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The Campus

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ASG plans for spring

By **ANTON HODGE**
Staff Writer
hodge01@allegheny.edu

The Allegheny Student Government met Tuesday for a short time to share administrative updates before Thanksgiving Break.

Committee Reports

Director of Treasury Nick Banez, '26, reported that there was no Finance Committee meeting last Friday, though Banez and Director of Finance Dominic Juliana, '26, still reviewed all the finance requests submitted last week.

Juliana announced there will be no Finance Committee meeting this Friday, Nov. 21, either. He said clubs will soon be notified via email that the finance request form will remain open over Thanksgiving break, but will be closed over winter break.

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Erie News Now hosts 25th annual food drive

Dozens of students volunteer their time



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS

Nyomi Longhi, '29, unboxes a pack of canned greenbeans at the annual food drive hosted by Erie News Now in partnership with the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania on Wednesday, Nov. 19. The food drive was located in the parking lot of the Meadville Downtown Mall.

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Class registration hits snags

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**
Editor-in-Chief
westbrook01@allegheny.edu

Groggy, still laying in bed and blearily blinking at their laptops, dozens of students across campus eagerly awaited for the clock to strike 7:30 a.m. It was the morning of Monday, Nov. 10: the first day of class registration for the spring 2026 semester. But when mid-hour arrived and students who had landed in the coveted first registration slot rushed to click the "Register Now" button on Self-Service, error messages crowded their screens. None of them were eligible to register for classes, and each thought the problem was unique to them.

Interim Registrar Ann Liska said she began receiving emails and calls from students immediately after 7:30 a.m. describing the problem.

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Parkhurst, ASG beg students to return dishware

By **MILO WATSON**
Opinion Editor
watson01@allegheny.edu

As the semester accelerates towards its final weeks, Parkhurst is dishing out carrots, peas and pleas for students to return greenboxes and the McKinley's Food Court reusable dishes. For several weeks, Parkhurst reverted to using single-use cardboard trays, paper bowls and plastic cups in McKinley's, and it has not been uncommon for students to be greeted with a hand-written "No greenboxes" sign taped to the McKinley's register.

"No one's upset," said Parkhurst Director of Operations Randi Hovel. "If they (students) could just bring them back — there's bus tubs outside of McKinley's, there's bus tubs in McKinley's — we would just be so grateful to be able to have our dishes back and be able to continue to offer to serve on all those and all of the greenboxes."

Last fall, McKinley's began serving food in gray melamine dishes in an effort to reduce food waste and costs. Parkhurst reported a 99.35% return rate for the greenbox program at the time — a significant spike up from the 2023-2024 school year's 4% return rate. But this fall, the tables have turned yet again. Allegheny's dining provider has seen a severe shortage of its greenboxes and dishware as items go missing from McKinley's, prompting Parkhurst to revert to serving food in paper boats in the food court, as well as introduce dishware and greenbox collection bins within residential halls.

"This is definitely something that's hitting hard this year," Hovel said. "Last year, we had a lot of success with the greenboxes and the program, and this year, it just seems like they're flying off the shelves."

The Allegheny Student Government reported last week that since Parkhurst heightened its messaging about dish returns over the last few weeks, it has only seen a 5% return rate.

"We don't have exact numbers on how many exact plates are missing," Hovel said.

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North Village II reopens for sophomore residents

By **AUBRYANNA SNYDER**
Features Editor
snyder02@allegheny.edu

Beginning next semester, second-year students will have the opportunity to move into North Village II. The change reverses a policy barring underclassmen from all independent living spaces that was instated last spring. The Office of Residence Life announced the reversal in an email sent to sophomores on Nov. 10.

Dean for the Student Experience Ian Binnington stated that the decision was the latest iteration of a conversation that has been ongoing in Residence Life for years.

"The fundamental problem that we have faced over the years given the various ways that we have run room draw is, frankly, dissatisfaction from juniors and seniors who felt that sophomores were taking beds in NVI and NVII and some of the houses," Binnington said. "So for years we had complaints from seniors and juniors who felt that they were getting shut out of particular types of housing."

Prior to this year, the original housing selection process assigned each student a lottery number by class year, with top numbers getting first pick of their housing. There were no restrictions on where sophomores, juniors or seniors could live.

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Whole Darn Thing opens Conneaut Lake location

By **MILO WATSON**
Opinion Editor
watson03@allegheny.edu

When the smell of meat and cheese is in the air, The Whole Darn Thing Sub Shop bustles with activity.

The local sandwich store held an official grand opening for its new location at 320 Water St. in Conneaut Lake on Thursday, Nov. 13. The storefront had a "soft opening" on Sept. 29, according to its Facebook page, and has had modified hours until recently.

In the hour following the ribbon-cutting, about 20 event attendees sampled pinwheel wraps, boba tea and no-bake cookies inside the store. The parking lot overflowed into nearby lots as patrons joined the crowd while stopping by for their own sandwich orders. Christa Lundy, the executive director of the Meadville Area Chamber of Commerce, reflected on the ribbon-cutting ceremony as members of the Chamber mingled with customers and family members of Whole Darn Thing's staff. According to Lundy, a dozen people from the Chamber joined the festivities.

"We love to see when members support one another," Lundy said. "We're real excited for them (Whole Darn Thing). They've done a lot, and I love that they're local people, and people are really supporting them."

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In this week's Campus...

"LEAVE NO CRUMBS"

The Center for Career and Professional Development hosted a work dinner to help students advance career competencies. Contributing Writer Iman Adam, '29, reports on the event.

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GATORHUB GRIEF

GatorHub now sends you a daily random email about an event on campus. Opinion Editor Milo Watson, '26, shares his unbridled disappointment at this seemingly minor change.

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CAMPUS CENTER GOES AROUND THE WORLD IN 60 MINUTES

Staff Writer Paige Kageni, '27, shares photos from Allegheny's annual Culture Night.

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FRIDAY H: 50° L: 35° Rain: 84% Sunrise: 7:17 a.m. Sunset: 4:56 p.m.

SATURDAY H: 43° L: 34° Rain: 15% Sunrise: 7:18 a.m. Sunset: 4:55 p.m.

SUNDAY H: 48° L: 38° Rain: 10% Sunrise: 7:19 a.m. Sunset: 4:55 p.m.

NORTH

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However, the housing selection process for the fall 2025 semester prohibited sophomores from registering for any of the independent living style housing options on campus: North Village I and II, College Court, Allegheny Commons and Special Interest Housing on Loomis Street. The change aimed to ensure sophomores were not taking rooms from upperclassmen, according to Binnington.

However, Binnington said Residence Life "overcorrected" the issue.

"The reality is that there was more space than we thought there was going to be; there was absolutely room to make some changes," Binnington said. "We overcorrected, we got some student complaints, as I'm sure you know, and we saw an opportunity to do a mid-course correction that would allow us to make it easier for sophomores to move into some of those spaces."

Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley brought the idea for the mid-semester draw to Binnington in the month prior to informing the sophomore class in the email sent on Nov 10. Binnington said he had thought it was a "great idea."

Yeckley declined an interview and referred The Campus to Vice President for Enrollment Management Jenn Winge, '96, who referred The Campus to Binnington.

The email sent to sophomores said they had four days to enter their names into the lottery to win a room in NVII. Sophomore students who indicated their interest will be given a lottery number to determine selection order, similar to the old system, and will participate in the housing selection process on Dec. 3. Sophomores were only given the option to move into NVII for the spring semester to fill any remaining available doubles or quads.

Additionally, upperclassmen who have an opening in their apartment have the ability to invite sophomores to fill that opening, provided that they contact Residence Life, according to the email.

The high volume of emails that Residence Life received spoke to the students' level of interest, said Binnington.

"Had we opened NVII to sophomores in the original room draw in spring, it seems like there would have been a lot of interest," Binnington said. "I don't know what the level of interest is going to be. Folks may very well be settled in the spaces that they're in, so we will see."

Natalie Anderson, '28, said she would have been more interested in living in NV at the time of the spring housing selection.

"Me and some of my friends were considering — since NV is harder to get into — we were considering even going into College Court, since it's still apartment style like NV, so I definitely would have been interested in it when they originally opened it (the selection process)."

Anderson was initially interested in the opportunity to move into NV but was apprehensive largely because of the timing.

"I think the idea of it is interesting," Anderson said. "Just personally, I don't have anyone to move into NV with, and it's also a weird time in the semester to bring it up. I know the move out time is during finals, so I really don't want to be moving during finals."

Binnington does not anticipate any dissatisfaction from upperclassmen going forward.

"I can't speak for the entire junior and senior classes, but if their complaint was they couldn't get into North Village, they had the chance to get into North Village before the sophomores did," Binnington said. "We're not selling occupied beds. We're not moving anybody out of North Village II so that sophomores can move in."

Naydean Massie, '27, a current NVII resident, offered a different criticism of the selection process. To her, the issue is that the back-and-forth of Residence Life policy changes affected not only sophomores, but also juniors and seniors who were not able to sign up for independent housing in the spring because, without their sophomore friends, they lacked a sufficient number of people to fill a suite.

"I don't mind the fact that sophomores are allowed in NV, I think that everyone should have a right to live anywhere on campus," Massie said. "It's a really great experience to live in NV, but I do think it kind of sucks for some of the juniors and seniors that may not have had the opportunity because they didn't have enough people."

"I think the order in which they (Residence Life) did it is wrong," she continued.

Residence Life has not yet made any final decision about what the housing selection process will look like going forward, according to Binnington.

"Yes, this might be a thing we continue doing, it might not," Binnington said. "It is especially now being used to address an issue; and the issue is that we didn't allow sophomores into a particular residence hall, we ended up with beds that they could've occupied, and now we're going to let them occupy them if they want to."

Binnington said that although decisions have not yet been finalized for what the spring housing selection process will look like, he does not anticipate any delays in the selection for the fall.

"That usually happens starting in February (or) March, so we're in the process of planning for that," Binnington said. "Those decisions are not final yet. Because we are having some staffing transitions, my guess is that the decision won't formally be made until the beginning of the spring semester."

After the abrupt departure of former Associate Dean for Residence Life Stacie Wolbert, Residence Life has prioritized finding someone to fill her position. Instead of an associate dean, the position is being changed to director. Binnington said Residence Life is currently interviewing for the director position.

Binnington also anticipates further movement of students in the residence halls as students depart for and return from study abroad programs in the spring semester. Residence Life has made no changes to the limited housing selection process for students who return from study abroad programs in the spring semester. In a follow-up email to The Campus about study abroad, Binnington said "students who have a vacant space picked out in an existing apartment with friends, are asked to contact Residence Life with that information. Students without such a space in mind are put into a mini lottery run on similar lines to the Fall housing selection."

As it stands, the only formal change Residence Life has made is the mid-year draw to allow Sophomores once again the opportunity to live in NVII.

"To a certain extent, this is about fairness; it's up to the students as to whether or not they want to take advantage of it," Binnington said. "We want to give students the opportunity, and then if they want to take the opportunity, that's up to them."

PARKHURST

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"I do know we put bins in dorm rooms and we did receive some greenboxes back, but we did not receive hardly any plates, cups, coffee cups or the little side bowls."

Parkhurst staff described a range of difficulties that the shortage has posed to Parkhurst's operations.

"It puts pressure on our dishwashers because they have to be cranking out the (green)boxes at a much faster rate," Hovel said. "So it changes the flow of what they do, and it just puts an added pressure on the DRA (Dining Room Attendant) who has to stock the greenboxes. So I would say overall, it does affect more people than just the students. It affects the staff."

Yvonne Longstreth, a cashier in McKinley's, expressed discomfort with the amount of waste that the compostable containers create.

"It stresses me out because there's so much waste," Longstreth said. "Because you are getting a container at this station, at that station, at this station, and you have all these dishes, where if we had the (reusable) plates and stuff, you would just have a plate and a bowl and it would be reused again. So we just have so much waste, and that's a lot of wasted money."

The reason for such a sharp divergence from last year's high rate of return has yet to be identified.

"This is very puzzling to me," Hovel said. "We had such a great return last year with the greenboxes that — just overnight or over the summer — it seems that the program is not really working how it did last year, and that could be a multitude of reasons that we're just not really sure why they're not coming back."

ASG is not sure how to combat the problem, according to ASG Co-Director of Student Affairs Iris Styers, '26, who is also a member of the Dining Committee.

"I guess we're kind of at the point where we don't know what to do," Styers said. "Because the most likely thing is that they are just in people's dorm rooms and there's no way to just go and take them back."

Styers expressed confusion as to why students are not returning the dishware.

"I also think it's kind of silly that people are stealing the dishes," she said. "Because those plates are so tiny and those bowls are so tiny, what are you even doing with them? It's not like the nice Brooks dishes."

However, Styers also shared that anyone returning dishes will be met with a non-judgmental attitude.

"No one's going to question you," she said. "We just want the dishes back."

ASG

from page 1

The weekly total for expenses came to $13,410.40. Of this, $11,462.37 is for the International Club for expenses related to food and the International Bazaar that will take place on Sunday, Nov. 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Schultz Banquet Hall.

Director of Communication and Press Jake Slater, '26, reported that due to audio issues, last week's General Assembly was not posted to Instagram. Slater is in talks to get a newer camera and microphones for better audio.

Co-Directors of Student Affairs Iris Styers, '26, and Lyra Lindsay, '27, encouraged students to fill out the Student Life Survey. The deadline to respond to the anonymous survey is Dec. 1. Styers and Lindsay said that a mass email with the survey attached will soon be sent to the classes of 2026, 2027 and 2028.

Director of Organizational Development Brayden Devinney, '26, reported that he will have office hours for student leaders on campus on Friday, Nov. 21, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Class Reports

Class of 2026 President Sydni Junker reported her committee finalized materials for an event on Monday, Nov. 24.

Class of 2027 President Kirandeep Khroud reported the class is still planning an event that will take place on Dec. 4.

Class of 2028 President George Asante reported his class is beginning to develop plans for the spring 2026 semester.

Class of 2029 President Niki Hineman reported her class is planning a Christmas ornament decorating event to wrap up the fall semester.

Chief Executive Reports

Vice President Douglas Malcolm, '26, reported he met with the Athletics department to determine how ASG can coordinate assistance with the department's Toys for Tots fundraiser. Additionally, Malcolm reported a meeting with Allegheny President Ron Cole, '87, and ASG president Chezka Quinola, '27. Malcolm relayed to the GA that Cole expressed positive views of ASG so far this year.

Quinola reported that ASG started a survey, named "Why Allegheny," to study retention rates and learn about why students decide to stay at the college. Quinola said posters will soon be put up around campus. She hoped the data could potentially be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration in future decisions.

There will be no GA next week due to Thanksgiving Break. ASG's next GA will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 2, in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center.

CLASS *from page 1*

She quickly conscripted an Information Technologies team to find the root of the issue. The erroneous error messages were solved by the Registrar's Office and the IT team, allowing students to register by 8 a.m. the same day.

Assistant Director of Enterprise Systems Molly Smith, '12, explained it was an easy fix. Self-Service — the student-facing portal for services such as class registration, transcripts and financial aid — is driven by "rules," logical scripts coded into the software that shape the requirements of the registration process. For example, two "rules" require that students have adviser approval and must have updated their emergency contact information before the system will permit them to register for classes, Smith said. These types of requirements are coded into the software. Smith said that IT helps the Registrar's Office write the rules that control the registration process, but the application of the rules is typically the sole responsibility of the Registrar's Office.

On the morning of registration, students experienced difficulties registering for classes because a rogue rule was still in effect blocking all class registration. That type of rule is manually put in place and removed from several different places in the system each semester, Smith said, to prevent students from registering for classes outside of their approved slots.

Once Smith was made aware of the problem on Monday morning, she quickly realized that during testing of the system, the IT team had forgotten to remove the rule in one place in the "deep depths" of the code. Once she removed it, students were then able to register for classes, no longer than 30 minutes after their scheduled time, she said.

Though it is typically not IT's responsibility to turn on class registration, according to Smith, she has supported the class registration process for over 10 years. Given staffing turnover and pressures on the Registrar's Office this year, she felt compelled to help with the process.

"None of this is anybody's fault," Liska said. "It's just due to a set of circumstances."

"In these kinds of offices — because I've been doing this for a very long time — we tend to become very close with each other and work together and support each other," Liska continued. "So, you know, if one of us messes up, we all feel like we messed up."

The registration blip occurred a few days after inaccurate registration announcement emails were sent to students across campus. The emails, which are personally tailored to each student, arrived in students' inboxes on Nov. 6 shortly before 9 a.m., incorrectly identifying many students' registration groups and copying the wrong academic advisors. A correction email was then sent to all students around 4:30 p.m.

Liska said that an employee in the Registrar's Office sent out the first round of emails, but made a mistake while using the "mail merge" software, a tool that allows the mass creation of documents that are personalized for each recipient.

"I take responsibility for that," Liska said. "I'm responsible for what goes on at the office. She felt very badly about it. Nobody wants these mistakes to happen, believe me. I know we all agonized over it, and, you know, over the things that get said. We're human and we can make mistakes, especially — there is a lot of pressure on the office right now."

The Registrar's Office has experienced significant turnover this semester. Liska is currently serving as interim registrar while Roslyn Perry, the permanent registrar, is taking a leave of absence. Liska said Perry is expected to return in January 2026. In addition to Perry's leave of absence, Smith said that cumulatively — with the retirements of former Associate Registrar Deborah Zinz and former Assistant Registrar Christine Bell in August and Pamela Shreve's move from being the student records coordinator in the Registrar's Office to executive assistant in the Student Experience Department — the Registrar's Office has lost over 100 years of combined experience in a matter of months. The college is not planning to hire anyone to fill the associate registrar position due to budgetary reasons, according to Liska. However, Liska does have interviews scheduled in December with several candidates for the assistant registrar position. She noted that none of them are familiar with the backend program the Registrar's Office uses to manage classes, which Liska said is old and a "niche" skillset, so there will be a "learning curve" for the new associate registrar.

Liska is a contractor with The Registry, an international company that has connected higher education institutions to "experienced and vetted" senior interim professionals for over 30 years, according to its website. Liska has worked with the organization as a registrar since 2021. This is her second interim position at Allegheny, after previously serving as interim registrar in spring 2022.

"It's really a nice campus — great students, great faculty," Liska said. "My partner and I like going there. He says, 'When can we go again to Allegheny?'"

Liska brings decades of experience with her to Allegheny. Prior to contracting with The Registry, Liska spent her entire career as a registrar both in the U.S. and around the world, including an eight-year stint in the United Arab Emirates.

Given the turnover in the registrar's office this year, Liska has focused this semester on ensuring that the new staff have the necessary skills and knowledge to maintain smooth operations.

"When you've worked with some people for a long, long time like this, you just have a lot of knowledge that's just in your head and you just know what to do," Liska said. "Someone new comes in and they don't know that stuff. You can't transplant somebody's brain."

Liska works remotely and makes occasional visits to campus. But most of the time, it is just Curriculum Director Shirley Cronin and Student Records & Transfer Credit Coordinator Carolyn Hogg in the Registrar's Office in Murray Hall.

"They're resilient," Smith said. "They know it's a big change, but they're taking it in stride and really willing to learn."

Life Design and Career Center hold annual 'Leave No Crumbs' work dinner

By **IMAN ADAM**

Contributing Writer

adam02@allegheny.edu

How can someone uplift their community using connections and cupcakes? On Wednesday, Nov. 12, the Center for Career and Professional Development hosted its annual "Leave No Crumbs" dinner in the Tippie Alumni Center from 6 to 7 p.m. The dinner was an effort to help students connect with resources to reach their career goals.

"Leave No Crumbs" was established several years ago by Life Design Director Natalie Brown, who served previously as director of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access & Social Justice Center before it was folded into the new Life Design Lab in fall 2025. When Brown started working at the college in June 2023, she wanted students to take advantage of the resources they have in college so they can reach their desired career path. The name of the "Leave No Crumbs" dinner is a reference to a conversation Brown had with a student, in which she advised them to "leave no crumbs" behind during their time in college. Brown said she hopes that this event will allow students to grow their career experiences.

With speakers, slideshows and a dining experience, students had some positive words to say about the event. This year was the second time Logan Lee, '26, attended the dinner. He initially joined the event to network and connect with peers from different backgrounds, and he attended for the second time this year to build on his experience.

"So far I like the dinner's collaboration with the CCPD," Lee said.

CCPD Associate Director Liza Schaef, who began working at Allegheny in January 2025, said her first experience with the "Leave No Crumbs" dinner was positive.

"It is so important that students in their early college career engage with and explore as many initial opportunities as they can," Schaef said.

Schaef encouraged students to move out of their comfort zone and explore new possibilities to build their resume and gain professional skills. She expressed optimism for first-years learning about this event and wishes to help provide students more information that will help their professional lives.

"I think I would just encourage students to really take advantage of this and other opportunities and to really use this as a good excuse to think about next steps," Schaef said.

CCPD Faculty Liaison Briana Lewis expressed excitement for the opportunities that students can experience during and after the dinner. She is grateful for the lively environment the students attending had created for this event.

"Great energy," Lewis said, speaking about the event's ambiance. "A lot of students who seem really excited to take advantage of what we have to do."

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 Wednesday before publication.

No reported crimes this week.

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Advertising (814) 332-5386
Editors newspaper@allegheny.edu
Box 12, Allegheny College
520 North Main St.
Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335

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Going round and round with GatorHub

By **MILO WATSON**
Opinion Editor
watson01@allegheny.edu

There's a new step I've added to my morning routine. It's outrageously efficient, deeply cathartic and fills me with enough wild exasperation that I jump out of bed wide awake, ready to tackle the disappointments of yet another day.

It's called "deleting the GatorHub email."

In a single fluid motion that happens before I can even process being conscious, I reach for my phone, open Gmail, rip past the emails I actually need to reply to and blast GatorHub straight into the trash with all the power and precision of a Serena Williams serve. I don't even open the message.

GatorHub's recent venture into my email inbox represents a kind of absurd ouroboros: an app first trotted out as the replacement for MyAllegheny — a daily email digest of on-campus happenings — reinvents itself anew, as a daily email digest of on-campus happenings. Except this time, an entire notification is wasted on just one teeny morsel of information, ostensibly as a kind of bait that's supposed to lure me into checking the app. "Every weekday," the first GatorHub daily email explained, "an announcement will be randomly selected and emailed to the campus community to offer a glimpse into GatorHub announcement activity."

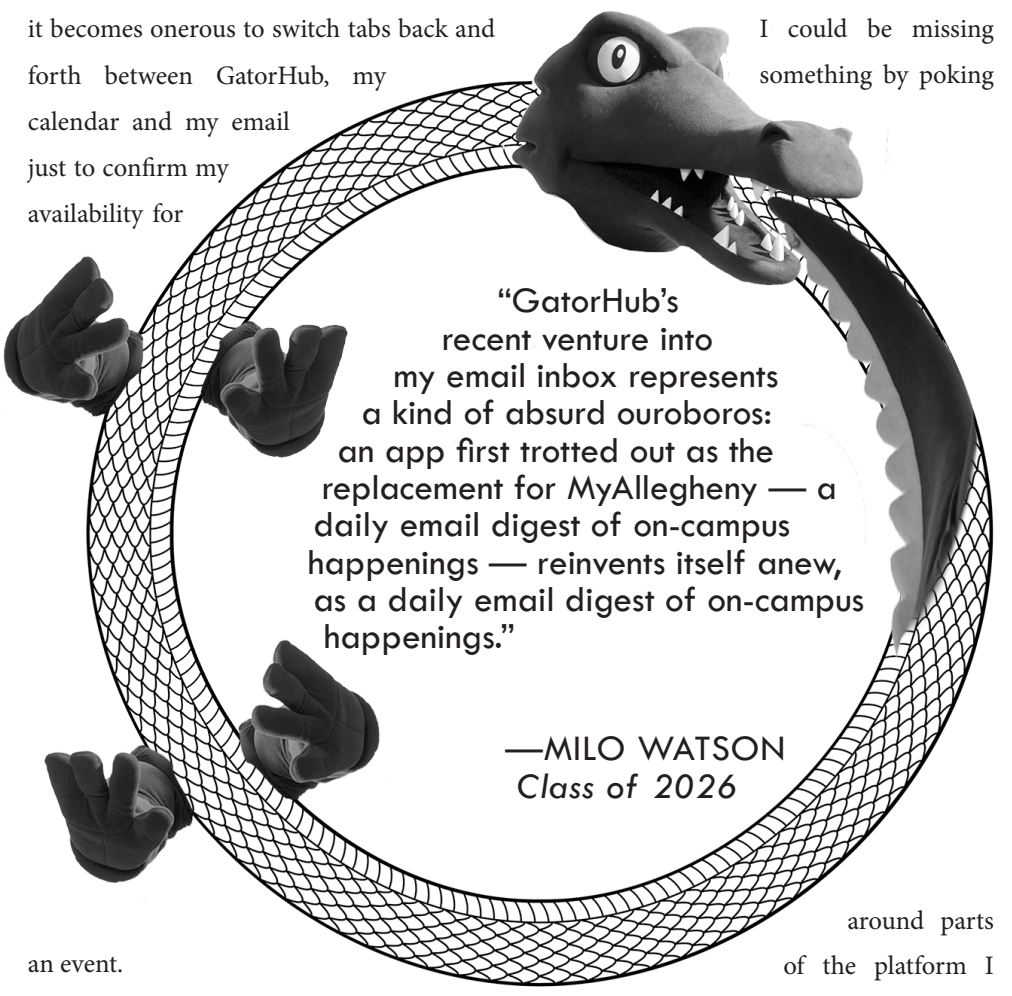
This email is in addition to the five to ten push notifications sent to everyone's phones at 6:00 a.m. every day if they have the app downloaded.

In the days of yore, everyone in the Allegheny email system received a single MyAllegheny notification. It was only as long as it needed to be, and it was rich with information. Limited to just over a hundred words, anyone submitting their event or news for inclusion in MyAllegheny was pressed to cut filler and write with the succinct word-economy of a telegram. We got dates, times, locations and deadlines in the first or second sentence. Links allowed users to retrieve more information only if they were interested in delving deeper. With the MyAllegheny system, I was treated like an adult in charge of deciding my own fate — I was given a tool that allowed me to learn what was going on around campus, and I used it.

Like a tragic Shakespearean hero, MyAllegheny's defining strength was also the weakness that led to its downfall: it was boring. It was a simple, straightforward concept that, based on Information Technology staff member's statements last year about how its successor was designed to mimic an "Instagram-like death scroll," we probably took for granted. Instead, we conflated "attention-grabbing" with "useful," and now GatorHub plays notification roulette with both my phone and my computer.

It's overwhelming. Posts on GatorHub include images, PDFs, emojis and Canva flyers all clamoring for my attention, making it difficult to zero in on the information that matters. I appreciate that the platform has consolidated so many links and resources into one place, but the widgets make the app feel like an endless network of pages.

I'd already been checking GatorHub more than once a day prior to the daily emails, and I don't think that this is a cause for celebration. At first glance, it seems like more time spent on GatorHub should equate to higher-quality student engagement. But the reality is that I'm checking GatorHub more frequently than I actually should have to because of how difficult it is to find and share information on the app. Its search feature is nowhere near as reliable as Gmail's system of filters for keywords, senders and dates, meaning that I have to sift through an avalanche of long posts, emojis and visual attachments just to figure out the location of that event I vaguely remember seeing four days ago. When all other modes of interpersonal collaboration and personal organization take place on Allegheny's Google Suite, it becomes onerous to switch tabs back and forth between GatorHub, my calendar and my email just to confirm my availability for an event.



GatorHub's "Recent Portal Activity" is structured like early Instagram's chronological rolling feed, so while there are only a handful of new announcements posted each day, it never truly feels like I'm fully caught up on everything happening around campus. I used to be able to reach the end of an email, mark it as read and move on with my day, but on GatorHub, there's no satisfying indication that I've completed the task of staying updated. As I've learned in my communications classes at Allegheny, user interfaces like this weren't designed to make information interesting or memorable; they're designed to keep you online as long as possible. And that's exactly what happens. Is it really so surprising that GatorHub keeps me staring at my phone instead of roaming campus in search of an event (like I used to) when there's no embedded cue that it's time to rejoin the physical world?

Most often, I quiet the uneasy sense that I could be missing something by poking around parts of the platform I don't actually need to monitor, like the countdown to my graduation (yipe!!) or the TimelyCare FAQ that hasn't been updated since we started using that service. And then I still feel unsure about whether I'm missing out, so I check Instagram, and then LinkedIn. I want to spend less time on my phone and more time engaging meaningfully with my college community, but nearly every time I've checked GatorHub, I've looked up half an hour later and realized I'm actually missing out on real experiences with my friends who're just in the other room.

It's been a year. If GatorHub is reinventing the wheel, maybe the original wheel wasn't so bad after all.

International and exchange students face additional barriers to quality mental health care

By MARZIA MOHAMMADI
Contributing Writer
mohammadi@allegheny.edu

Adjusting to life in a new country and the idea of studying abroad can be exciting, but it also comes with invisible challenges. For international and exchange students at Allegheny College, the academic pressure, cultural adjustment, language barriers and homesickness can create an emotional burden that is often overlooked. Mental health as an essential aspect of human rights becomes even more uncertain when students feel isolated in a new community far from home.

Faria Shabnam, '29, an international student from Bangladesh, describes her transition to Allegheny as "being thrown into a role of self dependence." Shabnam shared how she needed to adapt when simple tasks like transportation or managing daily responsibilities suddenly became entirely her responsibility.

"Back home you'd have your family or your people to help," Shabnam said.

She said she has to do everything herself even though she is not familiar with the environment. Experiences like hers illustrate how the small but constant pressures of adapting to a place that works differently from home can accumulate and affect emotional well being.

Haya Totakei, '27, an exchange student from Japan, highlighted the constant stressors of the language barrier and cultural differences. While academically supported, Totakei explains, "sometimes, I feel stressed just being away from home."

Totakei also mentioned his disappointment in his English learning progress.

"I even struggle to participate in conversations and in class activities," Totakei said. "I enjoy them but it's hard."

Both students shared that while they have not personally used counseling services, they recognize the potential benefits if they faced more serious challenges. But they said that cultural norms from their home countries often discourage seeking professional mental health care. For example, Totakei said, "my family doesn't believe in therapy."

> "International students often rely on friends for support, but proactive outreach could help bridge the gap."
>
> —MARZI MOHAMMADI
> *Class of 2028*

Wellness & Life Design Case Manager Joshua Guthrie, '09, emphasized the importance of proactive support.

"Our goal is holistic wellness, physical, mental, social and spiritual," he said.

Guthrie works closely with students who need guidance, and he has seen throughout his years at Allegheny how isolation can affect international students during their first months on campus.

"Once students find their group of people, they can begin to feel supported," Guthrie said. "But initial adjustment can be difficult."

He stressed the importance of trust in encouraging students to access these services and emphasized that Allegheny's resources are designed to remove barriers. Students can access six free sessions with licensed therapists, a 24/7 emotional support line, guided self care modules and peer-to-peer support communities through the TimelyCare app.

"You don't have to be unwell to come to wellness," Guthrie said, pushing back against the idea many students carry from home.

But even with these services, awareness is still a challenge. Students may not know these tools exist, particularly international and exchange students. Totakei said that he did not know what TimelyCare was, and Shabnam only learned about counseling months into the fall semester.

These individual experiences reflect a broader trend identified in research. According to the American Psychological Association, college campuses nationwide are rethinking their approach to mental health, shifting from reactive crises to creating a culture of well being that normalizes asking for help. Similarly, a Public Library of Science blog post on international students emphasizes the "invisible baggage" many carry, such as isolation, anxiety and stress compounded by financial pressures, cultural displacement and uncertainty about visa status. The article recommends culturally aware counselors and greater institutional support to address the unique needs of international students.

Shabnam and Totakei both suggested that counselling service would be more accessible and effective if college included staff familiar with the different cultural backgrounds. Totakei recounted the relief of having a Japanese peer mentor who helped him navigate life in the U.S., while Shabnam wished for more opportunities to connect with fellow international students. These insights underline the importance of not just providing service, but ensuring they are culturally sensitive and inclusive.

International students often rely on friends for support, but proactive outreach could help bridge the gap. As Guthrie explained, wellness isn't only about addressing problems; it's about making good experiences even better.

International students bring languages, ideas and perspectives that make our campus stronger, yet they also face hidden struggles. Recognizing mental health as a human right means providing resources that are accessible, culturally aware and empathetic to students' lived experiences.

As the APA and PLOS sources emphasize, creating a campus culture where mental wellness is normalized and supported is not just beneficial, it's essential, giving students the chance to truly belong.

The views reflected in Opinion articles are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the view of The Campus newspaper editorial board.

Making headlines since 1876: Alumni reflect on their time with The Campus

Did you learn any lessons during your time with The Campus that have stuck with you until today? If so, what were they?

TIMOTHY TEMPLE, '86

Position: Sports Writer
Major/Minor: Biology
Career: Endodontist
Hometown: New Brighton, PA
Current home: Sanford, FL

I enjoyed writing articles. Being a science major at a liberal arts school meant we all had to be able to write and compose to an extent.

VIRGINIA PERRINE SEBEK, '59

Position: Editor-in-Chief
Major/Minor: English
Career: Retired teacher
Hometown: Cochranton, PA
Current home: Chicago, IL

Follow your instincts, and be open-minded to new thoughts and opportunities.

MARK PERROT, '68

Position: Photographer
Major/Minor: Art
Career: Freelance photographer
Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA
Current home: Pittsburgh, PA

There is a magic in collaboration when all of the participants are in sync. The relationships are intangible but the process, in and of itself, is joyful and highly rewarding. Over the years I've had hundreds of assignments working with writers and designers that in some ways mirror my early Campus experiences. But, in The Campus years, there was never a financial incentive to perform, and that brought a special joy that's rarely been duplicated.

PETER S. GOFF, '68

Position: Sports Editor
Major/Minor: Economics
Career: Retired
Hometown: Granby, CT
Current home: Granby, CT

I learned not to rely on hearsay when writing about upcoming football games and to seek the facts!

SAM STEPHENSON, '15

Position: Editor-in-chief
Major/Minor: English (focus in journalism) / Economics
Career: Amazon Public Relations
Hometown: Portland, OR
Current home: Arlington, VA

One of the biggest lessons I took from my time at The Campus is perseverance — even as a well-supported student journalist, telling difficult and important stories about the community you live in is hard. Continuing to push, ask the right questions and be kind along the way can open up so many doors. The perseverance required to follow a tough lead that pushes the community to be better, when handled the right way, is incredibly rewarding.

CAROL GLATZ, '88

Position: Sports Editor
Major/Minor: Political Science & Philosophy
Career: Journalist
Hometown: Albany, NY
Current home: Rome, Italy

It definitely taught me the importance of delegation and learning to build a team of dependable writers, which I hadn't figured out as Sports Editor. I learned I should have had better backup plans and deadlines in place to prevent so many assignments from falling through and being stuck with writing everything the day we went to press.

ALLEN (AJ) KATZ, '67

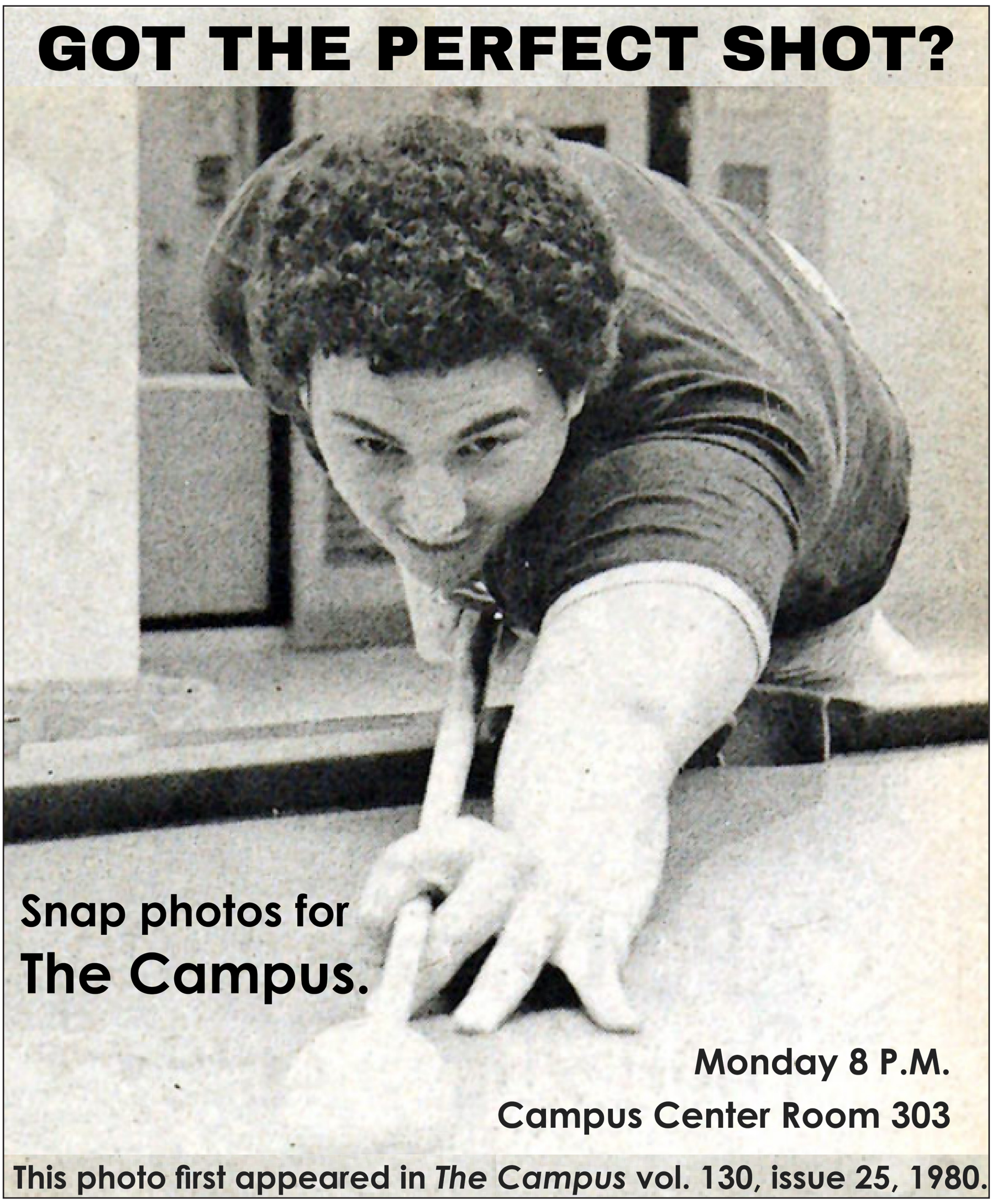
Position: Columnist ("Barb Wire")
Major/Minor: English
Career: Attorney
Hometown: Gaithersburg, MD
Current home: United States

My columns were often silly, but I had feedback from students and professors. It gave me a sense of how many people read items in the media.

KENDRA STANTON LEE, '02

Position: News Editor
Major/Minor: Political Science & Communications / Medieval / Renaissance Studies
Career: High school English teacher
Hometown: Boston, MA
Current home: United States

In the paleolithic era in which I reported and edited, we began our Thursday layout nights with printed sheets of paper, a wax machine and X-Acto knives. We only entered the modern era mid-way through my college year when we brought in several iMacs fully loaded with PageMaker (ancestor to InDesign). What a wild little precipice to have experienced, moving from analog newspaper layout to a fully digitized experience. I think about this a lot.



1876 2026

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PAIGE KAGENI/THE CAMPUS

Arabic students line up to dance the Dabke, a traditional celebratory dance commonly performed in the Levant. "It fills me with joy when a big group of people are all having fun and being whimsical together," said Leia Leviathan, '29 (not pictured).



PAIGE KAGENI/THE CAMPUS

Students peer up at the second floor balcony as German students toss caramels to mimic the traditional German 'Karneval.' Students in traditional German attire (left) walk in a circle in the center of the lobby and also pass out candies.



PAIGE KAGENI/THE CAMPUS

Spanish students perform a traditional salsa dance. Eva Wischhusen, '29, (not pictured) said she and others enjoyed the performances. "I saw a lot of people who were into the dancing," Wischhusen said.



PAIGE KAGENI/THE CAMPUS

At the end of Culture Night, the Arabic students invited everyone to join and dance the Dabke in a big circle in lobby of the Henderson Campus Center on Nov. 12.

Ask Allegheny

What was the high point of your semester?



Left: Ehliyah Wade, '26
Major/Minor: Communication and Media Studies / Education
"The high point of the semester will be this weekend: senior night, last football game, so excited!"



Left: Mia Baker, '27
Major/Minor: Communication and Media Studies / Dance and Movement Studies & Spanish
"Today in Tung Su Do, I broke a pine board with a kick. It's pretty awesome."

FOOD *from page 1*



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS

Volunteers await to collect more food during the Erie News Now food drive in the parking lot of the Meadville Downtown Mall on Wednesday, Nov. 19.



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS

An assembly line of volunteers collect the food from cars that pull up near the tent.



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS

Donors dropped off nonperishables which were then boxed by volunteers Rion McCluskey, '26, Nyomi Longhi, '29, and Paige Kageni, '27, for transport back to the food bank. (Kageni is a staff writer for The Campus.)



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS

McCluskey accepts a frozen turkey from a car in the drive-thru donation line.

THE COLLEGE PRESS

The Editorial Board of The Campus Times said the paper has received an increasing number of requests to either remove or anonymize articles and remove names from quotes. The Board said these requests from writers are "sometimes laced with the fear of revocation of their VISAs and status, even if the articles are of benign content." The Editorial Board outlined the paper's policy: "Our regulations for privatizing articles align with our policies on source anonymization: If it's deemed that publication may endanger the author, whether to retaliation, risk of verbal or physical threat, or fear of national level surveillance (such as the potential revocation of a VISA), the article will be removed." — The Campus Times, Nov. 17.

A loud boom, shaking floors and a visible crack sent students and faculty rushing out of a Penn State building, prompting an hours-long emergency response. In a statement, the university cited a structural issue and said the building will remain closed until further notice. The fire chief said firefighters discovered a crack about an inch wide in one of the building's interior walls. Someone became stuck inside a room when the floor movement caused the door to jam. The person sustained no injuries. — The Daily Collegian, Nov. 14.

Two students at Oberlin College who are on the fundraising team for Students for a Free Palestine went on a two-day hunger strike to raise funds for an 18-year-old man in Gaza with whom they have been in daily contact since the summer. They raised $6,000 for the man and his family. — The Oberlin Review, Nov. 14.

Penn State graduate workers voted to unionize, marking one of the most important labor developments at the university in recent years. According to results by the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board, graduate workers approved the formation of the Coalition of Graduate Employees-UAW(CGE-UAW) by a vote of 1,882 for and 198 against. — The Daily Collegian, Nov. 13.

Due to financial constraints stemming in part from a shrinking student body, Kenyon College will eliminate an unknown number of faculty and staff positions. The college will offer a voluntary early retirement program for eligible faculty; a similar program will not be available to staff. — The Kenyon Collegian, Nov. 13.

The Waynesburg College head football coach, defensive coordinator and special teams coordinator were relieved of their duties, which surprised the football student-athletes. Through four seasons, the head coach accrued a record of 14-26, never finishing with a winning record. — The Yellow Jacket, Nov. 13.

The Waynesburg College women's wrestling team won its first match in team history. — The Yellow Jacket, Nov. 11.

Rep. Summer Lee of Pennsylvania visited the University of Pittsburgh on Monday, Nov. 10, for a student-led town hall. — The Pitt News, Nov. 11.

The College of Wooster will no longer partner with the Posse Foundation after the class of 2029. The announcement, made by the college president, did not contain a clear explanation for the decision. The Posse Foundation is an organization that works with higher education institutions to handpick and provide full-tuition scholarships at each partner school to a cohort of 10 high school seniors each year who showcase leadership qualities for admittance. Posse's goal is to reflect the country's rich demographic mix and support students throughout their four years of college. — The Wooster Voice, Nov. 7.

A junior at the University of Pittsburgh is facing charges after admitting to police he tried to film a female student inside a bathroom stall in Benedum Hall. — The Pitt News, Nov. 7.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing earned national recognition from the Association of Men in Nursing as one of the best schools nationwide for male nurses for the fifth consecutive year. Male enrollment in the nursing school makes up 12.9% of undergraduates and nearly 15% of graduate students. — The Pitt News, Nov. 7.

In June, due to budget cuts, Kenyon College decided to discontinue the Center for Innovative Pedagogy after 14 years. The CIP served many purposes on campus, with a primary goal of supporting faculty and fostering community through book clubs, writing groups and faculty presentations. — The Kenyon Collegian, Nov. 6.

A University of Pittsburgh institute combining health and law disciplines is being reconfigured into the new Institute for Bioethics. The Institute for Bioethics will carry on the work of the former Center for Bioethics and Health Law, which investigated ethical, legal and policy issues in health sciences fields. The new center will carry out the same responsibilities as the previous one, while raising awareness for bioethics through research opportunities and coursework. — The Pitt News, Oct. 31.

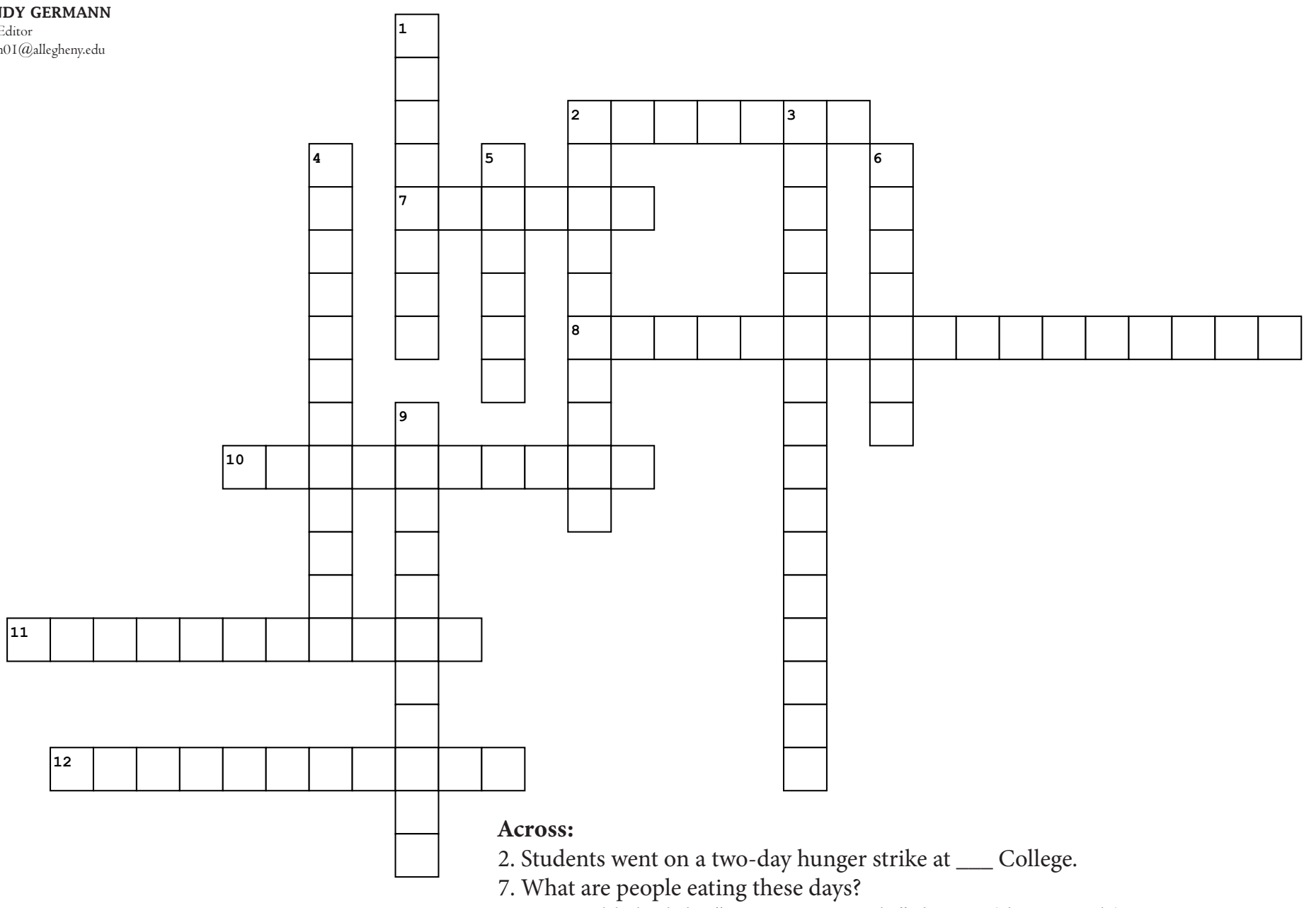
More than 200 letters were sent to the College of Wooster president, telling her the student body wants a more sustainable campus and urging her to develop a carbon neutrality plan for the college. — The Wooster Voice, Oct. 31.

Former Pittsburgh Pirates Manager Clint Hurdle spoke at the Heinz History Center on Oct. 26 about his new book, "Hurdle-isms." The book talk, hosted by Pittsburgh sports journalist Guy Junker, featured inside scoops on the Pirates from Hurdle's nine-year run as manager, personal anecdotes from his life, a Q&A session with the audience and a book signing. — The Duquesne Duke, Oct. 30.

Penn State Health and Penn State College of Medicine announced a $50 million donation from philanthropist Tom Golisano. The donation will also come with the renaming of the Penn State Health Children's Hospital to the Penn State Health Golisano Children's Hospital, associated with Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. — The Daily Collegian, Oct. 28.

Be thankful there is a Campus Crossword

By **ANDY GERMANN**
Games Editor
germann01@allegheny.edu



Across:
2. Students went on a two-day hunger strike at ___ College.
7. What are people eating these days?
8. ___ established the "Leave No Crumbs" dinner. (three words)
10. Upperclassmen can invite ___ if they have open space in their NVII apartment.
11. On 12/3 the Men's and Women's Basketball teams are playing ___ college.
12. What did we take for granted?

Down:
1. Alex ___ surpassed Wayne Gretzky' career goal mark.
2. The Registrar's Office has lost over ___ years of combined experience in a matter of months. (two words)
3. Many international students carry ___. (two words)
4. A rogue chimpanzee did not want to live in which city?
5. Which dining hall has nicer dishes?
6. Whole Darn Thing is apart of the Meadville area ___ of Commerce.
9. The 2023-2024 school year only had a ___ greenbox return rate. (two words)

Answers:
Across:
2. Oberlin 7. Horses 8. Natalie Brown-Gregg 10. Sophomores 11. Westminster 12. MyAllegheny
Down:
1. Ovechkin 2. One Hundred 3. Invisible Baggage 4. Indianapolis 5. Brooks 6. Chamber 9. Four Percent

COMEDY CORNER: HORSES, CHIMPANZEES AND PENCE

By **JOSEPH KLEPEIS**
Staff Writer
klepeis01@allegheny.edu

The Erie Times-News reported on Nov. 14 that local labor and food pantry leaders are pushing for "stable" funding to assist with local food aid.

"People keep coming up to us, saying, 'I'm so hungry I could eat a horse,'" said a food pantry volunteer. "We figured if we got a stable and a couple of horses, we could feed a whole lot of people."

The Justice Department is suing over California's redistricting plan, which state voters overwhelmingly approved last week in an effort to redraw their congressional map in Democrats' favor, according to MSNBC News on Nov. 13.

"It's moments like this that make me think of Finesse2Tymes," said California Gov. Gavin Newsom. ""It's cool when they do it, it's a problem when I do it.'"

A Shillington man is now hospitalized after his dog allegedly fired a shotgun at him, injuring him in the back, according to ABC News on Nov. 13

The shooting appears to be accidental, but police said they are still investigating the incident.

"We have to investigate the dog," said one of the police officers on the case. "We saw some dollar store kibble at the residence, so there's definitely a potential motive."

Reuters reported on Nov. 14 that President Donald Trump's administration will formally withdraw a plan by his predecessor to require airlines to pay passengers cash compensation when U.S. flight disruptions are caused by carriers.

"There's no reason to pay people for delays," Trump said. "Just book a private jet instead."

A man took a Hamilton, Ontario, city bus on a joy ride last week, making several stops along the way, allowing passengers to enter and exit, according to CBC News on Nov. 12.

"There was not a ding on the bus. He did a great job," said police spokesperson Trevor McKenna.

The driver may have broken the law, but he wasn't about to let anyone else.

"He even went as far as to deny someone looking to board with an expired bus pass," police said in the news release.

These are real quotes. No, this is not a joke.



Disclaimer: This is not a real photo and was collaged using photoshop.

A chimpanzee escaped its enclosure and was on the loose at the Indianapolis Zoo on Friday morning, but the animal was later located and returned to her exhibit, according to CBS News on Nov. 14.

"I heard about the monkeys in Mississippi and Meadville that got free and figured it was worth a shot," the chimpanzee said. "Have you ever been to Indianapolis? I'm not too thrilled about living here."

The Times reported on Nov. 13 that David Ames, who conned British investors in a property scheme worth over $400 million, has claimed in court that he is penniless.

"This isn't America or Australia," said one of the prosecutors. "We still have pence in the U.K."

Disclaimer: All quotes are fictitious unless otherwise noted. The Campus is not responsible for lack of laughter as a result of this column.

WHOLE *from page 1*

The Chamber works to build businesses and connect the community, provide educational programs, promote its members and empower the leaders of tomorrow, according to its website.

Whole Darn Thing is a member of the Chamber. Standing in the dining area at the grand opening, Lundy pointed out the visible ways that Chamber members were supporting each others' businesses, such as selling delicacies from Casey's Candies.

Alicia Unger, an owner of Whole Darn Thing, said the Chamber supported her business in the lead-up to the new location's opening by leveraging its wide reach to spread the announcement that the new location was hiring.

The original Whole Darn Thing storefront, located at 889 Market St. in Meadville, has been open for business for decades. According to Unger, the new Conneaut Lake store at 320 Water St. is the business's first expansion since the closure of its second location in Edinboro this past August.

"We were there for four years and it just wasn't working," Unger said. "Logistics between staffing and sales weren't great, and our building — it was a leased building, we had some troubles there — so we kind of had to let that one go."

Charlee Sharp, a Conneaut Lake resident who worked at the Meadville location before joining the new team closer to home, has high hopes about the new location. She thought the ribbon-cutting ceremony was an excellent way to celebrate the business' expansion.

"I was kind of thinking, you know, we're going to be kind of busy," she said with a laugh. "I was happy we did it (the ribbon-cutting ceremony) because I think it means a lot to the community."

> "A lot of people are really happy about it, that we're back in town."
>
> —CHARLEE SHARP
> *Whole Darn Thing employee*

For Unger, this location holds personal significance.

"I'm from Conneaut Lake, so one of the biggest reasons why I wanted to come back here is because I remember being here as a kid," Unger said.

The building in which Whole Darn Thing is now slicing meats and toasting bread used to be a bank, she explained. Unger recalled riding past the building on her bike from her childhood home to other nearby stores.

"I just thought that this building was so awesome," Unger said. "I just loved it. I liked the woodwork. It reminds me of, like, my childhood home — my dad did that with our living room, so kind of nostalgia there."

Despite the central location and architectural charm that Unger appreciated about the property, converting a bank into a food service establishment did not come without its challenges.

"It (the conversion) was, like, the kind of single biggest challenge that came with the building," Unger said.

She removed the ATM and rearranged the floor plan, but other bank infrastructure proved harder to work around.

"When you're thinking about the building," Unger said, "you're like, 'Great — it already has a drive-through.' But the windows are bulletproof."

But Unger learned to maintain a sense of humor about the situation.

"It's hilarious because you think, 'How convenient you already have these big windows,'" Unger laughed. "They're not usable. Who would have thought?"

She hopes that in the future, she can convert the building's vault into a walk-in refrigerator.

Additionally, Unger says that one benefit of the building is that it has plenty of space for customers to linger. According to the property's Zillow page, its interior measures 2500 square feet.

"We have plenty of seating," Unger said. "We've never run out, and I feel like we've been pretty busy."

Those at the grand opening felt that the Conneaut Lake community was pleased with the new location's proximity.

"A lot of people are really happy about it, that we're back in town," Sharp said. "And, you know, we're closer than Meadville is, so I'm feeling pretty good about it."

Lundy has high hopes for the business.

"They're one of our absolute favorites," she said, "so we're glad when they expand."

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Alex's Corner: Greatest Of All Time

By **ALEXANDER NASH**

Sports Writer

nash01@allegheny.edu

Regardless of which sport you discuss, there is one debate that reigns above all others. Who is the Greatest Of All Time? The GOAT title in basketball between Michael Jordan and LeBron James is one that most sports fans debate daily. But what about the other three major North American sports? I plan to throw my hat into the ring and solve the debate of who the GOAT is in those sports.

To begin with, the National Hockey League is the only major sports league of the big four that has an undisputed GOAT. That man's name is Wayne Gretzky. For decades, Gretzky held every major record that one could hold in the sport, and the only man who ever competed for the best in the league during Gretzky's time was Mario Lemieux, the Pittsburgh Penguins great. Lemieux, however, missed significant time during his prime due to injuries and a battle with cancer. In the current day, two more all-time greats have laid claims to their own GOAT cases. Alex Ovechkin, otherwise known as "The Great 8," recently broke a record of Gretzky's that seemed impossible to even come close to, surpassing Gretzky's career goal mark of 894. Ovechkin currently resides as the only player in NHL history to have scored 900 career goals, but his advanced age will most likely keep him from an absurd total of over 1,000 goals. Another new member of the record books and GOAT debate is Sidney Crosby, who was touted as "The Next One" after being drafted as an 18-year-old out of Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia, in 2005. Crosby, after the 2024-25 season, surpassed Gretzky's record of the most seasons scoring at least a point per game. Crosby is on pace to add to that record this year as he has logged 21 points in just 19 games this season at the age of 38. With all that in mind, in my opinion, Gretzky is still the undisputed greatest hockey player who has ever laced up a pair of skates.

The other major sports league that doesn't have much debate for who would be considered the GOAT is football. The name most commonly spoken when the topic is brought up is the ageless Tom Brady, former New England Patriots and Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback. Brady holds nearly, if not all, major passing records in NFL history, as well as the stat that most people will use when debating who's the greatest: his seven Super Bowl rings. There is some debate to be had about who truly is the greatest football player of all time. Football, being a much different sport than hockey, allows for more names with different stat records to lay claim to the title of the GOAT. The two players who make the best cases to challenge Brady's status are both considered to be the best players of all time at their respective positions, but the importance of a quarterback truly decides who is the GOAT.

Jerry Rice, the holder of every single career receiving stat record, put his greatness on display for longer than any other wide receiver in the history of the game. His longevity only adds to his case, as a wide receiver is a much more physically demanding position than quarterback. Rice doesn't hold all the single-season records, but being as great as he was for as long as he was undoubtedly makes him the greatest to ever play the position, at the very least.

When it comes to sheer dominance, the debate becomes centered around the best player to line up on the defensive side of the football: New York Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor. During his time in the NFL, which was significantly briefer than that of Rice or Brady, Taylor was simply an unstoppable force. He is the only defensive player in the modern era to win Most Valuable Player (Minnesota Vikings defensive tackle Alan Page won the award in 1971, but the NFL was in its first season after merging with the AFL). The greatness that Taylor — "LT," as many called him — showcased on the field may never be seen on the defensive side of the ball ever again, but his issues off the field that shortened his career leave a stain on his legacy and lead many people to leave him out of the GOAT debate altogether. Even compared to the longevity of Rice and the dominance of LT, Brady still remains the GOAT in the eyes of football fans.

Baseball is where the GOAT question truly becomes a debate. There are a few horses in this race, and I will highlight the three players that each represent a different piece of the debate. First and foremost, on a rate basis, Babe Ruth holds records that modern baseball will simply never see again. Ruth's outlandish career on-base percentage and slugging percentage of 1.164 are miles beyond what anyone else has ever done. Ruth's case is a tricky one due to the time in which he put up those otherworldly stats. During Ruth's career, which spanned from 1914 to 1935, he was the best player in baseball by far, and he retired holding nearly every single offensive stat record that existed. The problem with Ruth's case for GOAT status is that his career took place decades before integration and at a time when baseball players were not the level of athletes that they are now. Due to his career taking place in an MLB that segregated minorities from white people, Ruth's career totals and overall case to be the GOAT must be taken with a grain of salt.

On the complete opposite end of the spectrum, we have a modern unicorn in the Los Angeles Dodgers two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani. Ohtani has done things that no other player has done on a baseball field, and his career may not even have reached its halfway mark yet. His four MVP awards put him second all-time behind only the third man who has a case to be the GOAT, and his unique talents as both a dominant starting pitcher and the current best left-handed hitter in the game make him a strong contender to be considered the greatest to ever do it.

Ohtani's case has holes, too, though. He's only played eight seasons in the majors, and his career totals, while respectable, do not yet stack up to those of the all-time greats. If Ohtani keeps the pace that he is on for the remainder of his career, there won't be a debate, and he will be the greatest. Only time will tell whether that will happen.

The final candidate, and by far the most interesting case, is Barry Bonds. Bonds holds the modern record for every offensive category except batting average and hits. His 762 career home runs are the high watermark in history, as are his seven MVP awards. From 1990, the year Bonds won his first MVP, to 2004, the year he won his seventh and final one, Bonds had a case to be the best player in the league. Specifically, between the years of 2001 to 2004, Bonds was so far above everyone else in the league at the time that teams would outright refuse to pitch to him. In that span, Bonds was walked a total of 755 times, 284 of those being intentional walks when Bonds would just be given first base and not given a chance to swing the bat. The next closest walk total in that span was Jim Thome's 448. The next closest intentional walk total was Albert Pujols' 43.

That should settle the debate in theory, but the truth is that most people won't even mention Bonds' name within this debate. The reason, put simply, is that Bonds may have cheated. While technically never proven, it is widely seen as fact that Bonds took performance-enhancing drugs during the majority of his dominant years as a San Francisco Giant. Bonds, in my mind, is still the greatest of all time, and he may still have been the GOAT without taking PEDs, but we will never know if that could have been the case.

As some of you may know, this is the last story that I will be writing for The Campus, as I am transferring from Allegheny College after this semester. I appreciate all of you who have tuned in and read these pieces as I have put countless hours into curating what you all see each week. I would like to give special thanks to my fellow staff members at The Campus for allowing me to share my passion for sports with all of you who read my articles. Thank you for everything.

Sincerely,

Alex Nash

This story is an editorial and does not necessarily reflect the views of The Campus.

