

The Campus

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Nagy leaves, Hunt takes acting role

By **HASSAN JAVED**
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Allegheny Football has a new head coach.

Richard Nagy left the position of head coach of the Allegheny football program, the college announcing on Friday, Jan. 20, that former defensive coordinator Vann Hunt has stepped in as an acting head coach while the college conducts a nationwide search for Nagy's long-term replacement.

Nagy accepted a role as the defensive coordinator of the Lehigh University Mountain Hawks, who compete in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision Level within the Patriot League. See [COACH](#) | page 2



Photo courtesy of Allegheny Gators
Acting head coach Vann Hunt in action during a game against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2018.

ASG, Binnington talk counseling, dining

By **ROMAN HLADIO**
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The Allegheny Student Government's guest speaker announced a new telehealth program for students and fielded questions on food insecurity for nearly 45 minutes at the General Assembly on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

Dean for Student Experience Ian Binnington attended GA as a last-minute guest, with the previously-scheduled guest, Assistant Dean for Student Leadership Eric Stolar, stepping back due to unexpected illness.

Binnington brought two updates to conversations that were first reopened

for the semester in an email sent out by Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley and the Student Life team on Jan. 17.

"I recognize that we have two sides of a mental health crisis in America and in higher education," Binnington said. "One is the demand. The need for mental health services, particularly coming out of COVID. But the second is the supply. There are a lot of people leaving the mental health field, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to staff college counseling centers. ... One of the things that we're going to do is contract with a telehealth company, which is going to be free to you — so no additional cost to students — See [ASG](#) | page 2

TWO DORMS OFFLINE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS
Caflisch Hall, erected in 1929 is one of the oldest and most energy consumptive dorms on campus. It, along with Allegheny Hall, will not be open for residents during the 2023-24 academic year. See [CAFLISCH](#) | page 3

Midweek electric fault resets power

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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Allegheny College briefly lost power just before 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 25, with lights and electronics shutting down and then powering right back on across campus. The college's internet remained offline for at least half an hour after the system reset.

"We just had a surge on campus," Director of Physical Plant Joe Michael said. "We restored power on campus and as power comes back up the systems come back on. Phone systems we were able to restore before internet access, but everything should be back up and running"

The surge was caused by contractors working at Robertson Athletic Complex, who hit an underground power line operated by power company Penelec. This caused an electric "fault," or an abnormal electric current in the system.

"It sends an electrical 'message' if you will, or an electrical condition, into our substations," said Todd Meyers, a spokesman for Penelec. "What can happen there is we have breakers and transformers — things that can be pretty expensive and hard to replace — and so when the breaker would sense,

'Hey there's a problem out on the line, something's going on here that's going to damage equipment in here,' then sometimes those (circuits) will open up. They can also sense — and in some instances close back in themselves — if that is passed."

After receiving this message, all of the transformers reset, according to Michael.

"It basically takes all the transformers down for safety, and then brings them back up one-by-one, just as a safety precaution," he said.

While it is standard practice to contact the relevant utility companies before beginning any excavation, Michael said that that specific cable had been missed when Penelec had checked the area.

"They had marked the area, Penelec had, and they didn't identify that line, so we just happened to hit it," Michael said. "What I am told Penelec was going to do is disconnect that portion of the line, get the rest of Robertson up and running, and then replace that line. But because it's their line and their responsibility to mark it, they're also responsible to repair it."

The baseball field's renovations are continuing through the winter in order for the complex to be ready for the beginning of the spring season in just over

two months.

"We have to finish before the first home game, which is March 18," Michael said. "It's a pretty common thing."

The fault also damaged the college's wireless infrastructure.

"(The) campus wide power incident caused an equipment malfunction with our Internet Service Provider's connection stack," the college's Information Technology Service wrote in an email to The Campus. "ITS has implemented a temporary workaround and is working with our ISP to replace and reconfigure their equipment as needed We do not expect this issue to persist through the semester, as it was the result of an equipment failure that our ISP will resolve."

As electrical faults are caused by physical disruptions to a power grid, the system has faced disruptions as recently as last year.

"We had a surge like this last winter where a car went off the road to the north of campus and took down the transformer and took down our lines as well for an extended period," Michael said. "It wasn't quite as short as this one; it went out for about an hour for some of our buildings, but that's just how it goes and there's not really anything anyone can do except be more cautious as they walk and as they drive."

Winter involvement fair



EVELYN ZAVALA/THE CAMPUS
Students maneuver rows of organizations tabling at the winter involvement fair in the Henderson Campus Center on Thursday, Jan. 19. Hosted by the Office of Student Life twice a year, the involvement fair is one of the most well attended events on campus.

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
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The Henderson Campus Center showcased a variety of clubs and organizations on Thursday, Jan. 19, for the biannual Involvement Fair. About half of the clubs at Allegheny College participated in the fair, according to the Office of Student Life.

Upon entering the campus center, students were met with rows of ta-

bles featuring clubs, along with pretzel bites, candy, cookies, popcorn and other foods served by Gator Dining in the back of the campus center.

All the food items were made by the baker on campus, and the food items were chosen by the coordinators of the event, according to new Catering Director Julie Glazer.

"There is access for people on campus to order catering through Cater Trax and that allows people in organizations to order food for special events,"

Glazer said. "Sometimes we make suggestions and are happy to discuss the menu."

Student Life Coordinator for Student Programming Gloria Burgess explained that, typically, the winter fair has less participation from clubs than the fall fair because a lot of clubs do not need as much advertisement.

"I oversee pretty much the whole planning of it," Burgess said. See [FAIR](#) | page 3

In this week's Campus...		
THE REAL ALLEGHENY ADVANTAGE Opinion Editor Sydney Emerson, '23, explains how the Allen Condon Benefit Concert exemplifies the unique benefits of being a Gator. Page 4	CHAT GPT IN HIGHER EDUCATION Students, professors and the honor committee weigh in on the controversial new technology in institutions of higher education. Page 7	BEHIND THE CHEERLEADING TEAM Take a behind-the-scenes look at what goes into making the Allegheny cheer team successful in both the private and public eye. Page 8



FRIDAY  H: 29° L: 28° Snow: 49% Sunrise: 7:37 a.m. Sunset: 5:29 p.m.	SATURDAY  H: 36° L: 31° Snow: 36% Sunrise: 7:36 a.m. Sunset: 5:30 p.m.	SUNDAY  H: 36° L: 28° Snow: 73% Sunrise: 7:35 a.m. Sunset: 5:32 p.m.
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ASG

from page 1

that is going to provide you access to physical and mental health services from board licensed physicians and counselors within the state of Pennsylvania.”

Binnington later clarified that students who make use of telehealth service CampusCare — an app employed by numerous colleges and universities across the U.S. — will be able to receive about 36 sessions a year. Currently, the Counseling and Personal Development Center’s website and forms note that the number of appointments a student receives per semester varies based on needs determined by clinical assessment, but is generally three per semester.

Mental health support services provided through CampusCare will have “no billing of insurance, no copay,” Binnington continued. “Obviously, if there are medicines or prescriptions or other things that need to be taken care of, that’s not included.”

Binnington clarified that all enrolled students are eligible for the CampusCare counseling services, and gave special thanks to Yeckley for spearheading the push to incorporate it on Allegheny’s campus.

Also announced was that students will soon have the ability to use a swipe for a full meal at McKinley’s food court through a new meal exchange initiative.

“This is something that’s pretty common on many campuses, and what that basically means is that in McKins, at probably all of the stations — I don’t want to commit to all of the stations because I’m not sure about (Bento Sushi) — but all of the stations, there will be an option for you to get a full meal and use a swipe,” Binnington said.

Binnington explained that once the initiative is in place, there will be a standard menu of one or two items — including vegan and vegetarian options — but the items will start rotating once the infrastructure is in place. He added that AC Express

— the market at McKinley’s — will have a similar meal swipe option, noting that “a sandwich, a bag of chips and a drink” is an approximation of what these meals will look like.

Both of these services will launch on Feb. 1, according to Binnington.

Many constituents raised concerns about food insecurity on campus following the announcement of the upcoming meal exchange program with varying responses. ASG President Veronica Green, ’23, questioned whether the new swipe option at McKinley’s will raise meal plan prices in following semesters.

“I will tell you the honest truth, which is I don’t know,” Binnington said. “... What I will say is that this meal exchange doesn’t increase costs. It’s packaging food in a different way and having you pay for it in a different way. It’s the same food.”

L Hudson, ’23, said that he has heard more from others about food insecurity on campus since Aramark took over as the school’s dining service provider, and suggested that the school is trying to revert some things back to the way they were with Parkhurst — such as having grab-and-go meals available in both markets for a swipe — to cover for that.

“(Food insecurity on campus) has gotten so bad that I know students that are stealing food in order to survive,” Hudson told Binnington during the meeting. “I’m wondering if you think that this meal-type offering provides students with enough food to keep themselves full because I know that people are feeling tight on both swipes and Munch Money now since our marketplace prices are pretty significant.”

Binnington affirmed that food insecurity is neither acceptable nor tolerable on campus. Binnington added that he knew some food plans that have been grandfathered in for seniors “are simply not big enough for any-

body to survive on.”

“I don’t know that this (meal exchange program) will be a total solution to the problem, but it is a step along the road,” Binnington said.

Later in the conversation, Binnington remarked that of Allegheny’s current meal plans — options A, B or C — none with the exception of A are meant to support a full three meals a day for students. Binnington said that it is implied both by Allegheny and other institutions who have similar meal plan programs that students who select a smaller meal plan are expected to cook or purchase their own food.

Plan A costs \$3,690 per semester and provides 10 meal swipes and \$110 in Munch Money per week. Plan B costs \$3,259 for 7 meal swipes and \$90 in Munch Money, and plan C costs \$3,110 for 5 meal swipes and \$60 in Munch Money, according to Financial Services.

Binnington suggested that at one point, it was considered to give first-year students only the option of plan A so they could reliably have three meals a day.

Co-Director of Student Affairs Cam Leshner, ’24, remarked that food insecurity goes beyond simply having good food to eat on campus, insinuating that meal plan prices should also be put under the microscope.

“I wouldn’t be here if I had to choose meal plan A as a freshman,” Leshner said.

At the end of the discussion, Green stated that she had run some numbers on Allegheny’s current meal plans and had also compared them to those offered at Clarion University, which also employs Aramark as the dining service provider.

Green found that meal plans which provided similar value at Pennsylvania Western University Clarion cost “significantly less” — the three plans available on PennWest Clarion’s dining site range in cost from \$1,800 to \$2,170. She also said that one swipe under meal plan A came



ANNA WESTBROOK/THE CAMPUS
Dean for Student Experience Ian Binnington addresses the Allegheny Student Government General Assembly on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

out to the cost of \$12, while under meal plan C, a swipe cost \$27.

During constituent comments, Binnington said that he has had no in-person conversations with students regarding food insecurity on campus. Class of 2026 Senator Lorenzo Scarnati suggested a Google Form which would allow students a direct, confidential line of communication to the proper channels, which would then allow their individual cases to be evaluated more closely. Binnington took note, and said he would be open to such a system.

GA also unanimously approved the signing of a petition in support of the Indian Child Welfare Act, which was brought to the attention of Green by Colorado State University’s student government. ICWA ensures that orphaned Native American children are placed in the care of either familial relations or close tribal relations. Four cases heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on Nov. 9 argued that the act “illegally discriminates on the basis of race, oversteps federal jurisdiction, and prioritizes the interest of tribes over the needs of the Native children it purports

to protect,” according to TIME. Green said that the petition not only shows support, but will hopefully make dissenting opinions to the hearings more visible before the release of a ruling in July.

In the cabinet reports section of the meeting, Director of Diversity and Inclusion Jaelyn Valentin, ’25, made reference to a discussion that had taken place at the Jan. 17 GA regarding the installation of a prayer space in the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library.

Valentin said she had a conversation with Pelletier’s Director of Public Services Aimee Reash about providing additional space for students to pray in a location rather than the Prayer and Meditation House. Valentin said that Reash said there was no space in the library, suggesting that there was a personal disagreement involved. Reash said it did not fit the needs of all students, according to Valentin.

Valentin also explained that the ICA was no longer pursuing the additional prayer room, as they did not want to split the Muslim population’s prayer space across campus.

“Going forward, personal belief should not be a deciding factor in processes regarding student wishes or concerns,” Valentin said.

Reash confirmed that the conversation did occur but declined to comment, instead directing any further questions to Provost and Dean of the Faculty Angela Haddad.

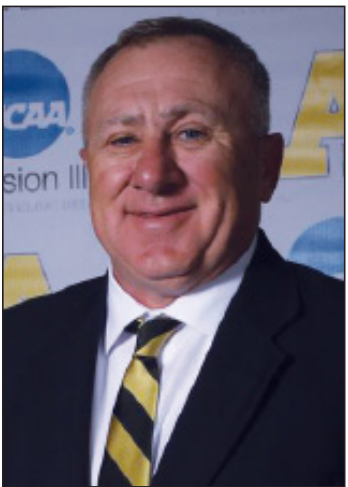
“I and the college are committed to the religious diversity of students,” Haddad in said in an interview on Thursday, Jan. 26.

In order for a space to be permanently allocated to a religious organization on campus, the group must go through Director of Spiritual and Religious Life and Assistant Professor of Arabic Sami Alkyam, as Haddad cannot solely make decisions on space use in academic buildings, she explained. Haddad said that Alkyam had this exact type of conversation with the students seeking the space, and then further advising by Yeckley or Binnington. Alkyam and the convened students independently decided against pursuing the prayer room further.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

COACH

from page 1



NAGY
“(Nagy) informed us that he decided to accept the position of defensive coordinator at Lehigh last week,” said Bill Ross, director of athletics and recreation. “Vann graciously accepted the role of acting head coach in a time where the athletes need him.”

Nagy, who started his term as head coach in 2019, leaves Allegheny with a 10-20 record in three seasons. This brings to an end Nagy’s second stint at the college, previously serving as the assistant and associate head coach during the 1990s.

The Meadville Tribune reported that Kevin Cahill, who was appointed head coach at Lehigh in December and is an old colleague of Nagy from their time at Murray State University, motivated him to accept the Division I job.

Ross admitted that Nagy’s decision came as a surprise to the football program, but that he

wishes him success in the future.

“We had to take a minute and absorb the implications of (Nagy) leaving, but we have to think of our athletes first,” Ross said. “This is something that I’ve encountered a couple of times during my time at Allegheny.”

Nagy’s predecessor, William Hammer, left Allegheny in January 2019 just as Ross had assumed the role of interim director of athletics and recreation. Ross recalled this as a particularly challenging time for the football program.

“Although (Nagy) leaving is not something easy to deal with, the last time a coach left it was an even more fragile situation,” Ross said. “I was new to my role when Bill left and he also took most of the coaching staff with him except three coaches who decided to stay.”

Amongst the coaches who decided to stay for Nagy’s arrival was Hunt.

Hunt has been coaching college football for over 10 years and has coached in schools in Virginia and Illinois. Although most recently served as a defensive coordinator, he has ample experience coaching offensive football too during his coaching career.

The team’s relationship with Hunt is very positive and the players are looking forward to working together, according to Free Safety David Babb, ’25, who received an honorable mention

in the Presidents’ Athletic Conference All-Conference Team.

“Coach Hunt is very well respected within the football program,” Babb said. “Not only is he a great coach, but also a great man, and the best thing about him is that he understands us not only as athletes but as men.”

Although Hunt is stepping into a role novel to him, he does not see the current transition between head coaches too differently from when Nagy arrived in 2019.

“Back then it was about doing the right things and especially keeping fit during the off-season and it doesn’t change now,” Hunt said. “Yes, the coach has left and the boys are recovering, but they know what is expected of them ... the team is very coachable.”

Having six years of experience at Allegheny, Hunt believes that his nerves are calmer during this transition.

“The most important thing in this situation is that there is an amazing coaching staff and support system built around football that is making me feel calm,” Hunt said.

Ross added that apart from those directly involved in Allegheny’s football program, the football culture and support on and off campus are remarkable.

“Allegheny is football and we take great pride in our program ... I think 10% of the student population currently is in the football program,” Ross said.

“You can see how much football means to everyone by the support we get at games ... a lot of alumni are also very invested and interested in Allegheny football”

Ross believes that although the impact of the football program does put pressure on the school to find a new head coach quickly, proper time and dedication must be enacted to find a suitable candidate.

“There are many layers to finding a new head coach but the most important one is identifying honesty,” Ross said. “It can be a lengthy process because we don’t want to rush the decision and regret it later.”

A committee is being assembled to conduct the extensive, nationwide search for Allegheny’s new football head coach, according to Ross.

“We don’t know exactly how the committee will function but by the end of this week it will have started searching.”

Ross and Hunt agreed that coaching style and the existing football culture on campus are important factors to consider in the selection of a new head coach.

The football program’s focus does not simply end on the field of play but extends beyond and into the classroom and community due to Allegheny’s affiliation as a Division III school.

“(Division III) has a straightforward motto: academics first

and football second ... this is why we need someone who doesn’t just coach our players on the field but also motivates them to put their best foot forward on the campus as well,” Ross said. “We are very invested in how our athletes are performing as students and what sort of impact they have on campus life and the community.”

Offensive lineman Carson Messemer, ’25, who also received an honorable mention in the Presidents’ Athletic Conference All-Conference Team, believes that the football program at Allegheny helps players excel in all aspects of life.

“As freshmen, we were expected to attend study hall to make sure we were on top of our work,” Messemer said. “We’re also taught to work for each other on and off the field because our actions and commitments on and off the field determine everyone’s success, not just our personal success.”

Hunt said that he has been very impressed with how the team has absorbed and reacted to Nagy’s departure.

“We understand that a coach’s departure can be tough to deal with, especially with (Nagy) because he had a great relationship with the boys,” Hunt said, “but I’ve seen the team come together during this time and continue to put in the work in the weight room and even support other teams’ initiatives on campus.”

Babb said that the team is focused.

“Personally, I respect (Nagy) and the game of football so I understand that he had to move on, the team’s mood is also similar,” Babb said. “At the end of the day, we’re players and will do what’s expected of us no matter who’s giving the instructions.”

It is times like these within a team that leaders and initiative takers are identified, according to Hunt.

“This is just an example of the team facing a challenge together ... and not just on the football field,” Hunt said. “In times like these, you can see your players’ qualities not just as athletes but people ... I’m proud of the support system within the team right now.”

Although many have opinions on who the next head coach should be, the team needs someone who has a pure passion for football, according to Babb and Messemer.

“I live and breathe football, I need someone who does the same,” Babb said.

“(Nagy) loved football and was willing to give everything to us ... that’s why we loved playing for him,” Messemer said. “I’m hoping someone who shares the same passion will come into the team, whether from Allegheny or outside.”

Cleaning up the Mississippi River

An alternative spring break experience for students

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**
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Imagine spending long days soaking wet, sweaty and smelling like trash; that’s how Assistant Dean for Student Leadership and Engagement Eric Stolar described the upcoming Alternative Spring Break trip to clean up litter in the Mississippi River. The trip will bring eight students and two faculty chaperones to Memphis, Tennessee in collaboration with the nonprofit Living Lands & Waters from March 5-10. Students from a handful of different colleges will join together for a week of service work hauling thousands of pounds of trash out of the river. Stolar chaperoned the trip during the 2021-22 academic year and will be chaperoning again this year.

“It’s not the most glamorous trip out there, but it’s a lot of fun,” Stolar said. “It’s very different than what a lot of people are used to.”

ASB is not an organization but a loose nationwide brand of students choosing to participate in organized, service-based “volun-tourism” trips during their spring breaks, according to Associate Dean and Director of Community Engagement Colin Hurley. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the college typically organized four or five annual ASB trips.

However, this year, due to faculty turnover and the need to sponsor trips for students in the Bonner program who have to catch up on their required service hours, the Living Lands & Waters trip is the only ASB opportunity open to the general student body. Out of all the possible ASB trip options he could

have pursued, Hurley worked to organize the trip specifically with Living Lands & Waters.

“Living Lands & Waters is perhaps one of the perennial favorites because of the energy involved with it,” Hurley said. “The folks at the home in Memphis are entrepreneurial, kind of funky. They have that — it’s almost like an Allegheny edge to them.”

Hurley said it is a goal of the Office of Community Engagement to grow the number of ASB trips back to the pre-COVID number of three or four each year. Scholarships are available for students who are interested in participating with the program and require financial assistance.

Elsa Waidelich, ’25, decided to go on the trip last year because she had visited her home just a few weeks prior to spring break and felt her time would be better spent helping out a community in need.

“It was a really cool opportunity because you get to contribute something, since it’s a service project,” Waidelich said. “But also you get to go see — I’d never been to Memphis, so that was exciting. It was just a really good deal all in all to get to go somewhere and see new things.”

A typical day for participants begins with meeting at the boat dock around 8:30 a.m. The volunteers then travel via boat to their designated clean-up spot and split into smaller groups to work for the morning. Though the work is strenuous, the community culture is lively and positive with ever-present music, conversation and laughter, Stolar said. Over lunch, students learn about relevant topics related to environmental science, like the Living Lands & Waters

organization, the significance of pollution in watersheds and the consequences of consumerism. After lunch, they will work until 3 or 4 p.m., when they then break for the evening to spend time in the cultural center of downtown Memphis.

The most common trash in the Mississippi River is single-use plastics, but volunteers have found many interesting items scattered among those plastics.

“The trash barge is just full of the weirdest stuff imaginable,” Waidelich said. “They like to collect some of these things. There was a fence that had these baby dolls they would pull out of the river — it’s terrifying. It’s insane. They have rewards for who can find the weirdest stuff in the week. You can find some crazy trash out there.”

During Waidelich and Stolar’s session, volunteers removed 22,901 pounds of trash from the Mississippi River.

“It was nice to see the impact you’re making on the community,” Stolar said. “We would arrive on a really heavily littered beach and after the day, you get to leave and see how different it looks and that was a really cool thing.”

Spending spring break volunteering for Living Lands & Waters was not an easy endeavor for Stolar or Waidelich.

“One of the phrases that Alternative Spring Breaks brings to mind — having been on them in the past — is ‘challenge by choice,’” Hurley said. “There will be times where you’re pushed to your limit — especially on, like, day three when you’re like, ‘Oh my gosh, my muscles.’ And so there will be times where (you’re) maybe delegating a duty or not stepping up to do something because you’re physically

exhausted. And it’s in those moments where students support one another and you have fun in your tiredness.”

Although the experience was demanding for Waidelich, it was worth it because of the connections she made with classmates and everything she learned about environmental science on the trip.

The trip is not meant solely for Environmental Science & Sustainability majors. There has been a broad diversity of students on past trips, all of whom had the opportunity to take their respective classroom learning and apply it to the “real world” by practicing adaptation and communication skills, according to Stolar. He said all students who are willing to step out of their comfort zones and examine issues from different perspectives will do well and benefit from the experience. For students who are new to the program, Stolar anticipates a powerful shift in perception of the relationship between pollution and the role it plays in large cities.

“When you’re in a big city, you kind of turn a blind eye to all those things,” Stolar said. “But when you’re the folks on the side of the highway cleaning it up, it’s a very different story.”

Waidelich recommended that all students who are interested in exploring the country and helping others should apply for future ASB trips.

“Keep in mind that you can learn a lot from it,” Waidelich said. “I learned a lot just from my peers from the Allegheny group. That was just fun. And then you have some more connections on campus that you might not have had otherwise.”

Resident Advisor Trey Williams, ’24, wondered what this means for RAs currently positioned in Caflish.

“I’m just hoping that they won’t cut the Residence Life staff and that (Caflish RAs) will get to keep working next semester,” Williams said.

Yeckley clarified that RAs working in Caflish this semester will not be laid off, but instead be given the option to serve as RAs in other residential buildings.

“Just like students will not have the option to stay in Caflish next semester, RAs will not have the option either but will be encouraged to serve in other residential buildings,” Yeckley said.

Presently, it is unconfirmed how long Caflish will be decommissioned, but is likely to return in the future as a housing option for students.

The future of Allegheny Hall, however, is more unclear.

“The problem with Allegheny Hall is that it is on a different power grid than the college and so is more difficult to manage,” Michael said. “Allegheny Hall’s power potential is lower than other buildings ... for example, only one microwave can be supported at a time in the building. Otherwise the fuse trips, which is what it’s supposed to do.”

Since Allegheny Hall is unable to fully support students’ residential needs, it is unlikely that it will be available for housing until these needs are met.

“We can only focus on some projects at a time, but working on Allegheny Hall is definitely in our agenda for the future,” Michael said. “Some things may be next on the agenda, but other, more urgent things pop up that need to be addressed first.”

FAIR

from page 1

“I send out emails to each of the clubs and let them know that we are planning the fair, then collect all the submissions that we get and make sure we have the space available.”

While students can attend the fall Involvement Fair, the Winter Involvement Fair can be another opportunity to revisit getting involved. Clubs were allowed to take to the public address system and pitch their club to the crowd.

“When you come in as a first year in the fall it can be kind of overwhelming, especially seeing all those clubs lined up on the Gator Quad,” Burgess said. “And then, as you go through the fall semester, people start figuring out what clubs they liked and it gives them another chance to start involving themselves.”

Vice President of the South Asian Students Society Hema Baniya, ’24, described some of the things the club highlights in order to recruit new members, though she noted the club had challenges with recruiting and only had six students sign up.

“During the fall it is really easy because we emphasize the big event which is Diwali and in the Spring we celebrate Holi,” Baniya said. “We try to push that you don’t have to be South Asian to join our organization. I think it is a good idea to have the Involvement Fair twice a year, but it is harder to get new people to join during the spring fair than the fall because there are new faces coming in (during fall).”

Baniya said that she joined SASS through the fair and has found it helpful in finding people who are also South Asian.

“I went to a predominantly white school when I was in high school, and Allegheny is kind of the same,” Baniya said. “Finding people from South Asia was really nice because even if we were from different parts of it, it was still something that was like a community for me.”

Baniya remarked that students seeking to get involved should not shy away from a club based on their name, because clubs are open to everyone.

“I know for International Club, people have the assumption that it is only for international students and for (the Islamic Cultural Association), people think you need to be Muslim,” Baniya said. “But you don’t need to be any of these things because a lot of it is about exchanging and learning about new cultures and trying to make ourselves more visible to the school community.”

Playshop Theatre performer Victoria Smith, ’23, explained that her organization still benefits from the fair despite being well known around campus.

“I think this is a good way to get people because we talk to them about different opportunities in the theater department,” Smith said. “Some people see audition posters and may not get engaged in the same way where if they come up to us we can give them awareness of all the other opportunities such as jobs in the department.”

Extracurricular involvement is one of the most important parts of a student’s experience, according to Burgess.

“It’s amazing to see students have a lot of fun with each other and not just constantly be worried about classes,” Burgess said.

CAFLISCH

from page 1

By **HASSAN JAVED**
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Two residence halls will not be housing students during the 2023-24 academic year.

An email sent to the student body from the Student Life Team provided updates for the beginning of the spring 2023 semester, including instructions for upcoming student housing selection for fall 2023.

“So that you can plan ahead, please be aware that we will not be housing students in Caflish Hall next year,” the email stated.

Moreover, Allegheny Hall, which has been used as quarantine housing throughout the 2022-23 academic year, will also not be housing students next semester, according to the Director of Physical Plant Joseph Michael.

The Student Life and Residence Life team collaboratively decided on this decision, according to Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley.

“The reason Caflish will be offline is that we have quite a few open beds in the building at this moment,” Yeckley said. “We are looking to make the best use of our space and our resources.”

Allegheny College’s enrollment has been steadily dropping over the last 10 years, according to Allegheny College Institutional Research. In fall 2012, the college’s enrollment was 2,140, dropping to 1,802 in fall 2018 and reaching its lowest at 1,413, presently, in spring 2023. During this time period, the enrollment numbers peaked at 2,161 during fall of 2013.

“We can’t specify enrollment data to correlate with our decision to close Caflish, but it is understood that we have had higher enrollment numbers in

the past,” Yeckley said.

Michael said that Caflish is particularly high in power consumption, as it is one of the oldest active buildings on campus.

The building was first erected in 1929 partially due to a donation from Margaret Caflish as a memorial to her husband Jacob Caflish, according to Allegheny College’s Class of 1966 55th reunion website. Later, during World War II, Caflish Hall was used as military barracks.

Michael added that Caflish is being decommissioned due to vacancies not just in the hall itself, but also in other residential buildings across campus.

“Various buildings have open floors and an excess of beds,” Michael said. “However, considering utilities and other costs, it made sense to take just one building offline. This has happened before; for example, Allegheny Hall was taken off a couple of years ago.”

Michael elaborated that the college’s infrastructural needs are part of the Allegheny College Master Plan — an agenda for the college’s future that is rewritten every 10 years.

“The last Master Plan was made in 2019 and it included an objective to more efficiently and effectively utilize our resources, particularly when it comes to residential and student power consumption,” Michael said. “The plan was originally to sell most of the college-owned houses as they are frequently unoccupied and consume significant amounts of energy.”

Although rewritten every 10 years, the Master Plan is evaluated annually to cater to the real-time needs of the college.

“We decided to make a residential building offline as it allows us to become more efficient with our space and energy con-

sumption,” Michael said. “Also, we want students to have more variety with housing so we wanted to keep the college-owned houses and take away a building that is not as popular as a housing destination for students.”

The Master Plan contains a “residence halls” section which includes plans to renovate restrooms in several residential buildings, including Balwdin and Schultz Hall, decommission 11 off-campus houses and renovate 10 off-campus houses.

Although it is still unclear as to what purpose Caflish will serve in the future, Michael and Yeckley both believe that renovation could be a part of the plan.

“We decided to have a conversation about the building towards the end of last semester and solidified the decision to make it unavailable just as this semester began,” Yeckley said.

“(Physical Plant and Student and Residence Life) will be meeting together over the course of this semester to discuss what we plan to do with the building,” Michael said.

Michael added that it is a possibility that the funds saved from power consumption and maintenance from closing the building could be used in any potential renovations the college may plan in future.

Having Caflish decommissioned for one academic year will entail savings up to \$100,000, according to Michael.

For now, the pipes in Caflish and Allegheny Halls will be maintained with ample heat so that they do not freeze during colder months, said Michael.

“Because the buildings are aged, it is very important for us to ensure that the pipes do not burst or that the vents do not get jammed,” Michael said.

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Embrace the uncertainty

In grad school applications, students see and fear the future

By **VICTORIA SMITH**
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My first grad school application was due Dec. 1. While kind of nerve-wracking, I had been preparing for this. I met with a career counselor every two weeks, I made a spreadsheet of possible programs and I outlined why those schools are the right fit for me. I did all of this so that when I decided to begin compiling everything over Thanksgiving break, I was prepared. But I had forgotten a key detail. I had reached out to only one of my recommenders. And now my other two had only four days to write a letter for me. There was no real reason why I had committed this oversight — like I said, I was working hard on getting this all ready. But for whatever reason, when I emailed my one reference I did not contact the others. I was, for lack of a better word, screwed.

Luckily, the professors at Allegheny College are extremely attentive and were willing to not let me suffer alone in this endeavor. They whipped together letters while I went through four drafts of a personal statement in a matter of days. We turned it all in on time.

You would think that I had learned my lesson and that for my remaining applications I would be on the ball, anticipating all the moving parts and bringing them together with ease. You would, unfortunately, be wrong. I missed the deadline for one of my potential schools and gave my recom-

enders a week to get in a letter once again for a different one.

Anyone who knows me might be shocked by this consistent lack of attention. I am normally a pretty organized person when it comes to deadlines. I am hardly ever late to class and do not turn in late assignments without discussing an extension with my professor ahead of time. I keep a very precise schedule, as is often required in the theater world. But something about this incredibly important moment in my life made me forget everything I know about maintaining a balanced schedule. This is, however, not the first time I have let myself down with deadlines. The first time I applied to colleges, a staggering four years ago, I also put things off so long that a very important essay which was the final step in me qualifying for a full scholarship was written in an afternoon the week it was due. Needless to say, I did not get the money.

Every time I have something potentially life-altering on the horizon, my brain insists on ignoring it until it is too late. And while I am not a trained therapist, I believe that it is safe to say this is connected to a strong anxiety about change. The second I have to think about placing myself in a new situation that I cannot predict, I am off the rails. I am certain I am not the only student with these tendencies.

One of my references, who I respect very much and talked about my entire future with, asked me to consider why I think a master's degree has to be the

next step in my life. They asked if the real reason I was set on grad school was simply because school is what I know how to do. There are so many answers I have to this question, and I do not know if any are actually good ones. I am sure the fact that my mom's own prolific college career has influenced me somewhat. Then there's the idea that I thrive in academic settings. Maybe this desire to further my education is simply a desire to follow a path that is predictable.

“

I have no idea what life will look like after May 2023, and this is terrifying.”

—VICTORIA SMITH
Class of 2023

But when I think about my future in any grand sense, I see an attachment to academia. That has been my goal for so long. The specific details of exactly what type of degree and what area of expertise I would pursue has shifted continuously; nevertheless, that is all I could see. There is a lot expected of a senior about to earn their bachelor's degree in a few months. Not only are we now tethered to a particular field of study, but we are also expected to know what the next steps are in our narrow path.

Some are “lucky” enough to have a path mapped out for them — but are they really lucky? We must spend the rest of our lives living with the decisions

we make in the next four months. Sure, there's room for flexibility as we figure out exactly what makes us tick. But sometimes, those pivots cannot happen for a plethora of reasons: the money required to take a leap of faith, the stability of a certain career that is too hard to pass on, the dedication to support a loved one's decision over your own.

I have no idea what life will look like after May 2023, and this is terrifying. And, yeah, it is too much pressure

to put on a bunch of young adults who are encouraged to make a home at this institution and put down roots for four short years only for that entire life to be blown away, picked up and moved on in a less-than-24-hour turnaround after commencement. I do not even know what I want for dinner tonight. Do you think I know what state I want to move to in less than a year? But that is all the chorus of voices ask you. Over and over again, we get the question of what we will do with the work we have done the last four-ish years. It is never enough to say we will figure it out.

The truth of the matter is that I have applied to four different graduate pro-

grams and would most likely be happy in any one. I am confident in my scholastic abilities and am confident that these programs will further my knowledge and skill in my chosen field. While I have made the choice to pursue this path, there is the opportunity to apply to jobs at the same time and make a decision later on. The only problem with that is I will be stressing over this decision for the entire semester, all while trying to comp and enjoy what could be the last few months with people who are very important to me. There is no time for all of the things, but I somehow must manage.

My first grad school application was due Dec. 1. I somehow managed to turn in a complete package for the department, and on Jan. 12 I found out that I was accepted to The Ohio State University's theater program. I know I can do it. And I am thrilled that OSU thinks so too. But even with that buoy, there is this nagging feeling that something is wrong. Am I making the right decision? Can I afford to do this? Would I even get a job somewhere if I apply? I guess I will find out.

In the hour-long conversation about my future, my professor asked me, “what would be something you're willing to be brave about?” Right now, the only answer I have is to be brave enough to admit I do not know. That alone takes strength and courage to state. You are not alone if you also feel that way. We will figure it out together.

Condon benefit shows us the real 'Allegheny advantage'

By **SYDNEY EMERSON**
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I have never met Allen Condon. I suspect few current students have, despite sharing many of the same professors, classes and Allegheny experiences as him — after all, he didn't graduate from here that long ago. Regardless of those facts, and regardless of the heavy snow that blanketed Meadville, the Gladys Mullenix Black Theater in the Vukovich Center was filled close to capacity last Sunday afternoon, and I was in the audience.

The state of American healthcare is worthy of its own op-ed — several, honestly — and it seems deeply immoral to me that anybody suffering from cancer should be so inundated by the costs of their own care, the preservation of their own life, that a community should need

to fundraise in this way. The Allegheny community's support is heartwarming. It is also heartbreaking. But I digress.

I expected the usual crowd to turn out on Sunday: theater department faculty, Student Experimental Theatre members, Meadville Community Theatre and Academy Theatre mainstays, the core group of Meadville residents that attend every Playshop show. But that's not how Allegheny works. I should've known better, expected more.

The entire community — and more — showed up to give their support. The program did not even start with a performance, but rather with a heartfelt video message from Condon's former academic and senior comprehensive project advisor, Associate Professor of Psychology Lydia Eckstein. In the audience were both current faculty members who started their jobs after Condon graduated and retired facul-

ty members who returned to campus to support their former student. Students from Instructor of Dance and Movement Studies Betsy Sumerfield's class, some of whom matriculated just last year, performed a dance number. Community members who saw posters taped to the counter at French Creek Coffee and Tea or at the Market House masked up and put their cars in four-wheel drive to make it up North Main Street and support their fellow Meadvillian. Other community members who have no doubt spent long tech rehearsals with Allen at the light board prepared performances, and some of his closest friends from college sang and danced their hearts out for their friend. President Cole quietly slipped in and watched from the back.

It has never been more clear to me that the ties made at Allegheny are strong — perhaps even atypical. Sure:

our culture, for the most part, places high sentimental value on those four years spent as an undergraduate. But along with that is the implication that those years are fleeting, finite; that once they end you will never go back. The dorm doors lock for the final time, your ID no longer works at the library, your email address is deleted and you stop getting those sweet student discounts.

In the case of these superficial qualifications of college community members, Allegheny falls right in line. I am hard-pressed, however, to find an alum that does not feel they always have some sort of home waiting for them “yonder on the hill.”

Case in point: when I saw the way the community rallied around Condon last weekend, I felt certain that any given department would do such a charitable thing for any given alum. Condon is, to his credit, a uniquely communi-

ty-minded person, and Allegheny is a uniquely community-minded institution.

Maybe it's my own ignorance, Allegheny being the only institution of higher education that I have attended, but I struggle to imagine that this benefit would have happened at any old college or big university, where students are statistics — squares on a Zoom screen or names on a tuition bill — instead of people who live and learn alongside one another.

Allen Condon, on Sunday, was surrounded by a tight-knit, loving community of people who society says should have left his life forever in 2016 and people who have never even introduced themselves to him — myself included. I hope to change that soon. That's the real Allegheny advantage.

Generation Z: self-absorbed or just self-aware?

By **SAM HEILMANN**
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When you think of Generation Z, what comes to mind? Depending on your age, you may think of your children, your peers or your students. Maybe a more abstract concept comes to mind — the future, open-mindedness or an unhealthy addiction to screens.

Regardless of your image of today's young people, one thing is for certain: it's about time we take them seriously.

“

Other generations couldn't understand Gen Z's circumstances, even if they tried.”

—SAM HEILMANN
Class of 2026

Maybe you can convince yourself that you already do that — you are a part of Gen Z, as I am, and you can comfortably pat yourself on the back when told by society time and again that you — yes, you! — are the future.

Or the opposite is true: you aren't a part of Gen Z and are thankful for that. Besides, kids these days have short attention spans and are obsessed with personal image.

But the notion of taking Gen Z more seriously is not a self-absorbed illusion. I don't admire Gen Z just because I am a part of it. I also don't assume that this generation is the best, by any arbitrary measure.

Rather, I think that there is a more complicated difference between the lives of this generation's young people and the lives of previous generations when they, too, were young adults. Gen Z's circumstances aren't something that previous generations “just wouldn't understand” — it's more like other generations couldn't understand Gen Z's circumstances, even if they tried.

It starts with outside influence. Increasingly dangerous natural disasters with ever-rising temperatures set the backdrop to a political climate that has no interest in reconciling its differences — how does a person live a planned, cautious and traditional life if the world, so tediously organized before their time, is now crumbling beneath their feet?

The reaction to this disorder is bittersweet. Observe the sense of humor of a young person today, for example, and you'll likely be met with thinly-veiled nihilism. The structure of the world seems like a joke at this point, so why not laugh along?

In the same breath, though, there is a kind of freedom that comes from realizing that the systems of power and presentation are equally garbage, meant to benefit the few and fortunate. That is what makes this generation different from any before.

The change in youth perception is not a rebellious movement. It doesn't seem temporary, either. The acceptance that this generation has for their peers from a young age is something I think Gen Z can take for granted at times.

Gen Z is certainly not the first generation to recognize that the old way of doing things isn't necessarily the best way of doing things. But we are the first generation with the ability to influence one another at any and all times, making change accessible.

The internet makes it possible to relate to people from a young age. Of course, this can have negative consequences if the intention is wrong, but think for a moment about the positive

impacts — young people today have access to a vocabulary and way of life that for previous generations was impossible or dangerous to explore. I'm referring mostly to identity acceptance, but this takes plenty of forms, to the point that aesthetics become trends.

This generation has no “norm.” Thanks mostly to the internet, there is no longer a standard expectation for how people should act. Rather than try to fit our genuine identities into a mold of what is “normal,” this generation has the unique freedom to find a label — or lack thereof — that fits us. It validates an experience that would have previously been kept a secret.

There is no need to silence a mental health struggle or fear an exposure of gender identity, for example. The social stigma is not entirely gone, but the language to discuss what makes us different is more accessible than ever before.

It isn't a clean transition from non-acceptance to acceptance. Laws to-

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Kremlinology in the 21st century

By **CAROLINE MAYE**

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Putin has cancer. There is a coup planned against him. To make things worse, he is so unpopular that he cannot risk running in the next election. At least according to rumors spreading on tabloids and sites such as Newsweek.

Rumors like these are often untrue, based on overanalysis of pictures on Twitter, explained Professor of History and Global Health Studies Kenneth Pinnow. The circulation of these rumors can be explained by “Kremlinology,” a term that describes how during the Cold War, the West relied on rumors to decipher what was going on within Soviet Union leadership.

The most recent rumor spreading about the Russian president is that he is retiring. This future does not look likely, according to Pinnow.

“When people speculate about him leaving and so forth, we have to be careful what we wish for because for as bad as he is — and as problematic — there’s always a chance that the next person could be even worse — if that’s possible — in terms of even more rabid nationalists,” Pinnow said.

Putin is essential to politics in Russia, Pinnow explained. Serving as president since 1999, with a brief break from 2008-12, Putin acts as a “referee” in Russian politics, keeping different sources of power in check. The 70-year-old is so central to the system that the Russian constitution was amended back in 2018 to allow him to run for office once more in 2024.

“They have a constitution and they have institutional structures, but it’s still very much a system driven by personal power,” Pinnow said. “Putin is at the center of the political system for the sake of stability and the people.”

Many government officials are reliant on Putin for their power, Pinnow explained. By stepping down, Putin could potentially create a power vacuum, thus further destabilizing the fragile political system. Furthermore, Pinnow does not foresee the president stepping down anytime in the near future. Despite the war in Ukraine tainting his image as a “master strategist,” Pinnow said that Putin is still popular in Russia and faces very little opposition.

For the U.S., Putin stepping down provides the opportunity to amend relations with Russia, according to Associate Professor of Political Science Shanna

Kirschner, although it also has the possibility of worsening relations with an even more extreme leader.

“If I was Putin, I would be starting to think about, ‘How do I hedge against getting overthrown or shoved out of power in a way that I don’t have a lot of control over,’” Kirschner said. “To my mind, the benefit of him sort of ‘retiring’ — giant air quotes — is that he really does get to control or manage that transition. With the way the war has been going, if he’s smart, he understands that the risk of him being overthrown has risen, as opposed to where he might have been a year ago.”

Despite the potential negative consequences of Putin retiring, Pinnow agreed that the president should step down.

“I would like him to be replaced by a more open, democratic system that brings an end to the war and then also maybe starts to allow Russia to rethink itself and reintegrate with — or maybe think about reintegrating with — the world more broadly,” Pinnow said.

To Mykyta Kovbasa, ’24, a student from Ukraine, the issue runs much deeper than the president.

“

When people speculate about him leaving and so forth, we have to be careful what we wish for because for as bad as he is — and as problematic — there’s always a chance that the next person could be even worse — if that’s possible — in terms of even more rabid nationalists.”

—KENNETH PINNOW
Professor of History and Global Health Studies,
Allegheny College

“I heard that a lot of people think that Putin is the main problem — for me ... (the) problem is the intelligence of 99% of Russians,” Kovbasa said. “You cannot just become a president and change the whole country.”

Even if the leadership in Russia changed, the war will not end, Kovbasa explained. He believed that the change needs to occur within the larger population of Russia, as he sees the government-controlled news sources as feeding propaganda to Russian citizens for decades. This broadcasting has instilled a great sense of nationalism in Russians that has blinded them to the facts, Kovbasa said.

“Nine out of ten will say that Ukraine is a part of Russia or it used to be a part of Russia, which is not true,” Kovbasa said. “Everyone except the Russians understand how bad they are and what they are doing, not only for Ukraine, but for all of the world. Only Russians still think that ‘We’re good.’”

As for Putin, Kovbasa expressed a deep dislike of the president. Even though the president was not the root of the issue, he certainly played a part.

“He should die, not step down,” Kovbasa said.

Kovbasa was equally pessimistic about future Russian presidents. He explained that the only real way for a new president to change Russia for the better was if Russian citizens themselves changed. Until then, any reform attempts will likely end in failure.

“If the president will stop propaganda I think he will die in a week because it is a system,” Kovbasa said. “It is a system and the president is just the top of the system, and if the top of the system tries to ruin that whole system, the system will just get rid of this part.”

Sahsa Shafran, ’25, believes that Putin is already dead. At least, she hopes so.

“He destroyed my life,” Shafran said.

As a Ukrainian, she viewed Putin as more of a dictator than

a leader, likening him to Adolf Hitler. To her, leaders organize governments and make positive changes within their countries.

From Shafran’s perspective, there is nothing Russia can do to reform from their current situation. She recalled memes that have been going around on Ukrainian social media sites about Russia being replaced by more ocean.

“I would like to see no Russia,” Shafran said. “I think some magic should happen and Russia will literally disappear this year. (Russia) just brings a lot of troubles to my life and to people’s lives.”

Most importantly, Shafran emphasized that these rumors should not take attention and support away from Ukraine.

“Stand with Ukraine,” Shafran said. “Support Ukraine.”

Kovbasa echoed her sentiments.

“We can still beat the Russians’ a---,” Kovbasa said. “Even if we are 10 times smaller than they are.”

Trial of foregin aid workers sparks international immigration debate

By **ELANOR BONTA**

Features Writer
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Over the past several years, more awareness has been shed on immigration. Most recently, in Lesbos, Greece, 24 migrant aid workers were indicted for their roles in aiding illegal immigrants and asylum seekers to escape the Middle East into Greece. The court recently dismissed the case for the time being, ruling on procedural grounds that the prosecutors could refile the case.

“Trials like this are deeply concerning because they criminalize life-saving work and set a dangerous precedent,” the U.N. Human Rights Office stated during the trial, according to AP News. “Indeed, there has already been a chilling effect, with human rights defenders and humanitarian organizations forced to halt their human rights work in Greece and other EU countries.”

Greece began clamping down on migrants and asylum-seekers in 2015 when millions of people crossed into Greece from Turkey during a

refugee crisis, and has continued to do so frequently, according to AP News. Greece built a fence around the land border and has increased sea patrols.

Authorities in Greece pressed charges for espionage, forgery, felony concerning human trafficking and unlawful use of radio frequencies. Human rights organizations criticized the aid workers for potentially using illegal methods to help migrants, according to the Washington Post. Had the case gone to trial, the workers would have faced up to eight years in prison, according to the New York Times.

The aid workers were 17 foreigners and seven Greek citizens, according to AP News.

“

I would say let’s fix the institutions before we start looking at immigration policies.”

—RUTENDO MAVUNGA
Class of 2024

There were many legal discrepancies from the prosecutors, which gave the defendants a solid argument, according to AP News. The defense lawyers

were granted many acceptions for things such as authorities not translating the prosecution documents for the foreign defendants and because the espionage charges were vague. These legal mistakes won the migrant aid workers’ case .

“It is a step,” said defense lawyer Cleo Papapantoleon, during an interview with AP News. “It is the first recognition that there were many legal mistakes that violated the essence of a fair trial. The decision is important for us, and we expect the same to happen with the investigation into the felonies (as individuals), for which there is also no evidence.”

Although cases like this run rampant in Greece and other

European countries, this case has garnered more attention due to the fame of several defendants. Sarahardini, a Syrian human rights worker is a

refugee and competitive swimmer whose sister, Yusra Mardini, was part of the refugee swimming team at the Olympic Games in 2016 and 2021, and even had a dedicated Netflix movie about her success.

“We urge the Greek authorities once more to drop all of the charges and allow Sarah and Sean (another worker on trial) to go back to their lives,” said Nils Muiznieks, director of Amnesty International’s European Regional Office, when speaking to the New York Times. “The criminalization of these brave human rights defenders solely for helping refugees and migrants in need shows Greece and Europe’s callous behavior toward people seeking safety at their borders.”

Despite the situation, the court’s ruling works in the defendants’ favor. Authorities are unlikely to have enough time to refile the case because the five-year limitations on the espionage and forgery charges expire in early February.

“Today’s decision offers the authorities a new opportunity to put an end to this ordeal and correct their wrongdoing by

dropping all of the charges, including the more serious felony charges which still await them,” Muiznieks told the New York Times.

This trial is one of the few that rule in immigrants’ favor. Migration to Europe has peaked in recent years due to political instability and poverty in Middle Eastern countries such as Syria and Turkey, according to the Washington Post. Greece’s proximity to the Middle East has motivated many immigrants to attempt to escape there.

“I think Europe for a very long time was very open,” said Model United Nations President Rutendo Mavunga, ’24. “I think it’s only until now have they become strict but I feel like for a very long time, they’ve been very open.”

Examples from Greece and surrounding European countries’ politics concerning migration have spread awareness of immigration. The story has received a lot of coverage, alerting immigration activists and immigration organizations in Greece. Greek officials claim to have a strict but fair migration

policy, but migrant work organizations disagree as Greece has charged and continues to charge workers with similar misdemeanors, according to the Washington Post.

“Address what’s going on in the country first,” Mavunga said. “Why are people wanting to leave? If conflicts can stop happening, whether it be poverty or employment, let’s try to resolve those problems on the grassroots level first before we start talking about how we can implement better immigration policies. From that point onwards, I feel like there would be less people with the desire to leave because as we see, like in first world countries, there’s not a lot of people who are flocking to another first world country because what they have is satisfactory. However, in developing of third world countries, you see people running away because the institutions that have been put in place are not working in their favor. So I would say let’s fix the institutions before we start looking at immigration policies.”

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Community fundraises for alum’s cancer treatment

By **MARIIA HLYTEN**
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and **SYDNEY EMERSON**
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Allegheny College and Meadville community members banded together for an afternoon of song and dance in the Vukovich Center’s Gladys Mullenix Black Theater on Sunday, Jan. 22 to raise money and show their support for an alum facing aggressive stage 4 cancer.

Meadville resident Allen Condon, ’16, was recently diagnosed with sarcoma, a rare soft tissue cancer, that has already spread into his pelvis, abdomen and lungs. Doctors recommended intensive chemotherapy and radiation, which, combined with the costs of travel to Pittsburgh, where Condon has been receiving treatment since December 2022, added up to a hefty bill. To offset current and future expenses, Condon started a GoFundMe on Nov. 28 with the goal of raising \$20,000.

It was not long before the Allegheny community stepped in to give the alum a helping hand. Professor of Theatre Mark Cosdon and Dance and Movement Studies Instructor Betsy Sumerfield organized a benefit concert on Condon’s behalf, inviting the community to an afternoon of free performances with pay-as-you-will donations encouraged. According to the organizers, it seemed only right to pay kindness forward for Condon, considering his enthusiastic participation in the community throughout the years.

“Since Allen’s graduation and across his years at Allegheny, he was deeply involved in all of the performing art groups here at Allegheny,” Cosdon said.

In his time as an undergraduate, Condon was a valuable member of the campus community, working in the scene shop in the theater department and volunteering as a stage manager for Playshop productions. As his collegiate career progressed, he developed an interest in theatrical lighting and began to design the lighting for both the Playshop and community productions.

Professor and Department Chair of Communication, Film and Theatre Michael Mehler acted as the emcee. Mehler worked with Condon on a summer research project during the alum’s tenure as an undergraduate, developing a series of community-minded performances during Second Saturday markets in downtown Meadville. During

the program, he shared memories of Condon’s fledgling involvement in the Meadville community as he bonded with residents, which eventually led to his own choice to stay in Meadville upon graduation.

Condon’s community connections were clear at the benefit, during which every community theater in Meadville contributed either a performance or a donation. Madison Morgan and Tim Solomon performed a selection from the Academy Theater’s upcoming production of “Cabaret,” while Meadville Community Theater previewed a devised number from “Light in Odd Spaces.” French Creek Community Theatre, which he first began collaborating with as a student volunteer. The theater’s board members donated a gift basket of local goods for auction during the benefit.

Students and emeritus faculty competed with one another during the auction led by Mehler, but the bidding was unexpectedly hijacked when Cosdon made a high bid of \$110 that closed the deal.

“I like to create a little bit of mischief,” Cosdon said. “What could be better than, in an auction setting, bidding against yourself, knowing that ultimately, the money was going to a very worthy young person whom I admired and respected?”

Aside from his involvement with the Playshop and community theaters, Condon is an accomplished singer and performer who spent time in the music and dance and movement studies departments.

Condon’s close friend Erin Kyla Sumerfield, ’15, danced in the benefit to his favorite song: “While You Wait for the Others” by Grizzly Bear. The pair met at Allegheny and, despite never performing together, became inseparable while working backstage and “joking around.” Condon spent many holiday breaks with her and her mother, Allegheny’s Betsy Sumerfield, sharing their common passions of performance.

“He just fits right into our family mix,” Sumerfield said.

This sentiment was echoed throughout the benefit by Condon’s college friends, including Bolan Marshall-Hallmark, who cited Condon’s support and love of music as his key support system at Allegheny. Marshall-Hallmark sang “All These Things That I’ve Done” by the Killers, a song that bears special meaning in his friendship with Condon, and invited the audience to sing along with him loud enough for Condon to hear their support. Con-

don, to protect his health — and, Mehler joked, as a consummate lighting designer — watched the show from the theater’s soundproof booth.

Despite his heavy involvement in the arts, Condon was a psychology major during his time at Allegheny. Associate Professor and Department Chair of Psychology Lydia Eckstein, who was both Condon’s academic and senior comprehensive project advisor, said he remained dedicated to the arts while academically pursuing the social sciences, synthesizing all of his passions into his studies.

“He was always really hands-on and really knowledgeable about the more practical matters of life,” she said of Condon’s senior comprehensive project, which studied the effects of lighting on mood and cognitive performance, learning plenty about theatrical lighting herself along the way.

Condon stayed in touch with Eckstein after graduation, connecting over the books they read and going for walks together.

“Allen has become a friend to me over the years,” Eckstein said. “I’m trying to support him and make sure that he knows there are many, many people out there who care about him, who think about him, who want to let him know that he means a lot to them.”

Condon’s treatment is ongoing, and will in future include a surgery to remove a large tumor from the back of his leg. At the moment, the community has raised almost \$19,000, close to his \$20,000 goal, but this is only a small piece of what he will need for treatment until his full recovery. According to NPR, 60% of those who receive treatment for cancer deplete their life savings to pay for medical care. Likewise, the National Cancer Institute found in 2019 that the average cost for a patient in the initial phase of cancer diagnosis and treatment is \$41,800.

“This is about to be the biggest struggle of my life,” Condon wrote on his GoFundMe page. “I’m starting with a relatively low goal because I’m hoping not to have to ask for too much help. I greatly appreciate any help anyone is willing to lend.”

Condon’s GoFundMe is still accepting donations, all of which will go directly to the costs of his treatment and transportation. Donations can be made by visiting <https://go-fund.me/456bc91e> or by scanning the QR code in the online version of this article.

Have a laugh!

By **SARAH BRAMMELL**
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Have you ever felt like complaining about not being in the socioeconomic one percent? Well, don’t, because billionaire Charlie Munger seems to think that everyone should be perma-happy that we are no longer living in the Dark Ages. Munger, 98, aired his views on the ungrateful masses during the Daily Journal’s annual meeting, claiming that people should be grateful for things like “modern medicine” and “air conditioning.” The Allegheny administration is currently studying Munger’s claims to extrapolate new talking points that they can use throughout the year. Is your air conditioning broken? Be grateful for the modern invention of the window. Can you not afford food? You have a laptop to send complaints (the email will be auto-deleted when the word “hungry” is detected; auto-delete is another amazing piece of modern innovation). Allegheny hopes that messages like these will show struggling students that there’s no need to complain and that they should, like Munger, just live with what they’ve got!

Speaking of working with what you’ve got, Twitter is finally recouping some of its losses by selling furniture and kitchen appliances out of its San Francisco office. This comes after mass layoffs, resignation and, in December 2022, a report that the company was severely behind on building rent. Luckily, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and

it’s that Twitter’s CEO, Elon Musk, is now a Guinness World Record holder. Musk, who just happened to take over as CEO right before all of the above events, is now the proud owner of the record for losing the most money ever. Hopefully, seeing their boss accomplish at least one thing — sort of — will boost company morale enough that they can put together the best talent show of all time and save the Bird App — and some of their desk chairs so they have places to sit in the office.

One bastion of society that couldn’t be saved, unfortunately, is Mars’ gone-woke-yet-probably-not-broke M&Ms. The anthropomorphic candy characters, which have been facing backlash from right-wing commentators like Tucker Carlson, are being replaced by actress Maya Rudolph. The backlash from Carlson began after the two female M&Ms — Green and Brown — permanently changed out of their high heels and into more walkable shoes. This change, which could have and probably should have been ignored, was painted as an attack on M&M femininity, and eventually led to all of the mascots being fired. We here at The Campus have an insider scoop on what’s next for Green and Brown, and we are happy to report that they are being sent to the same retreat for discarded mascots in Upstate New York where Chomper’s little brother and the Hellbender went. We wish them a peaceful and happy retirement and good luck to any other brand that wants to change their branding.

Caught in the act!

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Chat-bot to teach students?

By **DAWIT KAHESAY**
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The fear of a computer takeover is becoming more and more prevalent to some, as an artificial intelligence chatbot capable of almost human-like feats such as written literature and rendered art is freely accessible through the click of a button.

Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer is a chatbot launched by OpenAI in November 2022. It uses artificial intelligence to learn and adapt its language model through the family of large language models accessible in the GPT-3 servers.

Dean of Student Experience Ian Binnington, who advises the Honor Committee, said that the Allegheny faculty has not had a meeting discussing ChatGPT and its implications for higher education.

“Google Translate is a form of AI intervention that the language department has been dealing with for a decade, so we are not unfamiliar with dealing with AI in terms of student work,” Binnington said.

Professor of English and Director of Writing Alexis Hart found ChatGPT to be disconcerting and startling at first glance but said it is still useful as an educational tool.

“After the initial shock, and reading more generated text, you start to see the patterns in its writing, meaning that it is not thinking,” Hart said. “It is a tool just as we use pen and paper to write down our thoughts and memories.”

“ChatGPT has applications that could be very useful in the writing department and others,” Hart said. “Using the bot to help with inspiration for a written project, or comparing and contrasting your work with what the bot had written can be decent feedback. Students need to be discerning enough to see what they can learn from the bot, but wholesale conceding your work to the bot, that’s when it becomes problematic.”

Binnington had similar thoughts concerning the implementation of ChatGPT in higher education, both sanctioned and unsanctioned.

“Higher education periodically faces hurdles such as the paper mill or contract cheating which are acts of blatant cheating,” Binnington said. “This bot is going to be no different than them. Under the right instruction and intention, the bot can help students learn more effectively. I can completely imagine a scenario where ChatGPT is integrated into the classroom, where a student is asked to compare their writing to the generated text and do a reflection piece; in the end, a bot is a tool. It can be used for cheating, but it can also be used for so much more.”

Students all around the Allegheny campus, including Carmélione Majewski, ’24, have been stirred up in conversation about ChatGPT.

“I’ve been hearing some of my friends talk about it, and checked it out myself,” Majewski said. “It’s fascinating how fast the bot generated text. The essays it wrote also made sense. As a psychology major where a lot of our literature is online and

can be put into a library for the bot to access, I think it is something we should be using in this college at some point to serve as a resource hub and a creative tool.”

Psychology Professor Emerita Juvia Heuchert has been singing the AI’s praises.

“I am assuming my students will use ChatGPT,” Heuchert said. “It is a great product, and I am very excited. It is uncanny how well it writes, as well as the art it produces, the codes it can configure. It is a fantastic product.”

ChatGPT is a powerful system that is void of grammatical errors and cites text from its vast and ever-growing library, Heuchert explained.

“It will be difficult for us teachers to tell if a submitted paper was written by the student or the AI, which requires us to adjust our teaching methods,” Heuchert said. “If the students are going to be using the bot, we ask them to add their own experience, data or other forms of contribution to the generated text as their form of putting in work.”

Heuchert also suggested the possibility of watermarking chat-generated content as a form to help instructors in higher education manage plagiarism.

Binnington said that the introduction of this bot could go either direction, depending on the students’ will to learn and not take the easy road out.

“I think most students are honest,” he said.

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Sideline? Mainstay.

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Behind the scenes of Allegheny’s hype squad

By **Kyle Chandler**
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Picture a packed NBA stadium. The hometown heroes are up and the crowd is deafening. It is halftime, and half of the fans in the stands go out to the concourse area to get a hot dog and rehydrate. Suddenly, the music in the arena starts picking up, and the energy is palpable.

Cheerleaders are rushing down at halfcourt to begin their routine with excitement, shaking their pom-poms and adding to the atmosphere. They provide intensity and dedication to the team, and frankly do not get enough credit for the work they put in.

Allegheny is no different. Not only is the cheer team in charge of the entertainment you see at the games, but also everything that goes on behind the scenes to make cheer possible.

“I have had parents and athletes come up to us, thanking us for being there,” said Megan Lowenguth, ’24. “But sometimes there are negative comments about the cheer team, because we are not a varsity team. The really rewarding part is knowing that people appreciate us being there.”

The team puts in a lot of effort to make sure they are providing entertainment for the fans. Every week they practice and come up with new ways to improve their performance.

“Right now we are working on a new dance that we can present at the basketball games,” said Samantha Truzzi, ’23. “We have some really good, exciting songs. It will get everyone involved.”

Truzzi has been a team co-captain for Allegheny Cheerleading since her sophomore year, and is also the current president of the club. Her duties are long listed, including prepping practice, working on new stunts and moves to perform, and taking care of the roster while making sure that everyone is on the same page.

This year, she had the opportunity to help choreograph a dance the team plans to unveil in the near future during one of the basketball games. It is her first time in this role, and she said it was exciting to be a part of the process of designing the dance.

Lowenguth is another co-captain of the team helping with the development of the dance. She expressed her willingness to put in the extra time in order to perform at the highest levels, and she also helps other cheer members outside of

the scheduled practice times to make sure they are caught up.

“A lot of the choreography is going to showcase strengths of different members,” Lowenguth said. “We have some girls that are really fantastic when they are jumping, and then there are people who are really good at tumbling.”

Lowenguth wanted to encompass what would bring out the best of each individual. During the process of creating the dance she was open to ideas from everybody, and compiled the best thoughts everyone brought forth to allow the group to shine.

Lowenguth was a dancer. After suffering a back injury early in her high school career, her plans were put on hold as to what was next for her.

She was encouraged to join the cheer team by two of her friends during her first year at Allegheny. At first, Lowenguth was hesitant given her recovery and that she had never cheered before. However, after spending years with the other girls and working on her craft, she could not be more happy that she made the bold decision to try something new.



ROMAN HLADIO/THE CAMPUS

The cheer team hypes up the crowd at the Blue and Gold weekend game on Saturday, Sept. 24.

“This is the closest that I will ever get to dancing again,” Lowenguth. “I had a deep passion for it, and (cheer) has given me that. I am grateful for it.”

Handling the finances of the team and having another big role during the games is Alexis Furbush, ’24. She started cheering last year for the Gators after returning to campus from the COVID-19 pandemic. After being encouraged by two foreign exchange students to try out, she made an immediate impact and now handles a big role.

Furbush is in charge of ordering new uniforms for the team, along with other apparel.

She regularly attends the Allegheny Student Government meetings for managing the cheer budget.

“(ASG) has been very reasonable,” Furbush said. “I feel like every club wants more money, but we can definitely work with what we have.”

Furbush took on many leadership positions in high school, which has helped with the ability to perform her job now. Furbush is also a former dancer, and was introduced by a family friend to performing when she was three years old. Her movement patterns and ways of maneuvering the body have translated into becoming a standout cheerleader for Allegheny.

The cheer team also attends the football games. Last season, the team joined together with the “Little Gritters,” a youth cheerleading organization in Meadville, thanks to Latesha Manning, who is coach for both teams. The Gators had the chance to show the younger girls the ropes, and gave them the experience of what it is like to perform at a college game.

The organization will finish the season with men and women’s basketball. After the season concludes, they will host tryouts for next semester.

Gators chomp on Golden Tornadoes for sixth straight win

By **Kyle Chander**
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The men’s basketball team showed out once again on their home court Wednesday, Jan. 25, as they demolished the Golden Tornadoes of Geneva 99-74. This marks the Gators’ sixth straight victory, remaining a perfect 9-0 in their home swamp. The star of the night was Caden Hinckley, ’23, who put up a career-high 34 points, along with nine boards and three rejections. Hinckley has been a remarkable product during his senior campaign, as just a game ago he set his previous career high in points with 33 against Franciscan on Saturday, Jan. 21. He is also the conference leader in rebounds per game, and has earned Presidents’ Athletic Conference Player of the Week for the past three weeks. Along with Hinckley, four others scored 15 points or more in the most recent win. Allegheny’s dominance was established with their phsycial and controlled play in the paint, scoring 62 points within the 15 by 12 foot square. Ryan Lang, ’26, also used multiple dazzling moves to contort his body and make NBA-caliber layups. The team handled the rock with care, only committing three turnovers throughout the entire game, good for a season low. During their win streak, they outscored their opponents by139 points, and are averaging just under 90 points per contest. The team will head to Thiel on Saturday, looking to keep things going. After Thiel, they will conclude their two-game road series against Washington and Jefferson, who is tied for first in the conference with the Gators.



ANNALIESE STONE/THE CAMPUS

Lang looking to delevop a play late in the first half as the Gators at-



Every win is like a slice of pizza. Some are better than others, but never had a bad one.”

— BOB SIMMONS
Men’s Basketball Head Coach
Allegheny College



ED MAILLIARD/GATOR ATHLETICS

Hinckley goes up with two hands and slams it home for the Gators. His final stat line included a career-high 34 points, nine rebounds and three blocks in the Allegheny victory.

Bowling club ready to strike their spring season

By **Kyle Chandler**
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South down Route 19, two miles from Allegheny College, is a white and gray brick building. Next to it is a sign with a white maraca-shaped figure, a black ball, and in big red letters, “bowling.”

Welcome to Plaza Lanes.

A homey environment that welcomes all skill levels and ages, Plaza Lanes provides fun experiences for many people in the Meadville area, including the Allegheny Bowling Club. Brayden Cartwright, ’23, took over as the team president last semester, and is in the process of setting up matches to play at the alley this spring.

Many of the players on the roster are also athletes on the baseball team. The club was founded by members of the varsity sport in 2018. Not only did this allow the baseball team to have a house on campus — teams are not offered the same housing reservation opportunities as clubs — but it was also an invitation to hit the lanes in a new community.

“It is awesome to be around the guys,” Cartwright said. “We do have quite a few members that have been outside of the team, so it is nice to have that diversity there. But having the guys that close all the time — it is pretty cool because you have some of your best friends at practice, and you get to see them and

bowl with them on the weekends.”

Cartwright was grandfathered into the position from the class before him. He was given the opportunity to keep the ship sailing, and knew it was a good opportunity for the team and himself. Although Cartwright never bowled competitively before arriving at Allegheny, he quickly found it another enjoyable hobby.

“I got asked to join the club with some of the guys that were older than me,” Cartwright said. “I went, did not know anything about it, but they taught me and I saw how they were doing it, and I was like, ‘Oh, this is awesome.’”

Given that baseball is a spring sport, it sometimes proves difficult to play significant hours at the bowling alley. However, the team is looking to schedule a six-week season, where they will head down once or twice a week to compete with each other.

Although the club is mostly to have a good time with friends, the competitive spirit within the team comes out during the games. Another member of the club is Andrew Stablewski, ’24, who is in his second year of bowling competitively. Stablewski is always ready to challenge other members, and feels his game has improved since his time on the roster.

“We are always competitive when we are there,” Stablewski said. “We got to see who can get the highest score, which teams are going to beat who. It is always a good time because no one ever wants to lose.”

During the season, the players will compete in one-on-one matches, or in teams, depending on the day and what the guys are feeling up to. Stablewski’s rival has been Chase Chodkowski, ’23, who is also a member of the baseball team. They are great friends on the field, but rivals when striking pins.

Last year, the team had a four-on-four match, which included some of the former graduates taking on the young guns. In an alumni

reunion game, the elders showed up to play and outlegged the current roster. Still, it was a fun experience for everyone involved, according to Stablewski.

In the thriving metropolis of Meadville, the bowling club can offer a great way to relieve stress, make new friends and join a new community. The team hopes to keep expanding as the years go on, and they are always looking for people to gain the courage to join.

“The bowling club is for anybody,” Stablewski said. “We are always looking for people to join that want to have a good time and go bowling.”