

The Campus

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Students dominate in basketball friendly vs. staff, 77-51



By **ELANOR BONTA**
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The James P. Mullen Arena in the Wise Center was buzzing with school spirit on Sunday, Dec. 4, as inside, a student versus staff basketball game had just begun.

“Everyone needs a little break,” said Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Rich Bowden. “Things are wrapping up and getting intense, so this was organized at the right time.”

According to several student and staff players, the game was engaging and exciting.

“The game put us all into high spir-

its and gave us high hopes right before finals,” said Zachary Severs, ’25, who played for the student team.

At the beginning of the first half, the two teams were neck-and-neck with the students leading 17-13. From the sidelines, several of the staff members’ kids and grandkids were cheering them on.

See [GAME](#) | page 2



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS
Left: Damien Perez, ’24, goes for a layup as Assistant Professor of Business and Economics Chris Finaret moves to block.
Right: Ebrima Darboe, ’23, smiles after sinking a shot during the halftime free-throw contest. Darboe was crowned the winner after sinking 12 shots in 45 seconds.



Career Ed. markets Vector sales jobs

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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Allegheny students could be working a part-time sales position with Vector Marketing over the winter break, according to an email from the college’s Career Education team on Tuesday, Nov. 29.

“Alum, Case Kunick ’11, has reached out to our office, on behalf of Vector Marketing, to promote this part-time job opportunity,” the email stated in part. “As District Sales Manager in Erie, Case can provide direct insight to working for a company that’s been featured in Forbes and Business Insider ... Students have the opportunity to work part-time or full time during the break and can choose to continue during the

semester around classes. The position Vector Marketing offers can support your resumé building and improve presentation skills, time management skills, and networking.”

The email also included a link to apply to the position through career networking website Handshake.

Vector Marketing is the sales arm of Olean, New York-based cutlery firm CUTCO. Essentially, its employees market and sell CUTCO products in one-on-one demonstrations. In a phone interview with The Campus last week, Kunick described the job as “completely an online position.”

“If somebody’s working with us, they’re getting on a computer, the customer — that they pick — is getting on their computer, and then they’re

just watching videos about our brand, they’re watching videos on the history of our product,” Kunick said.

Vector has come under fire in both lawsuits and the court of public opinion since the 1990s for the way it recruits high school and college-aged students. According to The Washington Post, in 1994 the state of Wisconsin ordered Vector to stop deceiving student recruits about the company’s pay structure, which led to the company stopping — at least for a time — recruiting efforts in the Badger State. In 2011, the company reached a \$13 million settlement in a lawsuit that alleged that Vector did not pay its sales representatives minimum wage. Five years later, Vector reached a \$6.75 million settlement in a class-action lawsuit that took issue with Vector’s mandatory-but-unpaid training.

For his part, Kunick said that much has changed since those lawsuits. He laid out the company’s pay schedule, which for students working under his Erie office, would pay at least \$22 for each sales appointment completed.

“We do have a commission rate as well,” Kunick said. “Each person — even the president of the company, even myself — started at what’s called a 10% pay rate. As soon as I hit my first promotion at \$1,000, that bumps up to now 15%. Once I’ve successfully sold \$3,000 in products, that bumps up to 20%. Once that hits \$6,000 that bumps up to 25%, and once I’ve successfully sold \$10,000 worth of CUTCO, I’m now at 30% commission. That never goes away.”

Kunick added that the pay for each week is based on either the commission rate or the appointment rate — not both.

See [VECTOR](#) | page 2

ASG OKs Krampus funds

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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The Allegheny Student Government held its shortest General Assembly of the year Tuesday, Dec. 6, clocking in at just 23 minutes gavel-to-gavel — though the short length did not make the meeting any less significant.

During the report of ASG Director of Finance Adriana Solis, ’23, the Senate approved \$829 in club spending for the week. Among these was the first financial request for the newly re-approved satirical newspaper The Krampus, which Solis said was for the group to purchase a web domain.

“I’m probably going to spend most of my winter break building that up and thinking of stories,” Aidan McGrory, ’26, who is organizing The Krampus, said on Thursday. “So I think probably the second week of next year — like late January — is when our first story will be published.

This financial approval comes after some confusion with how The Krampus will ensure it does not repeat something similar to the 2019 publication of an article poking fun at Meadville residents. The story led to The Krampus being stripped of ASG recognition and losing both its funding and its adviser.

McGrory’s solution was to run all stories through the group’s new faculty adviser.

At the club’s first round of voting at the Nov. 15 meeting, ASG Director of Community Relations William Lowthert, ’24, asked McGrory who the club’s faculty adviser would be. When McGrory replied that the club would be advised by Professor of Communication Arts Michael Keeley, Lowthert then asked the Senate for “general opinions” of Keeley.

“If he’s the one who’s going to make sure there’s no offensive stories, I would want — the moral standards of that professor I would want to be decently high,” Lowthert said.

No senator publicly voiced any concern with Keeley’s status as an adviser in the Nov. 15 meeting, or has since. However, during the second round of voting at the Nov. 29 GA, McGrory said that he had met with Lowthert about Keeley

“Last Monday, I talked to Will, and we had quite a good meeting,” McGrory told the Senate on Nov. 29. “The point was brought up about the possible faculty member that I chose. I do want it to be known that we are currently looking — that we are looking for either a second faculty member, or just a new one in general, because we really, we really are taking this seriously.”

Lowthert told The Campus he had just relayed concerns to McGrory from ASG Co-Director of Student Affairs Cam Leshner, ’24. In an interview on Dec. 1, Leshner said he heard concerns from students about some materials in one of Keeley’s classes but that ASG was not making any allegations against Keeley.

See [ASG](#) | page 3



Photo courtesy of Case Kunick
CUTCO’s “Santoku-Style Signature Set,” which currently retails for \$2,143 on the company’s website.

In this week’s Campus...

PHASING IN AND OUT

Opinion Editor Sydney Emerson, ’23, explores the cultural meanings and individual effects of the online meme “It’s not a phase, mom!”

Page 4

AROUND THE WORLD IN

Science/International Writer Caroline Maye, ’26, writes on winter holidays in a globe-trotting exploration.

Page 5

ULTIMATE FRISBEE GOES FOR GOLD

Ultimate Frisbee looks to bring home the Winter League title, earning a 9-1 record and the top seed in the Winter League tournament.

Page 8



Bike Share winterizes fleet



Photo contributed by ALLEGHENY COLLEGE BIKE SHARE
Bike Share members prepare to move the library bikes down to Loomis St. for winter storage in the bike shop. Students who wish to borrow a bike must wait until spring when bikes will return to the library, or contact Bike Share at bikeshare@allegheny.edu to make arrangements.



Photo contributed by ALLEGHENY COLLEGE BIKE SHARE
Bike Share members ride and push library bikes down Main St. to winter storage in the Bike Share shop in the basement of Green Living House on Loomis St.

VECTOR from page 1

“This is where some students get confused, even though we’re very very very clear in the interview process,” Kunick said. “Every week, we add up how many appointments you had, and every week we add up how many sales you had. We do not give both for each and every week. What it is is that you always get the higher amount between the two.”

Kunick also said that the onboarding process for new sales representatives foregrounds the unpaid nature of the job’s training.

“Now when people start the training, there is a section where they have to fill out their information and they are agreeing this is an unpaid training video series,” Kunick said. “They now have to click it and accept it — kind of like when you download (an app to) your phone and it says ‘do you want to use the app for this,’ or like ‘do you want to use location services,’ you have to agree into it.”

Associate Director of Alumni and Employer Engagement Autumn Parker, ’16, said that Career Education’s promotion of the Vector opportunity was part of ongoing efforts to broaden Career Education’s work. She noted that while many students worry about the post-graduate job market, others may need or want work as students.

“We also recognize that our students sometimes don’t want to solely focus on the degree-seeking career needs,” Parker said. “Sometimes they just need part-time extra income opportunities, and so Case reaching out (with) Vector is more along those lines of providing that extra-income, part-time work.”

Parker added that the intent

of the email was less to specifically highlight Vector and more to encourage students to think about part-time work as an option over winter break.

“I should have put in that email that it’s not just Vector Marketing that’s hiring for a part-time,” Parker said. “There are plenty of other employers out there who are in need and can provide you this opportunity to do whatever experiential exploration that’s in accordance with your need and fit at the time.”

So far, Parker said she has only heard of one Allegheny student that has applied to Vector because of the email, an international student who did not think the company was hiring for direct selling.

“She wasn’t aware of that until she got into the interview and she was like, ‘you know what, this isn’t the type of marketing work I thought you were promoting and it’s no longer a fit for me’ and she turned them down and they were okay with it,” Parker said. “It wasn’t a horrible experience, it wasn’t a grand experience, it was an informative experience. And now she knows that is not the subset of marketing that she wants to pursue, and that’s not how she wants to use her winter break.”

While the company takes pride in its student-oriented work structure — even stating on its website that 85% of its sales representatives are students — some schools have taken the step of banning the company from their campuses altogether.

In 2019, the student government of Augsburg University in Minneapolis passed a resolution banning Vector from the university’s campus, according to Augsburg’s student newspaper

The Echo. In October of this year, the University Students’ Council at Western University in Ontario, Canada, told the university’s newspaper, The Gazette, that Vector would not return after being spotted advertising on campus.

Some — including Los Angeles Times columnist David Lazarus — have dubbed the company a “multi-level marketing” scheme, though Vector describes itself on its website as “a single-level, direct-to-consumer marketing company.” Countless other essays, news and opinion pieces, many authored by undergraduate students, call the company “unethical” and recount stories of students who joined the company but found its operation concerning in some way.

Kunick said the criticism was unfounded, and cited online misinformation as creating a false image of Vector.

“A lot of students are confused, they go to the internet, and that then confuses them even more, because they’re either reading outdated information or they’re just reading information from people that didn’t even ever start the job, they just heard from a friend of a friend and they made a video about it for clickbait,” Kunick said.

He pointed to his own experience with the company, where he has worked since 2010, when he started selling CUTCO as a junior at Allegheny. Kunick also offered to connect interested students to Allegheny alumni who had worked with Vector.

“I understand that getting a new job is a new experience, and this job can be very instrumental in someone’s young adult life, like it was in mine,” Kunick said. “Because I actually worked hard

GAME from page 1

Eventually, though, the student team began scoring faster, leading to a significant difference in scores.

“I’m a soccer player,” said Assistant Professor of Arabic and Director of Spiritual and Religious Life Sami Alkyam. “I was inclined to play and try to compete as much as I could.”

Not only were baskets being made, but so were fouls. In the first half alone, there were four total. When the buzzer for half-time rang 20 minutes later, the students led 50-26.

A competition had been arranged for halftime and President Ron Cole, ’87, joined the announcers on the court. The explanation was simple enough: to win a cash prize, ranging from first with a cash prize of \$50 to fifth place with \$10, students were given 45 seconds to make more free throws than Ron Cole and the other competitors

“Oh, I practiced a good hour this morning before this,” Cole said after the game. “I got three in a row once.”

Students lined up for the opportunity to win up to \$50. Following President Ron Cole’s final score of two, student after student, including several team members, went such as Severs and Sydney Cook, ’24. The results were Ebrima Darboe, ’23, for first place with 12 baskets, Severs for second place with 10, and Cook for third place with nine.

When asked what inspired him to sign up, Severs responded, “We all (him and some friends from the student team) play together at the Blue Courts (in the Wise Center) in our free time. I thought it would be fun.”

With halftime concluded, everyone was back in it to win it. The faculty team fell behind during the first half despite both sides’ competitive spirits fueling the court.

at the opportunity, because I wanted to see if I could do something new, I had a lot of success right away which then kept me in the company and I’ve sold a lot of these knives. I know it’s not for everybody, but it was a great fit for me.”

Parker said that Career Education also wanted to let students decide for themselves whether or not a sales position would be right for them. She noted that when the office had advertised open positions with Vector in the past on social media, some alumni had commented that they had had negative experiences while working there.

“We didn’t want to dismiss that,” Parker said. “Rather, we took that in consideration with the fact that we had students who also worked for them and had positive experiences.”

The overall message of the email was that working on one’s career does not mean only thinking about life post-graduation, according to Parker.

“It’s all about equipping you to make the best decision according to the need of that time, and of course, we want it to reflect the learning outcomes of an interdisciplinary education,” Parker said. “We’re trying to encourage students to leverage their winter break as still proactive opportunities to engage in some experiential exploration. It’s allowed to be part-time work, if that’s what you need.”

“This was a way for the faculty and students to come together and be competitive and have fun,” said Kamryn Dorsett, ’24, who also played on the student team.

The faculty started to close the gap as the second half continued. Over a 10-minute period, the faculty cut the difference from 25 points to 21 points. But when the final buzzer echoed across the court, the score was 77-51, with the students on top.

However, as Cole addressed, the basketball game was not about who won.

“The point of the event was school spirit,” Cole said. “We put people across campus together so that everyone can share an experience. It was great. The school spirit here was fantastic.”

According to Severs and Dorsett, that goal was achieved. There was another reason for the game: raising awareness for CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates.

“It’s for kids who need legal protection, assistance, and guid-

ance,” Bowden said. “So the student government put out the call for a bunch of us to play, and I signed up.”

“We (the Senate) usually get together at the beginning of the semester as a class and throw out ideas on what we want to see around campus,” said ASG Class President of 2025, Nicole Recio Bremer. “And they discussed that this was a thing that happened in high school and was a great experience. We made it happen, there was a good turn out, and we collaborated.”

Already, Allegheny faculty is interested in setting up a similar event. Cole aims for it to occur once a semester and, potentially, with another sport.

“I really hope there can be something like this again,” Alkyam said. “A professor and I were talking about a soccer or volleyball tournament. There are a lot of people who have an interest in these sports. It was a chance to bring the community together and see staff and faculty members outside their offices.”



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS
Top to bottom: Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Heather Moore Roberson, Provost Angela Haddad and President Ron Cole, ’87, cheer during the free-throw contest.

AERO assists MCFD with food drive

By EVELYN ZAVALA
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The Allegheny Emergency Response Organization has joined the Meadville Central Fire Department in collecting for their “Annual Food Drive.” All food items collected from Nov. 28 to Dec. 2 will be given to the Center for Family Services, Women’s Services, and the Jr. High Food Locker.

AERO President Dominic Urbani, ’23, explained that AERO’s involvement in the food drive is due to board member Cameron Long, ’23, who volunteers with the MCFD.

“Our purpose is to encourage student involvement in local emergency responses, like fire and EMS responses,” Urbani said. “Our involvement also is to get our name out there and let the community of Meadville know that Allegheny students are here and that they are trying to help.”

The collection box was located in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center on the first floor. “If students are not able to donate, I think the best way to get involved would be to give the social media pages a like or share what they are doing,” Urbani said. “Student engagement will let the community know that we are here to help and that we are not separate from them.”

Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Matthew Bethurem, who serves as AERO’s faculty adviser,

said that food drives are also inherently sustainable.

“Food drives, outside of the more moral and ethical imperative to make sure people aren’t going hungry, are going to reduce food waste, and anytime we reduce food waste we are helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” Bethurem said.

According to Bethurem, involvement in community-wide projects are important for fostering a perception that the college can be a resource for the Meadville community.

“I think it is important for the college to be involved in these sorts of projects and by doing so we are helping out and at the same time you’ve got a situation where relationships can be developed that can be re-utilized as community needs present themselves,” Bethurem said.

Although Fire Chief Patrick Wiley started the Annual Food Drive six years ago, the firefighters’ union — Local 515 of the International Association of Fire Fighters — has taken over the responsibility this year. While the event is under new leadership, its mission and structure remain the same.

Local 515 President Evan Kardosh shared that Wiley had started the drive when he noticed that many families did not have a lot of food.

“We have tried to keep growing it every year and trying to make sure we can get as many families and as many people food

See [DRIVE](#) | page 2

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

ASG

from page 1

“There is no official position on any instances that may have happened,” Leshar said. “The position that I am saying, that I’m holding, is that a single faculty member does not need to have the power to decide whether something can go within The Krampus because it can go badly if there aren’t some kinds of checks and balances on that.

“It was much more about making sure that there are multiple people in this process instead of taking one person out of the process,” he added.

However, in an interview following the Dec. 6 GA, ASG President Veronica Green, ’23, provided a different definition of the concerns.

“I wasn’t made aware that there was anything that came up within classroom conduct,” Green said. “I believe the reason that he was brought up as a concern for an adviser is because, if I remember correctly, he was the adviser the last time the Krampus was disbanded. That’s what I inferred was the reason as to why they were calling into question the adviser, but I have not heard anything about his classroom conduct or anything like that.”

Keeley said that he has no prior history with the club.

“I’ve never been the adviser of The Krampus before,” Keeley told The Campus this week. “I wasn’t connected to it when it got disbanded the last time.”

And in 2017 — two years before the group was shut down — the Allegheny College website listed Professor Emeritus Glenn Holland as The Krampus’s adviser, according to the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine.

McGrory said on Thursday that The Krampus was “taking the concerns seriously.”“It’s not like ASG (said) ‘no, you can’t have this faculty member,’” McGrory said. “They just said, ‘be

careful,’ I guess you could say.”

He said the club is still discussing whether or not Keeley will be their adviser.

“We also may have a second faculty member in line or, we may just not have (Keeley) be part of it, if he feels like he can’t do it,” McGrory said.

For his part, Keeley said he is open to working with The Krampus.

“I’m still willing to help Aidan get the project off the ground,” Keeley said.

Interim Dean of Students Trae Yeckley said that none of these concerns had been brought to the Dean of Students office.

“There’s been no complaints about Professor Keeley,” Yeckley said in an interview this week. “I was not at ASG the night that that was brought up, but when I was informed of the conversation that was going on, personally, I was surprised. I know Professor Keeley and — I can’t say if there has been any on the academic side — but I have not had students come talk to me in this role with complaints about Professor Keeley.”

Yeckley also said that club advisers are not typically brought up in public meetings.

“From my experience — and I have to go back and check the by-laws — we don’t generally ask who the adviser is, at least in General Assembly,” Yeckley said. “I’m curious as to why that was the exception.”

It is unclear exactly what role, if any, ASG plays in selecting club advisers. The ASG Constitution and By-Laws make no mention of ASG having any power over a club’s structure beyond the description of the Rules Committee, which gives the committee power to “introduce constitutional drafts of potential new clubs on campus and ASG Resolutions to be approved by a simple majority of the Senate over two consecutive weeks.”

This line seems to suggest that when ASG is approving a new club, the body is voting to approve that club’s constitution, which would then define its structure.

According to the copy of The Krampus’s constitution linked in the minutes of the Nov. 29 GA, the only individual required to review content is the Head Editor, who “gives final approval to articles before they are published.”

While McGrory said he wants the club’s faculty adviser to approve every story published by the organization, The Krampus’ current constitution contains no such language and does not even mention The Krampus’s adviser. If the Senate was voting solely to approve The Krampus’ constitution, that constitution does not include Keeley or the adviser’s role in general.

“I did talk to people on ASG and I do not need to go back and change what was written,” McGrory said. “It’s just going to be one of those unwritten rules moving forward.”

McGrory said he will be meeting with Keeley next week to discuss the club’s plans.

THE CAMPUS

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DRIVE

from page 2

that they need, trying to distribute it evenly as much as we can throughout the Meadville and Crawford County area,” Kardosh said. “I think we have at least 13 different collection points around Meadville this year because a lot of different businesses had collection points and we are telling anyone that has donations that they can bring them to the fire station itself.”

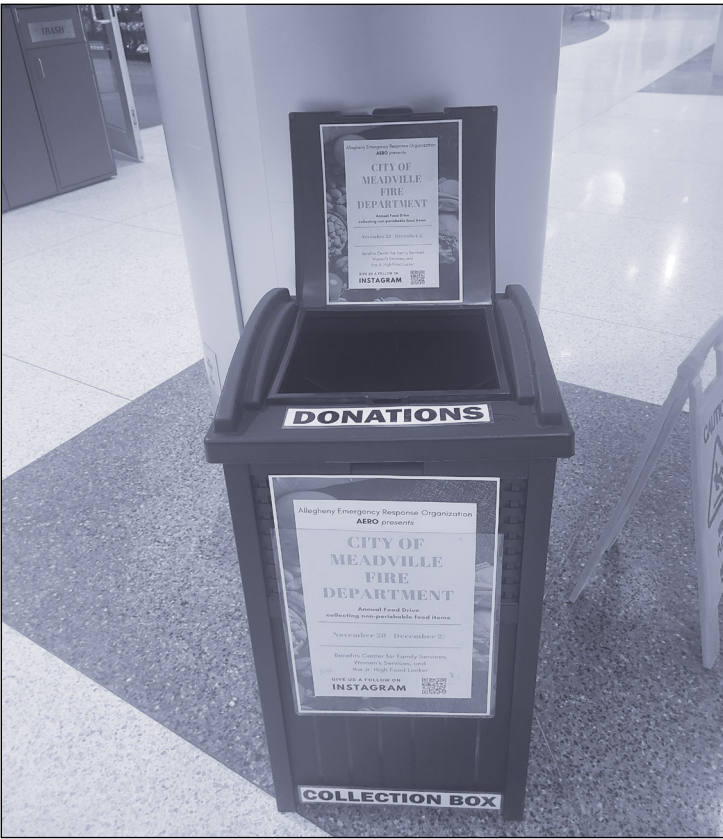
According to Kardosh, the main reason for having the drive during the holiday season is that people tend to be in the giving spirit.

Kardosh recommends people donate food that is easy to make — macaroni and cheese, ramen noodles and other quick foods. He said people can use those types of foods to make full meals, as opposed to eating them as snacks. Kardosh also said that foods like pasta last a long time and people of all ages enjoy them.

“From what we have seen, it ends up being either a lot of high school kids where they are coming home and trying to make food or people who are involved in Women’s Services and Center for Family Services where maybe there is not a lot of stability,” Kardosh said. “There are some situations that can be going on at home where the last thing that they are thinking about is sitting down and worrying about making an hour-long meal.”

One of the benefits of having Allegheny students involved in the effort is that college students share a similar diet to high school students. Thus, the donations college students can be used by many of the people the food drive is trying to support.

“I do not know how Allegheny got involved but it has been huge for us since then,” Kardosh said. “I think it’s huge anytime you can take a basic need such as food and take away that worry and stress away from a family.”



EVELYN ZAVALA/THE CAMPUS

The food drive donation box in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center.

CORRECTIONS

The story “Downtown business hosts art gallery,” published in the Nov. 18 edition of The Campus, stated that Hatch Hollow is planning a student-only show in the future. Hatch Hollow is planning an alumni exhibition in June and will be opening submissions for its next show Jan. 1, but is not planning a student-only show. The article has been updated online to reflect this.

The story also stated that the event was held Nov. 4. While the reception was held Nov. 4, the show will be running through December, and the article has been updated online to clarify these dates.

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.

December 2, 2022
Act 64 (Drugs)
Edwards Hall
Referred to Dean

December 3, 2022
Criminal Mischief
Ravine Hall
Active Investigation

December 3, 2022
Theft
North Vilage II
Active Investigation

December 5, 2022
Criminal Mischief
Baldwin Hall
Active Investigation



By **SAMI MIRZA**
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Sometimes, the best thing to do is not to say what you believe, but what you know.

Last week, an electrical substation in North Carolina was attacked, cutting off power to a nearby town. Officials are still not pinpointing the exact motive behind the attack, saying their investigation is ongoing. However, many have already drawn connections between a drag show that was occurring at the time of the outage and a far-right activist who protested the show.

In a situation like this, however, it is crucial for those “in charge” to not venture off the beaten path and say things that are unconfirmed. By not prematurely making a declaration on the issue, investigators and community leaders acknowledge their authority in the situation. They know they must be sound in their reasoning before making a statement because they know it would undermine their responsibilities as leaders.

However, the same cannot be said for our own Allegheny Student Government, which has developed a pattern of

making dramatic declarative statements that are then walked back with an admission that ASG does not know the full details of a situation.

During the GA on Sept. 13, ASG Vice President Rudra Schultz-Ray, ’23, raised concerns about the way that Aramark Dining was operating on campus, and accused the company of breaching its contract with the college.

However, Schultz-Ray later admitted that he did not know enough about the issue to claim that Aramark was violating their contract.

“I say breach of contract, but I want to be more hesitant about that term,” Schultz-Ray told The Campus after the meeting. “That’s a loaded term and I’m not informed enough really to say anything is. I haven’t looked at the contract and I don’t know what Aramark is doing specifically.”

Without that clarification — which was given after the livestreamed meeting and outside the public eye — ASG’s only public statements on the matter would have been that the company was “essentially violating their contract” and an encouragement for student action if the issue was not addressed — in other words, a blind call to fight in a nonexistent conflict.

The Campus further reported that Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton saw issues with Aramark as places for improvement, not tension. Had ASG double-checked with the college official they evoked in their argument — the person most knowledgeable about the issue — prior to accusing Aramark, they may have been able to more accurately contextualize their concerns instead of making a pronouncement about a legal issue.

By speaking before completing an investigation or having conversations with all involved parties, ASG is undermining its own ability to effectively speak and act on these issues in the future. It is a classic example of the boy who cried wolf: If ASG were to now conduct a sustainability study on Aramark’s practices, find it lacking, and announce those results, the college community might think twice about such an announcement given that, historically, ASG has not done its homework on sustainability.

More recently, ASG leveled “concerns” against Professor of Communication Arts Michael Keeley, who was proposed as a possible adviser for satirical publication The Krampus. During the club’s second round of voting, the

club’s organizer, Aidan McGrory, ’26, said that ASG’s Director of Community Relations, Will Lowther, ’24, had approached him about potential issues with the adviser.

I followed up with Lowther, who said that he had heard “concerns” from ASG’s Co-Director of Student Affairs Cam Leshner, ’24. When I spoke with Leshner about the story, he said that students had approached him with concerns about an incident in Keeley’s classroom, but said that ASG was not formally accusing Keeley of any misconduct.

Naturally, I took all this to Keeley. While he was more than happy to speak with me about The Krampus, it became abundantly clear during our conversation that I was the first person to approach him with these concerns in any capacity. This is, quite honestly, bull. ASG made a policy decision but did not do the due diligence of speaking to Keeley and trying to ascertain what the issue was at hand.

As a journalist and as a student with a large amount of authority and responsibility within the Allegheny community, I go to people, ask them their perspective on an issue, and synthesize those perspectives into stories that display all

sides of an issue to the fullest possible extent. I try to cover all my bases, and take pride in doing so.

Yet, ASG has repeatedly failed to follow up on their public statements, and that has consequences. This government has shown time and time again that its procedures around handling sensitive conversations are fundamentally flawed, undermining any positive outcomes brought about by starting these conversations.

I want to see ASG succeed in changing conversations on campus, but the righteousness of their cause does not excuse the sloppiness of their efforts. We risk harming our own interests by not being thoughtful and deliberate in our words and actions. That means ASG needs to start thinking twice before speaking. It means potentially staying quiet — or quieter — until they can move forward with purpose. It means waiting for an investigation to be complete to confirm their concerns rather than broadcasting them without foundation. Our declarations of values and concerns are important, but so is gathering and presenting that information in a coherent and well-thought-out manner.

Women of color's long fight for reproductive justice

By **KAYLA YOUNG**
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In the past few months since Roe v. Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court, trigger laws have gone into effect in states like Tennessee and Idaho, and following the recent midterm elections, many other states are working toward similar legislative goals. These laws will not stop people from having abortions. They will only prevent safe and legal abortions, forcing women with low incomes and women of color to disproportionately resort to unsafe alternatives.

In the past, women of color faced attacks from the government that involved controlling their reproductive rights. Many women of color were sterilized while being held in California prisons and other institutions without

giving consent to the procedure during the eugenics campaigns of the 20th century. Andrea Garcia, a woman born in Mexico, was sterilized in 1941 at the age of 19 while in an asylum near Los Angeles. In 2001, Kelli Dillion, a Black woman, went in for a surgery while being held in the California state prison system and realized years later that her ability to reproduce had been stripped away without her consent. These are but two examples of over 60,000 people who were forcibly sterilized in the United States, just one of the many ways in which women of color find their reproductive rights controlled by the government.

In the present day, studies have shown that Black people are four times more likely to seek an abortion than white people, and Latinx people are two times more likely to seek an abortion than white people in the United

States. The reversal of Roe v. Wade will not change these statistic, which means that these people will look for other ways to get abortions if their state bans safe, legal ones. This will lead people to go out of state or otherwise seek unsafe alternatives. People of color statistically earn lower wages and have more difficulty building wealth than white people, meaning they are more likely to not have the funds to travel out of state and will instead seek in-state abortions. Given such bans, the mortality rate of pregnant women could increase drastically due to these unsafe practices, complications in pregnancy and even suicide.

The recent midterm elections were likely heavily affected by the overturning of Roe v. Wade and its consequences. With abortion having been one of the main voting motivations, voters in support of abortion access were more likely to vote for Democratic candi-

dates, who generally vote to protect the right to safe and legal abortions. Those against it were more likely vote for Republicans, who tend to vote to restrict abortion access. Compared to statistics from prior elections, there appears to be an increase in women voting, and more specifically women voting for Democratic candidates in an attempt to preserve their freedom of choice.

A perspective seen most often from conservatives and Christians argues that abortion should not be legal at all because it is a form of murder, and that the lives of unborn children should be protected by law. While the less conservative among us may be able to sympathize with aspects of this belief, the facts prove that banning abortion, especially in cases of incest or rape, do not protect women or the family, but rather lead to more pregnant women dying. While banning abortion may seem to be a

good solution to protect life, it will instead lead to an increased loss of life. By forcing women, and disproportionately women of color, to carry a troubled pregnancy to term or to resort to unsafe alternatives, it is the women who will be put at a greater risk of harm or death.

Of course, it is the women themselves who should ultimately have the final word on their reproductive rights and on their own bodies. The United States should never again need to learn of yet another woman dying from complications of a “back-alley” abortion clinic, or of the harrowing real-life ordeals women like Andrea Garcia and Kelli Dillon were forced to endure. To prevent these irreversible outcomes, it is important to know who you are voting for in future elections and their values and stance on this topic.

It is a phase, Mom!

By **SYDNEY EMERSON**
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Part meme, part plea, “It’s not a phase, Mom!” has circulated around the internet for over a decade and circulated around our culture for even longer. We all know the drill: any embarrassing past haircuts, any questionable fashion decisions, any cringeworthy photos or outdated taste in music and books must be relegated in due time to the shameful “phase” dumpster. No exceptions.

We’re all taught to treat such fleeting states of being with that light humorous contempt. Parents, when their child suddenly becomes obsessed with a new look or piece of media, always take pains to remind the child that they’re in a phase. Friends are expected to do the same for their friends, romantic partners for one another, and so on.

“I like this new thing,” somebody says to us.

“Sure,” we must reply, “but don’t forget that nothing lasts forever, and for that you should feel ashamed.”

It’s quite the conundrum we find ourselves in: we are aware that there are impermanent states of self, but at the same time are unable to embrace the impermanence. Bottom line: as a culture we’re so mortified by any sign that our personalities or interests have evolved that we bury them deep under layers of sarcasm and shame.

What’s so wrong with phases that we can’t look them in the eye? Sure, the haircut might not suit our current aesthetic, the clothes may be outdated or the music might no longer be to our taste, but so often we look fondly on the past and its little idiosyncrasies. Why, when it comes to what we love and where we choose to direct our affections, does our kindness for ourselves always fall short?

Inevitably, this has something to do with our societal allergy to change. It’s

an aversion that grows ever stronger: culturally, we leave very little room for people to grow and move forward without intense scrutiny and ridicule. A bad person cannot do good things and a good person cannot do bad things. Everybody must stick to the labels we give them and we do not know how to process anything that stretches outside of the boundaries we delineate.

To call something a “phase” is to be dismissive of your past self and your own contentment. It is to pull a police line around your past, to deny any credit to the things that made you who you are today. When you were in that phase — emo phase, dance phase, Hemingway phase, baking phase, whatever — did it not bring you fulfillment in that moment? Did you not learn something new about yourself and how you want to live?

Even if a phase was a bona fide mistake — a futile attempt to please a crush or a deeply unflattering new look —

there is, to me, no shame in owning it. In a world of Instagram filters, influencers and the commoditization of personalities, we write our own histories. Too often we choose — or are encouraged — to wipe our slates clean and present ourselves unblemished to the world, free of any missteps. We want to believe that we moved on a smooth linear path from where we were then to where we are now, implying that we will continue to do so. There are no speed bumps ahead of us. There are no potholes behind us. All is well in the land of make-believe.

There’s something deeper, something profoundly disturbing, in the way that we so viciously slash and burn our own pasts. It says something about our values, something about the way we approach life and teach others to do the same.

More often than not, I find myself lost in a well of embarrassment when I take a stroll through memory lane. It’s painful. It’s unhealthy. And if I can’t

love — or at least accept — the person I was even two years ago, that is troubling indeed. It means that, two years from now, I will look back at my current self — a person I have actually come to like quite a bit — as nothing more than a phase, an embarrassment. It fills me with a sense of inescapable doom, the feeling that my read on myself is wrong. It makes me think that no matter how much progress I think I’ve made, I’ll always end up back here, groaning and blushing about my phases.

We are always changing into something new. We are not one thing, but a constantly-shifting being in a constantly-shifting vessel. Show me a permanent state of being. Show me anybody who has trod this earth without going through a single phase. It is nothing to be embarrassed about, and that is my new task: to take the phases as they come and appreciate each one.

NOT ONLY XMAS: STUDENTS CELEBRATE WINTER HOLIDAYS

By **CAROLINE MAYE**
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The winter season is upon us. Michael Bubl  is in the air, snow is on the ground and the smell of hot chocolate wafts outside of Grounds for Change. With winter break rapidly approaching, many students look forward to celebrating the holidays. Despite 93% of Americans celebrating Christmas, only about 45% of the world's population celebrates the holiday, according to Journeyz. International students on campus shared how they celebrate the holidays back home. Take a trip around the globe in fewer than 80 days and learn about how the holidays are celebrated abroad.

The trip begins across the Atlantic Ocean. Lucia Jueguen, '24, illustrated what winter celebrations look like in Spain. She described celebrating the holidays "for the whole three weeks of winter break."

"We have a lot of things going on that are equally important," Jueguen said. "In Spain (there is) Christmas, Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, New Year's and then we celebrate the Three Wise Men in January."

The Three Wise Men — also known as Three Kings Day — is a Catholic holiday which takes place from Jan. 5-6, celebrating the Three Wise Men who visited Jesus and gave him gifts, Jueguen explained.

"Essentially, it's like Christmas, but instead of Santa it is (the) Three Wise Men," Jueguen said. "There's usually parades with people dressed up as the Three Wise Men and just going around town throwing sweets to the children. And then you would go to sleep and the next morning you wake up and you have presents under your tree from the Three Wise Men."

Continuing across the European continent, Freya Lindqvist, '25, described what winter festivities look like in

Sweden. Lindqvist noted that Swedish celebrations are similar to those in the United States. According to Lindqvist, there are numerous winter celebrations, but the two largest are Christmas and La Lucia.

La Lucia — often referred to as St. Lucy's Day by English-speakers — is a holiday in honor of St. Lucy and is celebrated on Dec. 13, Lindqvist explained. It is also known as a festival of lights, as people, typically young children, dress up as St. Lucy. They wear lighted crowns and hold flowers, and parade around schools, libraries and towns.

"(The parade leader) is dressed up with a crown with lights and in a white gown," Lindqvist said. "Then the people behind her are dressed up as basically the same as the first Lucia except they don't have the crown. They just have a little piece of lights in their hand and they sing walking around, whether it's in a school or like an office. And so it's like a little performance."

In addition to St. Lucy's Day, every Sunday before Christmas, people in Sweden light a candle. Then, on Dec. 24, they come together as families and celebrate Christmas. In Sweden, children open their presents the night of Christmas Eve, just after the fathers sneak out to personally deliver the presents as Santa, Lindqvist explained.

"So it's usually the dad in the family or the grandpa in the

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People don't usually care as long as you give them holidays. Sometimes people just need a reason to have fun."

—DIFEI CHEN
Class of 2025

family that says, 'I'm coming back in a little bit,'" Lindqvist said. "Then he comes back and he knocks on the door dressed up as Santa with a little bag with presents. And then everyone centers around Santa and then he hands out the presents to all the children."

Lindqvist added that in her neighborhood, all of the dads would take turns being the Santa for the whole block. One year, her Santa was a man she had never met before which made the whole experience more realistic.

"I just remember looking out the window and he was holding a lantern and like, big beard," Lindqvist said. "He was walking towards the house and that was just very exciting as a seven-year-old."

Trekking over to Asia, Riya Agrawal, '23, explained how her grandparents celebrated the holidays back in India, a nation that predominantly practices Hinduism.

"We personally don't celebrate Christmas being that that's more of a Christian holiday," Agrawal said. "Our festival Diwali, which is the 'Festival of Lights,' is considered our biggest holiday ... So kind of like Christmas in the sense we are decorating but there's lights everywhere, and that's our New Year."

Diwali, Agrawal explained, is a very family-oriented holiday. On this day, which was Oct. 24 this year and will be Nov. 12 next year, families fill their houses with light and pray to a few important gods, including Rama and Lakshmi. Then they have a "huge feast" and end the day with sparklers and fireworks. Agrawal recalled one Diwali where she ate too much for dinner.

"My grandmother made my favorite dish, and it's something that I hadn't had in a while for some reason," Agrawal said. "So I ate so much that I could barely move. I was adamant about doing fireworks so I went outside

and was holding my stomach as I was doing the fireworks."

After spending the day with her family that Diwali, Agrawal reflected back on the importance of family.

"That to me was like the ultimate closing," Agrawal said. "It really reminded me of the importance of family and us being with each other. That was a great lesson to have, a great memory to have at such a young age. That stuck with me ever since."

Crossing the border from India to China, Difei Chen, '25, highlighted the importance of Chinese New Year in his culture.

"People usually have a very strict sense about doing Chinese New Year, especially the elders in China," Chen said. "They're going to tell you that the first day of the New Year's Day is the most important day and it has to be perfect. If the year doesn't start in a good way, then bad luck will keep coming for the whole year."

Chen is a bit skeptical about the significance of following tradition on Chinese New Year. He said that the day can become rather cumbersome if one is to strictly adhere to the traditional rules of the day. Overall, though, he describes it as a holiday centered around reunions.

"The first day of New Year, we stay with our family and anticipate other people visiting us," Chen said. "In China, we value the elders ... (it is an) honor to pay a visit to them."

For the next few days following the New Year's, people visit their family and friends as a way of ushering in the New Year. For Chen though, and many students his age, the holiday is not so much a time for celebration.

"After I grew up, I would just be getting busy with studying," Chen said.

Although some in China critique Christmas as being "western," many others choose

to celebrate the holiday, Chen explained, just not to the same degree that Americans do.

"People don't usually care as long as you give them holidays," Chen said. "Sometimes people just need a reason to have fun."

Crossing back to the Western hemisphere, Hanan Hamed, '25, described how the holidays are celebrated in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Hamed is a Muslim and does not celebrate Christmas. Back on the island, she recounts how there is a big tree on the center island that gets decorated and some people choose to decorate their yards.

"Since we don't really celebrate Christmas, sometimes we get popcorn from the movie theater and just go around the island and see everyone's deck," Hamed said.

According to Hamed, in Islam the holidays do not correlate to certain seasons, but rather change in date every year in accordance with the lunar calendar. In addition to Islam; Judaism, Hinduism and China use different lunar calendars for keeping track of their holidays. The differing calendars explains why the holidays for these cultures are celebrated on different days from year to year.

"I think it's cool," Hamed said. "The only thing is that I wish that Muslims' holidays would be treated like as Christian holidays or something, like if we had school off, because it kind of sucks."

Hamed explained that last year, finals took place during Ramadan, a month of fasting in the Islamic faith. During Ramadan, eating and drinking, including water, is prohibited from sunrise to sunset, according to Britannica. This is meant to be a practice in the skill of self-restraint, one of Islam's five pillars.

"It was just kind of rough," Hamed said.

Finally, back in the United States, Kenna Marblestone, '24, gives her perspective on celebrating the holidays in a du-

al-religion household.

"Celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas is pretty cool," Marblestone said. "I have to say it was a little weird, never seeing as much hype for Hanukkah as there was for Christmas."

Similar to many other holidays, Hanukkah follows a lunar calendar and thus takes place on different days depending on the year, Marblestone explained. The celebration lasts eight days, as that was the number of days that the Macabees, an ancient Jewish family that was being persecuted by the Syrians, survived with one candle for light. To honor this, Marblestone said, families light one candle on the menorah every night of Hanukkah, using the center candle to ignite the wicks. After a candle is lit, it stays that way until it sputters out on its own.

Similar to Christmas, during Hanukkah people exchange gifts with each other.

"I got one gift for Hanukkah," Marblestone said. "Because then we go to my mom's side of the family (for Christmas) and get more gifts."

For Jewish people that do not celebrate Christmas, Marblestone said, many go out to eat at Chinese restaurants.

"If you're Jewish and it's Christmas, it's like a big thing to go and get Chinese food," Marblestone said. "Because what restaurants are open? Chinese restaurants."

Marblestone did critique American culture for focusing so much on Christmas during the winter season that other cultural holidays get swept under the rug.

"I think not just Hanukkah but every other major religious holiday like Kwanzaa (need recognition)," Marblestone said. "I feel like at some point, people want to see what they want to see. So all they see is Christmas stuff, but the moment that you change it up a little bit, you're gonna help start something new."

Football is not the only game being played in Qatar

By **MARIIA HLYTEN**
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The World Cup is the primary football event in the world, held once every four years. For the first time, a Middle Eastern country hosts a tournament of this level.

Qatar was selected to host the tournament in 2010 after four rounds of voting by the 22-member FIFA executive committee, defeating the United States in the final round 14 votes to 8.

The World Cup's typical calendar has been completely changed for the event to take place in Qatar. The tournament was scheduled for winter instead of summer for the first time in the history of the World Cup, meaning football players had only a week of rest between the professional club season and the World Cup, and there will be no break after the competition before returning to the regular season again.

For Gators, especially those who are into sports, the 2022 World Cup matters. Tighe Raymond, '23, majoring in international studies and French, has played football since he was five years old and now considers it his passion. He was trying to watch as many games as possible this year despite a hectic studying schedule at the end of the semester.

"Some of the professors put the game up on the screen," Raymond said animatedly. "It's crazy."

Qatar's preparation policy toward World Cup holding "seemed a little premature" for Raymond.

"I think it wouldn't be as impactful as it would be if it was during the summer," Raymond said. "Senegal's biggest hero, Sadio Man  got hurt two weeks before the start of the World Cup, and he was ruled out for the whole tournament."

In addition to FIFA changing the tournament for Qatar, Qatar has made many changes in preparation for the tournament. There are many critics of the ensuing forced preparation for the tournament, including the involvement of cheap labor and deaths related to the infrastructure construction.

A few weeks before the start of the World Cup, Time magazine published a lengthy article about the fact that Qatar has built seven stadiums, a new airport, a subway system, new roads and about 100 hotels in 12 years, all in preparation to support the influx of visitors that the World Cup would bring in 2022. Around the largest arena, which will host the opening match and the final, they even built a new city — Lusail.

All these expedient infrastructure projects were built by the hands of 2 million migrant workers, thousands of whom died from the record heat.

"There are hundreds of thousands of people already working there in construction

and the oil industry, service industry and there are appalling abuses that have been going on for decades," said Shanna Kirschner, associate professor and chair of political science. "Issues with the abuse of migrant laborers run throughout the entire Gulf."

In addition to discrimination against migrant workers, other human rights violations are common in Qatar. Specifically, the rights of women in Qatar are systematically violated — they are not treated as equal to men, although the country's constitution states the opposite. According to Human Rights Watch, women cannot be guardians of their children at any time. Women in Qatar must obtain permission from male "guardians" — fathers, brothers, uncles and husbands — to exercise many basic rights. The permission to marry, travel, get higher education or drive a car also requires a man's approval.

Another example of the violation of rights is the attitude toward the LGBT+ community. Recently, the ambassador of the World Cup and ex-player of the Qatar national football team, Khalid Salman, said that homosexuality — which is prohibited by law in the conservative Muslim country — is "damage in the mind."

In response to this discrimination, the captains of seven European teams were set to wear "OneLove armbands," rainbow armbands meant to spread a message of LGBT+ inclusivity to a country where

their existence is repressed, according to The Guardian. FIFA responded, saying that spreading such a message would get them ejected from the game,

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It is important for the World Cup to be truly a World Cup."

—SHANNA KIRSCHNER
Associate Professor of Political Science
Allegheny College

banning them from being worn.

The event has been fraught with protest in response, including Germany's team covering their mouths for a photo to shed light on their forced silence and Wales waving rainbow flags at their training camp.

Iranian domestic politics have leaked into the tournament as well. After the Iranian national team did not sing their anthem in apparent solidarity with widespread unrest in their home country, their families were allegedly threatened with imprisonment and torture if the players did not "behave well." According to CNN, the players were warned that their families would face "violence and torture" if they joined any political protest against the regime in Tehran or did not sing the national anthem.

Kirschner mentioned that the Mundial — the unofficial name of the World Cup after the 1982 World Cup in Spain — is also an event that "gets a lot

are some political things that I will not be able to oversee."

He explained that people should also consider other facts while judging the situation since inequality exists – and is often intentionally maintained — everywhere.

"I don't think the U.S. is a place to criticize Qatar about the migrant workers," Colabawalla said. "A lot of those migrant workers were Indian."

"If anybody should be mad, it should be me!"

He remembers watching the World Cup with his brothers as a child and does not betray the tradition. Despite all issues around the 2022 World Cup, he thinks fans are "happy watching games this year."

According to CNN, there have been fewer incidents of football hooliganism and fewer conflicts between fans due to the ban on drinking in public places in Qatar.

Ultimately, there are many angles to view the World Cup positively and negatively.

Kirshner mentioned "the sort of hypocrisy" when people pay attention to certain countries.

"It's not that we shouldn't be making a lot of noise about human rights violations in Qatar, but then we also need to do it with other states' violations," Kirschner said. "It is important for the World Cup to be truly a World Cup."

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Gators now able to register for orientation leader positions

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**
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Applications for 2023-24 orientation leaders for first-year orientation week are now open to students until March 4, 2023. Orientation leaders guide first-years through the newly-developed Week of Welcome, which lasts approximately one week before the start of fall classes.

The Week of Welcome was implemented for the first time during the 2022-23 academic year and is headed by First-Year Class Dean Niki Fjeldal. Orientation leaders are one of the first-years’ main points of contact during their first week at Allegheny and are an extremely valuable resource for them, according to Fjeldal.

“There’s no better way to understand how campus works than to have a peer help introduce (first-years) to campus,” Fjeldal said.

Fjeldal said the orientation leaders are trained on how to facilitate group activities, communicate clearly and effectively, and hold inclusive conversations. In addition, they develop their leadership skills, are taught essential knowledge about the campus and are educated on the responsibilities that come with their job, like being mandated reporters under Title IX. Fjeldal said she hired 25 orientation leaders in 2021 and plans to hire the same number next year, with the goal of having a healthy mixture of sophomores, ju-

niors and seniors.

“What we did a really good job of last year is we had a good segment of students on campus that really represented our general student population, and that’s really important,” Fjeldal said. “Having a diversified group of folks is really important.”

She said that having a diverse group of orientation leaders means there is a greater opportunity to provide personalized experiences for incoming students.

Ethan Borsh, ’25, served as an orientation leader at the beginning of the semester. He said he was motivated to become an orientation leader because he wanted to help others.

“My little brother, my little sister and I have always lived in the same house, so when I came here I didn’t really have to do any of the stuff I had to do for them anymore,” Borsh said. “I had a lot of that energy to want to help people, and when I heard that there was a job that was literally helping people move into a whole new world, I think signing up was a no-brainer.”

Mattie Blair, ’26, said orientation leaders gave her valuable advice during the Week of Welcome.

“They were able to give us firsthand experience about what college life is about,” Blair said.

Blair did not stay in close contact with her orientation leader but said she chats with him when they see each other around campus. Milo Watson,

’26, had a similar experience to Blair.

“I know people who have become pretty good friends with their orientation leader, which I think is overwhelmingly positive,” Watson said. “It’s good to have mentors on campus.”

Despite his positive experiences with his orientation leader, Watson said he will not be applying to become one.

“Being an orientation leader seems really hard because, you know, having been passed a flyer myself to be an orientation leader next fall, it’s just students,” Watson said. “I give orientation leaders a lot of credit for taking that on because it’s taking up the last dredges of their summer.”

Fjeldal said that next year’s Week of Welcome will be adapted based on feedback from this year’s first-years and orientation leaders. One of the specific activities that will be adapted is the ‘Speak About It’ event, an event focused on discussing consent, boundaries and healthy relationships, according to their website. Due to the group of trained educators from the Speak About It organization having some last-minute health problems, first-years watched a video of the performance that was originally supposed to be in-person. Orientation Leader Makell Logan, ’25, said the debrief discussion that followed the video was challenging for him. Logan recalled that one of the many topics he was supposed to discuss with his group of

first-years was what they thought their sex life would be like on campus.

“I did not feel comfortable asking my fellow students some of those questions, just because it’s not my business, and it felt like I was being invasive of their own lives,” Logan said. “I still have class with some of them — it’s just a certain level of privacy I think they deserve as peers. The discussion afterward should have been led by a supervisor, (not) by the orientation leaders.”

Logan said he discussed his discomfort in depth with Fjeldal following the event. Borsh also felt uncomfortable facilitating the debrief discussion.

“My group got split from the other group,” Borsh said. “Having to (manage the conversation) alone was pretty bad, but in the future, I don’t expect things like that to happen.”

In the future, Logan hopes that orientation leaders will be able to help create the Week of Welcome schedule.

“Our schedule felt so jam-packed, and even I felt bad for the freshmen,” Logan said. “It was good that we did so many things to help them out, but it was a lot. I think more student engagement throughout the process of making orientation week would have been good because (orientation leaders) are all students. We know how it feels to come in (to Allegheny).”

At the end of the Week of Welcome, both first-years and orientation leaders were given a survey in which they could submit their feedback about the program. Fjeldal said she will take all of the feedback into account to im-

prove future Weeks of Welcome.

Despite some of their concerns about the structure of the Week of Welcome, both Borsh and Logan enjoyed their time as orientation leaders and think that the positive parts of the program far outweighed the bad. Both are planning to apply for the position again. Logan said being an orientation leader is a good position for students who want to be involved with influencing culture on campus, who enjoy helping others and who want to improve their leadership skills through practice. Fjeldal said she is available for any students who want to talk more about the position.

“Anyone that is interested and wants to work with students and help welcome them to Allegheny and help smooth that experience (should apply),” Fjeldal said. “We provide enough training that anyone can do that process.”

Applications are due on March 4, 2023. In addition to the written application, there will be a group interview during the week following Spring Break. Fjeldal said there is no incentive to apply sooner rather than later.

“Being that first point of contact for someone — it’s a little stressful, I will admit, but it’s beautiful that they will remember you forever and it’s so fulfilling if you get the opportunity to present Allegheny in a good way,” Borsh said. “It feels really nice to be that for people. There’s a group of my students that scream my name every time they see me walking down the street, and that always makes my day.”

♋ Sagittarius season and New Year’s beginnings

By **ANNALIESE STONE**
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Sagittarius (Nov. 22–Dec. 21)

It’s your season, Sagittarius! Your ruling planet — Jupiter — enters Aries this month, heightening your already fiery spirit and pushing you forward. This is a time for adventures and connections with loved ones, with the Sun entering Capricorn to bring you that sweet, sweet, birthday cash. Go forth and make great strides in the things you love. The planets are on your side for getting things done.

Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan. 19)

The second half of the month is your season, Capricorn. A new moon in your sign at the end of the month is the ideal time to start manifesting your new year. Take this month as a downhill slope to gain momentum for what you want out of 2023. Get a jump-start on your New Year’s resolutions and start building positive habits into your day-to-day life. Treat yourself to something nice and shiny. You’ve earned it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20–Feb. 18)

Aquarius’ ruling planet, Uranus, is in conjunction with Mercury this month in order to help you effectively communicate with yourself and others. Introspection can be a good thing, but be careful not let it consume you. Journaling or writing poetry to share with others can help you expand your sense of self and connect with your loved ones. Patience with yourself and others this holiday season will carry you far. Deep breaths. You’ve got this.

Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20)

Neptune’s retrograde, which started back in June granting heightened intuition and achievement, will finally reach its conclusion at the start of December. With your guiding planet no longer at its most active in your life, things may seem to slow down or get shaken up somewhat. Plan for things to not go how you thought they would. Lucky for you though, Jupiter — your other ruling planet — will be making a return to your sign at the end of December, and staying through the beginning of May. Use this time to reflect on your year and you’ll find that the dots will start to connect as a roadmap for your year to come.

Aries (March 21–April 19)

Your ruling planet Mars will be at its brightest and most visible this month. There’s going to be a strong pull to travel as Mars enters Gemini, so acting on those whims may bring you

new opportunities. Let yourself get creative and independent this month. Treat yourself on a spiritual level. Give yourself some much needed alone time to recharge. The holidays will be jam-packed, so prepare yourself for them accordingly.

Taurus (April 20–May 20)

Your year has slowly but surely been opening you up to acknowledge and accept emotional, romantic and professional success. Where Venus and Mercury’s conjunction this month is less likely to go well for Gemini, you will be provided an opportunity to rise to the occasion. A strong social connection formed this month can help usher you into a new era of self-discovery down the line. Academic, project and travel plans can flourish if you take care of yourself and are intentional in your forward steps. You’ve got this!

Gemini (May 21–June 21)

Talk about kicking off the season strong! Geminis were graced with a full moon in their sign on Dec. 7, the Geminid meteor shower this month. Radiating out from one of the constellation’s brightest stars, the meteor shower will be the most visible on the nights of Dec. 13 and 14. Expect opportunities to come your way this month. Don’t let them pass you by unnoticed or unappreciated. That being said, keep an eye on the conjunction of Venus and Mercury at the end of the month, especially as Mercury enters retrograde. Your relationships and mental stability may butt up against each other, making life feel like it’s spinning out of control. Remind yourself that with the bad, comes the good. Keep your glass half-full.

Cancer (June 22–July 22)

Cancer is the lone sign to be guided by the moon, and thus is especially susceptible to its whims. This month, the moon and Saturn enter a conjunction, putting a lot of emotional energy up against some of the strongest independent/self-focused energy for a brief time. These conflicting energies are likely to shake you in particular, so be sure to be extra kind to yourself this month, and let positive energy from others help you recharge. Doing something active and good for your body will do wonders for your mind.

Leo (July 23–Aug. 22)

You have a lot of pent-up — likely anxious — energy this month, Leo. The holidays are a perfect time to let it all out. The sun is moving through

your 5th house, bringing a new surge of fun and creativity to your life this month. Don’t let Venus’s opposition to Mars’ retrograde on Dec. 1 hold you back, though it might leave you feeling like everyone is picking you and your work apart. Everything will soon fall into place, and you’ll feel back on top of your world again. Make time for the people you actually enjoy this month and use it as an opportunity to recharge your social battery. Let it carry you through into the new year ahead.

Virgo (Aug. 23–Sept. 22)

Mercury also rules your sign, Virgo, meaning the conjunction of Mercury and Venus at the end of the month will leave you with some positives to look forward to as well. Be prepared to have a lot more people suddenly on your wavelength than you’re used to. This could greatly deepen connections and open up new relationships or friendships. However, if it’s left ignored and shut out, it could cause you even more problems when Mercury enters retrograde. This applies to new career and financial opportunities as well this month. Be kind to yourself, but especially kind to others. It’s a smaller world than you think.

Libra (Sept. 23–Oct. 23)

Not unlike Taurus, Libra’s year has been a gradual build towards something better. Self image and health show promise of improvement at the Mercury and Venus conjunction. Your mind has the opportunity to rest in self reflection and love before you rush into the new year. Relationships and internal satisfaction can bloom in this moment of peace. Be kind to yourself to prepare for Mercury’s retrograde at the end of the month. Getting a jump-start on your finals is more likely to relieve you stress in the near future. Just don’t burn yourself out trying to cram everything in.

Scorpio (Oct. 24–Nov. 21)

December is a gradual incline for you, Scorpio. Venus’ opposition to Mars’ retrograde on Dec. 1 may have left you struggling with self-perception and your relationships with others. Similar to Aries, Mars being at its closest and brightest will bring you a much needed sense of realignment and energy this month. Taking time during the second half of the month to recharge as much as possible between deadlines and events will be crucial to finishing the year running instead of crawling. Making time for the little things in your day to day will carry you far.

The funny corner

By **SARAH BRAMMELL**
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TGI Friday’s has been dismissed of any wrongdoing in a lawsuit that alleged that they were misleading consumers with the name of one of their products, “Mozzarella Sticks Snack”. The sticks, despite their name, are made of cheddar cheese. The case’s judge, Robert Dow Jr., is allowing the lawsuit to continue against the actual manufacturer of the sticks, Inventure Foods. If I was able to level a lawsuit everytime that Brooks Dining Hall was not serving what they said they were, I would be swimming in cash (or legal debt). The amount of times I have skipped down those hallowed stairs, intent on getting what was offered on the menu, only to find that it has been replaced by an empty slot or, worse, a pan of brussel sprouts, is innumerable. Sadly, this judge’s decision gives me no hope that I will ever receive justice for all of the servings of mashed potatoes and pasta I have lost to the incomprehensible void of the Brooks’ kitchens.

Speaking of the incomprehensible voids of Allegheny College, we need to talk about basements. What are basements notoriously full of? Rats. What position is New York City looking to fill for \$120k-\$170k a year? The “Rat Czar”. The requirements for the job are

to be “somewhat bloodthirsty”, to have a background in urban planning and to be willing to be the spokesperson for the war on NYC’s vermin. Frankly, I think that this position could be fitting for any Allegheny College student. Our liberal arts educations and the relentless hailstorm of assignments that our professors throw at us have formed us into the ultimate academic weapons. Why not turn all that scholarly bloodlust to a job so niche and multifaceted? If you become the Rat Czar, you might even get an Allegheny dining hall named after you, and what’s more exciting than that?

Becoming the NYC Rat Czar is more productive than seeking attention in other ways, such as getting arrested by commenting on your local sheriff’s Facebook post of “most wanted” individuals to ask why your warrant isn’t being publicized. Christopher Spaulding of Rockdale County, Georgia, did just this last week and was subsequently arrested for felony violation of probation on Thursday. This story reminds me of those students who say to their professors, “But wait — you didn’t collect our homework assignment!” Except, in this case, everyone else has a warrant out for them as well and you just invited the cops to participate in an academic sting operation.

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But wait...there’s more!

Be sure to visit www.alleghenycampus.com and check out coverage of Mocktails, an event designed for students to learn about campus sorority life, as well as the “Attendance Mandatory” student art exhibit in Doane Hall!

Track and Field laces up for indoor season at YSU Icebreaker

By KYLE CHANDLER
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Mihaela Toader, '23, is back in the building, returning for her final season on the track with the Gators. After putting up monster numbers throughout her junior campaign, she shows no signs of slowing up this year. Toader boasted a personal record in the indoor 400 meter dash with a time of 59.87 seconds at the Youngstown State University Icebreaker event on Friday, Dec. 2. It was the first competition of the season.

She used the offseason to her advantage. Toader trained over the summer with her

friend, who runs track at Columbia University, and was coached by Tyler Chancellor, a member of the coaching staff at the University of Central Missouri.

Toader's mindset is driven by her desire to make it to the national championship this year – though she also stated she loves the journey and process of improving her game. It is what keeps her motivated to practice, even when the season is six months away.

“Going into my senior year kept me motivated,” Toader said. “But I think what it really comes back to is the love of the sport. I think that is what takes care of the mental part.”

There have been a lot

of victories to celebrate for Toader during her tenure at Allegheny College. She was the 2022 North Coast Athletic Conference 400m Outdoor Champion, and earned seven All-NCAC titles during her second and third year. However, for her, no victory was greater than the conference championship the Gators brought home in the outdoor 2020-2021 season.

Toader and the rest of the Gators unit are eager to chomp at another title, this time around in the Presidents Athletic Conference.

“I want us to do that again,” Toader said. “There's nothing better than winning with the people you train with every



IMAGE SOURCE: NCAC

Mihaela Toader, '23, competing at the NCAC Outdoor Championship last year on May 6, where she was crowned leader of the conference for the 400-meter race. She outlegged her opponents and crossed the finish line at 58.32 seconds, the second fastest time in Gator history for that event.

single day.”

The team brought 14 participants to the YSU Icebreaker, competing across seven different events. There was no official team score, but the throwers and runners went above holding their own in the likes of lacing up against athletes from all divisional levels.

Another impressive Gator looking to leave her mark this season is Melina Mangino, '23. Last week Mangino posted two indoor personal records in the 60-meter dash and the 60-meter hurdles. She found herself in familiar territory, after spending a large portion of her high school days training at the Watson and Tressel training site in

Youngstown.

“Everyone was doing well across the board,” Mangino said. “We all had a really good day at YSU, and being able to run back there was fun.”

Mangino was thrilled to be back in the PAC this season, and also expressed her main goal was to bring home another title for the Gators. Growing up in New Castle, she has a lot of friends who compete for other schools across the conference. In addition, her brother runs track at Westminster College. Not having a rigorous travel schedule also means her parents can attend more of her events.

“I think my biggest goal is to create a family with my team and go on and take the

trophy,” Mangino said.

Mangino's bread and butter is the indoor season. She likes the controlled weather and consistency with the clock throughout each event. During the outdoor season, players' times can be drastically impeded by the amount of wind at their back, or in their face. Depending on the severity, times may not even be counted in the official records.

Both Toader and Mangino look towards their next event, the Fighting Scots Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 21, in Wooster, Ohio. This ample time between competitions should allow them both to train hard and prepare to break more records.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE CHASES WINTER LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

By KYLE CHANDLER
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When James Morgan, '25, came to Allegheny College he had one thing in mind: joining the ultimate frisbee team. His passion for the sport dates back to his childhood, when he would regularly throw the frisbee, and was a natural talent.

“It's a family tradition,” Morgan said. “It just became a childhood thing for me where I was always throwing around with my dad, and my brother. My mom would even get into it too.”

During high school he joined the ultimate frisbee team, and began developing

as a player. He was a two sport athlete, with soccer also added to his resume, meaning speed and stamina would be no issue. Morgan's enthusiasm about his commitment to the club also convinced his teammates on the pitch to get in on the action.

The time for college applications came quickly, and during his search for the right pick Morgan centered his attention on schools that offered a frisbee team. When he landed upon Allegheny, it only took a week for Morgan to get involved.

He was under the wings of a heavily loaded senior roster. The Gators travel throughout the season, in addition to an

annual “High Tide” spring break trip to South Carolina. In his first year Morgan learned the art of chemistry, growing connections and developing relationships.

“We got really comfortable with each other,” Morgan said. “I would go almost every weekend to the frisbee house to hang out with (the seniors).”

As the year progressed the team's chemistry grew and so did Morgan's confidence. He was continuing to improve as a player and started earning the respect of his teammates. The team pulled off flashy passes and well designed plays. Now, in his second year, Morgan is a regular contribu-

tor to Allegheny's roster and delivers consistent blows to opponents.

“I feel like I can go out on the field and I feel powerful,” said Morgan. “I feel like a weapon.”

Frisbee runs in Morgan's blood. His dad played on the club team at Hamilton College, and also gained coaching experience at Northfield Mount Hermon. When his two sons came along, he passed down his knowledge and the legacy began.

Morgan participated in summer camps coached by one of the best high school teams in the country. He learned a lot by putting in the hours, and they have seemed

to pay off in his early career.

“Last year I was very much integrating into the team,” Morgan said. “This year I have a voice on the team and I can help develop us.”

The Gators are currently in their “Winter League”, and they also compete during the fall and spring. During this season the battlegrounds provide a slightly smaller playing field. They play in a speed ultimate match, where two squads of four engage in fast-paced and high-intensity play.

This season the team is 9-1. There are only a handful of games left to be played at the Erie Sports Center, and they are fighting for the first place crown in a single elimination

playoff bracket. After earning the first seed in the tournament, the Gators won their first game and played again this Sunday.

The season will switch back to the spring schedule after the league concludes. The style of play will return to traditional ultimate frisbee up to and through the fall, in a seven on seven setting with more ground to run on.

As for Morgan, he will hope to continue his fierce play on the field. His love for the game and culture Allegheny has brought to him makes him more excited than ever to continue his journey and leave his mark on the Ultimate Frisbee Club.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GATOR ATHLETICS

James Morgan, '25, towers over a defender, while looking for an open receiver to throw to. Part of his skillset comes with the ability to throw a frisbee with percision and confidence, making him a good “quarterback” for the Gators.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GATOR ATHLETICS

Members of the Ultimate Frisbee team await their next opponent at the Erie Sports Center. This weekend they will be fighting for the Winter League Championship. In a single elimination bracket, the team will surely come with an edge this Sunday at the first match of the tournament.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GATOR ATHLETICS

Morgan also fills the utility role, and can run routes and catch for a score. He encompasses what it takes to make a true impact to the game, and dedicates his time to working on his craft.