes.” Or, as Max Weber wrote more succinct-

ly, “Ideas come in their own good time, not when we want them.”

Thinking — good, productive thinking — takes time. It cannot be forced like Play-Doh through an extruder of exams and discussion posts. It needs time and patience. It needs the flexibility to adjust a syllabus or a deadline to allow students to turn in quality work, to feel proud of their accomplishments as scholars and thinkers.

It's time that we slow down and really think about what we are trying to accomplish at institutions of higher learning. Are we a diploma factory or an intellectual hub? Are we severe or nurturing? Most importantly: do we actually care about students' growth or do we just care about quantitative measures of completion?

November is International Education Month. This op-ed is part of a month-long series on education.

Inside TERFs' fight to erase transgender rights

By **ISAAC HAMMER**
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In recent years, anti-transgender legislation has devastated the rights of trans people in the United States, and it's no secret that conservatives in power are the direct cause. However, the arguments and contributions to political discourse made by a specific and often overlooked group of people have also had a significant influence on the elimination of trans rights: TERFs, or Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminists.

Often utilizing arguments that trans women are tarnishing the idea of what it means to be a woman or reinforcing gender stereotypes, TERFs have become increasingly dangerous as their movement grows in popularity, largely thanks to its prominence on social media. Not only is their rhetoric hateful and misleading, but their surface-level proximity to feminism allows them to easily disguise themselves as progressive and appeal to people across the po-

“TERFs have become increasingly dangerous as their movement grows in popularity, largely thanks to its prominence on social media.”

—ISAAC HAMMER
Class of 2025

litical spectrum.

In 2020, J.K. Rowling, the author of the “Harry Potter” series, posted a series of tweets, all claiming that trans people erase the struggles of cisgender women by suggesting that biological sex does not exist. Though this comment was met with immediate criticism from members of the LGBTQIA+ community, her rhetoric garnered a shocking amount of support as well. Not only did her career continue to thrive despite the backlash, she also successfully reenergized the online TERF movement that welcomed her message of hate and false

female empowerment.

Ultimately, Rowling seems to have benefitted from her ignorant statements. While she might have lost favor with one community, her contributions to TERFdom have given the movement mainstream exposure and presented it in a way that is palatable to a wider audience. The acceptance of her statements also seems to have inspired other celebrities like Bette Midler and Macy Gray to recently come forward in support of similar TERF ideologies, further promoting the idea that it is acceptable to be transphobic as long as it is from a “feminist” perspective.

Based on Rowling's continued success, it is evident that TERFs have been and continue to be organized and strategic in their actions, granting them alarming power in politics. In Tina Vasquez's article “It's Time to End the Long History of Feminism Failing Transgender Women,” she argues that transgender people's inability to access government-funded healthcare under the Reagan administration was greatly influenced by feminists who were against transgender people for the sake of reducing “sex-role stereotyping.”

Incidents like this still occur today, especially in isolated settings like school boards and local governments, where individual opinions can be accepted without being properly critiqued. Whether it be claiming that trans wom-

en using the women's bathroom threatens “real women” or that trans women competing in women's high school sports is unfair, hateful legislation based on similar sentiments is consistent with language regularly used by TERFs. Although it appears to move slowly, the influence of TERFs on others in power is and will continue to be harmful to transgender people on a massive scale.

Claiming that they are sticking up for women's rights, TERFs often exploit labels related to social justice to reel in newer, less-knowledgeable feminists without them even realizing it. This point is echoed by TransAdvocate editor Cristian Williams within Vasquez's article, stating that “TERFs do a good job of colonizing feminist discourse by framing their hate as a ‘feminist critique of gender.’” TERFs also reject the actual label of “TERF” in favor of vague, misleading terms like “gender-critical feminist.” This then deceives others into thinking that they are sticking up for a crucial issue that society refuses to acknowledge as opposed to what it actually is — bigotry.

Given that the opinions of TERFs are often employed by conservatives, right-wing politics and the strategies associated with it are thus woven into TERF tactics. Much like conservatives, TERFs frequently mask their hate as “looking out” for others, specifically cisgender women. They also tend to manipulate

events to aid their arguments — for example, turning a transgender woman winning an athletic event into supposed unfairness towards cisgender women.

Politically, TERFs and conservatives fundamentally benefit from the actions of one another.

Although TERFs might utilize the defense that they are standing up for women's rights, this is inherently false. By excluding transgender women, they are reinforcing the idea that women must adhere to rigid standards to be considered “real women,” thus attacking women's rights altogether. Their sentiments are hypocritical and they validate the very ideas and traditions that they claim to be challenging.

Simply put, if you're not fighting for all women, you're fighting against them.

In leaving TERF ideology to thrive with little resistance, the movement will continue to grow in power and influence. It is crucial that TERFs are exposed for what they truly are before the damage they have created becomes completely irreversible. TERFs pose a direct threat to not just transgender people but to the essence of feminism itself, ultimately upholding patriarchal standards rather than eliminating them. To ensure the permanent protection of transgender people, we must be willing to call out ignorance and hate when we see it, rather than allow it to spread and pollute the minds of others on its own.

Send Letters to the Editors and Op-Eds to newspaper@allegheny.edu

Must include name, class year or faculty/staff position.

Letters to the editors should be 500 words or less.

Op-eds should be at least 750 words, no more than 1200 words.

All submissions subject to approval and edits by The Campus staff.

Students tour sustainable urban development cities

The fight against the ‘geography of nowhere’

By CAROLINE MAYE

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Allegheny students are set to explore the world’s first EcoDistrict as part of a series of sustainable urban development field trips. Allegheny’s Law and Policy program, Environmental Science and Sustainability department, and the Meadville Climate Action Plan group teamed up to bring together students and community members for a set of trips to sustainable urban development areas in Cleveland on Nov. 4, and Pittsburgh on Nov. 7.

“It’s an ideal way for students not only to educate themselves experientially, but to actually learn about what are the best practices so to speak for dealing with climate change,” said Professor Emeritus of English David Miller. “This is a way to actually learn by experience and practice.”

These upcoming trips are the first of their kind. Last year there were a few attempts at starting a program teaching about the intersections between environmental policy and economics, but the program went under due to lack of student involvement. As a result, these trips serve as a way of reviving the efforts of that program.

“Just getting people excited and giving them a concrete notion of what fighting climate change looks like and what it can do,” Miller said. “It’s the capacity to become commit-

ted to something because you see it working in the flesh so to speak.”

Although it may seem like fighting climate change is an issue that concerns only certain communities, such as those living in coastal areas, Miller explained that climate change



Are we really going to allow the corporate order to dictate and undermine communities or are we going to try to grow community through cooperatives and ecodistricts?”

—DAVID MILLER
Professor Emeritus of English,
Allegheny College

impacts every community.

“It doesn’t seem to be quite so bad now, but the implication is that (in) our area, climate change is going to really affect us through a surplus of water,” Miller said. “I have relatives in New Mexico that are suffering from the opposite problem.”

One way to curtail the impacts of climate change: sustainable urban development.

According to Miller, sustainable urban development focuses on preserving natural resources and creating a more equitable society for all members of the community.

“It’s not just sustainability,” Miller said. “It’s tied in with equity, fairness and inclusiveness. People who by and large are going to suffer the most are those on the bottom of the socioeco-

nom ic ladder.”

According to Miller, EcoDistricts and cooperatives are two great solutions to overcome these issues. Cooperatives focus on building community based wealth. On Nov. 4, students toured the Evergreen Cooperatives in Cleveland.

The cooperatives build community-based wealth by maintaining the strength of small businesses in the area, Miller explained. For example, their website showcases a system they set up to help small business owners retire by buying the business from them. Building up wealth within the community is important because it stops what Miller described as “community destroyers” — big-box companies like Walmart — from creating a “geography of nowhere.”

“We’ve created this kind of dystopia,” Miller said. “It’s all about shopping, asphalt and strip malls.”

“Geography of nowhere” is a concept of American Author James Howard Kunstler, which describes the world as a series

of the same buildings over and over again. This repetition and urban sprawl that accompanies it wastes land area that could be better used for agriculture and natural habitats, Miller explained. It also is incredibly expensive and creates a lot of greenhouse gas emissions from cars driving all over the place.

“Are we really going to allow the corporate order to dictate and undermine communities or are we going to try to grow community through cooperatives and EcoDistricts?” Miller asked.

Similar to cooperatives, EcoDistricts build up the strength of local communities with more of a focus on resource redistribution, explained Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Jesse Swann-Quinn. The trip to Pittsburgh on Nov. 7 will explore how EcoDistricts function in three different boroughs of the city.

On this trip, students will watch a presentation about EcoDistricts while eating lunch provided by one of the districts. After lunch they will tour the three boroughs with “evolve,” the sponsor behind the EcoDistricts in Pittsburgh.

Swann-Quinn noted that the EcoDistricts in Pittsburgh are the first certified EcoDistricts in the world. They were certified by the Coalition of Partnership for Southern Equity and EcoDistricts just this past year.

It was the possibility of viewing another EcoDistrict that drew Swann-Quinn to set up this visit to Pittsburgh. He explained that last summer he took an experiential learning trip to Germany where they toured many different sustainable urban development plans, and the EcoDistrict in Freiburg really stuck with him.

“The Pittsburgh district is particularly interesting because it is taking this idea of an ecodistrict and applying it specifically within our region,” Swann-Quinn said. “I think there are a number of lessons that could be learned and applied on a different scale.”

Aidan McGrory, ’26, was excited for an opportunity to get practical experience in a field they plan to study.

“I have somewhat high expectations because in the informational email, it says that we will be talking about practical policy, which I think is very important because quite a lot of the policy that is being introduced by politicians is not very realistic, whether that be too far one way or the other,” McGrory said.

He looks forward to learning more about how to write and pass practical policy and hoped that the program investigates how to encourage companies to go green. Additionally, the opportunity to eat food off campus enticed McGrory.

“I think the free food is a big pro,” McGrory said.

Both Swann-Quinn and Miller list the meal as a pro as well. They also hoped that these events bring the community together.

“My expectations for (the trips) are to first bring together different members of our community,” Swann-Quinn said. “To help connect people in city government, students, faculty, members of community, anybody who is interested in these different methods to develop our community with an eye towards sustainability.”

As for future plans, both expressed an interest in planning similar trips, but nothing is concrete thus far.

“evolve’ has said that they would be happy to entertain up to 40 people in a follow-up,” Miller said. “This is, in a way, an effort to seed that possibility.”

Overall, the goal of these trips is to give exposure to people on campus and within the community to different actions that can and need to be taken to fight climate change and strengthen the community. Sponsored by the Climate Action Plan group, Miller explained that these trips help educate people.

“You have to have a vision,” Miller said. “In many ways, the climate action plan is just that. It’s a vision of a better community all the way around, that is also based in climate change, sustainability and equity.”

Years after consumption, black hole “burps” out star

By ELANOR BONTA

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An incredible, science-changing event occurred among the stars on Tuesday, Oct. 11. Observed by a NASA telescope in New Mexico, a black hole was discovered to be regurgitating materials from a star it had already consumed. This process has been described by scientists only as “burping.”

“A star was tidally disrupted by a black hole,” said Professor of Physics Jamie Lombardi, who specializes in astrophysics. “It got too close, it got ripped apart, and matter from that star

funneled down into the black hole, helping to make a disk of material around it.”

The most surprising part, according to Lombardi, is that a lot of the matter was shot off the surface of the black hole two years later.

“Black holes are essentially an object with a very, very large amount of mass all compacted into a really, really small object,” said co-President of Astronomy Club Charlie Gibson, ’25. “When you look at a star, for example, it has pressure that will allow it to maintain its shape. But with a black hole, the gravitational pull is stronger than the pressure, causing it to collapse in on itself.”

According to NPR News, this black hole, estimated to be 660 million light years away from Earth, was spotted shooting materials out at half the speed of light several years after having ripped apart the star. Researchers were able to catch this because, during the time of the black hole burp, they were revisiting tidal disruption

events.

A tidal disruption event describes the astronomical occurrence when a star approaches a black hole, and upon drawing close enough, experiences spaghettification — the annihilation that takes the form of the star being torn into long strands before being swallowed up, as explained by Time Magazine.

“Mainly what happens is the star gets torn apart by gravity because black holes are incredibly massive,” said Joseph Friedman, ’23, who is working on a senior comp simulating the process of a star colliding with a black hole. “The force of gravity on one side of the star will be much greater than it will be on the other side of the star, which effectively stretches it out. And this is where you get the term, spaghettification.”

According to Gibson, spaghettification is a “battle of gravitational pulls between the black hole and the star.”

However, this entire incident is abnormal in astronomy because this is novel black hole behavior. When a star approaches a black hole, an event horizon begins, which is the boundary in which a star can no longer escape, according to CTV News. The gravitational force stretches the star out. The materials heat up, creating a large flash that can be discerned from millions of light years away. Sometimes, material escapes during the tidal disruption event at 10% of the speed of light.

“But what is often significant is a star can get caught in a semi-stable orbit and go around the black hole for a while,” Friedman said. “And then eventually some imbalance causes it to be kicked out.”

Not only did this black hole regurgitate material years after consuming a star, but it did so at 50% of the speed of light. Scientists hypothesize that the star never reached the event horizon in the first place, according to NPR News. This implies that



Now, they can start to look for more events like this. If there’s a tidal disruption event where one of these stars is at least partially consumed by a black hole, they may now think to monitor that system for longer time periods afterwards.”

—JAMIE LOMBARDI
Professor of Physics,
Allegheny College

the ejected material may have been energy and matter that was never sucked up.

“There are possible explanations having to do with the objects, as they get closer, getting hotter and hotter and hotter, and then the radiation becomes so intense that the radiation itself can push off portions of the star mass that had been falling back down into the black hole,” Lombardi said.

This event is being monitored further by NASA scientists. “But with this, we don’t necessarily know why this has happened because there’s been a really big time delay between the star being broken up and

the heating up of that matter,” Gibson said.

There is a lot to be discovered about black holes, and this event, according to Time Magazine, will potentially reveal a lot more about the way black holes function. Already, the structure of tidal disruption events and the timing of them are being questioned.

“Now, they can start to look for more events like this,” Lombardi said. “If there’s a tidal disruption event where one of these stars is at least partially consumed by a black hole, they may now think to monitor that system for longer time periods afterwards.”



Scan here to see a full color image that NASA captured of the event using the Chandra X-ray Observatory and Hubble Space Telescope

Local graveyard brimming with history

By **SOFIA HASSAN**
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The journey from Allegheny College to Greendale Cemetery is approximately three minutes by car and 20 minutes by foot. Some corners of the campus community take advantage of this proximity. For instance, the “Overkill” literary magazine invites writers there around Halloween to pen stories amid the graves. In addition, the history and philosophy departments sponsored a tour on Friday, Oct. 28, at 4 p.m. The tour, conducted by historian Ron Maddox, covered not only Greendale but also the nearby Hebrew Cemetery, where Meadville’s Jewish history can be seen.

In spite of these efforts to introduce members of the college to its grounds, the cemetery remains shrouded in some mystery, and this issue of sorts extends beyond Allegheny into the broader Meadville community. For one thing, it was designed not only as a place to bury those who have passed, but also as a park, complete with walking trails.

To comprehend the cemetery as it stands today, a brief history of interring Meadville’s dead is required. The cemetery’s website explains that in 1811, Meadville founder David Mead deeded land on the corner of Park Avenue and Randolph Street to the Presbyterian Church, and two years later a fence surrounded the area.

“At that time, it cost \$0.50 to bury an adult, \$0.25 for a child, and \$1.00 for a ‘stranger,’” the website says.

By the mid-1800s it was time for a change, not only due to the small piece of land but also its location in the center of the growing downtown area. Randolph Street Cemetery’s remains were disinterred and transported to what is now known as Greendale Cemetery. “Though (these remains) were placed in one large grave, the individual grave markers were also moved and may be found in a central section of Greendale,” the website writes.

The cemetery also serves as the final resting place for locally famous individuals, such as Mead himself — apparently.

“They had to move his grave from town up to the cemetery there when you weren’t allowed to have graves in town anymore,” said Professor of Communication Arts Michael Keeley. “It might not be him, because the nails that are in that coffin are too new.”

What is certain, however, is that two Civil War veterans buried on Greendale’s grounds served as bodyguards for Abraham Lincoln.

Aside from teaching, Keeley also makes films with an emphasis on local subjects. When looking for an idea for a new production, Keeley turned to the cemetery that is part of the town.

“I just thought it would be a nice experience to try and capture the beauty of the place,” Keeley said. “What I discovered when I was making the film, too, was how much work goes into keeping it beautiful.”

Along the way Keeley became acquainted with Jim and Mary Vogan, who raised their family on the property and cared for the grounds for almost forty years. They became

the story, in addition to the cemetery.

Keeley’s documentary, “This is a Cemetery,” as well as a series of photos from the showing on Feb. 28, 2019, can be viewed on the Greendale Cemetery website. A second viewing had to be added that evening due to the unexpected number of moviegoers who flocked to Park Avenue Cinema, eager to remove the veil of unfamiliarity from this graveyard.

In spite of Greendale’s lengthy history, only 12 individuals have served as superintendent, digging graves, caring for the grounds and ensuring the cemetery is running efficiently. The most recent edition in this line is Jim and Mary Vogan’s nephew Patrick Groover, who explained that when people learn of his job, they are not so much spooked by what it entails as by where he lives on account of said job. He resides in the caretaker’s house, which is located on the grounds and was originally meant for the sexton but redesignated for the superintendent in 1875.

“They always ask me if I’ve seen ghosts and stuff,” Groover said. “I’ve never seen any ghosts, so can’t really tell them that ... I don’t find it creepy.”

Groover has been working at Greendale Cemetery since 2006, when he was 15 years old, but last year, when Jim Vogan retired, he assumed the superintendent position. Being around the graveyard for this length of time, he said, has lessened his sensitivity towards death somewhat, since he is focused on the tasks at hand, but he does get emotional when people visit their loved ones who have died.

“It’s just that I see a different side than most people,” Groover added. “(The experience) changed it a little bit, but there’s still the emotional factor.”

Being relatively new to the superintendent role, Groover said he did not have many interesting cemetery stories yet, aside from occasionally having to catch people wandering the grounds past closing time. He added that his uncle Jim, who was no stranger to this problem himself, had a dog who would

chase the kids trespassing in the early hours of the morning.

“Lives are commemorated - deaths are recorded - families are reunited - memories are made tangible - and love is undisguised.

“This is a cemetery.” So begins a passage, titled “This is a Cemetery,” utilized by cemeteries around the world either on their websites, on their grounds, or both, as is the case with Greendale. Mary Lou Brannon is believed to have written this passage, though she is rarely credited — oftentimes the author is listed as “anonymous” or “unknown.” Not knowing for sure who penned these words, however, does not detract from their salience.

As Stoness Family Funeral Home in Alabama writes on its website, “This poem, in a few short lines, manages to convey all the reasons why cemeteries are so important, especially for the living.”

Enter Greendale Cemetery through the archway and you will soon find the work in its entirety carved out in stone.

Gators maintain trails in Allegheny National Forest

By **MARIIA HLYTEN**
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Allegheny students volunteered their time and effort to help in Allegheny National Forest supported by the North Country Trail Association.

On Sunday, Oct. 16, the crew of Gators and NCTA staff worked on clearing deadfalls, building paths and performing general trail maintenance to contribute to the construction of the hiking trail.

They spent almost a day in a small part of Allegheny national forest and gained new experiences from the professional NCTA team.

“There’s a huge benefit for people who are getting out just to see what it takes to build these trails, who uses them and what it means to their community,” said Thomas Moutsos, trip coordinator and regional trail coordinator for Ohio and Pennsylvania. “And then when it comes time to vote and donate money and things like that they can make a more informed decision about what they want to see during their lifetime and the places they live.”

Moutsos joined the NCTA in 2020. He has been involved in the conservation field for over 20 years now, including leading and managing trail crews for the National Park Service and the Student Conservation Association. He is also a two-time AmeriCorps volunteer and spent two and a half years in the Philippines as a Peace Corps volunteer. He lives with his wife and three children in northwestern Pennsylvania, where they spend as much time as possible outside.

Moutsos is responsible for trail management, wildland, firefighting and species removal in both Ohio and Pennsylvania, which is “about 1,300 miles or so (of) trail.”

“I caught up with the North Country trail during the pandemic,” Moutsos said. “I was looking for a place to take my kids hiking.”

The NCTA was established 41 years ago, and according to its mission, it develops, maintains and protects the North Country National Scenic Trail as the premier hiking path across the northern tier of the United States through a trail-wide coalition of volunteers and partners. The NCTA is a nonprofit organization that partners with the National Park Service to unite individuals, affiliated trail groups, corporate sponsors and others linked in support of building and maintaining the North Country Trail and telling its story.

However, the NCTA and the Trail itself exist because of robust and dedicated volunteerism. Thousands of volunteers build, maintain, protect and promote the North Country Trail every day, and the Association strives to provide the best resources to the volunteers.

“So we always, always, always need more volunteers to come out (and) work on the trail,” Moutsos said. “There’s a lot of work to do. So we’re always looking for ways to get new groups out onto the trail. I always think of college students to get younger folks out on the trails and start working just to introduce this type of career because it’s just an option.”

The North Country Trail is the country’s longest National Scenic Trail, 4,800 miles long, so “there are countless opportunities to get involved,” according to Moutsos.

The seven-student crew, Moutsos and his colleagues arrived at the National Park, helped move all the tools to the construction site, and got to work. In addition to building a walking route, the team planned to find and move a

large rock “estimated to be about 2,000 pounds,” according to Moutsos, into a stream without harming the ecosystem. In its new location, the rock would be able to help hikers cross the creek.

Such work requires special physics, geology, environmental science and management knowledge, so the opportunity was wider than just some particular faculty and students.

Luke Chileski, ’23, a geology major, concluded his observation while doing teamwork on swapping the rock position.

“It’s neat to see people go from buddies to professional people that are doing their job,” Chileski said. “It was suddenly no jokes, go time, which like makes sense because moving something that big is a safety concern.”

Moutsos remarked that working with the Gators was different from his experiences with old timers of the NCTA.

“When we’re doing the heavier projects, like moving big rocks, sometimes their bodies can’t do it as long as the younger folks can, so I appreciated the strength and the energy that was there,” Moutsos said. “Not just the physical part, but an influx of youth also brings its energy.”

Julia Sonen, ’24, one of the Outing Club trip leaders, shared her insight on being a frontrunner on this trip.

“I could feel everyone’s teamwork and being there, being present,” Sonen said. “I was an athlete all in high school and I love those moments when everything’s clicking.”

Sonen has done two different trail works before, but she concluded that this event was different.

“I hadn’t done any rockwork before, and so it was cool to get to learn how to maneuver such a huge boulder using just what we could boat in,” Sonen said.

“It gives me an appreciation for the trails I hike on, be a part of building them, and see how much work can go into two steps on your hike.”

She mentioned a specific point of a rock-lifting performance she is still considering. To push the rock in the right direction students were supposed to use special rock bars to put underneath the stone and use its mechanical advantage.

“There was one point when with my rock bar alone, I could lift my side of the boulder and which at one point had taken probably 15 of us all straining to move,” Sonen said.

Maureen Bricker, ’23, also mentioned that volunteering and manual jobs could be a relief after constant studying in college.

“I think it’s almost like a personal responsibility to try to be involved with those facilities and those trails that you utilize,” Bricker said. “It’s good stewardship in general, which is personally rewarding. When you’re doing papers on a computer all day, as a lot of environmental science majors are, it’s nice to just have the opportunity to get out for a few hours and get your batteries recharged.”

Bricker expressed her opinion on having such an experience from time to time, even if it is unpaid.

“I think it’s nice every once in a while just to leave campus and do some sort of projects that are separated from your own life that you can just not think about other things for,” Bricker said.

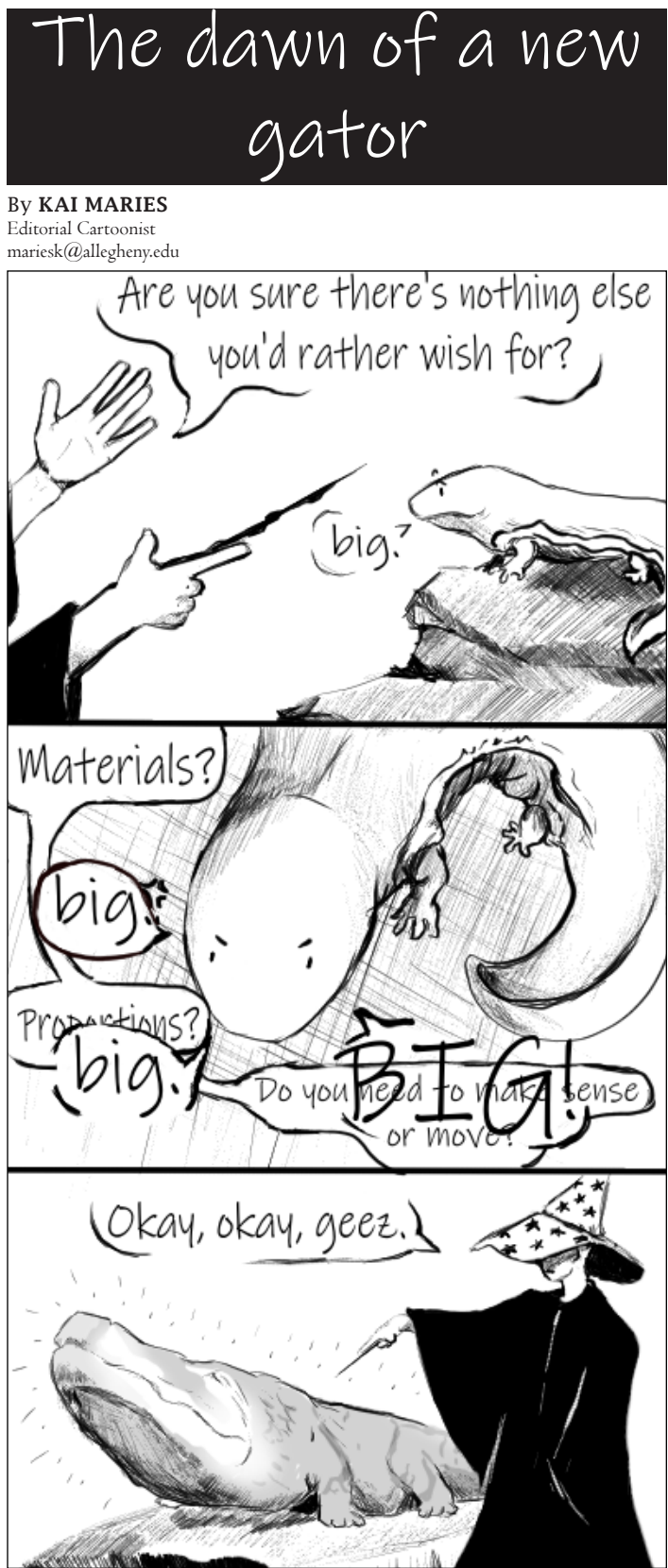
Moutsos mentioned that he enjoyed working with Allegheny students and will probably organize more cooperation shortly.

“The kids were great to work with,” Moutsos said. “They’re enthusiastic and worked hard. Many of the students there had some sort of schooling that

dealt directly with the work we were doing. It’s always fun to hear what the students are studying and then when it pertains to what we’re doing is even more exciting because a lot of the people we’re working with are professionals in their careers, and they all went to school and had the classes that you all are having. After 20-30 years, you forget so much of it.”

“It’s for anyone who seems willing to get outdoors and enjoy their time there,” Sonen

said. “And especially for something like trail maintenance, you do have to be in probably a little bit better shape than for some of our other trips, you’ve got to be willing and able to move a large boulder safely, and know where your physical limits are, and where you need to say, ‘that’s beyond what I can do right now.’ There’s no need to be environmental science or biology or any of those related to enjoy it.”



SASS lights up campus center with Diwali celebration

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
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The South Asian Student Society celebrated Diwali on Thursday, Oct. 27, at the Henderson Campus Center from 7 p.m to 9 p.m. Diwali is a five-day celebration of light, a major cultural event for followers of Hinduism, Sikhism and Jainism.

The Campus Center was lit up with rows of light above students and candles on each table where students enjoyed food from Tamarind, a restaurant in Oakland, Pittsburgh. Students also had the opportunity to get henna art done by students.

President of SASS Aaveet Desai, '23, explained that Diwali began as a celebration of the end of a war but has changed to become a "festival of light," where family and friends celebrate togetherness, positive thinking and good practices.

"There is a lot that goes into Diwali that is more into the religious aspect but we want to celebrate more the core values of bringing positivity and I think that is something that everyone on campus can share whether you celebrate Diwali or not," Desai said.

According to Desai, having cultural events is helpful for many students, especially international students because it allows them to stay connected

with their culture and have a piece of home with them.

"Whenever I was home, Diwali would be the biggest celebration so having most of the people that were there be my friends or people I see around was really good to see," Desai said. "I had the most fun seeing people who don't know anything about the music or dancing enjoy themselves and the food."

Through henna art, SASS Co-Public Relations Chair Devika Desai, '26, was able to bring students a piece of her culture. Desai has been practicing her henna art skills for a year. Students had a few designs to choose from so that the artists could apply the henna efficiently.

"This event was my first time doing henna on other people and I was kind of scared but it turned out well," Desai said. "In the olden times, it was mostly put on brides that were getting married to show a new part of their life starting, but now it is mostly done for celebration in Hindu culture."

Desai shared with her family that she was able to celebrate Diwali on campus despite being far away from home.

"My mom was happy that I was able to do henna on campus because she knows how much I love it," Desai said. "When my brother first came (to Allegheny), people here were mostly

local American people and it was kinda scary because we didn't know if we were going to be able to showcase our culture."

While the Diwali event was successful, there were challenges when it came to its execution due to budget issues and last-minute changes.

Event Manager Ankitha Pamula, '24, shared that food had been more expensive than before, so they had to replace many food items with others.

"From what I was told, last year, they paid less for food, but due to inflation the prices went up," Pamula said. "The amount of food that we had planned before we cut down was nearly double and the amount paid was nearly double for the amount of food we got last year so that was a big shock."

According to Devika Desai, the club also tried to do fireworks but could not get permission to do that. She explained that back home a big part of the event is being brought together to watch fireworks.

Despite the setbacks, SASS received a lot of encouragement from the IDEAS center to make the event well known by helping advertise. Pamula notices that there has been improvement in making sure people's cultures are celebrated on campus.

"They gave an impression of them actually putting forth the effort to



EVELYN ZAVALA/THE CAMPUS

A wide angle of the Diwali event. SASS provided Indian food and an opportunity to get henna tattoos.

support us," Pamula said. "Lisa Nicole Smith at the IDEAS Center reached out to me and wanted to stand with us and support us in the event and make it an event bigger than the SASS (so) that students outside the culture could also celebrate."

Ella Horner, '23, described her experience at the event as someone who is not part of a culture that celebrates Diwali.

"This is just a very nice experience for everybody because some people who have not been as lucky to experience an event like this get to now," Horner said. "Events like this really

bring the community at Allegheny together because different cultures can be celebrated and showcased."

Devika Desai said that Allegheny has a lot more cultural events than other small colleges, and hopes to see more in the future.

"I know bigger colleges have more events because there is a bigger community of people of color but in comparison to other smaller colleges we definitely have had a lot more," Desai said. "I love that in our community people are willing to experience new things and are open-minded."

“To the late night, double feature picture show...” SET puts on second annual shadow cast of “Rocky Horror Picture Show”



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

Liz Driscoll, '25, mimics splashing in a pool as Dr. Frank N. Furter, the antagonist of the show during the Oct. 28 shadow cast.



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

Driscoll, Haus and Sarah Brammell, '23, as Riff Raff perform as the siblings are projected above them. Seated is Rachel Pioto, '23, as Dr. Everett Scott.



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

Bella James, '24, and Bradley Cardona, '24, play the "protagonists" Janet Weiss and Brad Majors, respectively.



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

Left to right: Shira Haus, '23, as Magenta, Driscoll, and Mycah Quevillon, '25, as Columbia stand as the film is projected behind them.



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

Kylie Rimes, '23, performs as the titular Rocky.



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

Haus mouths a line during the performance.

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Hoops on the horizon●●●●

Basketball teams bring first-year heat to season openers

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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When Men’s Basketball Head Coach Bob Simmons interviewed for his position at Allegheny College, he said met every single member of the faculty and staff on his nine hour visit, except for one maintenance worker.

Simmons fell in love with the tight community, and eight years later his wife works at the college, his daughter is a senior working through the pre-health program and a member of the field hockey team, and Simmons is returning once again for another season of Gator hoops.

“Having a chance to help these young men grow and develop into our future leaders and husbands and fathers in our society, that’s the reason; that’s my ‘why?’” Simmons said.

The men are chomping at the bit to leave their mark after returning to the Presidents’ Athletic Conference for the first time since 1984. The men ended last season with a first round loss to Wooster on Feb. 22 in the NCAC Conference Playoffs. During the contest the Gator’s center Caden Hinckley, ’23, dropped his 14th double-double of the season with 19 points and 10 rebounds, and will make a return to the building this season as one of the team captains.

“He’s really taken some time in the off season and worked on his body,” Sim-

mons said. “He has a great way to go about leadership, and it’s just been exciting for me to watch him grow.”

Hinckley finished sixth in the rebounds for the conference last season, while also playing the least amount of games out of the top 30 members of that list. His game in the post and ability to reach over opponents paid off for the Gators last year, as the team finished first in the conference for rebounds per game.

One recent graduate who will not return to the court this season is the 2022 All-NCAC Second Team Point Guard, Brian Roberts, ’22. The type of player who could be mistaken for a magician, Roberts razzed his opponents and dazzled to the rim on a nightly basis for the Gators throughout his tenure, in addition to being a walking highlight reel.

Simmons stated it is nearly impossible to replace a guy of Roberts’ talents, however throughout training camp and the preseason, the team has come together to play unselfish basketball, which will be a key to their success this year.

“The biggest things that were taking away is how coachable these guys are, how hard they play, and how accountable they are not just to us, but to each other,” Simmons said. “A lot of ‘player coaching player’ going on right now, and players (are) accepting it. No egos getting in the way and that’s really fun to watch and be a part of.”

The men will continue to implement fast paced play as seen a season ago. The Gators are full of young talent on the court this year, with only two seniors on the roster, which means they should have plenty of energy to expend running up and down the floor while being able to stay fresh.

The biggest point of emphasis this season for the team is not getting away from their game, and being focused on staying in the moment. While a PAC Championship is the clear goal for the team, getting “an inch” better every day is what will allow them to get there.

“We’ve actually talked about the process,” Simmons said. “At times as athletes, as coaches, we get away from that because we know what we want. Let’s put that up there and that’s what we’re trying to get to, now how do we get there? It’s not gonna be a straight line ... and they’ve bought into that, and we’ve seen growth from that.”

For the women’s team, it will be an exciting year as well with their top two scorers from a season ago both returning to the court. Emily Lauer, ’25, led the Gators in points per game with 14 last year as a first-year, shooting the ball 45% from the floor. She has shown her ability to be a threat as a scorer, but she returns to the court this year ready to share the ball and give her teammates good looks.

“I’ve been working a lot on getting my passes down in the post,” Lauer said. “The big



Photo courtesy of **GATOR ATHLETICS**
Men’s Basketball Head Coach Bob Simmons will be making his 8th seasonal appearance for the Allegheny Gators. This will be his first season participating in the PAC, as the college makes its return for the first time in 37 years.

goal we have is not just about one person but if we can all get open for each other and play for each other.”

Alexis Caldwell, ’23, is also back in the building for her senior campaign, coming off a career high 10.5 points per game while also leading the team in rebounds.

The women will also display a variety of young talent this year, particularly in what they’ve picked up through the freshman class. Players including Sarah Santicola, ’26, and Kate Leech, ’26, are expected to earn regular minutes on the court, and provide an advantage to the Gators they had not had in the past — height.

This in theory should allow the post game to open up for Allegheny. While they do have good shooters, the talent coming in will open up the offense in new ways and hopefully allow them to be a multidimensional team.

One of the strong suits of the Gators offense last season was their transition basketball. They hustled when getting turnovers and rebounds and were able to move the ball upcourt quickly to find easy baskets. With the newly added height, it will provide the taller Gators an ability to muscle their way down the lane, while the guards kick out for a potential catch and shoot scenario on the perimeter.

“We’re definitely going to be able to get it in to (the post players), and they have great post moves,” Women’s Head Coach Kelly Muffley said. “The inside out game might be really good for us too, because we also have some really good shooters.”

With the increase in talent on the roster, Muffley was excited to state that the team now has around 12 players who can evenly earn minutes on a nightly basis. This will also provide an extra benefit to Lauer and Caldwell in the form of rest, as both players averaged more than 31 minutes per contest last season.

“At the end of the season we were competing with everyone up through the third quarter, then we would just run out of gas,” Muffley said. “If we just had a little more left in the tank, maybe some of those games could’ve been different so hopefully they aren’t dog tired (this year).”

The 2022-23 season opener is Nov. 4 for both the men’s and women’s teams. The ten-month wait is almost over as both teams will look to give the home crowd a “welcome back.” The women’s team tips off first at 6 p.m. against Carnegie Mellon, followed by the men at 8 p.m. against Fredonia State.

Volleyball season ends after playoff defeat versus Bethany

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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I’m not upset at all. I think we played really well and it was a really great season.”

—Cheyenne Wilson
Class of 2023



Left to right: Cheyenne Wilson, ’23, Cetta Panza, ’23, and Jacy Diaz, ’26, awaiting the Bethany serve late in the third set.



The Gators rallying together after scoring a point during the first set of the match. It was a tight set, however Bethany pulled away at the end 25-19.



Allegheny’s Emma Chambes, ’24, (left) and India McCruter, ’24, (right) successfully block the incoming Bison hit in the final volley of the second set, earning the point and tying the match score 1-1.



The Gators breaking down a huddle in the second set, which they go on to win 25-22.



They’re just a really goofy team that gets along and loves one another, and I think thats something to be proud of. ”

—Cheyenne Wilson
Class of 2023

