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ASG treasurer resigns

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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The Allegheny Student Government announced the departure of a key cabinet official, added another cabinet member, and discussed the future of the bookkeeping position at their regular General Assembly on Tuesday, Oct. 31.

Cabinet reports began with the financial portfolio and the announcement that Hunter Goerman, '25, had stepped down as director of the Treasury.

"We wish him the best," said ASG Vice President Sam Ault, '26.

ASG President Nicole Recio Bremer, '25, was not in attendance at the meeting because of "an already-known scheduling conflict," according to Dean for Student Life and ASG Adviser Trae Yeckley. Ault read a statement from Recio Bremer on Goerman's departure.

"She wants to make it clear that finances will not be affected by this," Ault said. "We're still going to be able to support our clubs. Dean Yeckley, myself and Nicole will be leading this until we find someone to take the position."

After the meeting, Ault added that Goerman's replacement has not yet been selected.

"Details of exactly how we'll be searching and inviting people to apply are not yet decided," Ault said.

No reason was given for Goerman's departure during the meeting. After the meeting, Yeckley declined to comment on Goerman's departure.

"We're not going to comment on any reason why," Yeckley said. "We like to keep private conversations private."

Goerman did not respond to a request for comment.

Goerman's departure comes after a turbulent few weeks for ASG's financial office. The body still has yet to formally codify the decision to remove club budgets by passing fresh financial guidelines for the new academic year.

Last week, Goerman reported total spending of around $8,900, though the requests listed in the minutes totaled just $8,300. The minutes have not been updated since they were first posted last week.

The Cabinet also added a new member. Co-Director of Student Affairs London Dejarnette, '24, nominated Iris Styers, '26, to hold the other half of the Student Affairs portfolio. Dejarnette pitched Styers as someone that could expand Student Affairs' reach across campus.

"Greek Life, you have more connections to — that serves a huge part of our population here on this campus that I really am not able to connect to in tangible ways," Dejarnette said to Styers, before addressing the Senate as a whole. "Iris is just involved with many different environments on campus that dedicate time towards service and community building."

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Krushel: 911 logs detail response, autopsy results released

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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New information has come to light regarding the death of a first-year student in mid-September.

Cinna Krushel, 19, of New York, died in the intensive care unit of Meadville Medical Center on Sept. 21, two days after being found unresponsive in her room in Schultz Hall. Last week, county investigators ruled Krushel's death accidental.

According to a copy of the county's 911 dispatch logs on Sept. 19, obtained by The Campus via a Right-to-Know request, dispatchers could not immediately contact Allegheny's Office of Public Safety as the situation unfolded.

The incident was reported with a 911 call at 9:39 p.m. and the first unit dispatched just over two minutes later at 9:42 p.m.

Included in the log is a "narrative" entry at 9:45 p.m, stating that dispatchers "attempted to contact Allegheny campus police several times - with no answer." The entry adds that the Meadville Police Department was called after campus police did not answer.

In an email statement to The Campus, Dean for the Student Experience Ian Binnington wrote that, "there was no delay" in Public Safety's response.

"Public Safety arrived at Schultz Hall at approximately 9:45 pm, the same time as EMS," the statement read. "An officer was at the door and let the EMS crew into the building."

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City Council candidates speak on jobs, safety at public forum



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

Moderators from the Meadville Tribune (left) lead a debate with the four candidates for Meadville City Council on Oct. 24. The candidates, from left: Bill Lawrence, Autumn Vogel, '15, Larry McKnight and Marcy Kantz

By **SAM HEILMANN**
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Meadville City Council candidates discussed affordable housing, city revenue and more at a televised forum on Tuesday, Oct. 24. The forum, hosted by the Meadville Tribune at Active Aging, was the last major opportunity for the candidates to debate ideas before Election Day on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

The candidates — Republicans Bill Lawrence and Marcy Kantz and Democrats Autumn Vogel, '15, and Larry McKnight — are competing for two four-year terms on City Council. The forum went live at 7 p.m., and candidates answered pre-submitted questions read by moderators Rick Green and Keith Gushard of the Meadville Tribune.

After drawing numbers for speaking order, Lawrence began the round of opening statements.

"In order for our kids to want to come here, for businesses to want to come here, for people to want to visit us here, we have to revitalize our economy," Lawrence said.

Both Lawrence and Kantz are local business owners challenging Vogel and McKnight, who are running for reelection after a joint campaign in 2019.

"Since 2020 when Larry and I got elected and got seated on city council, we've accomplished a lot to make our city safer, to improve the quality of life for people here, to address our budget deficits and to set all of Meadville up for a prosperous future," Vogel said in her opening statement.

The first question of the night focused on safe and affordable housing. Green asked the candidates whether Meadville's residential rental and licensing and inspection program slated to begin in the near future will be enough to provide safe housing to residents.

The program was designed to "protect and promote the public health and safety of City residents by ensuring that all rental properties are inspected for and maintained at code requirements," according to the City of Meadville website.

In response, Vogel stressed that the issue of affordable housing was something the current city council is working on.

"I think it's a good start, but I think that there's also work to be done to support homeowners in creating safer houses and rehabbing their homes and also affordability," Vogel said. "So that is why City Council this year — we started working with our city staff to develop a housing action plan."

McKnight added on, explaining that helping landlords through city-funded grants and loans could help people ease into the new inspection program, which could prove costly for some.

"As far as the program in the future, I'd like to see us work with the landlords," McKnight said. "We have nothing to gain, personally, by this inspection program. This is for the tenants and residents of Meadville. We want them to be able to live in safe, affordable houses."

Kantz had a different idea, however, explaining that the program is being challenged by a group of local landlords for several reasons, including the fact that they believe the program is an invasion of privacy. Kantz also questioned why the previous inspection program was not enforced.

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ALIC workshops begin

By **SAM HEILMANN**
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You can't rush art. But you can make it easier to learn.

Jaclyn Pham, '25, is trying to make art more accessible through her Allegheny Lab for Innovation and Creativity workshop series.

The project began as a collaboration between Pham and her faculty mentor for the project, Eila V. Bush Endowed Professor of Art Heather Brand.

Pham and Brand both noticed a desire from students and faculty to learn basic photography and photo editing skills. They also knew that teaching many of these skills is a lengthier process than many realize.

"Truthfully, I'd been asked many, many times by faculty outside of art: 'Hey, could you really quick come teach me how to use photography as a tool in my class, or could you teach me how to use Photoshop?'" Brand said. "I would try to, as kindly as possible, say that's a lot of stuff to deliver on the fly."

So Pham and Brand came up with an idea. As a double-major in art, design and innovation and software engineering, Pham thought to combine her skills into an easily-digestible workshop series open to all students and faculty, in and out of the art department.

"Our goal is just so people don't view art as intimidating and so inaccessible," Pham said. "It's more like if you want to take good pictures, attend the session for like an hour and then you leave feeling more confident."

After spending the summer developing the syllabus, course materials and structure of the sessions with an Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities grant, the series was ready for a test run.

Round one of the sessions includes "A Guide to Cell Phone Photography" on Oct. 18 and 25 and "Photoshop Comes to the Rescue" on Nov. 1 and 8. The Oct. 18 session went well in Pham's opinion, and the feedback she received from participants proved that even brief lessons in the ALIC lab can make the space less intimidating.

"I love that people come into the workshop and they don't feel intimidated," Pham said.

The cell phone photography workshop helped participants understand cell phone camera tools, apply composition principles and analyze their pictures for a deeper understanding of the technical aspects of photography, according to the handouts for the session designed by Pham.

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In this week's Campus...

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Contributing Writer Chloe Snyder, '27, dissects the appointment of Speaker Mike Johnson and asks the question: What does this mean for our democracy?

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CHECKING IN AT GFC

The IDEAS Center hosted an event on "emotional intelligence" last week, part of an effort to boost students' capacity for self-awareness and self-care.

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FOOTBALL SEASON COMES TO A CLOSE

In their senior sendoff, the Gator football team picked up a win. Now, players and coaches reflect on the season.

Page 8



FRIDAY H: 55° L: 41° Rain: 1% Sunrise: 7:54 a.m. Sunset: 6:12 p.m.

SATURDAY H: 55° L: 43° Rain: 3% Sunrise: 7:56 a.m. Sunset: 6:11 p.m.

SUNDAY H: 56° L: 45° Rain: 31% Sunrise: 6:57 a.m. Sunset: 5:10 p.m.

ALIC *from page 1*

The last session of the series will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 8, and will focus on Adobe Photoshop. This session is designed to build on the first and will "equip participants with essential techniques in image post-production including editing, retouching, and composition using Adobe Photoshop," according to the handouts for the session. As for the future of the series, both Pham and Brand have big dreams in mind. Brand would like to see more students bring their ideas to the art department for more skill-sharing opportunities.

"My goal is to have a few student employees and be able to expand these," Brand said. "Maybe intro to video editing, some sort of more design-based stuff and print layout, things like that."

Pham echoed the same kind of hope, adding that the ability to save the sessions for future use could be even more beneficial.

"We believe that everybody has something to teach and something to share," Pham said. "And then we can just build up gradually like a library of the knowledge of art, and that would be very cool."

By the time they leave the sessions, participants will have a free Adobe account, the comprehensive handout for their session and the start of a new project.

"Every session we're gonna work to complete a project that they can take home with them, so it's something that motivates them to come," Pham said.

Overall, Pham and Brand emphasized that getting students into the ALIC lab and creating whatever they'd like is a priority for them, especially given that many students don't know that the lab is open to them.

"You can just use this lab," Brand said. "It's a campus thing, it's not an art department thing."



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

Jaclyn Pham, '25, explains how to study photos after taking them in her ALIC workshop session on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

Meadville Halloween Parade hits the streets



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Allegheny's mascot, Chompers, walks with members of the Allegheny Student Government during Meadville's annual Halloween parade on the evening of Saturday, Oct. 28.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

President Ron Cole, '87, moves to take a picture during the parade. The "float" was one of the college's electric "Gator Express" vehicles and was surrounded by members of the college community.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Among the parade floats was this pyrotechnic display, one of several that showed up to represent the Thurston Classic, a hot air balloon festival held every year in June.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Allegheny students could be seen elsewhere in the parade, like here, where the Jazz and Dance Ensemble danced to promote their upcoming concert in February.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Not every float was full-size; these mini-trucks were a part of the Shriner Hospital's section.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME REMINDER

Clocks to "fall back" this weekend

On Sunday, Nov. 5, at 2.am all clocks will "fall back" one hour. This means that all Gators will get one extra hour of sleep.

KRUSHEL *from page 1*

According to the call log, the first unit — with the Meadville Fire Department — arrived on scene at 9:46 p.m., one minute after dispatchers logged Public Safety's non-responsiveness and seven minutes after the 911 call.

The logs list paramedics as taking Krushel to the hospital at 10:09 p.m., arriving at the Meadville Medical Center at 10:12 p.m. She died two days later.

In his statement, Binnington wrote that Allegheny's officers heard of the incident over the radio.

"While the 911 dispatch and Public Safety dispatch did not speak directly due to phone line issues outside of Allegheny's control, Public Safety was immediately aware of the emergency due to our team having access to multiple radio frequencies including, but not limited to, Meadville City Police and Crawford County Police Central," the statement read.

Greg Beveridge, director of the Crawford County Department of Public Safety, confirmed that dispatchers were eventually able to connect with Allegheny's Public Safety during the Sept. 19 incident.

"Once contact was established with the (Allegheny) Public Safety department, the incident information was relayed to them," Beveridge wrote in an email last week. "Most often, incidents that occur on known college properties, if the call does not originate from the (Allegheny) Public Safety department, the 911 center will notify Public Safety of the incident."

He added that Allegheny's Public Safety team is a "significant resource" able to assist first responders and provide contact information for students.

"Generally, when our agency needs to contact Allegheny it is usually a quick process," Beverdige wrote.

Binnington added, "We have also ensured that 911 and local first responders have multiple contact numbers for Public Safety including an analogue line and a cell phone in addition to the dispatch number."

Public Safety's response times have been the focus of discussions at the Allegheny Student Government's General Assembly on Sept. 26. At the meeting, Co-Director of Student Affairs London Dejarnette, '24, said they had heard student complaints on the topic.

"There's been a lot of fire alarms going off recently, and it seems that there is an increasing problem with the speed in which Public Safety comes — even if they do come," Dejarnette said at the time.

Dejarnette said during the meeting that Public Safety would take up to half an hour to respond to fire alarms in the North Village Complex.

The reality, Binnington wrote in his statement that, according to Public Safety's data, the office's response to fire alarms has averaged under two-and-a-half minutes over the last 10 months.

"This calendar year, the average response time from the time a fire alarm is activated to an officer arriving on scene is 2.3 minutes for the 204 instances that have occurred," Binnington wrote. "When responding to fire alarms, Public Safety first goes to the fire alarm panel in the building to determine the exact location of the alarm and then goes to that location to identify the cause of the alarm. If that location is determined to be safe, the officer will either have the dispatcher silence the alarm remotely or return to the panel to do so ... Officers may have minimal interaction with students with responding to an alarm depending on the circumstances."

Crawford County Coroner Scott Schell also announced the results of Krushel's autopsy. Schell concluded that Krushel died of an overdose of several over-the-counter substances, the Meadville Tribune reported on Friday, Oct. 27. Schell ruled the death accidental

In Krushel's system were caffeine; antihistamines, used in allergy medicine; synthetic codeine, a pain-relieving ingredient in adult cough syrup; and mitragynine, the active ingredient in a pain-relieving plant called "kratom."

A plant in the coffee family, kratom is used by 1.7 million Americans to self-treat conditions ranging from diarrhea, mental health disorders, and opioid withdrawal, according to the Food and Drug Administration. Neither the plant nor mitragynine are FDA-approved in any capacity, though it is available to purchase online and in stores, the agency states on its website.

"There was no note or communication from her prior (to her death)," Schell told the Tribune. "All of the items are available over the counter. None of it is fatal by itself, but the combination of it all together (and interacting) may cause seizures or cardiac arrest."

Schell did not return a call from The Campus made to his office for comment.

In response to the finding, the college sent an email to the campus community sharing resources on how to interact with medicines and supplements.

"Her (Krushel's) parents do not want another family to experience a similar tragic loss and have asked the College to remind students of the impact that seemingly safe drugs can have on a person when they interact with other substances, including prescription and over-the-counter drugs," the email stated

ASG *from page 1*

Styers was approved by the Senate with a near-unanimous vote and will be sworn in at next week's GA.

She fills a seat emptied by Autumn Stoneking, '23, who was approved for the role at the end of last spring. However, Stoneking was quietly dropped from ASG's roster over the summer. Dejarnette has been the sole director of Student Affairs since the beginning of the semester.

During the financial report, Ault read through the week's finance requests, which totalled $11,833.01. The funding was passed almost unanimously, though Senator Aidan McGrory, '26, voted against approving the spending without explanation. Finance requests are usually passed with no opposition.

Class of 2026 President Lorenzo Scarnati asked about the state of ASG's total budget, which has not yet been announced or approved in a General Assembly.

Yeckley replied during the meeting that they had not yet received a final budget number from Chief Financial Officer Linda Wetsell and would be holding a meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 1 to discuss the numbers further.

In a follow-up message on Thursday, Yeckley wrote that ASG's General Fund had been set at $335,000 for the academic year. Earlier this year, The Campus calculated ASG's Surplus Fund to be around $616,712, meaning ASG's total budget this year is just over $951,000.

Of that $951,000, ASG has approved a total of $70,866.68 in spending since the start of the year — around $2,000 from the Surplus Fund and the rest from the General Fund. That would make the current balance of the General Fund around $266,000, and the current balance of the Surplus Fund just under $615,000.

Dejarnette also asked for an update on ASG's new bookkeeper, and whether that person would be taking some of the workload off the ASG treasurer.

"Yes, it will help," Yeckley said. "We've also kind of readjusted the way we've done things in the finance committee today and we will help move that going forward. I think that will also help by actually using the committee as more of a committee instead of just a body to be there."

At the GA on Sept. 19, Yeckley had said that an individual had already been identified for the position and that a new bookkeeper would begin work "within two weeks."

In an email Wednesday afternoon, Yeckley wrote that existing college staff would assume the role starting next week.

"Financial services will be taking over the bookkeeping position for ASG and a member (or members) of their team will begin meeting with the Finance Committee on Tuesday," Yeckley wrote. "I am meeting with them tomorrow to review the ASG finance processes and they will take over from there."

ASG has been without a bookkeeper since early 2022, and much of the backend financial work has been placed in the hands of ASG's director of the Treasury and Student Life staff.

In other business, ASG appointed three students to college committees: Binderiya Batsaikhan, '25, to the Study Away and Campus Internationalization Committee, Arina Otbliesk, '25, to the Academic Standards and Awards Committee and Ana Turhan, '27, to the Campus Life and Community Standards Committee.

ASG will meet again on Tuesday, Nov. 7 in room CC 301/302 of the campus center.

FORUM *from page 1*

"I don't feel that the city of Meadville can afford to be in the business of affordable housing," Kantz said. "I think we should enforce our current property maintenance code."

Along a similar vein, the candidates were also asked about an increase in homelessness in the city.

"There seems to be an increase in people claiming to be homeless sleeping in city parks and other city parks and other city-owned property," Gushard said. "This has caused some people in the community not to be able to enjoy or use these areas as intended. Would you support an ordinance that would prohibit overnight staying/camping on the city-owned property without a permit?"

Kantz, Lawrence and McKnight supported the idea of an ordinance and said that addressing homelessness could be outsourced to nonprofits.

"We allow our nonprofits to go tax-exempt for a reason, and the reason is because they provide social services to our city," Kantz said. "So I would lean on them but I would be in favor of the ordinance."

McKnight added that more unhoused people tend to use services available to them in the winter, but that during the spring and summer some people prefer to not have permanent housing.

"It's safe," McKnight said of the ordinance. "It's providing safety for anybody that's out at night. I would be in agreeance with that as long as … we're not setting the city up for any retribution from the attorneys."

The candidates were also asked if the implementation of body cameras for police should be a priority for the city. In December 2022, the city's police department received a grant of nearly $450,000 to purchase body camera and audio equipment, though the equipment has not yet gone into use.

Vogel cited supply chain issues as the reason why the body cameras have not yet been implemented. She also mentioned the new crime watch program, launched on the night of the forum.

"I'm really proud of the ways in which the Meadville Police Department have been taking people's safety really seriously and trying to engage people in that process," Vogel said.

McKnight added on to Vogel's sentiment, saying that the body cameras are not only important for citizen safety, but for police safety as well.

"It's right there in black and white," McKnight said. "There's no disputing it; I think that's something that we need. I think it's going to help both our police officers with safety and our residents to feel more secure with our police department."

Another priority for the candidates was how to incentivize the young people who live in Meadville — including Allegheny students — to stay in Meadville. Lawrence and Kantz reiterated part of their opening statements, which called for improved relationships between Meadville and its business owners.

In addition to hosting business roundtables, Lawrence seeks to lower property taxes, citing them as a major hurdle in retaining Meadville's young population.

"Businesses aren't going to move in if property taxes are so high because people aren't going to want to move into Meadville because property taxes are so high," Lawrence said.

Kantz added that too many city programs take focus away from the problem of property tax.

"I think we need to keep our government goals at those goals and not stretch our city too thin with overreaching programs, such as the climate action plan, public outreach, gatherings and events, the rental inspection program and workforce development," Kantz said. "I don't think that those are things that the city should be doing."

Vogel, an Allegheny alumna who stayed in Meadville post-graduation, suggested that getting young people to feel at home in Meadville is one way to convince them to stay and become involved in the community. She cited the Junior Councilperson Program, which gives people in high school a seat at the table with the traditional city council.

"Also working to make jobs that are appealing to young folks, too," Vogel said. "Liveable wage, family-sustaining jobs that folks can choose to make this place their home."

One of the final questions asked of the candidates regarded the importance of an open and transparent government. Kantz was the first to answer and claimed that the current council has, in many cases, not been transparent given their reliance on outside committees to help in decision-making.

Kantz also mentioned the specific case of Allegheny College Associate Professor of Communications and Media Joe Tompkins' involvement with City Council efforts as a lack of transparency.

"Why is it that he's on an email stream and Larry is missing from the streams or (councilman) Jim Roha is missing; that's questionable," Kantz said. "I was told that that was not normal and that no one outside of City Council should be discussing things without everyone present, including all council members. So I believe that was a clear violation as well."

The candidates shared their closing statements and the forum concluded at just under 1 hour and 50 minutes in length.

CRIME BLOTTER

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

October 26, 2023
Harassment
Walker Hall
Active Investigation

October 27, 2023
Criminal Mischief
Ravine Hall
Referred to Dean

October 28, 2023
Disorderly Conduct
Vukovich Center
Referred to Dean

October 30, 2023
Theft
Ravine Hall
Active Investigation

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Mike Johnson's catastrophic House speakership

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Weeks of bewildering chaos came to an abrupt end this week with the dispiriting and deeply concerning election of little-known Louisiana Republican Mike Johnson to the position of speaker of the House.

Although most Americans are understandably celebrating the end of this brief but destabilizing era of dysfunction, I believe that this outcome is harrowing for anyone who cares about the fate of democracy or civil rights in this country.

Mike Johnson is a staunch supporter of twice-impeached, ninety-times-indicted former President Donald Trump. Being a supporter of Trump means supporting or turning a blind eye to horrifying acts like attempting to overturn a legitimate democratic election, using the presidential office to spread hateful rhetoric and inspire real-world acts of violence, rolling back protections for abortion and LGBTQ rights and denying scientific truths in the face of deadly catastrophes like climate change and a global pandemic. I could go on.

I find it especially repugnant that Johnson personally aided Trump in his attempt to illegally change the results of the 2020 election. Johnson "took the lead in filing a brief in a lawsuit that sought to overturn Joe Biden's 2020 presidential election win," according to the Associated Press. This is chilling to me because it is the speaker of the House who is responsible for certifying the results of the presidential election, and I can only wonder what sickening implications this may have for the upcoming presidential election.

I fear that Johnson will use his position as speaker to illegitimately certify the vote in favor of Trump, or at the very least to implement Trump's policy agenda by-proxy. The speaker of the House is one of the most powerful people in Washington; he not only certifies the general election vote, but is also responsible for setting the legislative agenda in the House — meaning he gets to decide what possible pieces of legislation will and will not be voted on — and is third in line to the presidency.

As someone who is deeply concerned about the fate of our increasingly fragile democracy, the prospect of a Trumpist wielding near-absolute, virtually-unchecked power over our government causes me enormous anxiety. I believe that American democracy cannot survive another bitterly contested election. It simply cannot. The weight of such a thing would be too much for our already-damaged, beleaguered institutions to bear, and yet I fear that Johnson's election as speaker may be setting us up for another 2020 election-type scenario next year.

As if his political allegiances and utter disrespect for our democratic tradition are not proof enough of how terrible Johnson's election to the speakership is, he also holds extreme beliefs on abortion and LGBTQ rights.

"Johnson has co-sponsored bills for a nationwide ban" on abortion, according to The Guardian, and prior to entering Congress he "worked for the Alliance Defending Freedom — designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center."

The SPLC says that the ADF, Johnson's former employer, supports "the recriminalization of sexual acts between consenting LGBTQ+ adults…defended state-sanctioned sterilization of transgender people abroad; and claimed that a 'homosexual agenda' will destroy Christianity and society."

While women and LGBTQ Americans should be enormously worried about Johnson, you do not need to be either to be gravely concerned by these statements. Anyone who cares about the freedom of adults to live as they wish and exercise their own bodily autonomy without government interference should be deeply worried about the fact that the speaker of the House holds such illiberal views.

I am happy that my local representative, U.S. Representative Chris Deluzio (D-PA), has vocally opposed Johnson's extremist rhetoric, and I only wish that everyone could have representatives who are as committed to liberal democracy and human rights as mine is. I would encourage those who have a pro-Johnson House representative to contact their representative and make their displeasure known.

As opposed to Johnson's appointment as I am, I will concede that the weeks of chaos that preceded it were not acceptable. The fact that the ineptitude and stubbornness of a group of extremists could hold part of the legislative branch effectively hostage for weeks — and that House Democrats were seemingly powerless to stop it — is maddening and frankly makes me feel as if I have been failed by my government. That a vital organ of our government can so easily grind to a halt and descend into chaos makes me seriously wonder about the functionality of our institutions.

Is our current model of governance still working? Why was there no way for House Democrats or moderate Republicans to intervene? Will this happen again and what steps can be taken to prevent it? I do not know the answer to these questions, but I know that I am not the only citizen who has been asking them.

In my view, dysfunction like this has the potential to undermine our government's legitimacy by making people feel as though they are not being represented, and that will be corrosive to our already-damaged democracy. At the same time, Johnson's appointment represents a profound betrayal of the millions of Americans whose rights and freedoms he has actively attacked. Chaos in government is terrible, but I would have preferred for the discord to continue for a few weeks longer if it meant that a moderate Republican could have been appointed, or perhaps that interim House Speaker Patrick McHenry (R-NC) could have stayed in office.

Perhaps that is wishful thinking, and regardless of my feelings, the worst possible outcome of this situation has already come to pass. An extremist, LGBTQ-phobic, anti-choice Republican who is opposed to liberal democracy is already the Speaker of the House. There is no undoing this; all there is left to do now is respond.

> "As someone who is deeply concerned about the fate of our increasingly fragile democracy, the prospect of a Trumpist weilding near-absolute, virtually-unchecked power over our government causes me enormous anxiety."
>
> — CHLOE SNYDER
> Class of 2027

We must rise to this challenge with courage and strength, holding fast to our principles of tolerance, being an ally to those who will be disproportionately affected by the whims of a Trumpist legislature, and above all, working to bring about a better world by exercising our right to vote.

I do not mean to sound pessimistic, and those who know me know that I am not a pessimistic person by nature. I am simply expressing the truth that every informed person and serious student of political science already knows, which is that the political situation in this country is quite bleak.

We cannot confront the challenge posed by this horrifying new development if we are not honest with ourselves about what it means, and its meaning is dark.

SURVIVING FIVE NIGHTS: A 'FNAF' MOVIE REVIEW

By SAMI MIRZA
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Across eight years, a dozen games and countless jumpscares, the "Five Nights at Freddy's" series has terrified and intrigued our generation.

The franchise's first installment was a video game focused on a night-shift security guard at an off-brand Chuck E. Cheese's called "Freddy Fazbear's Pizzeria." For five nights, you try to survive the restaurant's animatronic band — Freddy Fazbear, a chicken named Chica, a bunny named Bonnie and a pirate fox named, well, Foxy — as they desperately try to murder you in the confines of your office.

The game's deceptively simple point-and-click gameplay, however, hid a darker story. Hidden in clues around the restaurant was a story of child murder and vengeful spirits, spelling out the haunting of an '80s-era eatery.

Made popular by YouTube videos of people theorizing about the story and being so scared they fell out of their chairs, the franchise's convoluted plot line only grew with each installment.

Now, what started as a one-man indie-horror game finally hit the silver screen on Oct. 27, with the aptly-named film "Five Nights at Freddy's." With a budget of just $25 million, it immediately turned a profit with a $78 million domestic box office opening and a $130 million international opening. The film has been savaged by critics but loved by fans; now, I tell you who you should believe.

The Good

Unlike books, most video games are not easy to translate directly to the silver screen because what makes most video games interesting is the fact that you are an active participant in the story. Take "Pokemon;" those games are awesome because you don't just watch someone else become the Pokemon Master; you are the Pokemon Master.

However, the main story of "Five Nights at Freddy's" is largely divorced from the gameplay, with lore hidden in clues and "Easter Eggs" throughout the games. Adapting the gameplay alone would mean ignoring the lore and story that grabbed much of the fanbase's attention.

Sure, the process of beating a "Five Nights at Freddy's" game is terrifying in its own right, but the blunt truth of how the animatronics are haunted — and the complex backstory explaining why they're haunted — is what most people have stuck around for. It is, in some ways, an accessible horror-murder-mystery, constantly translated by "Let's Plays" and internet theories for a wider audience. If you had neither the time nor the guts to play a "Five Nights at Freddy's" game, you could still engage with the wider community and feel like you were watching the mystery get solved in real time.

That slow-burn riddle of a story is brought to life in this film. The directors made a deliberate choice to focus on the "Five Nights at Freddy's" characters and the humanity of the franchise, and it is a choice that, to me, pays off.

The titular animatronics have physicality and presence; they are portrayed as intelligent and three-dimensional characters. This isn't just a mindless slasher dressed in a familiar suit, but a successfully-developed narrative that establishes itself while remaining true to the core of its source material.

There's also the overall production, sound and music quality, which reinforce good characters and a good sense of identity. The pizzeria and its animatronic denizens — courtesy of The Muppets' Jim Henson Company — feel more real than any movie I've seen since "Jurassic Park," and are certainly more impressive than any recent CGI offering.

The Bad

That being said, there are some legitimate criticisms of this film.

The first — and likely most common — is that it is not nearly as gruesome and violent as it could have been. The gore and violence feel deliberately toned-down, no doubt to open the film up to younger audiences and rake in more cash. The result, however, is a story that fails to fully capitalize on the impressive physicality of its star animatronics. We fear what the powerful machines can do, but never truly see those fears realized in more than a handful of moments.

The film also suffers from a bit of a pacing issue. The first half has excellent characterization and sets the stage quite well, but the second half is rather slim and speedy. In the theater, this was hardly noticeable — it felt quite natural for the film to end the way it did. However, rewatching the climax at home made me realize that I would have liked to see a longer climax that dwelled a little more on what exactly happened.

Critics have also said that the film is predictable and therefore dull. I won't disagree with the predictable part, though at this point the franchise's story is well-known to even casual fans. It's also not hard for a franchise newcomer to pick up on the almost-Scooby-Doo level twists the film brings.

That being said, I think the film actually does a good job of executing a fairly simple plot. In my view, the archetypes and familiar plotlines the film leans into uses tried-and-true formulas to develop fresh faces and themes. Yes, you know what's going to happen, but that doesn't make what happens any less fun.

The Ugly

Easily the worst part of my movie experience were the audience members around me in the movie theater. I watched the movie on its opening Friday night, Oct. 27, at The Movies at Meadville, alongside a veritable army of people with no grasp of how to behave in public. With any big fan-favorite movie, there will always be fan reactions at the big moments. Those reactions typically last just a few seconds. On Friday night, however, those audience reactions consisted of 15-30 seconds of unbridled screaming, drowning out more than a few key lines of dialogue. Kids screamed at the screen like it was a "Rocky Horror" shadow cast and tossed entire buckets of popcorn on the audience. After the lights came back on, the mess was pretty visible.

I get that the movie is exciting and having an engaged audience can enhance the theatrical experience. I get that kids being kids is nothing new — a few screams at a movie about murder robots does not make a societal collapse.

At the same time, it was kind of sad to see that kids these days don't know how to act in a movie theater. The shouts and screams I heard Friday night were not unique to Meadville; I've heard friends from around the world share similar experiences and fears.

It felt sadly ironic that an indie franchise made big by the internet seemed to pull the worst of internet culture out into public with it. That stereotype old people have of anyone with an ounce of digital literacy being rude? That stereotype was in the theater with me on Friday — iPad kids raised by the YouTube algorithm who never learned any manners. It makes me wonder if an R-rated film would have at limited the audience to a more mature crowd capable of being quiet for 109 minutes.

Should You Watch This Movie?

I would say, yes. On its own merits, the movie is far from the malformed mess critics would have you expect. It's no "Citizen Kane" and its Oscar hopes are likely isolated to the world of practical effects, but the "Five Nights at Freddy's" film is a fun and engaging time. Consider it a gritty horror flick and you'll be disappointed, but watch it as a mystery-thriller and you'll be quite entertained.

Final verdict: 8/10 Exotic Butters



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS
The Ugly: A post-"Five Nights at Freddy's" theater littered with popcorn shows the chaos of the viewing experience.

Culture Night set to bring performances, food on Thurs.

By **ZAYNAB JEBUR**

Science/International Editor

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Every fall, the Department of World Languages and Cultures hosts a "Culture Night" in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center. This year, the event — which sees each language within the department present their culture with a performance involving their students — will be held on Thursday, Nov. 9, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Students will perform their pieces in 10-minute blocks and each culture will have samples of food for eventgoers to try.

"We put on culture night to bring visibility to this department and the things that we do here and to the world," said Chair of the Language Department and Spanish Professor Barbara Riess. "To expose students to a different course of study they can have here, but also different practices around the world in terms of food, speech, culture, those sorts of things."

Spanish

For the Spanish section, there will be two dances and catering from Enrique's Taqueria in Erie. The first dance will be a traditional Mexican zapata dance performed by Union Latinx. The second dance will be more Caribbean-style, performed to "La Gozadera" by Gente de Zona and featuring Marc Anthony. The song's lyrics include the names of Latin countries, the flags of which students will dance with to the song.

"We want to expose people to the fact that when you say, 'Latino music,' or 'Hispanic music,' that it's a lot of things," Reiss said. "We've invited Union Latinx to do a dance that they did at the closing of Hispanic Heritage month which is a traditional Mariachi Zapateado with your shoes. They're going to do a very traditional, very famous song that's referred to as the 'Second National Hymn of Mexico.' This is very folkloric and very traditional."

For the next dance, Spanish students and the Spanish teaching assistant will be doing a pop dance featuring Carribean music.

"It's a song that we use in our classes to teach students to refer to different nationalities, so it's kind of a vocab exercise in class," Reiss said.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Marissa Basile, '23, (left) and Aubrey Miller, '23, dance during the Chinese program's section of the Culture Night in 2022.

Chinese

For the Chinese section, there will be two dances, a singing performance and samples of both authentic Chinese and Chinese American food.

"We will present two dances; one is Chinese square dance, which is very popular," said Chinese instructor Xingzhi He. "Another student will sing a song but the song's lyrics are based on an ancient poem from the Tang Dynasty. Afterwards, we will have another small group doing a fan dance. It's a mix of traditional Chinese dance elements, but we add the modern dance."

He added that the dances represented a blend of Chinese history and modern realities.

For Chinese food, He highlighted that the authentic dishes would be homemade, while the Chinese American food would be purchased from a restaurant.

"Here, the mainstream targeted audience is still from different cultural backgrounds. You want to still guide them to have a taste, but you don't want to overwhelm them," He said.

Arabic

For the Arabic section, there will be a traditional Middle Eastern dance called dabke that will be performed by students from all the three current Arabic classes. Kabob, falafel and hummus will be present for students to sample.

"The Arabic class, all the classes together, we will be doing a dabke dance," said Associate Professor of Arabic Reem Hilal. "It's from the Levant area which is Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestinian territory. It's a collective dance, a communal dance that they'll do all together. Although the Middle East is very complex and it has many, many cultures, this dance allows all our students to participate."

The dance's origins come from when builders would test a house's durability by dancing on the roof and it transitioned to a dance performed at many events.

"You see people doing this when it comes to weddings, marriages, engagements, graduations, any happy occasions where people think of this as the folkloric dance that expresses or the way to express happiness," added Assistant Professor of Arabic and Chair of International Studies Sami Alkyam.

French

For the French section, students will put on a musical skit of traveling across France and there will be samples of food items like croissants and crepes.

"This one skit that'll showcase some sites in France and some fun adventures," said Associate Professor of French Briana Lewis. "It's very much a collaborative effort, a collaborative plan ... "It's relatively simple, but a theater performance. Each student is going to work on a character on their own."

German

For the German section, the students of each of the three current German classes will have their own performance, and there will be German food like potato soup, sausage and chocolate.

"The first presentation is going to involve the history of techno in Berlin and so there is going to be a brief presentation by the beginning students," said Associate Professor of German Julia Ludewig. "Then, the intermediate students are interested in the Christmas tradition — especially the lesser known tradition of Krampus, which is like the evil Santa myth. Then the advanced students are going to sing and dance a famous children's song that involves colors."

The Mount Vesuvius Challenge: AI and its implications

By **PAIGE KAGENI**

Contributing Writer

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In 2023, the application of artificial intelligence is diverse. It can be utilized daily as anything from a virtual assistant like Siri to speeding up the process of diagnoses and reducing human error in the medical field. In the world of archiving, AI is being used to digitize documents that cannot be read by the human eye.

The Herculaneum papyri are a collection of over 1,000 papyrus scrolls found at the Villa of the Papyri, an ancient Roman villa where a vast library of papyrus scrolls were kept. After the Mount Vesuvius eruption in 79 C.E., these scrolls were carbonized and appeared to be completely lost to time, but significant progress has been made in transcribing the information they contain.

In August 2023, University of Nebraska-Lincoln computer science student Luke Farritor received a message notifying him that the AI model he used to recognize text had successfully detected three letters of the Herculaneum papyri. Farritor had become the first to read these letters in nearly 2,000 years since their burial under ash and mud. Those three letters not only awarded Farritor $40,000 and international acclaim, but inspired others to work on transcribing the rest of the papyruses.

AI aiding in the transcription of historical documents is not new. According to Ruth Andel, archivist at Allegheny College's Merrick Archives, the use of AI to aid in the digitization of documents is crucial.

"(Without AI), you would have had to dig out a box and look at every single paper. You can now go online and look at things through a collection that has been put together," Andel said.

The Merrick Archives relies on the use of Optical Character Recognition in its digitization process. OCR, which has evolved with the expansion of AI, reads through scanned documents and transcribes them by identifying the text on each page, making documents easier to skim for research.

"Artificial intelligence reads the document and puts the data behind there so it makes it easier to get to," Andel said. "It saves a lot of time, both on our part for putting the material in and on the researchers' part when they're looking at it,"

While Andel acknowledged the impact of the Mt. Vesuvius Challenge on digitizing artifacts, she noted that this isn't something Allegheny's archives use currently.

"They're digging down into layers to decipher texts," Andel said. "That's a whole different system and that's not reachable."

Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer and Information Science Janyl Jumadinova spoke on the implications of this discovery. Jumadinova works in robotics and automations, specifically in how algorithms work to complete tasks in daily life.

> "In terms of knowledge being brought to the world, it's great that they're coming up with technology that can do this."
>
> —RUTH ANDEL
> Archivist
> Allegheny College

"I think that specific example shows you multiple applications of artificial intelligence," Jumadinova said. "There's a whole area of computer vision which deals with how we extract information from an image or a video. Another area is text and natural language processing or anything that deals with any sort of language."

Because of this challenge, the knowledge contained in the scrolls about ancient Rome is not the only thing being shared with the rest of the world.

The knowledge concerning this new technology and its nearly infinite uses is also being shared with anyone who wants to use it. When thinking about the future, it seems that the Herculaneum papyri can act as the catalyst for language-detecting AI to reach the general public.

"I think the field is evolving," Jumadinova said. "I find it exciting from the perspective of the tech developing because I think the models behind what we're using are really becoming more sophisticated. But also, I find it exciting because it gives us a chance to look at the more humanistic side of things. Like, 'How do we use this technology ethically?'"

As for Andel, she is happy to see AI being used to help broaden historical information.

"I'm glad they're doing it," Andel said. "In terms of knowledge being brought to the world, it's great that they're coming up with technology that can do this."

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Econ 380 is taught by Prof. Chris Allison, Allegheny's Entrepreneur-In-Residence, who served as the CEO of a publicly traded technology company for almost 10 years. Mr. Allison's company was recognized multiple times by Forbes, Fortune, Industry Week and Business 2.0 magazines as one of the best small companies in America and one of the fastest growing companies in America. He was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Ernst and Young, and the Pittsburgh Venture Capital Association.

For more information, email Prof. Allison at callison@allegheny.edu or text him at 412-389-8888.

IDEAS Center hosts event on emotional intelligence

Discussion delved into student experience with emotional wellbeing

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
Staff Writer
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In a homey corner of Grounds for Change, students sat down for a discussion about emotional intelligence on Oct. 25. Led by two faculty members, this discussion sought to provide a space for exploration into how emotions factor into personal and professional growth.

Interim Director of the IDEAS Center Natalie Brown and Wellness Case Manager Joshua Guthrie, '09, wanted to provide a space where students could have a conversation rather than a lecture. They hoped choosing to have a 100-drink open tab in GFC would encourage a more casual setting for students to open up.

"From my perspective as an alum from '09, I very much appreciate our Allegheny community and the best way we can maintain and support that community is by us being able to communicate with each other effectively," Guthrie said. "Emotional intelligence would allow us to do that."

The discussion began with Guthrie and Brown introducing what emotional intelligence means while also sharing anecdotes of their journey with it.

"It is a sense of awareness, a sense of understanding where emotions are coming from and how to then express those emotions," Brown said.

Guthrie added that emotional awareness is closely connected to emotional well-being because it ties into how people understand themselves as well as how they process their outside environments.

In explaining their passion for the topic of emotional intelligence to students, Brown and Guthrie refrained from using the word "triggered," and opted for using "activated," because of the difference in the connotation of the words.

"I like to incorporate 'activated' into my vocabulary," Brown said. "That person did not pull the trigger and hurt me and it is more so that they activated a feeling in me."

In relation to the mission of the IDEAS Center, Brown explained that emotional intelligence is part of the more holistic approach to understanding what may arise for students from diverse backgrounds.

"If I can get my students to kind of realize their emotional awareness and how they can better navigate, then they're able to be a better student or possibly navigate their emotional state a little bit more intelligently," Brown said.

Guthrie added that when students begin their journey with emotional intelligence, they can achieve greater professional success. In the discussion, he urged students to begin their journey in college because it is the best space to grow in ways that are more than academic.

"I think emotional intelligence is essential in a variety of different areas in your life," Guthrie said. "Professionally, it allows you to manage relationships with coworkers, foster team building and community."

Brown said improving on emotional intelligence will facilitate a path to be more successful students.

"I think sometimes we allow our emotions to get the best of us and we are not able to show up — showing up for classes, showing up for friends, showing up for whatever responsibilities you have," Brown said.

Through the conversations, many students took the opportunity to share their experiences of coping with their emotions, stress and relationships.

Madison Kermis, '25, shared her experience with participating in the discussion with their peers. Kermis said that her interest in the discussion was partially because they are majoring in Psychology and take an interest in discussions about emotional wellness.

"Overall, I think that the questions were very constructive and opened up a conversation more than questions that could be answered with a yes or no," Kermis said.

Kermis added that they practice emotional awareness in their life by understanding that emotions are multi-faceted and improving their identification of them.

"Sadness can be defined as a lot of different things, so can anger, so can happiness," Kermis said. "I think for a really long time in my adolescence, I didn't understand how to identify my emotions, and I didn't really understand what I was feeling or why so it starts with identification for me and trying to look at the situation as a whole rather than just that feeling."

Kermis said she thought holding the event in GFC was a good choice because they have always seen GFC as an inclusive space where anyone can have a conversation and be accepted.

Because Allegheny College is a small campus, Guthrie expressed that, while the difficulty of navigating emotional intelligence is not impacted by the size of the institution, the impact of an informal discussion on emotional intelligence on students is greater and more effective here than if it was had at a larger institution.

"Our small institution does allow us to present emotional intelligence in the unique way that Natalie and I are structuring the session," Guthrie said.

The emotional intellegience discussion was one out of what will be many sessions. The first session was meant to explain the concept of emotional intelligence to students. F uture sessions will have a higher level of complexity, according to Brown and Guthrie.

Love at first 'cite:' From around the world to Meadville

By **SAM HEILMANN**
Opinion Editor
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Work-life balance is a little easier to find when you can bring your life to work with you. As Global Health Professor Amelia Finaret held office hours on Friday, Oct. 27, she also kept an eye on her three young children, who had the day off from school after Meadville's trick-or-treating the night prior. At one point in our interview, her daughter approached her, bored, and asked for math problems to do while she waited for our conversation to be over.

"There's inflexible aspects and flexible aspects," Amelia Finaret said on being a working parent. "There were days when they were babies where, you know, I would wear them on me while I was teaching because either Christopher was teaching at the same time or they had a little cold."

Her teaching schedule is intentionally the opposite of her husband's, Assistant Professor of International Studies, Business and Economics Chris Finaret.

After living and working in Central Africa, the Finarets moved back to the U.S. in 2015 when Amelia Finaret was hired at Allegheny.

"I had been here once for the interview, for like three days," Amelia Finaret said. "He had never been here, and we didn't know anything about northwest Pennsylvania. So we just moved here, sight unseen pretty much."

Chris Finaret secured a job in the economics department shortly after. Though neither of them is originally from Pennsylvania — Chris is from California, Amelia is from Massachusetts — Meadville quickly became home for them and their family. Amelia Finaret added that the small town turned out to be a great place to raise kids.

"Trick-or-treating last night was awesome," she said. "They just ran around the neighborhood and they could be really free and we didn't have to worry about cars much. And there's just a ton of other kids, which is great."

Working at the same institution has only added to the Finaret's enjoyment of Meadville, Chris Finaret explained.

"I would say the quality of life of being at the same place and close to home is kind of the best part of the job," he said.

While the Finarets enjoy the convenience of working at the same place, there is not much overlap in their day-to-day work, given that they are in different departments.

"We're not on any of the same committees, we're not on any of the same comps," Amelia Finaret said. "We don't teach any of the same classes, you know. We teach in different departments."

Some campus spouses, though, work in the same department.

English Professor and Director of Writing Alexis Hart explained that one of the greatest advantages of working in the same field as one's partner is understanding the obligations that come with the job.

"One of the nice things about working in the same profession is having that empathy, I think," Hart said. "Yes, we have flexible schedules, but we also have a lot of grading, right? So knowing that that is a part of the working world, being able to talk about work in a way that you don't have to do a lot of extra explaining."

Hart met her spouse, Assistant Professor of English Michael Crowley, when both were in graduate school at the University of Georgia. Hart later obtained a faculty position at the Virginia Military Institute, while Crowley taught at the school's writing center.

Before settling at Allegheny, both Hart and Crowley worked at several other institutions. Now, Hart explained, one of the advantages of working at the same institution is operating on the same schedule.

"When he worked at (James Madison University) and then he worked at (Washington and Lee University), we didn't have the same academic calendars," Hart said. "That was a real pain because we didn't have the same breaks, so that could be something of a challenge."

Not only do their academic calendars now align, but many aspects of life outside of work align as well. Hart explained that being in academia and working in a small town both contribute to an overlap in one another's social lives.

"I guess it's both a pro and a con that we know a lot of the same people," Hart said. "So our social life is connected to the college which, you know I think in a small town, there are opportunities to hear lectures and readings and go to the arts and things like that — so I think that's an advantage."

Amelia Finaret said that the high concentration of married faculty on campus comes about from Allegheny's geography and the physical relocation that comes from searching for a job in academia.

"If you are going for those tenure track positions after you're getting done with grad school, they're so few and far between that you really do have to be open to moving anywhere," she said. "So what that ends up kind of causing is a need to employ both partners in a marriage. It might be particularly a thing here because Allegheny is kind of far from major cities."

Given that academia is also a demanding and niche career path, Hart believes that there are many couples on Allegheny's campus because of proximity and, as she puts it, nerdiness.

"It tends to be at school, at work, or in some kind of organization, and so that is exactly how many people meet, right?" Hart said. "Again, that kind of intellectual engagement, the nerdiness, I think of academics. And so I think that engagement with the mind draws people together."



CHRIS FINARET



AMELIA FINARET



HART

Mike Crowley is identified in this story as an assistant professor of English. Crowley is separately the faculty adviser for The Campus, and was not involved in the writing or publication of this story.

First of the Season



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Northwest Pennsylvania — as well as much of the Midwest — got its first snow of the season on Wednesday, and Allegheny students were quick to form a small army of snow-people, create snow angels and have snowball fights. Among the creations was this specimen spotted on Bicentennial Lawn between Bentley and Schultz halls.

Senior sendoff results in Gator win

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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Senior Day fireworks were in full effect on Saturday, Oct. 28, as the Allegheny Gators football team snapped a four-game skid after defeating the Thiel Tomcats 27-3 during their final home game.

First-year Head Coach Braden Layer gave praise to the veteran class. As they only had three years of playing time due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Layer had to make sure every moment counted this season. He stated they have set the work ethic standard for generations to come.

"It's a strong senior class," Layer said. "I would hope, focusing on the seniors, they have the ability at some point to look back and take immense pride in the fact that they laid the foundation."

The highlight of the game came from star wide-out Declan O'Brien, '24, who broke the all-time single-season record for receiving yards on a 42-yard touchdown catch in the first half. O'Brien leaped Alex Victor, '20, who registered 1,037 yards as the previous best in 2017.

"I had to take an inside release so all I was thinking about was leaning back outside to avoid safety help," O'Brien said. "After that, I don't remember much besides being in the endzone. As far as breaking the record, I was definitely happy it was on a play that impacted the game, and put us up by another touchdown. I would take a win over any individual accomplishment, but it was great that both were able to happen at the same time. I was also glad I was able to do it at home and on Senior Day."

O'Brien has been deemed as a playmaker by his teammates and coaches. He is playing like Randy Moss, using speed to blow past defenders and solidifying himself as one of the best receivers in all of Division III football.

The long-standing rivalry between these two teams was anything but lost last weekend. Both teams came in with a chip on their shoulder and choice words to share with their conference foes.

Allegheny tight end Austin Williams, '25, reached out to catch a ball in the second quarter when he took a big knock to the head that was later deemed a targeting penalty.

Williams was down on the Allegheny sideline for several minutes, but he later came back into the game. He exited again after getting banged up on another play, though the team's second-leading receiver says he is ready for action.

"After I was able to see the hit for myself, I just thought it was a physical football play," Williams said. "Obviously it was frustrating, no competitor wants to get taken out of the game but sometimes it's just part of it. It's a physical game. Since the game I've definitely spent some time in the training room trying to recover. I'm feeling really good going into this weekend and looking forward to the game against Case Western."



Photo courtesy of Ed Mailliard

Wolfgang Schultz, '24, tackles the Tomcats quarterback in the second half. Schultz ended the game tied for the team-high with six tackles, including one tackle for loss.



Photo courtesy of Ed Mailliard

Declan O'Brien, '24, makes the catch on a 42-yard touchdown throw from Jack Johnson, '24, to break the all-time single-season record for recieving yards.

Leading the Gators through the air was Jack Johnson, '24. On 21 completions, Johnson threw for 204 yards and a trio of touchdowns. While it was a bittersweet moment for Johnson to finish the last home game of his career, looking back there are many memories he can relive forever.

Johnson currently ranks third in program history with 6,452 career passing yards. After finishing with 247 yards during the Grove City matchup on Oct. 14, he passed Bubba Smith, '04, on the ladder.

Earlier in the season, he was pulled aside while heading into the locker room after his pregame warmup by another man he is chasing down, TJ Salopek, '11. The program's all-time leader in total career passing yards had some words of encouragement for Johnson.

"I immediately knew who he was," Johnson said. "It was a quick conversation. He pulled me aside and said, 'Hey, I'm TJ, I like what you're doing and keep up the good work.' It was a really cool moment."

Kyrie Miller, '24, also produced in the win, and has been for the past several weeks. Trevon Worship, '24, and Miller have been Allegheny's tag team duo all season. After Worship went down with a season-ending injury, Miller was asked to take on a bigger role dating to a few games back.

Since getting more touches and being more consistently involved in the offense, he has delivered on turning the one-two punch of the tandem backs into a deadly right-hook one-hit killer.

Stringing together consistency has been an emphasis of the team for Layer. While the Gators have shown big signs of improvement, being more competitive and staying in games against top-25 opponents, the record is what it is — and there have been too many mistakes for them to end up as a true threat to win the conference.

"I think everyone is getting a little taste of what we could be, and what this future could look like for Allegheny football," Layer said. "But I'm not sure we've put a full four quarters together yet this year."

That is not to say they cannot get to that marker in a couple of years. Layer said that part of stringing together the consistency they are looking for comes in the way they practice. It all starts with taking care of the fundamentals. The bludgeoning the Gators gave the Tomcats on Saturday all came in the first two quarters. They were shutout in the second half offensively.

While it was a feel good victory for the team, there is more work to be done. The Gators will head to Cleveland to match wits and lock horns with the Spartans of Case Western Reserve in the last game of the 2023 regular season. Pending an Allegheny win, it would be their first four-win season since 2019. The opening kickoff is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4.

SCORE CHECK IN

OCT 24

Men's soccer @ Thiel, W 5-3

Women's soccer @ Thiel, W 5-0

OCT 25

Field Hockey vs. Washington & Jefferson, L 2-3 (OT)

OCT 27

Men's swim @ St. Vincent, L 189-39

Women's swim @ St. Vincent, L 149-75

OCT 28

Men's cross country @ PAC Championships, 3rd (of 10)

Women's cross country @ PAC Championships, 2nd (of 11)

Men's swim @ Clarion, L 196-12

Women's swim @ Clarion, L 200-23

Football vs. Thiel, W 27-3

Field Hockey @ Oberlin, W 1-0

Men's soccer @ Grove City (PAC Championship Quarterfinal Round), L 2-1 (OT)

HOOPS IN SIGHT

Scheduling through 2023

Men's basketball

Nov. 8, @ Fredonia, 7 p.m.

Nov. 10, Hilbert Tipoff, Lancaster Bible, 7:30 p.m.

Nov 11, Hilbert Tipoff, TBA

Nov. 15, @ Grove City, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 21, vs. Bethany, 8 p.m.

Nov. 25, vs. Penn State Behrend, 7 p.m.

Nov. 29, @ Thiel, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 2, @ Geneva, 2 p.m.

Dec. 6, @ Westminster, 8 p.m.

Dec. 9, vs. Waynesburg, 4 p.m.

Dec. 20, vs. Penn State Shenango, 12 p.m.

Dec. 31, vs. Chatham, 4 p.m.

Women's basketball

Nov. 8, @ Carnegie Mellon, 5:30 p.m.

Nov. 10, Chuck Resler Tournament, Rochester, 8 p.m.

Nov. 11, Chuck Resler Tournament, TBA

Nov. 15, @ Grove City, TBA

Nov. 21, vs. Bethany, 6:00 p.m.

Nov. 26, Case Western Reserve, 2 p.m.

Nov. 29, @ Thiel, TBA

Dec. 2, @ Geneva, TBA

Dec. 6, @ Westminster, TBA

Dec. 9, vs. Waynesburg, 2 p.m.

Dec. 10, @ Kenyon, 2 p.m.

Dec. 31, vs. Chatham, 2 p.m.