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ASG amends constitution, treasurer now two positions

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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The Allegheny Student Government approved a constitutional amendment this week during their regular General Assembly on Tuesday, Dec. 5. and a special session called Wednesday, Dec. 6. The votes cap several weeks of debate on reform to ASG's financial system, which some senators have said puts too much pressure on a single student.

The amendment, proposed by all four senators for the Class of 2025, splits the treasurer position into two different positions: A co-director of finance, and a co-director of treasury. The finance director will lead the Finance Committee, while the treasury director will "manage the funds of ASG and ASG-recognized organizations," according to the amendment.

Both positions will be jointly responsible for completing club finance requests, monitor for any finance infractions and review ASG's Finance Guidelines.

"I feel like having two positions would help smooth things out," Senator Lyndsey Robinson, '24, who sits on the Finance Committee, said during the Tuesday meeting.

After the meeting, Senator Ray Colabawalla, '25, one of the co-sponsors of the amendment, explained that the positions were aimed at preventing backlogs in club finance requests. He said that the finance director would be more focused on the decision-making process in committee, while the treasury director would handle most of the paperwork and emails.

"That way it sort of distinguishes the more technical aspect of the job from the less technical aspect," Colabawalla said during the meeting.

In order to balance the workload between the two positions, the treasury director would be encouraged, but not required, to attend Finance Committee meetings.

The Senate's discussion also moved into the question of recruitment; Senator Katie Wagner, '24 asked if expanding the cabinet was a good idea given a steady decline in Allegheny's enrollment numbers.

"I do kind of wonder — as clubs and organizations on campus have more issues, as we are shrinking, getting and retaining membership — if expanding ASG, when it's already getting harder to get people to join stuff, is the most sustainable option," Wagner said.

In reply, Colabawalla said that he already had a pair of nominees in mind.

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ALIC expands to serve Meadville community



Photo courtesy of Byron Rich

A Productive Robotics 'Cobot' stands in the ALIC@Bessemer facility. The machine can be used for manufacturing, research, and education, according to the Productive Robotics website.

By **PAIGE KAGENI**
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Allegheny College unveiled an additional location for the Allegheny Lab for Innovation and Creativity for Crawford County residents on Nov. 2. Dubbed "ALIC@Bessemer," the initiative's goal is to provide training and onboarding opportunities to work directly with industry partners, according to a press release from the college.

The facility contains computer and research labs, automation machines and equipment required for manufacturing, in addition to much more tailor-made equipment for any innovative mind.

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Allegheny recognized by DOE for commitment to sustainability



Photo courtesy of Kelly Boulton

Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, '02, (third row from bottom, second on left) stands on the steps of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington D.C. with other sustainability leaders while being recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy for achieving the 2023 Better Building Challenge.

By **SAM HEILMANN**
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Allegheny College was recently recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy for achieving the 2023 Better Building Challenge as part of the college's energy-saving initiative. Allegheny was one of only 21 higher education institutions nationwide committed to the challenge, and was one of just four to actually achieve the goals of the challenge, according to an Oct. 24 press release from the college.

Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, '02, represented the college alongside other sustainability leaders at a summit in Washington D.C. hosted at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on Oct. 23.

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Book bans are the new norm in school libraries across the country

By **AB SNYDER**
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To Elanor Bonta, '26, the concept of banned books is quite familiar.

The soft-spoken, magenta-haired psychology major is originally from China, where many books are outlawed as per the demands of the Communist Party.

Regardless, Bonta is an avid reader, even having read some of the prohibited novels from her home country. "When I left China for sure," Bonta said. "Everything is banned so I don't know what counts [as a banned book] and what doesn't."

Studying in the quiet of Carnegie Hall, Bonta shared her opinion on a school's right to censor student reading material, saying it largely depends on the books and the topics in them.

While Bonta may be used to the concept, to the students and faculty at Allegheny College, where accessible and transparent education is valued, the subject of banned books is not taken lightly.

All over the U.S., book bans in school libraries are becoming increasingly common, with more parents, teachers, and students having to come to terms with living in a reality where library material is either challenged or outright prohibited.

Just a few miles up the road, a local school district PENNCREST faced heated controversy after putting in place a ban on books that contained certain material.

In early January 2023, the school board decided in a 5-3 vote to change policy language to prohibit books containing "inappropriate material."

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ASG gives out sweatshirts from local businesses



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

ASG Senator Liam Shields, '27, (center) and Director of Community Relations Cam Lesher, '24, hand out sweatshirts to students at Grounds For Change on Nov. 29.

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In this week's Campus...

GOING HOME AS A FIRST-YEAR

Staff Writer Emma Conti-Windle, '27, lays out four steps for first-years to follow when returning home over breaks.

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BIDEN'S NOTICEABLE ABSENCE AT COP28

President Biden is not attending the COP28 international climate summit. Contributing Writer Chloe Snyder, '27, explores what that means for the U.S.' commitment to combatting climate change.

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A TRIBUTE TO STEVIE WONDER

Contributing Writer Milo Watson, '26, shares his thoughts on a recent performance by the Jazz Ensemble.

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FRIDAY H: 54° L: 46°
Rain: 7%
Sunrise: 7:34 a.m.
Sunset: 4:50 p.m.

SATURDAY H: 56° L: 46°
Rain: 24%
Sunrise: 7:35 a.m.
Sunset: 4:50 p.m.

SUNDAY H: 49° L: 31°
Rain: 96%
Sunrise: 7:36 a.m.
Sunset: 4:50 p.m.

ASG *from page 1*

"I'm hoping to speak to … the person that applied and the person that left from the position prior, and ask them to see whether they would be interested in it still," Colabawalla said. "Especially considering the person that left, left because the workload is too much, and so now that issue has been addressed and hopefully the other person that applied can now reapply to the position since it's changed."

Former Director of the Treasury Hunter Goerman, '25, left the position in early November and declined to comment on his departure at the time.

Goerman did not respond to a request for comment.

Andrew Strobel, '24, has been the only student to apply to be treasurer in the month since Goerman stepped down, but was not approved for the seat at the Nov. 14 meeting. Senators shot down Strobel's nomination in favor of working on the constitutional amendment.

Ordinarily Strobel would not be able to reapply for the treasurer position, since he was already voted down once. However, since the treasury position has been changed by the constitutional amendment, it is considered two new and distinct seats, and Strobel would be eligible to run for either of them this year.

Strobel was in attendance at both the Tuesday, Dec. 5, and Wednesday, Dec. 6, meetings, but did not speak during either. After the Tuesday GA, he told The Campus he was not interested in either of the new treasury seats.

"I have committed to a couple projects for the Center for Business and Economics to improve the CBE fellowship program, so unfortunately I can't devote the required time to do this," Strobel said. "I thank the student government for hearing me out as a candidate and wish them the best of luck in the candidate search."

Who will ultimately fill the two positions is therefore still unclear; during the Dec. 5 meeting, ASG Vice President Sam Ault, '26, said that no other students had applied for the still-vacant treasurer position.

ASG also heard a broad question from one of their own. Class of 2026 President Lorenzo Scarnati arrived towards the end of the meeting and was already represented by a proxy. So, Scarnati spoke up during the constituent comment period to point out that many members of ASG agreed that Strobel was qualified during the Nov. 28 General Assembly.

"It seems that we've turned him down in favor of the amendment because we deemed it was too much work for one person," Scarnati said. "And I think it's unfair in a sense — and we should consider this in the future — that we turned somebody down based on their perceived capability to be in this position."

Scarnati added that different treasurers would have different ways of handling the workload.

"Who knows?" Scarnati said. "You could have somebody in the position … they could have boosted efficiency by 300%. Instead of taking 15 hours or eight hours, however long it takes, maybe it takes this person three, or maybe it takes them 20. You simply don't know. And I hope we keep this in consideration for whoever comes before Senate in the future."

Special Session

The called meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 6, seemed less like a formality, and more a callback to the pandemic era. Because the meeting was held over videoconference, ASG had to handle both parliamentary procedure and connectivity problems — the latter of which stunted the eight minutes of discussion that took place before the final vote.

After Colabawalla started the discussion, Recio Bremer digitally raised her hand to speak. After being called on and testing her microphone, the meeting fell silent for more than a minute due to unspecified technical difficulties. When Recio Bremer was able to speak again, she reintroduced the question of how ASG would fill two seats when the body struggled to fill one.

"Recruiting is something that we have had a problem in the past with," Recio Bremer said. "Having one position, we only had one applicant. How do you guys think that's gonna turn out when we now open two positions? What is the consensus of Senate; if you guys decide to vote on this amendment in favor, how are we gonna manage that issue?"

Colabawalla replied that splitting the position in two and shrinking individuals' workload would make students less afraid to apply, and that the amendment was specifically written to allow past applicants to try again.

"I don't think that having one extra position is going to be that much more detrimental in our efforts to fill it," Colabawalla said. "I think that with an earnest and diligent effort, we can definitely fill the position."

Scarnati was also called on to speak, but was immediately disconnected from the meeting. By the time he rejoined, Scarnati was unable to unmute himself, and the time for the discussion had expired.

Of the 18 senators currently in office, 14 attended the Wednesday meeting, and 11 voted for the amendment in the meeting's chat box. The remaining three did not appear to file a vote.

The final vote will be recorded in the meeting's minutes. However, minutes from neither meeting were posted to Engage by 5 p.m. on Thursday.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Senators Ray Colabawalla, '25, and Alexis Costanza, '25, and Class of 2025 President Asaad Bell listen to a senator from the Class of 2024 speak during the ASG General Assembly on Dec. 5.

Other business

During her weekly cabinet report on Tuesday, Director of Sustainability Bianca Sanchez, '24, announced that she would be stepping down from her position.

"After today, I will be resigning from my position this semester," Sanchez said. "It was very nice working with everyone."

In an email to The Campus on Wednesday, Sanchez cited her heavy workload as a senior for her departure.

"Due to personal circumstances I felt it was best for me to resign and allow myself a break next semester and someone else to contribute better to ASG than myself," Sanchez wrote. "I enjoyed being apart of cabinet and working with everyone in ASG. As far as I am aware, applications will be advertised starting early next semester. I do hope my work I started this semester as the Director of Sustainability & Environmental Affairs continues after I am done this semester."

During their report Tuesday, Director of Organizational Development V O'Connor-Belcher, '26, said that ASG's formal — planned for Sunday, Dec. 10 — was canceled.

"None of the venues we reached out to would host for us," O'Connor-Belcher said. "Instead, there will be cookies and punch at the same time formal was meant to be."

In Unfinished Business, ASG approved constitutions for both the Neuroscience Club and Commuter and Crawford County Student Association — known as C3SA — for their second rounds of voting. The two organizations now become the 117th and 118th student organizations on campus, according to a review of the college's Engage database.

ASG will meet again on 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12, in CC 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center for their final meeting of the semester.

Students for Environmental Action hosts mending workshop

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
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EVELYN ZAVALA/THE CAMPUS

Students for Environmental Action supplied a variety of supplies that attendees could use to repair their clothing at the mending workshop in Grounds for Change on Nov. 30.

Waste reduction is one of the ways people can live more sustainably. In an era of fast fashion, Students for Environmental Action seeks to reduce waste by hosting a mending workshop where students can learn how to fix their damaged clothes rather than purchasing new items.

SEA invited students to bring their clothes to GFC and learn how to fix them while enjoying an open tab on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. in Grounds for Change.

Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, '02, described how the textile industry has been increasingly producing more waste throughout the years and the effects of it.

"Our fashion industry has increasingly shifted towards items that are made of lower quality materials and they are designed to last for a season where maybe you wear them a couple times, and then you move on," Boulton said. "What we are finding is that places that accept donations of clothes are just flooded with clothes and they are of a lower quality, so they are just worthless."

Boulton said one of the ways to avoid contributing to fashion waste is by being more thoughtful about investing in higher-quality clothing that will last longer.

"For students buying clothes on a budget, sometimes it is better to slowly save and pay a little bit more for something or find it at a thrift store for higher quality but lower price," Boulton said. "This sweater that I am wearing, I actually got this, it is an all-wool sweater but I got it at a rummage sale for a quarter."

Boulton pointed at a few patches on her sweater where she mended holes and said it would probably last a few more decades.

"I think sometimes finding that balance between if you have time to thrift and if you don't have time, slowly save some money to invest in things that are a little more quality," Boulton said.

SEA President Julia Sonen, '24, shared some of the ways that, as a student, she is able to incorporate sustainable habits into her life.

"My goal for this year, I think I've just about succeeded, is to not buy any new clothing items, beyond underwear and socks," Sonen said. "Actually, my entire household here on campus has been transitioning to zero waste items so we've been loving (using) the bar soap for dish soap and yes, it's still consuming but we don't have the plastic bottle to deal with."

Sonen said some of the other items people should be more thoughtful about purchasing are electronics.

"The global sustainability movement as a whole has been talking about electronics because of all the heavy earth metals in those electronics that impact both on the land with the mining but also on the people," Sonen said. "We've got a lot of societal injustices and really some terrible living situations and exploitation of people in terms of extracting those materials."

Recycling and repairing electronics, similarly to mending and donating clothes, is a way electronic waste can be mitigated, according to Sonen.

"It is the billionaires and corporations that are creating so much of this waste and this total abuse of the planet and much of what they are doing is supported by the businesses of the people that have to buy clothing to live, that have to buy food to live," Sonen said. "And if what is available to them, is things that are not sustainable, that money will end up filtering and often moving out of the common people and into those corporations."

By reducing consumption, Sonen said everyone can reduce how much of their wealth is being fed to corporations that ultimately continue to damage the environment.

External Activism Director Laura Obergefell, '26, said she brought a pair of socks to the workshop where people were helping each other mend their clothes while looking up instructions and videos.

"I think the workshop gives a bit of a mindset change as it doesn't take that much effort or much supplies or much experience at all to add this little skill to your life that can save you money and save from using more resources and buying more things," Obergefell said.

Some other sustainability-based efforts SEA is and has planned is encouraging people to use green boxes in both dining halls, the Trashion Show next semester, and the multiple mending workshops that have been held during the semester according to Obergefell.

SWEATSHIRTS *from page 1*



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Lesher hands a sweatshirt from local business Hatch Hollow to a student in Grounds for Change on Nov. 29.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

The line of students waiting for sweatshirts extends outside of GFC, wrapping around the second floor balcony. In 58 minutes, 170 sweatshirts were handed out over a period of 58 minutes. "I think that it has been one of the most well-attended events that I have been to this year," Lesher said.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Students were asked to support the Food Recovery Network in a "Penny War," where students could "vote" for their favorite space to work given the campus Wi-Fi. Students donated a total of $15.21, with the most, $7.50, going to "Coffee Shops and Cafes."

BUILDINGS

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"I think we (Allegheny) stand out because all along we've set ambitious goals, but then we've actually followed through on them— we haven't backed down," Boulton said.

Allegheny became involved with the Better Building Challenge in 2011 when the Obama administration sought to measure efficiency and sustainability across various sectors. The Better Buildings Challenge works with leaders in the public and private sectors "to make the nation's homes, commercial buildings, and industrial plants more energy-efficient by accelerating investment and sharing successful best practices," according to the Department of Energy's website. Boulton explained that the college was already doing the work that would stand out in the challenge at the time, starting with a commitment in 2007 to measure greenhouse gas inventories, followed by a Climate Action Plan adopted in 2009. Allegheny was noticed for its own sustainability initiatives, which could inspire other institutions to implement similar strategies.

"We were on their radar because we were already doing that work," Boulton said.

A large part of the Climate Action Plan was looking at what spaces are being used on campus and reimagining the spaces that were less used. Oddfellows and Caflisch Hall were among the buildings on campus that were deemed less efficient. Caflisch was demolished in August.

"Several years ago we did a strategic plan in which we did a space study of campus to think about how much square footage do we need per student, like in residence halls, in academic buildings," Boulton said. "What we found is that we have far more square footage than we really need. And so, in that process we did a lot of looking at, 'What are the buildings that we have that maybe aren't serving us the best?'"

After looking at what spaces cannot continue to serve a purpose for the college, the next step of the action plan was rethinking the spaces that are still useful.

"Reduce as much as you can, change your energy purchasing, and then we've also decarbonized some of our buildings," Boulton said.

Boulton explained that the work of reducing emissions has been collaborative, with input from the college's cabinet as well as resources from Physical Plant.

"Physical Plant is a huge partner to think about how we're heating our buildings, how we're insulating our buildings, how we're lighting our buildings — all of the different operational decisions that have sustainability components," Boulton said.

After that work was done, the focus turned to offsetting whatever emissions remained.

"Students still drive to campus at the beginning of the semester, we still have business travel, we still are heating some of our buildings with natural gas," Boulton said. "We purchase carbon offsets, which is essentially investing in projects that are going to take an equivalent amount of energy or emissions out of the atmosphere so that we are equalizing our remaining emissions by doing positive things elsewhere."

However, the work of carbon neutrality does not end there.

"Carbon neutrality is not a static thing," Boulton said. "You have to work to continue to be carbon neutral and, ideally, even if you're carbon neutral, you're continuing to reduce your carbon footprint and therefore the amount of carbon offsets you have to purchase."

Allegheny College achieved carbon neutrality on-schedule in 2020. It also reduced overall emissions by 22% over 10 years, according to the Oct. 24 press release. Boulton explained that this was helped in large part by a dedicated staff and engaged students.

"I think it also does not hurt at all that we have a really, really long-standing, amazing environmental science department that we collaborate with all the time," Boulton added.

The summit was Allegheny's chance to tell the DOE what is and is not working when it comes to sustainability. Among those in attendance were Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm and White House National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi.

"The White House, the Department of Energy are like, 'You are doing a good job, it's working, help us learn from you so we can amplify this work with others' — and I think that's a big deal for this tiny little college in northwestern Pennsylvania to be recognized," Boulton said.

ALIC

from page 1

The facility is led by Byron Rich, assistant provost of academic innovation, assistant professor and chair for the art department, and director of academic innovation partnerships.

"What we're doing down there is actually establishing a facility where we can do a number of things," Rich said.

The Allegheny Lab for Innovation and Creativity already functions as an on-campus resource for all things creative. Established in 2019, the lab houses equipment for robotics, 3D printing, scientific research and much more, allowing the college to reapply its strengths as a centuries-old liberal arts institution to new age technologies. ALIC had only been limited to the grounds of Allegheny's campus, located within the walls of the Henderson Campus Center. With new developments, an expansion to ALIC's reach is now possible with ALIC@Bessemer. This facility can be used by students of Allegheny, as well as residents of Meadville and all of Crawford County.

Rich described ALIC@Bessemer as an "external facing branch" for ALIC that works directly with the Meadville community.

"Everything from training and upscaling of incumbent workers — or underemployed individuals from our region — utilizing state of the art manufacturing equipment, to research labs that will be sponsored by companies so that our students and faculty will be able to actually get involved in hands-on material science research, supply chain research, fabrication technology research, automation, robotics, etc," Rich said.

He added that other uses of the building include an incubator and accelerator for start-ups and office spaces.

When speaking about the goals of ALIC@Bessemer, Rich recognized that, at least right now, they seem a bit imposing. As Allegheny continuously proves itself as a stand-out amongst nationally recognized institutions, the relationship between the college and those who live in Meadville become more and more strained. There's a stark difference between the community at Allegheny College and Meadville as a whole, and Rich wants to bridge that divide using ALIC@Bessemer.

"We can be a traditional liberal arts college that has a national reputation, but we can also help serve our region more meaningfully," Rich said."I guess, for me, that means helping inspire continued growth in our economy and new opportunities for our economy. The loftiest goal at ALIC@Bessemer is to inspire the continued development of a tech economy and a rural tech economy."

For Rich, ALIC@Bessemer is a way to address technological needs to push the economy and community forward.

"We need to play a bigger role in ensuring that the people are here and that the technologies are available for doing research into what's possible in these industries."

Rich hopes that more students will take advantage of ALIC@Bessemer so that they can remain in Meadville long term. While it's great that students earn their degrees and move to use their expertise in environments around the world, Rich says Meadville could also use that same expertise to further its community.

"Post-graduation, it's a great place to live; you can pay off student loans, it's a great place to live, it's beautiful if you like the outdoors," Rich said. "If you don't mind living in a small town, it's a really wonderful place to live and have a family and do all these things that are largely out of reach for Gen Z and my generation, too. We want to see more students stay in the area, so that's another big goal."

Not only could this initiative be a way to drive up revenue for Allegheny, it could also green light more access to grants and endowments because of its role in developing the community. To measure the success of ALIC@Bessemer, Rich will watch how many students remain in the area after graduation and how many new businesses open in Meadville.

"Deeper and more meaningful relationships in our town, ones that are based on mutual respect and mutual benefit is something that I really want to see," Rich said. Finally, Rich wants to see employers in the area able to draw from Allegheny, as well as local high schools and technical institutes, for employees.

"I want to see a much more cohesive educational ecosystem that helps western Pennsylvania prosper," Rich said."That would be my biggest, loftiest goal."

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>
> —BYRON RICH
> Assistant Provost of Academic Innovation, Assistant Professor and Chair for the Art Department, and Director of Academic Innovation Partnerships, Allegheny College



Photo courtesy of Allegheny College

Byron Rich, Provost Angela Haddad and community attendees listen to President Ron Cole, '87, speak in the ALIC@Bessemer facility.

CRIME BLOTTER

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

November 6, 2023
Criminal Mischief
Phi Kappa Psi
Unfounded

November 11, 2023
Disorderly Conduct
Off Campus
Referred to Dean

November 11, 2023
Alcohol Violation
Off Campus
Referred to Dean

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How to go home

Advice for first-years, from a first-year

By EMMA CONTI-WINDLE
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"I miss home."

That thought has run through my mind probably a thousand times since coming to college. My family are my best friends, and being away from them this semester has been extremely difficult. I don't think I'm alone in that, especially amongst first-years. It's normal. On the other hand, I've made friends at school that really like being away from home, and I think it's great and normal too. I've been doing my best to balance both normals. It's been difficult.

I only live an hour away from campus, so I've been home and seen my family a few times throughout the semester. The idea of returning home was a relief because it meant I would get to see the people that know and love me. It was simple: home was home. So imagine my surprise, when on the short drive back to campus after Thanksgiving break, it finally dawned on me that since coming to school, home does not feel the same at all.

In college, at least, there is a general assumption that in most cases, if we're changing, it means we're doing something right. College, in its nature, welcomes change and therefore, I welcome change. At least, I thought I did.

It turns out change doesn't just stay where it's welcome. Once it's there, it follows us everywhere. It follows us home. Sometimes, it's even waiting for us at home. That's terrifying.

As I reflect on time spent at home and look ahead to winter break, I am doing my best to accept the changes that have occurred in me and those I love during my time away. While painting change as an ever-lurking villain come to suck all comfort from our lives as young people is both fun and dramatic, it's not the most effective in coming up with healthy ways to process and prepare for a return home. Much more effective, in my opinion, are lists.

In an attempt to break this enormously complex process down into simple steps of action, I have come up with a four-step checklist for first-year college students returning home in a few weeks.

Step One: Give in to nostalgia

One could do this by revisiting the media that shaped our childhoods; Disney, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network, our moms' movies from the '80s, the list goes on.

I am a Disney girl all the way, which has really helped me build a bridge between childhood and adulthood that I can cross at any time. Growing up is hard, and a two-hour visit with the little girl I once was makes it a lot easier.

Returning home sometimes reminds me how old I've gotten, how I'll never actually be a kid again. This can get dark quickly, so putting on "Tangled" or "Aladdin" has helped me keep in touch with the kid that I'll never really be, but will always love.

I think college has a way of making us feel like we've left a lot behind, but we really haven't if we don't want to. Disney movies, or nostalgic media in general, help us carry those memories and feelings with us.

Step Two: Acknowledge childhood, and be a good person.

Aside from watching movies that remind us of childhood, it's important to keep in mind that we will always be our parents' children and return home as children in their house. That, like everything about family relationships, can be good or bad depending on the situation. It could mean reimplemented chores, rules, curfews and expectations. It could also mean hugs, home cooked meals,and free laundry. For me, it's a combination of both, good and bad.

I think the way through this is to acknowledge our childhood, our role as children in our parents' houses. We should acknowledge the good parts and the bad parts, and if it helps, remove the titles of "child" and "parent" in our minds. Instead, think person to person. Then, be a good person.

If our college sleep schedules don't align with our family's, we should be good people and temporarily adjust them. If laundry needs to be done, if trash needs to be taken out, if siblings need to be driven to school, if dishes need to be washed, if the people that we love need help, we should be good people and help them.

Step Three: Acknowledge adulthood and remember: It's okay that we changed.

Don't get me wrong, we are adults, legally, at least. With adulthood comes creating, acknowledging, and respecting boundaries.

For instance, if aspects of our personalities and lives such as gender identity, sexual orientation, religious identity, communication styles, needs, or desires have changed since being away at school, it could impact our relationships with our families. Establishing boundaries can help navigate what could possibly be new conversations with our loved ones. Keep in mind, change is okay.

Step Four: Fall in love (again).

While at college, memories of times spent with loved ones would keep me going through particularly challenging bouts of homesickness. So, it was especially difficult to return home throughout the semester and realize that the home that I was missing wasn't the same one to which I was returning. Of course, the house was the same, and the smell was the same, but routines, lifestyles, and habits had all changed, and quickly. Two months isn't actually that long of a time.

A somewhat dramatic and admittedly self-centered realization that particularly stung was that my loved ones' lives had gone on without me. My little sister was a junior in high school without me.

My parents were going through their days without hearing a lengthy life update from me every evening. I have to laugh at myself for this a bit, but honestly, I was perplexed. My family was still busy, their lives were still changing, and I wasn't there for it.

Still, I love my parents, the real people with real lives outside of me. I love my sister, the 16-year-old who got her learner's permit, and knows more about makeup than I do. I love my boyfriend, who is studying something completely different from me, making friends that I don't know, and figuring out who he is on his own. I love my friends, who I'm seeing more of in pictures than in person, but I know are probably doing something awesome. I love all the same people, but they are not the same people. Woah.

> "It turns out change doesn't just stay where it's welcome. Once it's there, it follows us everywhere."
>
> — EMMA CONTI-WINDLE
> Class of 2027

Honestly, it's sad to think that I probably wouldn't have realized all of these things had I not left. It makes me feel very tunnel-visioned. But it's also great, because now my mind is more open, and I get to think of the reasons, new and old, why I love the ones I love all over again.

And so, after processing our feelings of fear and sadness at the realization that home, family, and life will not always look the same as we remember, we can feel anxiously happy instead. We can fall in love with life all over again, even in the wake of enormous change. And honestly, no matter what we're celebrating over winter break, I think that's a pretty fabulous gift.

The Fall of Ajax the Great

By JOSEPH KLEPEIS
Staff Writer
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Ajax is a European football club based in Amsterdam, Netherlands. They are the most successful club in the Netherlands, with 36 Eredivisie titles and 20 Dutch Cups. They are also one of the most successful clubs in European-wide competitions, winning four Champions League titles. They are also one of the few teams to win the continental treble — when back in the 1971-72 season, they won the Eredivisie title, the Dutch Cup and the European Cup (the predecessor to the Champions League).

That is an impressive resume, but the talent Ajax has produced over the years is equally astonishing.

The Ajax Youth Academy has produced the likes of Johan Cruyff, Dennis Bergkamp, Clarence Seedorf, Wesley Sneijder and Matthijs de Ligt, to name a few.

The club is well known for giving chances on the senior team to young non-Dutch players who would later become titans of the sport, such as Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Luis Suárez.

Ajax is the poster child for youth development and youth scouting abroad.

Why is it then that they had the worst opening to a season in club history this year, grabbing a meager five points from their first seven games?

The idea has been floated around that the club got too big for its britches. They have won four titles in the past decade and made a Champions League semi-final appearance in the 2018-19 season. The performance that season shined a spotlight on multiple key players in that squad, with multiple big names leaving for greener pastures. Player retention has been lacking ever since, with most players wandering into the spotlight and immediately being scooped up by bigger clubs with deeper pockets. So is life in the business of the sport.

Another issue we see is the crumbling of the club's infrastructure. Marc Overmars was the longtime director of football at the club and resigned on Feb. 6 2022, after a scandal involving inappropriate messages he was sending to female colleagues. This is an unavoidable loss, but it is still a loss for the club.

By May 15, 2022, Erik ten Hag, the manager of the club, was gone after agreeing to manage Manchester United. Ten Hag had led the club to three Eredivisie titles, two Dutch Cups, and that aforementioned Champion's League semi-final appearance. This was perceived as a huge loss at the time, but a review of his handling of Manchester United since he left Ajax shows that maybe his departure wasn't so bad after all. I believe the loss is still felt at Ajax. The brand of football that Ten Hag employs may be hit or miss in England, but his Dutch track record shows it worked there.

The last piece of the puzzle is the club's finances. After losing two of the biggest pieces of the club, there was a need for a spark. That spark was meant to be Steven Bergwijn. A Dutch forward who spent the first six years of his career playing in the Eredivisie and had shown streaks of excellence in England's Premier League playing for Tottenham Hotspur — but was never consistent — seemed like a match made in heaven. A homecoming for a star youngster who had experience in one of Europe's best leagues should have been the key to salvation.

The issue is that he cost the club €31.25 million (around $33.7 million), making him the most expensive transfer in Eredivisie history. That's an outlandish price point, even for the perceived biggest club in the Netherlands.

It gets worse. On Aug. 8, Ajax made Bergwijn the new captain of the club, replacing Dušan Tadic, who was leaving for Turkish club Fenerbahçe. Tadic was a key component of the past five years of Ajax's success. In his five years at the club, he finished his career in 12th place in all-time scoring. The man got things done.

Bergwijn is no Dušan Tadic. He has scored 18 goals and assisted seven so far in his Ajax career. Tadic, in his first two seasons, scored 39 and assisted 28. Unless Bergwijn intends to score 21 goals and assist 21 in the next 21 games, then I doubt he will live up to the captaincy and performance of Tadic.

Ajax currently sit 24 points behind league leaders PSV Eindhoven and are on their way out of the UEFA Europa League.

The club is in shambles compared to the last five years. I enjoy Ajax and appreciate the club's history. I have been a Bergwijn fan for a number of years. Would I have broken the transfer record to bring him to Ajax? No.

Do I think there's hope for the club? Yes.

The sensationalization of the loss is a bit out of hand, and I realize this article is adding to it, but I think that goes to show how grand of a club Ajax is. Three titles in five years was fantastic. The current state of the table surely means they won't win the league. Their Europa League performance has sent them down to the Europa Conference League. They are still competing in the Dutch Cup competition.

The chance for glory still exists. Their history of success and recent dominance of their league have spoiled everyone who keeps an eye on them. The moment we see them falter, we run to the alarm and pull it. Ajax is suffering from success. Sure, it might not come this season, and if it does, it won't be as plentiful as in the past, but who wants to win every year? Everyone! That's the beauty of it all. Winning is only sweet when you have tasted the bitterness of losing.

President Biden's noticeable absence at the COP28

By **CHLOE SNYDER**
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Vice President Kamala Harris is attending the COP28 conference in place of President Joe Biden, according to CNN. COP28, which is being held in Dubai from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12, is an international conference where United Nations member states come together to discuss possible ways to address climate change. According to the COP28 website, the conference is "the world's only multilateral decision-making forum on climate change" where "more than 70,000 delegates are expected to attend" from around the world.

The ongoing Israel-Hamas war was the primary reason why Biden chose not to attend the conference, according to a report by the New York Times. The same source indicated that the war in Ukraine was also a contributing factor as to why the president has chosen not to attend.

Biden's schedule on Nov. 30, the first day of the summit, included a "bilateral meeting with President Jao Manuel Goncalves of the Republic of Angola and attending the National Tree Lighting," according to the Associated Press.

COP conferences have occurred every year for the past 28 years. Biden was the first president to regularly go to COP conferences, according to Agence France-Presse, and attended in 2021 and 2022.

Past conferences have resulted in the creation of international climate action plans like the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Climate Accords — also known as the Paris Agreement. The specific issues that will be explored at this year's conference will include "limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, helping vulnerable communities adapt to the effects of climate change, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050," according to the COP28 organizers.

The annual COP conference "is the one forum that we have for nations to get together and try to hammer out deals [about climate change]," said Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Matthew Betherum. Biden's lack of attendance "sends a signal that [climate change] is not something we're prioritizing right now," according to Betherum, and "tells the international community something about the U.S.' potential commitment to actually follow through on our Paris Agreement pledges."

The United States re-entered the Paris Agreement after Biden assumed the office of the presidency in 2021. Progress towards meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement is likely to be a prominent topic of discussion during the conference, according to Betherum. He said that although the agreements made at COP conferences are technically not enforceable, the perceptions created by Biden's lack of attendance are consequential "to the extent that the international community starts to pull back their own efforts because they start to say, 'Well if the U.S. isn't going to do more, why should we pony up more?' that then has a real impact."

Not everyone agrees that Biden's lack of attendance could negatively affect efforts to combat climate change; some feel that the president's choice to attend the conference or not would not matter much either way.

"He's attended previous summits, he's sending the vice president, he's sending [Senior Advisor for clean energy and innovation and implementation] John Podesta, he's sending [Special Presidential Envoy for the Climate] John Kerry, so I don't read it as a big deal," said Professor and Chair of the Political Science Department Brian Harward.

The president's attendance at the conference would be entirely "symbolic" in Harward's opinion.

Biden's absence "isn't going to make that big of a difference in terms of the work that gets done at the summit. That work is going to be done by the staff of Podesta and Kerry and others. That work would happen anyway," Harward said.

Many observers found it surprising that Biden chose not to attend given his administration's passage of some of the most ambitious climate change legislation ever passed. His presidential campaign has also focused a great deal on the administration's efforts to combat climate change in their messaging, and Biden has made strong statements about the issue in his speeches. The president had referred to climate change as "'the ultimate threat to humanity'" according to the Associated Press.

However, Harward believes that the president's climate change record may have contributed to his decision to skip the conference.

"He has a legislative track record of advocating for success in climate policy, including the Inflation Reduction Act," Harward said. "Given everything that's happening in the world … the attention given to [the COP28 conference] may not outweigh the other kinds of things that he needs to attend to."

Climate activists like Betherum are more cynical.

"We're not doing enough," Betherum said. "Whether Biden goes there or whether he doesn't go there, the United States is not doing enough on this issue. We have perfect capability to do more than we're doing right now."

> We're not doing enough. Whether Biden goes there or whether he doesn't go there, the United States is not doing enough on this isssue"
>
> —MATTHEW BETHERUM, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability, Allegheny College

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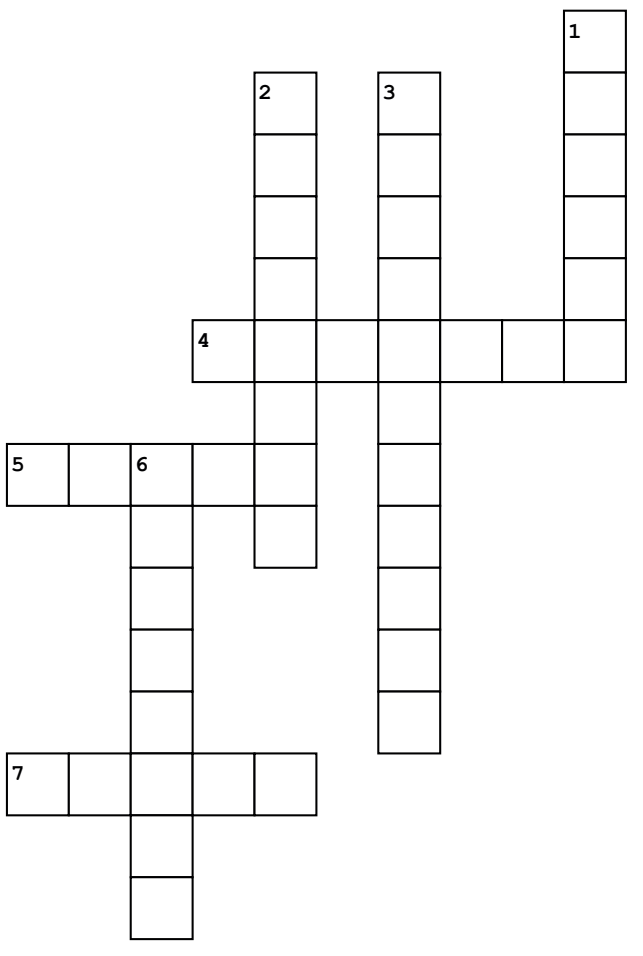
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Climate Crossword



Across

4. Current senior advisor to the president for clean energy innovation and implementation
5. Host city for the COP28 conference
7. City that hosted the COP21 where an international treaty to reduce global emissions was created and signed by member states

Down

1. Southern African country whose president met with Biden on Nov. 30
2. Adjective used by Professor and Chair of the Political Science Department Brian Harward in regard to the president's attendance
3. Aspect of the environment the COP28 plans to tackle
6. Assistant professor of environmental science and sustainability

Answer Key

Across
4. Podesta, 5. Dubai, 7. Paris
Down
1. Angola, 2. Symbolic, 3. Temperature, 6. Betherum

Comedy Corner: 'Cultured' Meat

By **JOSEPH KLEPEIS**
Staff Writer
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Politico reports that Florida state Rep. Tyler Sirois has put forward legislation intended to criminalize the sale of lab-grown meat. Sirois said he hopes Florida will become the first state to ban "cultured" meat.

I don't know what's more amazing — not wanting to minimize environmental effects that come from the growing of animals the "old-fashioned" way, or that this lab-grown meat can quote Shakespeare, has multiple Leonard Bernstein CD's, and appreciates a good French wine.

Major League Baseball owners voted unanimously Thursday, Nov. 16, to permit the Oakland Athletics to relocate to Las Vegas, according to ESPN.

"I know — I know — this is a terrible day for fans in Oakland. I understand that," said MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred (Yes, this is a real quote).

At a fictional afterparty celebrating the decision, Manfred added: "But it's a great day for the owner's wallet, and at the end of the day, that's what really matters."

The Des Moines Register reports that AMC has closed the last remaining movie theater in the Des Moines metro area.

"I'm glad to finally have a venue for my performances," said a local shadow puppeteer. "I'll even let people bring in their own snacks."

Ultramarathon runner Joasia Zakrzewski has been given a 12 month ban by UK Athletics after it was revealed that she used a car during a race, according to CNN.

"This is just outrageous," said a fellow anonymous runner. "I took a train during a race two years ago and I'm still banned, what's the deal?"

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak canceled a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Kryiakos Mitsotakis on Nov. 26. The New York Times reported that the meeting was scheduled for Tuesday until the abrupt cancellation by Sunak. The decision was made after Mitsotakis appeared on British television on Nov. 25 calling for the return of the Parthenon marbles.

"You have to honor the rules of the game," said an anonymous parliamentary aide. "No takesies-backsies."

Javier Milei is the new president-elect of Argentina. His policies are interesting, to say the least.

The BBC has gathered quotes on certain positions held by Milei.

"I do not deny climate change. What I am saying is that there is a temperature cycle in the history of the Earth," said Milei. "Therefore, all those policies that blame humans for climate change are false."

That sounds like climate change denial with extra steps.

Milei has described Pope Francis as the "representative of the evil one [the Devil] on Earth."

After winning the election, the Pope was invited to visit Argentina next year.

What's a politician without flip-flopping on a formerly firmly held position?

Francesco Camarda made his debut for AC Milan in Serie A on Nov. 25. At the time of the match, he was 15 years and 260 days old. That broke the record previously held by Wisdom Amey, who debuted at 15 years and 274 days old for Bologna FC, reports CNN.

"Fran's playing for AC Milan in the top flight of Italian football," said an anonymous classmate. "Meanwhile, I'm just trying to wrap my head around trigonometry."

Pittsburgh Regional Transit CEO Katharine Eagan Kelleman defended the agency after Dan Yablonsky of the Pittsburghers for Public Transit said the agency has a "service crisis," reports the Pittsburgh Union Progress.

Kelleman denied it was a crisis.

Since early 2020, the agency's operators have gone down by 14%, and service has been cut by 13%.

Kelleman stated that 20% to 25% of applicants quit before their training ends.

That doesn't sound like a crisis at all. That's more like a predicament or a dilemma, perhaps a disaster; some may say a calamity. It's definitely not a crisis.

Daryl Hall has been granted a restraining order against John Oates.

"He's out of touch, and I can't go for that," said Hall. "I had to hire private eyes to help get the order granted."

The duo has released 18 albums together since 1972. Three of those albums have gone double platinum.

"I asked him to sleep on it [the restraining order] and see what he thinks when the morning comes," said Oates. "I'm sorry, but the music is bigger than both of us. I think we'll be back together again."

When reached out for comment on Oates' comments, Hall only said, "Some things are better left unsaid."

During an interview on Fox News with Sean Hannity on Dec. 1, Newt Gingrich made multiple comments on how California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) handled the debate with Florida Gov. Ron Desantis (R)

"There were two things going on," Gingrich said. "Praising Joe Biden to prove to the Democratic party he's loyal and personally attacking Gov. Desantis because he couldn't answer the questions."

Gingrich went on to critique Newsom for personal attacks against Desantis and the state of Florida.

The man who laid the groundwork for the modern-day antics of politicians should be the last person to criticize a politician for using personal attacks.

Why is it so hypocritical of Gingrich to complain about Newsom's debate decorum?

"One of the great problems we have in the Republican Party is that we don't encourage you to be nasty," said Gingrich on June 24, 1978, at a national College Republicans meeting (Yes, this is another real quote).

Disclaimer: All quotes are fictitious unless otherwise noted. We take no responsibility for any laugh-induced hysteria you may have experienced as a result of reading this column.

NaviGator Spotlight:
Econ with Prof. Timothy Bianco

By **the NAVIGATORS**

What is one piece of advice you'd give to those who wish to take an Economics course at Allegheny?

Studying economics may feel like navigating a maze of complexity, but trust me when I say that you can handle it. Trust in your ability to grasp the intricacies and perhaps even find your own passion for economics along the way. Embrace the challenges with patience, understanding that confusion is a natural part of the learning process. Seize the opportunity to engage, work diligently, connect with professors and peers and persist until the pieces fall into place. In your academic journey, remember that learning often begins in moments of uncertainty.

What made you fall in love with economics?

I love the challenge of answering difficult questions, much like assembling a puzzle. Economics, as a discipline, offers intelligible and clever ways of trying to answer important questions. Entering college as an economics major, I often received puzzled looks and comments from my peers like, "I hated my economics class" or "Why would you do that to yourself?" More than two decades ago, walking into my first economics class, I was blissfully unaware of what economics even was. Back then, I couldn't understand my peers' distaste for the subject, and truth be told, I still can't. I have grown to love economics. Now, as a professor, I want to share my enthusiasm for economics with my students and help them discover their own passions, even if it extends beyond economics.

What has your career journey looked like? What is one piece of advice you'd give to your past self?

Post-graduation, my journey led me through roles in banking, as an economics instructor at my alma mater and as an analyst for the Federal Reserve. I loved each of these, but on the brink of turning 30, I decided to make a significant life change and go on to pursue a Ph.D. in economics, drawn back to the classroom by a desire to continue learning. Reflecting on this, I'd advise my past self — and current students — that their 20s are a great time for exploration. It's perfectly okay not to spend your entire career with your first or even second employer, and if you find yourself dissatisfied in your current situation, don't shy away from seeking something new. Even if content in your career, if you long for something more and the means allow, consider exploring a new career path. Remember, very few things in life are permanent, and the pursuit of passion is often worth the risk.

Anything you want students at Allegheny to know about you, your department, or anything else?

I'd like students at Allegheny to know about all of the opportunities available to them. We have fantastic student-led co-curricular organizations, such as Women in Business and Economics and the Wealth Management Club. Our department is also home to the Bruce R. Thompson Center for Business and Economics, which I co-direct. We host a range of events each semester, including sessions where experts in the field, often alumni, share their insights and knowledge with our students. From student competitions to alumni trips and events led by our CBE Fellows, there is a wealth of opportunities to learn beyond the classroom. It's not something you find everywhere, and I urge each of you to explore these opportunities, connect with our department, or chat with our CBE Fellows to discover how you can be a part of it all. Everyone is welcome!

BANS *from page 1*

The policy change removed books from library shelves with "any material with explicitly written, visual or visually implied depictions of sexual acts or simulations of such acts, as well as visual depictions of nudity with the exception of anatomical diagrams and classical works of art."

The school board originally made changes to the policy after member David Valesky opposed a list including books dealing with racial issues that he considered to "openly promote" the social justice group Black Lives Matter, which he referred to as a "hate group," according to the Meadville Tribune.

Despite the rural district having a conservative majority, the book ban received a lot of backlash from those concerned with the censorship of library material. Multiple people spoke out in school board meetings and the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education wrote a letter to the school board on Jan. 9 urging them to reconsider.

FIRE urged PENNCREST to preserve libraries as a resource that offers students a window into the world around them.

"Libraries should be a place where students can freely explore a wealth of ideas and information — where they can spark their curiosity and voluntarily learn about the experiences and perspectives of others," FIRE wrote.

Despite these efforts, the board moved to approve the new policy language.

School Board President Luigi DeFrancesco stated "he feared that some of the existing material could be considered 'pornographic' and therefore in violation of state and federal laws, which could put district officials at risk," according to the Erie Times-News.

PENNCREST is just one example of school book bans. According to the American Library Association, 2,321 unique book titles were targeted for censorship in the first 11 months of 2023 compared to the record 2,571 in 2022.

To Professor of English and Director of Writing Alexis Hart, who also serves as director of writing at Allegheny College, the topic of banned books has been on her mind with the significant increase in the number of bans.

"Engagement with literature and imaginative worlds is a way that people become more aware of different viewpoints and different places and different feelings," Hart said. "Having books that represent a range of different types of people and values, I think that enriches a child's learning."

Hart has been working with her colleagues in the English department to build community among the English majors and minors. During Banned Books Week, they organized a banned books reading. In the spring semester, Hart will be teaching a FS 102 class for first-years on the topic of banned books.

Hart has not chosen a specific list of books for the class syllabus, opting instead to give her students the freedom to choose from the list of banned novels from the American Library Association.

"When you look at the banned books and you see that the most prevalent books that are banned are written by people of color or people who identify as LGBTQIA+, that gives me pause," Hart said. "Those young children should be able to see people like themselves represented in imaginative fiction."

As a mother of two, Hart believes that parents should have the ability to be mindful of what their child is reading and understands that violence or depictions of sexual acts within books can give parents some concern.

"For me as a parent, that's a conversation I want to have with my children," Hart said. "I want them to be open to having that conversation. I think that simply removing them from library shelves is not the most effective means."

Emelia Hansen, '27, is a music major and book lover who feels that schools' attempts to censor students from material is a form of society going backwards in time.

"We're taking huge steps backwards to the point where it's almost funny just to watch," Hansen said. "It's like 'Wow, how did we make all this progress and then just take giant steps back?' It doesn't make sense to me."

In high school, Hansen took a dystopian literature class where they read novels such as "1984" and "Brave New World."

"1984" is one of the most commonly banned books across the globe, with the first call for its removal in the 1950s by the Soviet Union. It was first challenged in the U.S. in 1981 in Jackson County, Florida.

Hansen thinks it's important for students to have access to these kinds of novels because it helps them to develop different perspectives.

Leuca Hanish, '23, finds that banning certain books does more harm than good.

Hanish studied Environmental Science and Sustainability and Studio Art during her time as an undergraduate, but in her free time also read books such as George Orwell's "1984" and "Animal Farm."

Hanish read such books because they were classics and also had been recommended to her several times.

"They're really interesting, they have very unique commentary and interesting ideas," Hanish said.

As for the fact that Orwell's "1984" is one of the most commonly banned books, Hanish is less than enthused. She believes that if someone goes through all the steps of writing and publishing a novel, people should be able to read their work.

Hanish hesitates to address book banning as a political issue, but recognizes that many of books being banned share common themes regarding race, gender and sexuality.

"I think that everyone should be able to feel like they belong and be able to feel included and welcomed in their school," Hanish said. "So I think it's great to have books that are representative of different people and different struggles."

Hanish feels that banning books does not create a welcoming environment for everyone.

Hart shared a similar sentiment.

"Like much of our current national situation, this has become yet another divisive moment," Hart said.

Hart said another reason she chose the topic of banned books for her FS 102 class was to give students the opportunity to speak across differences. She feels that too often she is seeing an unwillingness to engage in the 'rhetorical listening' of the FS class and people simply shutting each other out.

"Being unwilling to open ourselves to listening and trying to understand without starting with judgment has caused some real problems in our national discourse and our engagement with each other as human beings and people," Hart said.

> "Being unwilling to open ourselves to listening and trying to understand without starting with judgment has caused some real problems in our national discourse and our engagement with each other as human beings and people."
>
> —ALEXIS HART
> Professor of English, Director of Writing
> Allegheny College

Review: Jazz Ensemble thrills audience with Stevie Wonder

By **MILO WATSON**
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At the Jazz Ensemble performance Sunday, Dec. 3, band director Rob Roth emphasized that this semester's rehearsals have been defined by a single mood: fun. The concert, which took place in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center at 3:15 p.m., brought that energy to an otherwise rainy weekend with an eight-track blitz through the music of Stevie Wonder. The lineup displayed standout solos by eight performers. In addition to the standard collection of horns, guitar, bass and drums, bongos and vibraphone added a rich texture to each song on the program.

Wonder plays piano, organ, drums and harmonica — extremely well. Born in 1950, he was recording albums by the time he was in his preteens. His music influenced a variety of domains: R&B, funk, soul, gospel, jazz and pop genres all still echo with Wonder's distinct musical style, while his work's engagement with humanitarian causes means that his impact reverberates way beyond the radio. As a designated Messenger of Peace, Wonder's United Nations page credits him as having "written, produced or performed songs for charities in support of disabilities, AIDS, cancer, diabetes, hunger and homelessness, domestic abuse and other causes on behalf of children and adults" and "spearheaded a campaign to make Martin Luther King Day a federal holiday in the United States," among an entire lifetime changing the public perception of what people with visual impairments like himself can achieve.

I wish that a little more time and effort could have been dedicated during the performance to covering not just Stevie Wonder's music, but his biography as well. In between songs, Roth mentioned Wonder's lifetime achievement award, Grammy wins and permeation throughout the radio charts, but mixed up or breezed over key details about Stevie Wonder's life. Roth said that Stevie Wonder's first professional recording credit was at the age of 12 playing with Ray Charles, but it seems as though the record Roth may have been thinking of was "Tribute to Uncle Ray," a cover album produced alongside Clarence Paul and released in 1962. "Little Stevie Wonder," as he was known early in his career, was frequently compared to Charles because they were both Black, blind piano players, but Stevie Wonder did not play at this time with Charles. It's important to recognize their respective contributions to popular culture as distinct from one another.

The band led the performance with one of Stevie Wonder's most recognizable songs. "I Wish" is a highly-danceable funk groove with nostalgic lyrics that is reminiscent of an earlier, wilder, more carefree era. But during this instrumental rendition, attendees seemed enthusiastic for the present moment. By the second song, "Boogie on Reggae Woman," I noticed students strolling into Kins for a late lunch, who perhaps hadn't anticipated walking into a full-blown jazz concert but stuck around anyway, nodding along at the edges of the crowd.

After two high-energy tracks, the set slowed down to cover "Overjoyed," which featured a soulful extended solo from Bella James, '24. Simon Jones, '24, made an impressive first performance debut as a conductor while playing piano at the same time. On Wonder's 1985 album "A Square Circle," the only instruments listed in the liner notes for "Overjoyed" are guitar, a handful of other strings, piano and environmental percussion: "crickets, bird sounds, ocean, pebbles in pond, stone dropped, crushing leaves." It's hard to bring the outdoors into the Henderson Campus Center in December, but if the rain whooshing against the windows had RSVP'd in advance, it would have needed credit on the program alongside the performers.

The horns began "Tell Me Something Good" with a delightful crispness that continued throughout the song. The vibraphone, guitar and bass worked together to build up a call-and-response line with no gaps, while the horns swelled and shouted as a unit. The improv trombone solo by Jack Maruca, '26, was playful, commanding and musically narrative. Jones and Charles Gibson, '25, volleyed a cohesive solo back and forth between their respective spots at the marimba and piano while grinning at each other.

"Isn't She Lovely" featured a clear, happy guitar solo from Alex Hau, '24, who riffed on the main melody, bending and twirling its notes around in enjoyable configurations.

After special guest House of Rhythm, the band returned for "Sir Duke," sweeping through what I thought was their most expansive performance as an entire band that afternoon. It's hard to come back to playing your instrument after five songs and 15 minutes of sitting, but somehow they came back even stronger and absolutely crushed the song's hard transitions between accented notes and slurred climbs up and down the ledger lines.

By now, audiences had had plenty of time to peruse the program to see what was up next. But a good performer never shows all their cards—the band kept exciting surprises coming with solos from James and Nolan Kons, '26, throughout "You Are the Sunshine of My Life." James stood up and sang the whole piece, occasionally holding up her saxophone to play a few bars before returning to the lyrics. It was incredibly impressive.

No Wonder concert is complete without "Superstition." Saving this piece for last was a satisfying endcap to the musical performance. The chorus sounded as if it could've been the studio version I'd been studying up on all week leading up to the concert.

If there are any drummers reading The Campus this week, you should know that the jazz band is looking for a drummer! You'd be joining a talented crew of peers who seem to all know how to have a fantastic time onstage and in the practice room.



ANNA WESTBROOK/THE CAMPUS
Bella James, '24, sings a solo during the Jazz Ensemble concert on Sunday, Dec. 3, in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center.

Snow Days & Holidays



PIPER BOOKER/THE CAMPUS



PIPER BOOKER/THE CAMPUS

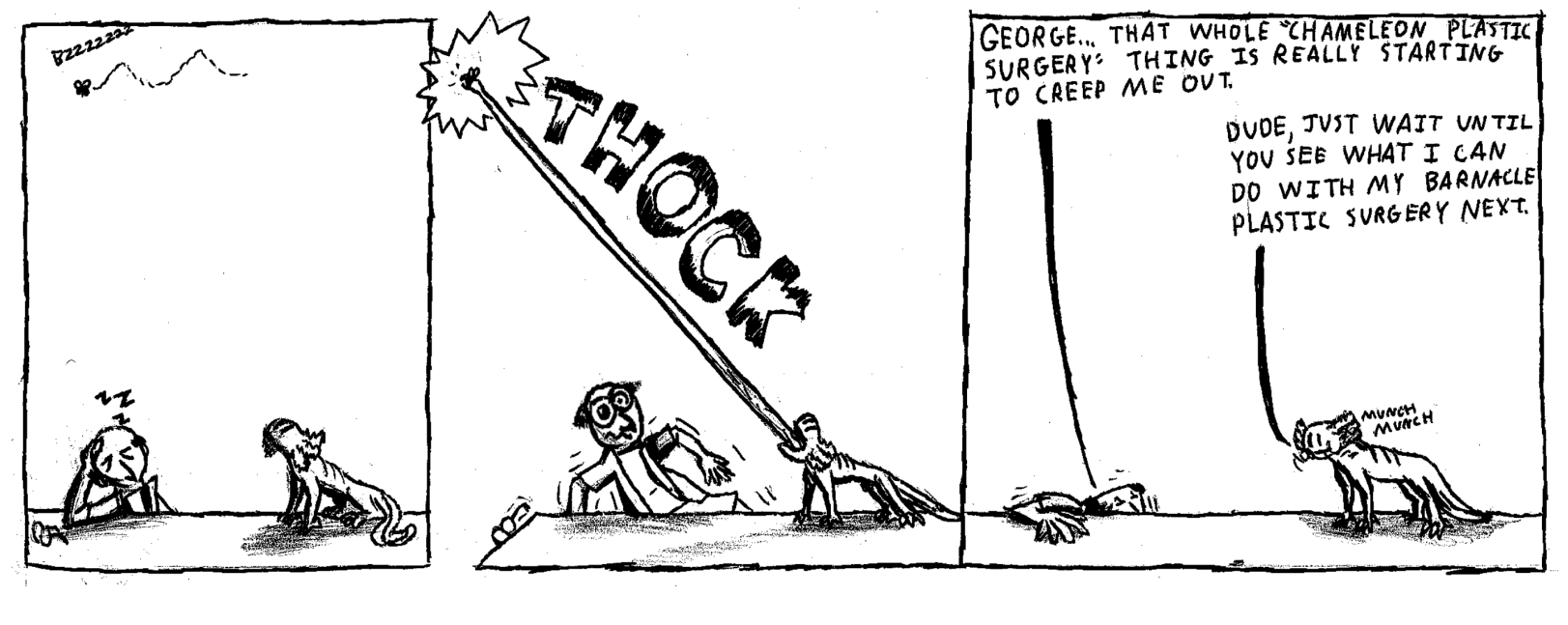
Counterclockwise, from top left:
1. Alden Hall, covered with snow on Tuesday, Nov. 28.
2. Students walk up a snow-covered path to the Steffee Hall of Life Sciences on Nov. 28. They were walking by snow that would be gone before the week was out.
3. Snow melts on the lawn in front of Brooks Hall on Thursday, Nov. 30.
4. London Dejarnette, '24, assists with wagon rides during the "Merry Meadville" event on Friday. While many students made their way downtown to attend the event, Dejarnette was there on business. They work at the Meadville Market House, a position they took on after volunteering at the Market House with the Bonner program.
"It's a great opportunity to connect with Meadville residents in a way that Allegheny students don't normally get to," Dejarnette said, adding that six other Bonner students were volunteering during the event.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS



PIPER BOOKER/THE CAMPUS



cognitive dissonance

By **HENRY GREFENSTETTE**
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More than a game

Allegheny's Lauer and Santicola represent Team USA in Brazil during the offseason

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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There is an old saying that states, "sports are more than just a game." While athletes compete against each other and battle on their respective fields for bragging rights, titles and sometimes money, other times it can open the door for life changing opportunities.

Emily Lauer, '25, has been a standout player for the Allegheny Gators women's basketball team throughout her tenure. The junior point guard set the fourth-most single-season points in school history last year with 479. This campaign, she is currently fourth in scoring throughout the Presidents' Athletic Conference.

Lauer was able to put a lot of time into her craft during the midst of the offseason, a portion of it coming in Brazil when she represented Team USA for Division III basketball. Competing against former professional and Olympic players in South America, Lauer was grateful to be a part of the unique experience.

"Every opportunity that comes up, every opportunity I've done, God has had a part in that," Lauer said. "Being able to put that into perspective is insane. God literally took me to Brazil to play basketball."

The window to sign up arose when Allegheny Head Coach Kelly Muffley sent Lauer an email with an invitation to take the trip. At first, Lauer thought Muffley was sending her spam. But, after confirming its validity, consulting former Assistant Coach Jess Vormelker and praying immensely, she decided to go.

She was not the only Gator to attend the trip. Sarah Santicola, '26, also embarked on the 4,200-plus mile journey southwest. Aside from the competing, the two — and other members of Team USA — worked camps with poor kids of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, teaching them drills and scrimmaging them in a fun and vying atmosphere. Donations were also accepted, where players could give away shirts and shoes to help make a difference in the community.

"It was such a gratifying thing to be able to do," Santicola said. "There were people on the streets living in houses with three walls and no windows. But the kids would rush to the stadium for the games… ask for autographs, ask for our jerseys and think we were the coolest thing ever. I'm just like 'Wow I'm a nobody. I'm just a DIII basketball player.' Being able to do that for them was awesome."

Working with the kids of Brazil was the best part of the trip, according to Santicola and Lauer. Both were ecstatic to participate in the events, and getting the chance to experience another culture is something neither of them will forget.

The competition featured four games during their time in Brazil. Team USA consisted of nine women, representing areas all across the country.

The opposing team included multiple players over 6 feet tall as well as some women who had daughters playing with them on the hardwood. Regardless of age, their abilites proved they were still in great shape, and they gave Team USA a run for their money.

Although the Americans only won one game, both Lauer and Santicola picked up a lot of skills to help them on the court this year during collegiate play, and it is already seeming to pay off. Along with Lauer being a great scorer, Santicola is right behind her in the conference at eighth in points per game. The sophomore center also began the year with four straight double-doubles, and has been playing her best basketball.

"She's very focused," Muffley said about Santicola. "I've never seen her this focused. She wants to win."

Despite the Gators starting the season with a 2-7 record, Lauer and Santicola are expected to be big providers for the team. With lots of play left in the regular season, everyone on the Gators team believes they can turn things around and be a top contender in the PAC.



Photo courtesy of Emily Lauer

Team USA with Basquete Mare, a professional basketball team based in the city of Marechal Deodoro, Brazil, gather together during their competition.



Photo courtesy of Emily Lauer

(Left) Emily Lauer, '25, and (right) Sarah Santicola, '26, representing Allegheny College during their 10-day trip to Brazil in mid-July.



PARKER BROWN/THE CAMPUS

Santicola takes a shot during Allegheny's 84-38 win at Thiel College. Santicola finished the Nov. 29 game with six rebounds and eight points.

Kyle's Corner: Florida State should be in college football playoffs

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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Alabama has made it to the college football playoffs again. Sigh.

Call me one of those sports fans that likes the underdog — after all, I have been a Cleveland Browns enthusiast for the entirety of my 21 years on Earth. You could even call me someone who simply does not want to see the same team at the top every single year.

You can then understand why I loathe to report the Crimson Tide having another shot to win a national championship. The big question remains, though: Does Alabama deserve to be there?

According to the College Football Playoff Committee, its job is to pick the four best teams and not the most deserving. The most-talked about dilemma of Alabama making it to the playoffs comes at the expense of Florida State.

The Seminoles were a perfect 13-0 in the regular season, capping it off with a 16-6 win over No. 14 Louisville in the ACC Championship. Ranked as the No. 4 seed going into the game versus the Cardinals, it seemed like a no-brainer to leave the Seminoles as the final team to make the playoffs after their latest win.

Here is the curveball — Seminoles starting quarterback Jordan Travis, who is in the conversation for winning the Heisman Trophy this year, was injured during the North Alabama game on Nov. 18. Despite Florida State winning two games after his season-ending injury, they are apparently not good enough to make the playoffs.

Remember, the committee's job is to pick the four best teams. I will give credit to Alabama for defeating the former No. 1-ranked Georgia Bulldogs in the SEC Championship game. But does that win alone solidify them as a better unit than Florida State?

I say no. The reason why Florida State was booted out of the playoffs was solely because of injury. But, you cannot assume that they are now worse than Alabama because they lost their starting quarterback, and punishing them for the wrong in which they have not committed is bizarre and frankly unacceptable. Who is to say that the Alabama quarterback will not get injured during the first play of the semifinal game against Michigan — would that make the committee regret putting Alabama ahead?

Ask Nick Foles and the rest of the 2017-18 Eagles if they are a worse team than anyone else who made the playoffs that year because Carson Wentz got hurt during the regular season. Spoiler alert: the Eagles won the Super Bowl that year.

Florida State is now the first team since the college football playoff era to be an undefeated champion in a Power Five conference and not make the final four. The committee decided that because Florida State does not have a star quarterback, they cannot win games.

Regardless of style points at the quarterback position, or whether a team is winning games with their offense or defense, the best teams show that no matter who is out there, they find ways to win.

The Seminoles did everything that was asked of them in order to put themselves in a position for success, and instead of rewarding them, they get snubbed of a playoff spot.

Whether or not the Seminoles would have gotten blown out by No. 1 Michigan in the semifinal round, they earned the right to be there. Maybe that could fall into the category of most deserving, but to an extent the two are intertwined. At some point, you have to say you are the most deserving because you are the best, and Alabama's qualification do not measure up to Florida State's.

One may say, "the competition of the ACC is not as good as the SEC." While that is more often than not a fair statement, I would encourage whoever holds this claim to look at how Alabama has performed since the beginning of October.

They barely scraped by Texas A&M with a 26-20 win, almost gave up a 21-6 lead versus Arkansas and most recently was gift wrapped a win by Auburn during the Iron Bowl. All the aforementioned opponents a "top four team in the nation" took down are unranked. That is not representative of the status Alabama currently holds.

What this really comes down to is ratings and money. The NCAA knows that the SEC is the butter to its bread. It would have been the first time since the playoff era that an SEC team was not put in the top four, and could have resulted in less viewership and less yeast in the dough to keep it from rising high.

The chair of the selection committee, Boo Corrigan, said in an interview that Liberty deserved a bid to the New Year's Six bowl over Southern Methodist University because they "kept winning." That's exactly what FSU did, so why are they not in?

It would be an absolute pleasure to see Alabama get walloped by the Wolverines on Jan. 1. Do I think the Crimson Tide are a good football team? Yes. Do they deserve to be in the playoffs over Florida State? Absolutely not. The committee made a grave mistake with this decision, and all I can finalize with is thank goodness there is a 12-team bracket next year.



Photo source: Wikimedia Commons