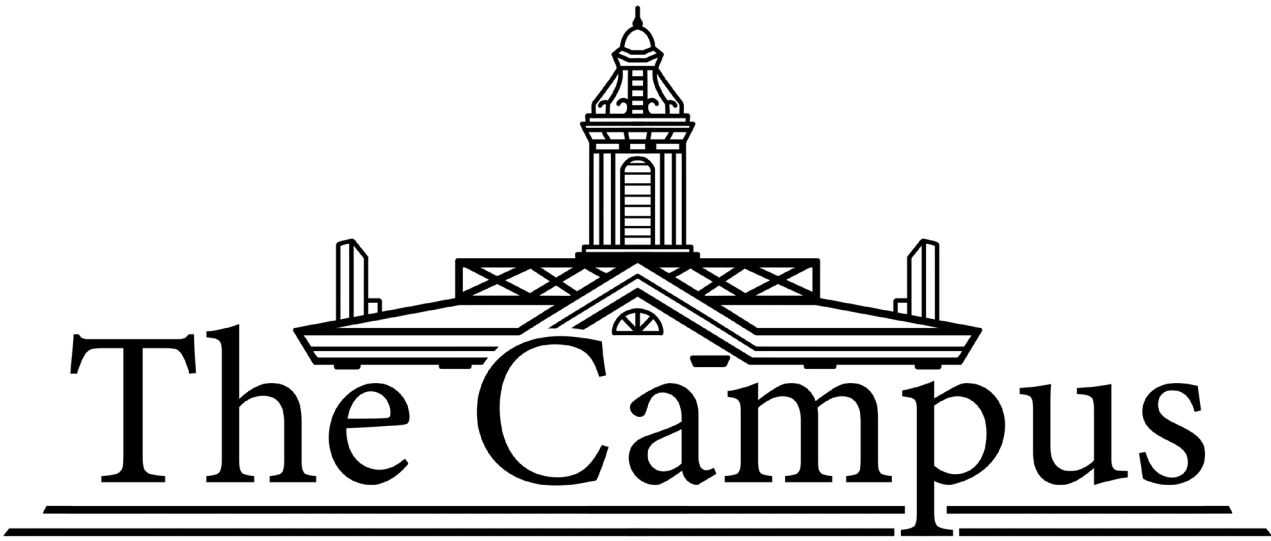




The Campus

Volume 147, Issue 23
Friday, April 21, 2023

Meadville, Pennsylvania
www.alleghenycampus.com

Walk-a-thon raises more than money

By **ELANOR BONTA**
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Allegheny College is collaborating with several local non-profit organizations to raise money for the Meadville Summer Parks Program. The money and awareness come from a walk-a-thon involving over 20 teams, three of which are from Allegheny College.

“With our fraternity, we have a lot of guys walking around and putting in their hours,” said Phi Gamma Delta brother Garrett Paxton, ’25. “Most of what I do is I have a spreadsheet where I have to calculate what one person does and it tells you how much they do, but also how much everyone does. Our goal is to get 1,000 but, like, there’s over 20 of us walking so we’re trying to make it be like 2,000 or almost 3,000. I’m at a total of 106 miles in just three weeks.”

The other two Allegheny teams are made of dance studio members and several staff members.

See [WALK](#) | page 2

WORSE MONSTERS

Junior seminar art gallery

By **LEIGH LARSON**
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LEIGH LARSON/THE CAMPUS

“Cocoa Hooves,” by Sabrina Seda, ’24, sits on display at the Worse Monsters art junior seminar gallery opening on Tuesday, April 11, in Doane Hall of art. “In every sculptor and art piece I make, I seek to embody one or more of three core elements that define my artistic mindset,” Seda said of their work.

See [MONSTERS](#) | page 2

ASG hosts Cole, the Hill Group

By **ROMAN HLADIO**
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The gloom of springtime snow did not halt the proceedings of Allegheny Student Government’s penultimate General Assembly of the semester. Although this meeting was ASG’s last functioning meeting of the semester, room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center was abuzz, as Allegheny College President Ron Cole, ’87, was in attendance with most of the college’s senior leadership team.

Cole, who was one of two guest speakers, attended to discuss initiatives and ideas he discussed with members of ASG and the campus community throughout his first academic year as president and at a December 2022 open session held in the lobby of the campus center. Cole said he wanted to discuss accomplishments made since the December meeting and community concerns that will be addressed in the future.

See [ASG](#) | page 3

Strategic planning process begins with Hill Group visit

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**
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Allegheny College’s strategic planning process officially kicked off with representatives from The Hill Group hosting open student and faculty sessions and speaking at the Allegheny Student Government’s General Assembly on Tuesday, April 18.

“What’s the best Allegheny College we can imagine?” Chief Operating Officer of The Hill Group Jordan Pallitto, ’06, asked at GA. “What’s an Allegheny College with the deepest impact we can imagine? The best student experience we can imagine? World-class academics and everything else. We need to talk about and envision that future, and we’re going to need your help with that.”

Together, Pallitto and President Ron Cole, ’87, described to ASG what the process of the strategic planning will look like. Set to be mediated by The Hill Group, a management consulting firm based out of Pittsburgh, the strategic planning will take place primarily during the summer in three committees composed of members of the Board of Trustees, students, faculty, staff and



ROMAN HLADIO/THE CAMPUS

Jordan Pallitto, ’06, speaks to the Allegheny Student Government’s General Assembly on the evening of Tuesday, April 18. Pallitto is the Chief Operating Officer of The Hill Group, which is leading the strategic planning process implemented by President Ron Cole, ’87.

administration. Those committees will focus on three main topics: people, defined as the student experience, enrollment and employee development; programs, both curricular and co-curricular; and places, meaning the campus; infrastructure and partnerships within the Meadville area. The committees will evaluate where the college currently stands in each of those sectors

and then recommend ways in which the college should proceed.

“To be the best Allegheny, we need to understand the student experience and how to continually improve on that,” Cole said in an interview after GA. “We need to be a place where people love to work at. If we don’t have those things, then we’re not going to have a strong future.”

Cole was pleased to report that, so far, 24 students and more than 70 faculty and staff have indicated their interest in serving on the committees.

The participation of students in the strategic planning process is essential, according to Cole.

“We can’t plan a college to serve our students unless students are involved in that plan,” Cole told ASG.

The three open student sessions hosted earlier in the day were among the first steps in prioritizing student involvement. During a nearly hour-long conversation, students at the second open session dove deep to tell Hill Group representatives Sara Longo, ’11, and Andrew Brey about their multifaceted experiences with the college. Students identified many strengths of the college, including small class sizes, unique major and minor combinations, the athletic program and the perceived real-world application of what students learn. Three major weaknesses of the college that came to students’ mind were retention and recruitment rates, dining and limited engagement with the broader Meadville community.

Representatives then asked students to think about external threats to the college — things the college cannot control but must overcome to be the best version of itself. Participants highlighted increasing costs of higher education, the political environment of Meadville and the accompanying fear for some students, as well as a growing demographic cliff of fewer students nationwide enrolling in institutions of higher education.

See [PLANNING](#) | page 2

THE CAMPUS STAFF EDITORIAL

A new survey shows that increased transparency rarely leads to increased trust in media outlets. With growing distrust in the media, what happens to small newspapers like The Campus?

Page 4

4/20 BLAZE IT

Marijuana has had a significant cultural role in North America for hundreds of years, but it is still not legalized in the United States. Why?

Page 5

HIGH STAKES FOR GOLF

The men’s and women’s golf teams have a chance to play the NCAA tournament in May. PAC championships still stand in the way, though.

Page 8



MONSTERS

from page 1



LEIGH LARSON/THE CAMPUS

Maria Cabrera’s, ’24, piece, “Diez Mil Pedazos de mi Vida (Ten Thousand Parts of my Life)” illuminates a dark room with projections images of Guatemala. “My piece was designed to showcase my struggles and what I (and my family) went through to become who (we) are today,” Cabrera said.



LEIGH LARSON/THE CAMPUS

Stephanie Alfaro-Alcaide, ’24, adjusts a set piece at her display. Taking inspiration from child abuse prevention agency Amigos for Kids’ exhibit “Broken Crayons,” Alfaro-Alcaide hid messages of abuse in drawings and notebooks as a child might.

WALK

from page 1

Executive Director for Economic, Civic and Community Engagement Andy Walker, ’00, is the coordinator for the staff team, and at the time he was interviewed on April 14, 27 people had combined to walk 896 miles.

“It’s just a way to build awareness and support and gather community around the effort to bring Summer Parks Programming back,” Walker said. “Just a way for the Allegheny community to support the larger community and providing just good constructive opportunities for the youth in town.”

The nonprofit organizations involved are the YMCA, Women’s Services and HOPE Initiative. Creating Landscapes originally reached out to the organizations to raise awareness and support for bringing the Summer Parks Program back after COVID-19. Creative Landscapes coordinator Janyce Hyatt, as both a parent and teacher, is passionate about raising money for the program.

“I think that children thrive when they’re playing outside,” Hyatt said. “And I think that Meadville, Pennsylvania, is just such a beautiful place, and to have children playing outside in the summer, away from their devices, getting exercise, fresh air, sunshine and in a really rich educational and fun environment — it helps reduce summer melt that is notorious for children.”

The Summer Parks Program has been running recently in

Meadville for several years after thriving decades ago. With renovations planned at Huidekoper Park, money is now being raised for both the renovations and to support holding the program at Shadybrook Park instead.

“There’s going to be more basketball courts, more sports courts, new playground equipment — I believe there’s going to be a dog park and a walking park,” said Mark McGinty, director for the Meadville Summer Parks Program. “Now, all these are not confirmed, but we’re just going to plan that.”

There has been a “fairly active and robust” Summer Parks Program at several of the city parks previously that would host fishing tournaments, marble tournaments, crafts and lots of outdoor exploration, according to Walker. There will also be incorporation of music, arts and theater and also field trips with the French Creek Conservancy, according to McGinty.

The program in its re-established form is also tackling issues like transportation and food. In order to get more children to the program, money is being raised for that initiative as well.

“About 95% of our kids that came from the park last year were from Fairmont-Fairview,” McGinty said, referring to an apartment complex adjacent to Huidekoper Park. “And so I believe getting those kids from that area to Shadybrook would be a huge issue. So we are try-

ing to get some buses so we can get those that were regulars a chance to experience that again this summer.”

The program itself is also totally nonprofit and tuition-free for the children, according to Maria Rosado-Husband, a trauma-informed community organizer for Hope Initiative. Between HOPE Initiative and Women’s Services, women will be taking shifts to work at the program.

“This program made people in the community talk about how important it is for the children that live here to have these healthy activities that are safe and structured, and it gives the whole community a sense of happiness to watch the joy on the faces of these kids,” Rosado-Husband said. “It also means that we’re headed in the right direction and that’s huge.”

Not only is the walk-a-thon supporting the children of Meadville, it is spreading awareness and improving the community, according to McGinty.

“The walk-a-thon, of course, helps with physical awareness



LEIGH LARSON/THE CAMPUS

Rudra Schultz-Ray, ’23, converses with students in front of his display, titled, “Pot(s).” The piece is composed of clay pots overflowing with star anise, cinnamon and black pepper on a bed of sand.



LEIGH LARSON/THE CAMPUS

Students chat in front of L Hudson’s, ’23, piece “Don’t Look At Me Like That.”

PLANNING

from page 1

Students at the session then proposed that the college has the opportunity to grow by expanding the Allegheny Lab for Innovation and Creativity, more effectively advertising campus events and resources the college already has, and better connecting upper-level staff with the student population.

“There were a lot of themes — I hope this makes you feel good — there were a lot of themes between what we heard here and what the staff said and what the faculty said,” Longo said at the end of the open session. “So they’re very aware of what’s going on and what needs to be addressed.”

In addition to the open student sessions, there is a Google form for students to share their thoughts about all aspects of the college with The Hill Group. Longo said the consultants working on the strategic plan will read every single response they receive through the form.

During the ASG meeting, Pallitto encouraged everyone to provide their input.

“Today’s focus groups were wonderful, but they’re not enough,” Pallitto said. “Each and every one of you and your friends and roommates have ideas that could be really impactful for the future of Allegheny, and so I’m asking if you’ll participate and be a part of the

dialogue.”

The strategic plan will likely be designed to guide the college through the next three to five years and will contain action items that can be implemented in both the short- and long-term, according to Cole.

ASG President Veronica Green, ’23, asked Pallitto which areas of the college should expect budget cuts as a result of the strategic plan. Pallitto responded by saying that, while the evaluation process is not yet far along enough to answer Green’s question, trade-offs are a necessary part in becoming the best version of Allegheny possible. Cole added that the summer committees will assist with that sort of decision-making.

Notably, many of The Hill Group employees working on the strategic plan are Allegheny alumni.

“From my perspective, it brings a degree of interest and excitement about this planning process that frankly we don’t get with every client and every organization,” Pallitto said in an interview after GA. “We’re invested in this. This institution has given a lot to us, and it’s an opportunity for us to give a lot back too.”

The completed draft of the strategic plan will be available for public comment in late August or September.

It’s just a way to build awareness and support and gather community around the effort to bring Summer Parks Programming back.”

—ANDY WALKER
Executive Director of Economic, Civic, and Community Engagement, Allegheny College

ASG

from page 1

“I will never promise something that I don’t know we can deliver,” Cole said, “but I’ll always promise that we’ll take concerns seriously, we’ll listen and we’ll come back with either, ‘Here’s what we’ve been able to do to improve the experience,’ or, ‘I’m sorry, I’m not able to do anything on that right now.’”

One short-term solution coming to campus is updated Wi-Fi infrastructure through a new provider, according to Cole.

“We know that Wi-Fi is an issue,” Cole said. “There are plenty of times I’ve been working in Bentley and the Wi-Fi is wavering somewhere on campus. We know it’s an issue and we had hoped to have that addressed and have an upgraded system in place by now. We’re not done, and I anticipate that with the work that we’re doing, it should be in place by the summer for an up and going, new, much stronger Wi-Fi system by the start of fall semester.”

The new Wi-Fi infrastructure is through Wi-Fiber, who the college opened a contract with in the spring of 2022, The Campus reported in November 2022. However, implementation of the new network has been delayed multiple times.

“We can’t make any guarantees, but we expect to have the new network available for students when they come back in the spring (2023) semester,” Systems Administrator Doug Tomer said at the time.

In that same article, which explored network connectivity issues, Tomer told The Campus that connectivity issues at the time were independent of the change in provider.

Another item that Cole said

will be implemented for the fall 2023 semester is the new “exploratory adviser” system. First announced at the Feb. 17 GA by Associate Provost and Professor of Music Jennifer Dearden, the new system decouples the advising aspect of the FS program, meaning a student’s FS 101 professor will no longer serve as their initial academic adviser.

“Taking advising out of FS 101 provides more space for the curriculum in the FS program,” Dearden said at the time.

Cole also addressed concerns regarding mental health services on campus, acknowledging the difficulty of staffing the Counseling and Personal Development Center and thanking members of the senior leadership team for the rolling out of telehealth service CampusCare. He brought an additional, “breaking news” announcement to GA.

“We’ve just hired, brought on board a local behavioral health provider for in-person, on-campus therapy,” Cole said to the enthusiastic knocking of tables by the Senate.

In terms of what still needs to be addressed, Cole said the college is working on safety updates around campus, upgrading all of the college’s laundry facilities in residence halls — which should be complete by the beginning of the fall semester, according to Cole — and continuing to improve meal plans and food insecurity on campus with student input.

Later in the meeting, Class of 2024 Vice President London Dejarnette asked Dean for Student Experience Ian Binnington about the state of a food security survey initially proposed at the Jan. 27 GA.

“It has not gone as quickly as I had hoped it would, because, obviously, we haven’t seen it,” Binnington said. “But I admitted this morning that I don’t have the time to do it myself and I’ve passed it off to our newly-hired wellness case manager who has a lot more free time than I do, and so I think we will see it moving forward a lot more rapidly than it has. But the commitment is there.”

Joshua Guthrie, the newly hired wellness case manager Binnington referred to, was unavailable for comment.

Cole added that the survey relates more directly to Guthrie’s role.

Binnington hopes to get the survey out to the student body before the end of the semester. The survey must make it through the institutional review board, but Binnington said “it’s the type of survey that doesn’t require an extensive review.”

“I’m concerned if we do a food insecurity survey at the beginning of an academic year, it isn’t going to tell us very much versus a food insecurity at the end of an academic year, perhaps even into the summer, and asking graduating seniors to participate in it might actually get us a more accurate representation,” Binnington said.

Director of Community Relations William Lowther, ’24, raised concerns about the high faculty turnover rate and lack of diversity within the faculty, specifically asking Provost and Dean of the Faculty Angela Haddad how the college planned on addressing similar concerns.

“One of the things we’re going to be doing in terms of retention is ... we are going to be having a DI (diversity and inclusion) audit across the whole campus, measuring campus climate and our diversity efforts,” Haddad said. “We have some faculty fellows and others that will be participating in that effort so we can get some real data to kind of figure out what is going on.”

ASG’s second guest speaker was Jordan Pallitto, ’06, a representative of The Hill Group, who Cole contracted for his strategic restructuring of the college. Coverage of the restructuring can be found (on page whatever/ at this link).

The senior leadership team



ROMAN HLADIO/THE CAMPUS

Cole addresses the general assembly on Tuesday, April 18. Many of the things Cole discussed were issues raised by students that had either been addressed, that will be addressed before the fall semester or will continue to be worked toward by the college’s senior leadership team.

departed at 8:11 p.m., and GA returned to its regular cabinet reports. Many cabinet members had nothing to report or stated that they were working on their transition reports, as the new cabinet will be sworn in on April 25.

Director of the Treasury Adriana Solis, ’23, noted \$12,316.96 being spent from the general fund for ASG, the class of 2023, the class of 2025, the class of 2026 and Students for Environmental Action. \$1,900 came out of the surplus fund for the Sustainable Design Team and ASG, and \$237 came out of the Culture, Identity and Leadership Coalition fund for International Club.

Class of 2023 President Shira Haus proposed a motion to move \$2,000 from the surplus fund into the class of 2023’s budget in case extra funding was needed for senior week after ASG ceases operations for the semester, with any remaining funds left to the rising senior class. The motion went to vote and passed unanimously.

Class of 2025 President and ASG President-Elect Nicole Recio Bremer announced her cabinet nominees and provided brief biographical information to the senate. All nominees were approved.

Recio Bremer’s cabinet, who will be officially appointed next week, includes Lowther as attorney general; Hunter Goerman, ’25, as director of the treasury; Kaleialoha Froning, ’24, as director of diversity and inclusion; Dejarnette and Autumn Stoneking, ’2X, as co-directors of student affairs; Cam Leshner, ’24, as director of community relations; Jude Gotschall, ’26, as director of communication and press; Bianca Sanchez, ’24, as director of sustainability and environmental affairs; Ankitha

Pamula, ’24, as parliamentarian; Dasha Kutova, ’25, as chief of staff; and V Belcher, ’26, as director of organizational development.

Water Polo Club passed its second round of voting, making it the last club to be confirmed in the 2022-23 academic year.

During her remarks, Green thanked the Senate and her cabinet members, as it was her last official GA serving as president.

“Thank you for being awesome and going with some of the ideas that I’ve had. And last but not least, Rudra, thanks for getting me elected,” Green said, referring to ASG Vice President Rudra Schultz-Ray, ’23.

The meeting closed at 8:43 p.m.

Thank you for being awesome and going with some of the ideas that I’ve had. And last but not least, Rudra, thanks for getting me elected.”

—VERONICA GREEN
Class of 2023

THE CAMPUS

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The Campus is printed every Friday during the academic year, except during breaks and exam periods.

CRIME BLOTTER

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

April 14, 2023
Fondling
Brooks Hall
Title IX

April 18, 2023
Criminal Mischief
Parking Lot #4
Active Investigation

Trust in journalism is no longer a question of integrity

By **THE CAMPUS STAFF**
newspaper@allegheny.edu

Trust in journalism hit an all-time low in 2022.

In Gallup and the Knight Foundation’s most recent annual American Views survey, it was reported that “only 26% of Americans have a favorable opinion of the news media, the lowest level Gallup and Knight have recorded in the past five years, while 53% hold an unfavorable view.”

Lately, we are concerned that this decreased faith in the media has extended to our campus community and this newspaper, with complaints about our journalistic processes anonymously registered on Yik Yak and verbally registered to some of our editors and writers.

The Campus adheres to the Society of Professional Journalists’ code of ethics. Every article we post or print is scrutinized by our section editors, editors-in-chief and faculty adviser for factual gaps and potential editorializing. We reach out to those who are mentioned in a story for comment and make clear if they did or did not respond. We debate the factual transparency of mentioning people by name in our newspaper with the protection of granting anonymity or omitting their presence from the story entirely. This is all done on a case-by-case basis; just as there are very few effective blanket rules in life, there are few in journalism. Every story, source and subject is different, and as the SPJ advises: “Balance the public’s

need for information against potential harm or discomfort. Pursuit of the news is not a license for arrogance or undue intrusiveness.”

Unfortunately, in the age of increased skepticism in the media, the pursuit of truthful and transparent reporting is often misconstrued as arrogance or undue intrusiveness. As journalists focused on serving the interests of a small, cloistered community, our work is far more mundane and iterative than the swashbuckling investigative journalists one sees in movies. We do our fair share of digging to ensure our articles present the fullest picture possible, but the main focus of our writing tends to revolve around compiling and arranging publicly-available or freely-given information in a way that the average reader would not have time or connections to do independently. Our goal is to make members of the Allegheny community better informed about goings-on around campus than they would be able to achieve as individuals.

For instance, in our weekly Allegheny Student Government column, the most notable moments of the general assembly — whether they be significant legislation, presentations by administrators or statements by representatives — are compiled alongside relevant follow-up interviews.

Imagine an individual’s quest for the same amount of information independently. This individual, should they wish to be well-informed about ASG’s business, would need to attend the pub-

lic GA, seek out several members of ASG to answer relevant questions after the meeting, schedule appointments with administrators for follow-up conversations, introduce themselves to community members and initiate further discussion about their connection to that week’s business and study ASG’s constitution and rules of procedure to ensure the student government is adhering to its own Constitution and By-laws.

They would need to do this every week — and it would likely take up their entire week, combined with schoolwork and extracurriculars. At the end of it all, they would be well-informed about the GA and likely nothing else. They would need to spend a comparable amount of time and energy on every important event around campus every week to gain the same amount of knowledge that results from sitting down with an issue of The Campus, a document that compiles anywhere from 12 to 18 rigorously-researched stories kievevery week.

Transparency about our processes, though, is likely not the culprit for decreasing trust. Gallup and the Knight Foundation tied the downward trend of trust in the media not to credibility or transparency of the outlets, but rather “the affective or emotional aspects of trust — that is, how trust in news is related to how people feel about news outlets.”

An individual’s emotional response to the idea or reputation of a particular outlet, then, is more likely to be respon-

sible for decreased trust in journalism than any factual or ethical error on the outlet’s part. And when an individual feels slighted by an outlet for personal reasons, it does not take long for this emotional distrust to begin masquerading as legitimate concern for transparency or ethicality, which can spread like a disease. Before long, a whole community can develop a gut-instinct distrust for an outlet for no reason other than the emotional response of those around them.

As for the emotional root of the current distrust on campus, the SPJ code of ethics makes clear that journalists must “deny favored treatment to advertisers, donors or any other special interests, and resist internal and external pressure to influence coverage.” The denial of favored coverage to those who purchase advertisements or otherwise fund printing, then, can be perceived as a personal slight or attack rather than adherence to the strict code of ethics by which we operate. The Campus has a 147-year commitment to putting accountability and truth over favored treatment of our backers — backers for whom we are deeply grateful and of whom we assume a shared commitment to informing the public over special treatment.

According to an October 2022 survey from the Pew Research Center, Americans aged 18-29 are nearly just as likely to trust information they find on social media as they are to trust information from a national news outlet, with their faith in the former rising from 44% in

2016 to 50% and faith in the latter sinking from 62% to 56%. Where there was once a gap of 18 percentage points between the two, there is now six — and the trend is predicted to continue.

When anonymous and untruthful or misconstrued claims about this newspaper’s journalistic practices begin to spread via social media, then, the primary audience for our journalism — adults aged 18-29 — are nearly just as likely to believe these posts as they are the reporting we put out every Friday. And, as Gallup points out, once an individual or community possesses a negative sentiment about the media, this sentiment will tend to impair or obstruct any attempt on the part of the outlet to repair or restore that trust.

As journalists — and, yes, we are journalists — we prefer that conversations and critiques happen in the light. Journalism is, at its core, a long tradition of asking questions, holding institutions accountable to potential critique and attempting in good faith to maintain a well-informed public. We are not against or immune to criticism, nor questions about our processes and ethics, as they are the only way to truly preserve our credibility. But hostile, anonymous criticism and a refusal to engage in a dialogue smacks of vendetta rather than productive public discourse, the latter to which The Campus is strongly committed.

Unpacking the potential successes and missteps of Cole's strategic review process

By **REECE SMITH**
Contributing Writer
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On Wednesday, March 29, the whole student body received an email explaining that under the leadership of Ron Cole, Allegheny College will be undergoing a strategic planning process in the coming year “that will shape and define our future pathway.” The message also asked for student volunteers to join one of three working committees, which will meet three times over the summer to discuss a particular realm of planning. Personally, I was very happy to hear about this endeavor; strategic planning helps organizations think critically about their values and how they operate, enabling them to better cultivate their strengths and culture.

Also, it comes at a time where the student body feels uneasy about the future of the college. Enrollment has dropped from roughly 2,100 students in 2011 to approximately 1,300 now, a drop of over a third in about a decade.

The college is drawing down on the endowment by more than four percent per year as well, which is considered the maximum you would want to withdraw to maintain the fund indefinitely by investment management standards. That means that if we continue using the endowment at our current rate we will eventually run out of money. However, one of the biggest sources of unease is the recent axing of numerous academic programs last year, which frustrated many students and prompted some to

transfer.

It is abundantly clear that Allegheny cannot continue on its current trajectory, and Cole’s strategic planning initiative seems to be the first steps in correcting our course to ensure our long-term success and viability. This is very exciting and promising, but such projects can easily go astray and prove to be fruitless. For such an endeavor to be successful it is incumbent upon all stakeholders to provide both support and constructive feedback regarding the process, which is the purpose of this article.



Strategic planning helps organizations think critically about their values and how they operate, enabling them to better cultivate their strengths and culture.”

—REECE SMITH
Class of 2024

The email to the student body, while helpful, still had ways in which it could have been improved. For one, it could have done more to expand upon what strategic planning is and how the college will benefit by it. I have the benefit of having taken an online course on strategic planning, and thus am somewhat familiar with it; however, many other students probably are not. Explaining it in the email would help students better understand what is happening, what they would be doing on these planning

committees — which Cole wishes for us to join — and would promote greater community buy-in in the process.

Also, it would be helpful to have a better understanding of how students will be selected to serve on these committees. The application in the email asked for only one to three sentences explaining why one would be a good addition to the committee. This is a very short space to make the case that you would be a valuable voice to have on the committee, and thus will surely limit the ability of whoever is selecting students to serve on the committee. This also leads us to our next question: Who will be selecting the members of these committees? Is Cole going to personally read all these applications himself and decide? If there is a group reviewing the application, who are they? Are they going to consider only these three sentences we were asked to write? Are they going to look into students further? In addition, who decides which Board of Trustee members, administrators, staff and faculty members are on these committees? Explaining these things would have made the process more transparent and built confidence around it.

Another avenue that I think should have been expanded upon is what will actually happen in these meetings. For right now, the plan is for each committee to have three meetings, and while this is only the beginning, and not the end all be all, this still seems to be a very short amount of time, which means there is most likely a narrow goal or purpose for these meetings. Will

these meetings be feedback for the Hill Group — the consulting firm helping us develop our strategic plan — to better understand the college? Feedback on a preliminary plan from the Hill Group? Are we generating ideas for the plan? This information would be helpful to let students have a better idea of what they would be involved in if they were to apply and be added to the committees.

Also, I think it would be very beneficial if we were informed of some sort of rough timeline for what the process would look like. Of course, such a process is very fluid and subject to change, but a rough idea would help community members know what to expect as we undergo the process, such as when there are opportunities to provide feedback. Knowing this would build students’ confidence in this process and help ease the anxiety some feel about the future of this institution.

While I would prefer the college itself answer these questions for the general public, I was able to ascertain answers to some of them from the Hill Group during their Tuesday student feedback session. Right now, there is a strategic planning committee which is made up of trustees, faculty and staff, who have been meeting and working with the Hill Group. The Hill Group has already generated market and strategic planning research pertinent to the college and presented it to the planning committee, and according to the Hill Group, Cole hopes to make the report available to students. On Tuesday, the Hill Group met with students, faculty and staff, and gener-

ated SWOT — Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats — analyses which together they will use to generate their plan. Later this month, the college planning committee will select members for the three working committees. From there, the Hill Group will make a first draft of the strategic plan, which will be presented to the main planning committee. Then the draft will be presented to the three working committees who will provide more feedback on the draft. The Hill Group and Committees will continue the revision feedback cycle until the plan is completed, hopefully around September. While these insights do not address all the issues I raised, it is valuable information about the strategic planning process and I’m glad to be able to share it with the campus.

Overall, it is great to see that the college is going to undergo the strategic planning process, and especially great to see that student feedback and involvement will be incorporated. To develop a viable plan requires the cooperation of all community members, which involves both support and constructive feedback. I hope all the suggestions I have made are seen as constructive, as I honestly believe that they would result in the greater buy-in and participation of the campus community, as well as build confidence in the administration of the college. I am enjoying my time here at Allegheny, and have fallen in love with the institution, and thus wish to see its long-term success and viability, and I believe that this is one step in ensuring it.

The strange history of cannabis in the U.S.

By **SAM HEILMANN**
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Like many things in America, weed is equally politicized and misunderstood. Since little is concretely known about the consumption and effects of marijuana, much of the conversation around its use is speculative. Questions about what we know about the drug, what it does to the brain and what initially made it illegal go unanswered because it has become culturally taboo.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology Nancy Frambes, whose research interests include drugs, human behavior and cannabis use, explained that marijuana consumption acts on the endocannabinoid system, which regulates a number of bodily functions through a vast network of cells.

“When we are born we have not all, but most, of the neurons we’re gonna have in life, and there’s just a mass array of connections between cells,” Frambes said. “It’s kind of like strengthening those connections of what you’ve learned, getting rid of stuff you don’t need — the endocannabinoids seem to be really important for that pruning.”

The cannabis plant contains cannabinoids that, when consumed, produce a variety of effects on the body and brain. The most well-known of these are tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, and cannabidiol, or CBD. THC produces effects in the brain that impair those functions in the endocannabinoid system — produces a “high” — while CBD can produce calming effects in the body — and does not produce a “high” —

“It’s almost like, either way, things are going to go bad for lower class people and African American people, who are generally hurt by the war on drugs.”

—RICHARD MILLS
Class of 2026

according to Frambes.

Frambes clarified that not much is known about the effects of cannabis use in the brain, particularly the long-term effects, since the discovery of the endocannabinoid system is relatively recent. The observable effects, though, act on that already-present system.

“There is an impairment of memory while someone is under the effects,” Frambes said. “We know cognitive processing memory doesn’t work as well, short term memory especially.”

She also stressed that marijuana is one of the safer drugs, and that the dangers of overconsumption are limited or rare.

“One of the reasons that people choose to use cannabis — and they use it recreationally or quasi-medically, to self medicate — is it has some anti-anxiety features,” she said. “And so it sometimes almost takes people too far, that they’re so low-key that they lose motivation. It’s called amotivational

syndrome.”

Despite its reputation of being a relatively safe drug, marijuana is fully legal in only 20 states. This criminalization has little to do with the drug itself, but rather who uses it.

The cannabis plant was ubiquitous in the U.S. around the era of colonialism and beyond. The hemp fibers from the plant were used to make cloth and paper while hemp was even used as currency in some states, according to History.com.

Flash forward to the years following the Mexican Revolution of 1910, wherein Mexican immigrants made their way to the U.S., introducing American culture to recreational marijuana use. Racist reactions to this influx of immigrants contributed to a negative view of marijuana, and by 1931, 29 states had outlawed the use of the drug, according to PBS.

Prohibition was an additional catalyst for the illegalization of the drug. Though marijuana use did not entirely replace alcohol consumption, there was an increase in use across the country. According to Frambes, this led to retaliation by a variety of companies.

“Prohibition falls, and suddenly you have all these companies — distilleries and breweries — that are trying to get back on-line, and they’re seeing some of their business has been taken away,” Frambes said. “So there was a real push there to not allow cannabis to be legal.”

The Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 effectively criminalized marijuana for all but those who could afford to pay the tax.

So while marijuana posed no real threat to society — counter to propaganda messaging of the 1930s through the 1950s, which painted the drug as an instigator of criminal activity and a gateway to harder drugs — its criminalization was ruthless and rooted in racism. The portrayal of marijuana as an exclusively dangerous substance was a choice Frambes says was not based on knowledge of the drug itself.

“I think the one thing we can say, even if some of that is speculation, is that the illegalization of marijuana was not about the drug, or the effects of the drug,” she said. “The reason that marijuana was made illegal probably didn’t have anything to do with the drug, as much as capitalism.”

The modern conversation around legalization also poses its challenges and is rooted in prejudice for some minority groups, according to Richard Mills, ’26.

“All of the people who are going to be selling it legally are going to be upper class white people,” Mills said. “So, at the end of the day, it’s still hurting lower class people and Black people just as much as if it was illegal. It’s almost like, either way, things are going to go bad for lower class people and African American people, who are generally hurt by the war on drugs.”

From long-term effects to legalization, much about marijuana is nebulous.

“There’s no black and white,” Frambes said. “Everything’s gray, and marijuana’s just like that. There’s some good to it and there’s some bad to it, and people are better off knowing a little bit about it.”

By **CAROLINE MAYE**
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It is just about finals season, also known as the time during which students spend two weeks trying to review four months’ worth of material. As the library begins to overflow with sleep-deprived students, coffee and hopelessness, it can be easy to become overwhelmed by the sheer amount of work to do. Desperation may lead some to look online for the best study method to guarantee an A at the end of the semester. Look no further — the answers are now right in front of your eyes.

A disclaimer up front: There is no magic method to pass every final at the end of the semester. Studying is a wholly individualistic process and there will never be one uniform method that works best for everyone. However, there are a few key methods to incorporate into study processes that have been shown to improve memory retention and recall abilities.

So, where to start — or rather — when to start? According to Visiting Professor of Psychology Stanislaw Kolek, students should begin preparing for finals at the beginning of the semester and continue studying throughout the year. Students that work hard all year, do their readings and consistently participate in class, hardly need to study at the end of the year, Kolek explained, as they already understand the material on a deeper level.

“So you start early, you save yourself a lot of stress, you save yourself a lot of time,” Kolek said. “If you’re a student that flies through the whole semester without really putting in a lot of effort and then tries to prepare at the end of the semester for the final because let’s say the final is a 50% chunk of the grade or something like that, give yourself at least a week.”

Chunking

To clarify why students following along with class do not need to study as much, Kolek explained one of his most recommended study techniques: chunking.

“Chunking is this fantastic phenomenon, where if you study in smaller amounts for an extended period of time, you improve your ability to recall and recognize information,” Kolek said.

Quite literally the antithesis of cramming, chunking gives students more time to review the material, develop a better understanding of it and identify areas they are struggling to comprehend. Students can chunk their work based on time, concept, or subject matter.

Dylan Hlavenka, ’25, explained that they break up their days by class, dedicating each study day to one or two subjects. As a business and economics double major with a French minor, Hlavenka has quite the course load. To avoid the build-up of stress, they try to be proactive about their

Studying 101

A student and professor weigh in on the most effective studying methods for finals



CAROLINE MAYE/THE CAMPUS

coursework.

“I usually study pretty much as soon as possible,” Hlavenka said. “It doesn’t hurt to be prepared for it.”

Study environment

Hlavenka typically studies in Grounds for Change or the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library. They enjoy the friendly environment of GFC, finding it to be a good place for collaborating with others. The library, on the other hand, is where they go for quiet study time.

Having a set study space is important for most students, Kolek explained. Environmental accountability, such as other students working, helps many stay on task for fear of being judged by others for procrastinating. Another factor to take into consideration when choosing a study space is where the actual test will take place.

“If I’m going to tell my research methods students where they should study, probably the top place I would tell them to study is Carnegie Hall,” Kolek said. “Study here for an hour or half an hour every day just going over whatever you’re going to be going over.”

Studying in the actual academic buildings may feel odd at first, but Kolek recalled how this change really helped in his college career. Kolek started studying in the library more after a substandard sophomore year.

“Now in terms of what kind of space in the library I liked for me, as long as I was very concentrated on what I was working on, it didn’t matter if there were people around if there was a lot of noise, hustle and bustle, that type of stuff,” Kolek said. “It kind of goes away because at that point I was in a place where learning happens, right? So it did help to be at that location where for example, I will actually be taking the exam.”

Group study?

Another factor to consider when studying is whether to study in groups. For process-based exams, such as statistics, Kolek highlighted the benefits of talking through the process as a group. However, for recall-based exams, studying alone might be beneficial depending on the level of understanding a student has on

the topic. In fact, group study might actually be more harmful than helpful for some.

“The Köhler effect is a phenomenon in performance psychology, where the weakest member of the group feels like they’re doing well because everyone else is doing well which ends up, of course, affecting the entire use of performance,” Kolek said. “Those who are not actually doing well — in that study strategy — they tend to do worse, while those who are already doing well tend to do better, but as a group performance is going to suffer.”

To overcome this, Kolek recommended studying with people of the same skill level. Once your understanding of a topic has reached the same level of those doing well in the course, then you can rejoin the higher group.

Study techniques

You’ve set aside an hour every day, found a place to study and people to study with — or without — you’re good, right? Well, there are a few more factors to consider. The question of how you are going to study still remains. Chunking is a technique that works really well at breaking up time but does not provide strict guidelines for what to do during the time that is set aside. For actual study techniques, Kolek said his number-one recommendation will always be writing down the material.

“When I had a really big exam coming up, I would just write everything I know,” Kolek said. “I would write pages just to get everything I know down on that piece of paper, read through it. If I was wrong here, I can correct that. If I know that I’m wrong about a certain definition or how things are connected, or I’m just not communicating it well, I can easily correct it by having already done it once. So you’re almost like taking the exam. The first time, (you are) able to correct it. And then you’re able to do the exam a second time with hindsight, right?”

Hlavenka, on the other hand, preferred to use websites that test their knowledge, such as flashcard giant Quizlet. After reviewing notes, they used Quizlet as a way of testing their understanding of the material.

Additionally, Hlavenka found it helpful to stop by their professor’s office hours to get their notes checked. This way they are “studying the right things.”

What to avoid

While it is important to know what works best for studying, it is equally important to understand what things to avoid while studying. Cramming is the number-one thing to avoid while studying, according to Kolek.

“Good luck getting anyone to actually do that,” Kolek said, tone suffused with sarcasm.

For those who choose to procrastinate and cram anyway, think twice before staying up super late the night before an exam. Research at the Perelman School of Medicine has shown that losing sleep in this way hurts performance much more than it helps.

“If you’re sacrificing sleep to study, you might also be sacrificing your physical health because you’re not going to feel as well during the exam,” Kohler said. “Also, your memory is not going to reboot just because you crammed a little bit before, but it’s more likely going to help you if you actually get the amount of sleep you need.”

Along with getting an adequate amount of sleep in the days leading up to an exam, students should also avoid drinking or taking any mind-altering substances during studying. State-dependent memory, Kolek explained, means that memory depends on what state of mind a person is in. If someone was drunk or hungover while studying, that is a different state of mind than when they are sober, which they will hopefully be during their exam. Thus, using mind-altering substances during studying makes recall of material much harder.

“I’ve also heard this very funny take on state-dependent memory — which is if I’m drinking while studying, all I have to do is drink when I take the exam and I’m in the same state, I’m going to be better at taking the exam, which has been proven false,” Kolek said. “Actually, there’s a decrement in performance. So yeah, avoiding that would be a smart choice.”

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The season of the bull

By ANNALIESE STONE

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TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20)

Happy Birthday Taurus! Everyone’s favorite Earth Sign gets not one, but two eclipses during this season. Starting strong with a New Moon and Solar Eclipse in Taurus on April 20, you will see Jupiter enter your 12th House of Secrets and Uncertainties on April 22. I hope you spent time on centering yourself and manifesting like I told you to last month, because you are going to need it.

Thankfully, Venus — your ruling planet — will enter your Second House of Wealth and Family on May 2, bringing you extra coin and family-like support from those around you, should you choose to accept it. A Full Moon and Lunar Eclipse in Scorpio on May 5 will help see those early manifestations and hard work come to fruition. Take some time to enjoy the fruits of your labor. You have definitely earned it.

Gemini (May 21–June 21)

Although this season is starting out rough for you, Gemini, stay prepared for a sharp turn in your favor as we enter May. Mercury, your ruling planet, will begin its retrograde on April 21 and continue until it goes direct in your 12th House of Secrets and Uncertainties on May 15. These are not easy terrains to travel, but keep your chin up. With Jupiter in your Eleventh House of Income and Wealth starting April 22, you can expect your finances to stabilize amid the chaos of your life.

Venus will soon after enter your First House of Self and Personality on May 2, helping you gain a stronger understanding of yourself through the struggles you have faced. As a nice bonus, Mars will enter your Second House of Wealth and Family on May 10, bringing in some extra cash and support from those closest to you. Good luck! You have this in the bag.

Cancer (June 22–July 22)

There’s a lot of powerful lunar energy in store for you this season, Cancer. Starting with a New Moon and Solar Eclipse in Taurus on April 20, this is an amazing time to get

outside and plant your feet in the dirt. Whether it is meditation with nature or a picnic with your besties on the quad, enjoy the sunny days to their fullest.

When Jupiter enters your 10th House of Work and Career on April 22, keep an eye out for especially enticing openings or opportunities to move up. The Full Moon and Lunar Eclipse in Scorpio on May 5 will see your efforts and drive starting to pay off. If you have been keeping up with studying, you can expect good results from your finals. Finally, the Sun will enter your 11th House of Income and Wealth on May 15. Maybe it is a nice signing bonus from that job listing you saw. Either way, extra cash will not hurt.

Leo (July 23–Aug. 22)

It is shaping out to be a good season for you, Leo. You are starting off strong with Jupiter entering your Ninth House of Luck and Fortune on April 22, bringing some found-money or a surprising scratch-off ticket. When Mars enters your 12th House of Secrets and Uncertainties on May 10, that prior good luck and fortune will come in handy, helping to support you through uncertain times. Do not worry, though.

When the Sun — your ruling planet — enters your 10th House of Careers and Professions on May 15, your job-hunt and project stress will see some much-needed sunlight, bringing you a sense of understanding and inner-peace with your work. Stay focused and stay hydrated. You will get through it!

Virgo (Aug. 23–Sept. 22)

Similar to many of your other signs this season, you are going to have quite the mixed bag, Virgo. To start, your ruling planet Mercury will begin its retrograde on April 21 and will continue to cause confusion in your life until May 15. At the same time, Jupiter will enter your Eighth House of Intimacy and Transformation on April 22, possibly causing conflict or inner-turmoil about your sense of identity or closeness with others this season.

However, it is not all doom and gloom. Venus will enter your 10th House of Work and

Career on May 2, bringing some much-needed support and stability from the people you are closest to. Mars will then provide a nice boost to your 11th House of Income and Wealth on May 10, and The Sun will grant you some good luck when it enters your Ninth House on May 15. This is not going to be an easy season for you, but the reward for getting through will be extremely worth the wait.

Libra (Sept. 23–Oct. 23)

The stars are in your favor this season, Libra! Jupiter, in all its power and force, will enter your Seventh House of Marriage and Partnerships on April 22, bringing you a new person of interest, or strengthening a connection you already have. Venus — your ruling planet — will then enter your Ninth House of Luck and Fortune on May 2.

Get ready to rake in the love and luck the universe is preparing for you. Mars will enter your 10th House of Career and Professionalism on May 10, and following shortly thereafter the Sun will enter your Eighth House of Intimacy and Transformation on May 15. With all of these powerful planets rooting themselves in such positive houses, you are truly in your Healing Era. Enjoy it!

Scorpio (Oct. 24–Nov. 21)

Like your neighbor Libra, this looks like a very positive season for you, Scorpio! Starting out strong with a Full Moon and Lunar Eclipse in your sign on May 5, expect for emotions to be at an all-time high, whether good or bad. The veil to the other side will be at its thinnest during the eclipse, so take the time to treasure those who have passed on and celebrate their positive impacts on your life.

When Venus enters your Eighth House of Intimacy and Transformation on May 2, take the energy you gather during the eclipse and direct it inward. Be kind to yourself and listen honestly to your thoughts and feelings, no matter how small. This is a time for self-reflection, but only in the service of healing yourself and others. In return for your hard work, Mars will enter your Ninth House of Luck and Fortune on May 10, helping give you a boost into

the next season of your life.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22–Dec. 21)

Finals time is upon us all, but Jupiter is helping to give you a boost this semester, Sagittarius. When your ruling planet enters your Fifth House of Education on April 22, take it with all the drive you can muster. Now is the time to lock yourself in the library or at your desk until your final projects and papers are done. At least take this time to make yourself some outlines and schedules to keep to.

When Venus enters your Seventh House of Marriage and Partnerships on May 2, prepare for an abundance of love and support, whether from a partner or the group you are presenting a final with. Mars will enter your Eighth House of Intimacy and Transformation on May 10, helping you stay connected with those you hold closest while growing for the better. The Sun’s dip into your Sixth House of Health and Wellness on May 15 will help you see the final spoils of your labor. Take these post-semester weeks to recharge your body and mind. They need it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan. 19)

It looks like a fairly cushy season for you, Capricorn. But, you have to let yourself enjoy it to reap the benefits. Mercury’s retrograde from April 21 to May 15 will be difficult for us all, but you will have quite the arsenal to handle it with. King Jupiter will enter your Fourth House of Comforts and Luxury on April 22, offering some retail therapy in these troubling times. Maybe it is a good thrift-store-find that you have been looking for.

Venus will then enter your Sixth House of Health and Wellness on May 2 followed by The Sun entering your Fifth House of Education on May 15. Stay mindful of the wear and tear constant grind puts on your mind and body. Like Sagittarius, post-graduation will be an excellent time to shift focus inward and take care of yourself for once.

Aquarius (Jan. 20–Feb. 18)

Be careful not to let finals escape you, Aquarius. While Jupiter’s appearance in your Second House of Wealth and Family on April 22 will bring

a nice surprise of cash and friends begging you to go out with them, do not lose yourself to the warm weather and party-season just yet.

Venus and Mars will both enter your Fifth House of Education on May 2 and 10 respectively, helping to give you a boost in drive and renewed interest in your studies if, and only if, you apply yourself to working on them. Hunker down with an accountability buddy and some fun snacks for hefty study sessions and work-hours. The Sun will shine on your Fourth House of Comforts and Luxury starting May 15, so use it as a motivator to apply yourself while you have the time.

Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20)

This season is looking to be a fairly easy one for you, Pisces. Jupiter will enter your Second House of Wealth and Family on April 22, bringing you a lot of love and support from loved ones, followed by Venus’s entrance in your Fourth House of Comforts and Luxury on May 2.

These pre-finals blessings will help carry you through the intense focus Mars will

grant when it enters your Fifth House of Education on May 10. Enjoy your final weeks of the semester. You deserve it.

Aries (March 21–April 19)

Although it is no longer your birthday month, the Universe is still offering you gifts this Taurus season, Aries. Jupiter will enter your First House of Self on April 22, helping you center yourself and start to feel the confidence you should already have. When Venus enters your Third House of Communication on May 2, take some extra time to reach out to those you could not be with on your birthday. A check-in is usually appreciated.

Mars — your ruling planet — will enter your Fourth House of Comforts and Luxury on May 10, followed shortly thereafter by The Sun entering your Second House of Wealth and Family on May 15. Post-birthday cash and sales on that pair of shoes you have been eyeing are on your horizon. Go have some fun with the people you care about most.

It’s that time of the semester...

By KAI MARIES

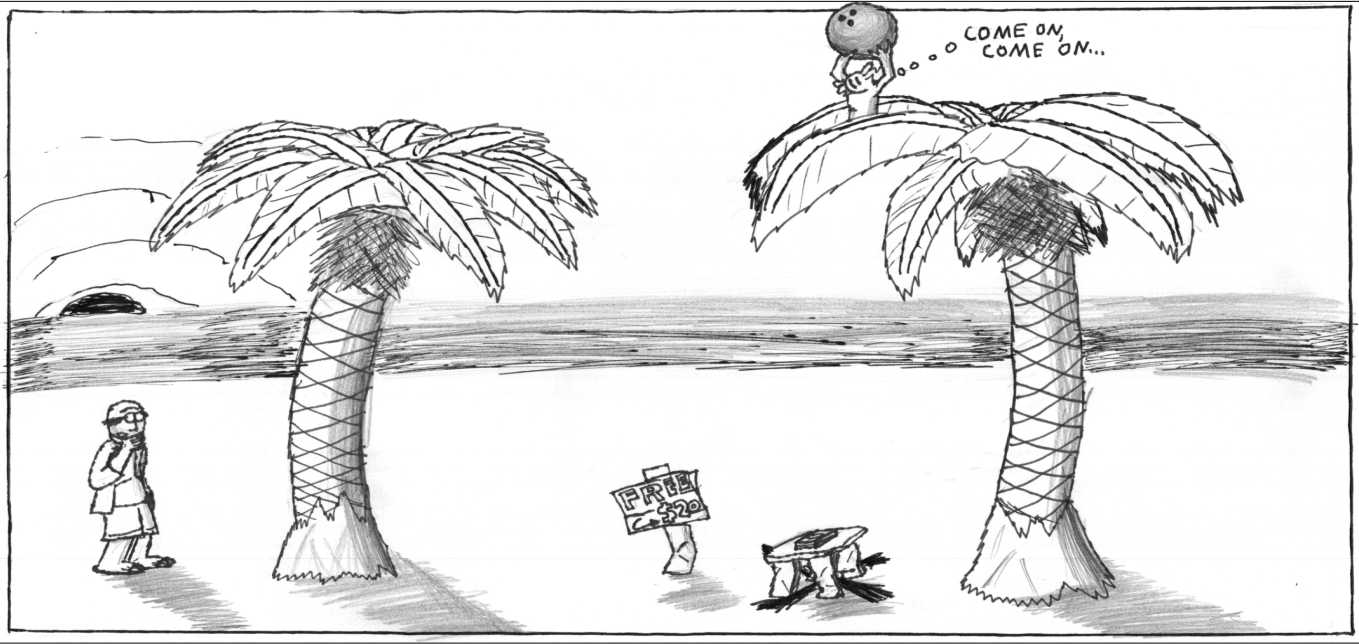
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Cognitive dissonance

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Creative writing panel demystifies publishing creative work

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
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Literary enthusiasts and students gathered on Wednesday, April 19, in the Tillotson Room in the Tippie Alumni Center for a creative writing publishing panel hosted by the Allegheny Review and Allegheny’s English department. The event aimed to give students tips about publishing their creative writing in spaces like the Allegheny Review.

Students were provided with cover letter templates and a guide to submitting creative writing before the four panelists began answering questions.

The Allegheny Review is an international undergraduate literary magazine curated by students at Allegheny College. The publication has been publishing for over 40 years and accepts submissions annually until October 15.

Frederick F. Seely Professor of English Christopher Bakken was one of the panelists featured, as he has published five books over the course of his career as an author.

“I think the most commonly asked questions will be logistical—how do you go about submitting work, what are the paradigms that an author should think about to make sure their submissions look professional,” Bakken said in an interview before the panel. During the panel, many students were interested in the editing process of publishing creative work.

“One of the things I always tell



EVELYN ZAVALA/THE CAMPUS

Members of the Allegheny community listen to the panelists Hayley Simon, ’23 (left), Professor of English Soledad Caballero, Frederick F. Seely Professor of English Christopher Bakken, and Shira Haus, ’23, discuss the process of getting creative writing published.

students is to remember that editors are really busy and they have a lot of submissions to read, so how are you going to make your submission easy for them to consider?”

Bakken advised students to make sure their submissions are professional and distinctive because it is what publishers care the most about.

“Publishing the work is the thing that people don’t want to talk about because it is the hardest part,” Bakken said.

Allegheny Review Senior Editor and main organizer of the panel Shira Haus, ’23, said her goal for the panel was to create a space where students interested in publishing

creative writing could learn about the process. Haus said she has not seen an event like the creative writing publishing panel at Allegheny in the years she has been a student.

“I hope to share what I have learned and my experiences in the publishing industry, both as an editor of the Allegheny Review and as a writer myself who has been submitting to literary journals and magazines since I was 16,” Haus said. “Hopefully my experiences can help other Allegheny writers get their work published out there.”

Haus said one of the lessons she has learned from her experience with publishing work has been to get

comfortable with rejection.

“There will be places that want your work but you just have to keep trying, keep reviewing and keep revising your stuff and sending it out,” Haus said.

Allegheny Review Senior Editor Kori Bower, ’23, said sending out work is less scary than people make it out to be because of the professional culture in publishing.

“I know it can be very nerve-racking to send your work to other people and know that they are judging it but it is usually very professional and done in very polite manners so it shouldn’t be nerve-racking because no one is

out to get you,” Bower said.

Bower said students who want to submit work to the Allegheny review should make sure the formatting meets the guidelines.

“I know one of the experiences we have had on the review a lot has been students thinking they are submitting something super new and cool by submitting it in color or strange formatting,” Bower said. “Things like that are cool but don’t necessarily make it easy for us to publish them.”

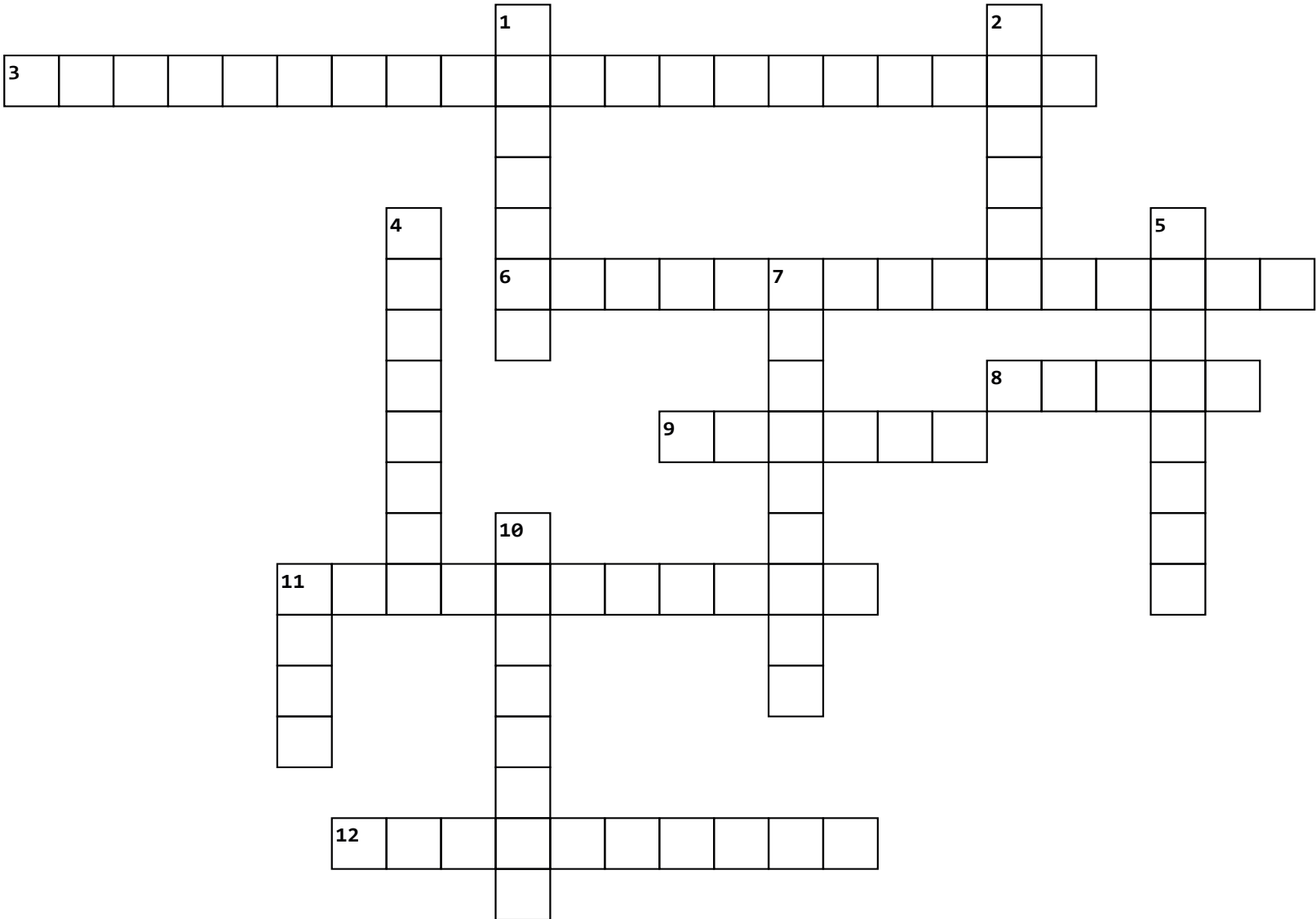
Allegheny Review Senior Editor Hayley Simon, ’23, said one of the most important parts of getting an editor interested in a submission is to understand the publications’ criteria in what they are looking to publish.

“Knowing your audience and knowing a lot about the journal you are submitting to is very important ahead of time,” Simon said. “If you are submitting to a journal or magazine that exclusively publishes students, you want to make sure to tell them that you are a student.”

Simon advises students to start early with submitting their work if they want to pursue a career in creative writing.

“You are going to get more rejections than you will get pieces that are accepted,” Simon said. “Starting sooner rather than later is a great idea because then you can rack up those accepted pieces and sometimes it will help you get published in the future.”

What time is it? Crossword time! — — — — — With **SAMI MIRZA** Editor-in-Chief mirza01@allegheny.edu



Across

- 3.** Often abbreviated to THC
- 6.** Allegheny's undergraduate literary magazine (two words)
- 8.** Head Golf Coach at Allegheny
- 9.** Former Allegheny College president and namesake of civility prize
- 11.** Often abbreviated to CBD
- 12.** Home base of the firm mediating the new strategic planning process

Down

- 1.** 2021 winner of the college's student civility prize
- 2.** Phenomenon where the weakest member of a group feels like they're doing well because of their group members
- 4.** The PAC Golf Championships will be played in this Ohio town
- 5.** College's new wifi provider (includes hyphen)
- 7.** Management firm mediating the college's strategic planning process (two words)
- 10.** Allegheny alum and COO of the firm mediating the new strategic planning process
- 11.** Ineffective way to study

Golf swinging for gold with PAC champs in sight

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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The Allegheny men’s and women’s golf teams have a big week ahead of them. After a consistent spring season with both rosters competing in three events throughout the semester, all eyes are now set on the Presidents’ Athletic Conference championships, taking place from April 21 to 22.

With both teams placing well in the fall, hopes are high to put another good number out there. The men finished second in the championship last semester, and the most notable performance came from Carter Hassenplug, ’25, who finished in a tie for first. The women placed third and are hungry for more, having good shooters in Elisa Gomez, ’25, Jenny Beth Brundige, ’24, and Kelsi Zik, ’23.

“I feel like the team’s mindset, along with my own indi-

vidual mindset, is to go out and win,” Hassenplug said. “We all recognize that bad shots are going to happen. That’s inevitable. However, it’s going to be about how we recover and bounce back. If we do that well, there’s no doubt in any of our minds that we will come out victorious.”

The competition will take place at the Mill Creek Golf Course in Boardman, Ohio, in a 36-hole roundup of the PAC’s best. There are two fields of play that feature a championship-style design. The women will be playing on the north end with the men to the south. Both courses are par 70 and total 6,511 yards, with four sets of tees — the women will tee off from the gold boxes and the men off of the blue.

The Gators are in familiar territory next weekend. The men have gotten reps on the playing surface several times over the past couple of seasons, and Hassenplug believes

this will set the team up well. The women have also been scouting the course, examining the tees and yardage. Both rosters will get to play in a practice round on the course before the event begins.

“It’s a course that suits all of our games well,” Hassenplug said. “Getting that much practice on a course is definitely advantageous.”

Mill Creek is a relatively flat course, according to the course website. The fairways are tight with trees surrounding them, and there are over 100 bunkers to avoid with other natural hazards that will make it tough on the players. They must be accurate off the tee and with their approach shots to have a chance of putting themselves in a position for success.

The Gators have had a rigorous spring so far. In the northeast, it is difficult to get outside and have quality reps to improve players’ games. That being said, both rosters



Photo courtesy of **JOHN CARROLL ATHLETICS**
Kelsi Zik, ’23, tees off at the John Carroll Invitational. Zik placed seventh for this event, and is looking for another good weekend at the PAC Championship.

Depending on the result, this could be Zik’s final rodeo; her senior season would end with anything short of first place for the Gators at Mill Creek. Although it is a huge hole that will have to be filled for next year, for the time she still has, Zik wants to leave it all on the course this weekend.

“The next step actually began right after the fall season with work in the weight room, golf room and leading right into our spring trip and season, up to this point,” Groff said. “If we can get four solid scores from each team this weekend, I like our chances to move up in the standings.”

The women have been working hard to put up good scores with the help of Groff. Zik has been on top of the Gators leaderboard all spring, most recently placing seventh in the John Carroll Invitational. Gomez has also swung the club well, as she placed second back in the Mount Union Spring Invitational.

Depending on the result, this could be Zik’s final rodeo; her senior season would end with anything short of first place for the Gators at Mill Creek. Although it is a huge hole that will have to be filled for next year, for the time she still has, Zik wants to leave it all on the course this weekend. “It’s a bittersweet moment,” Zik said. “I have always gone by the saying that time flies when you’re having fun, and I would say that sums up my collegiate golf career as a Gator. I’ve been able to compete ever since I was a freshman here at Allegheny and to know it is my last tournament is sad, yet it fills me with all emotions knowing all of the accomplishments that I have made over the years. I am proud to have represented Allegheny these past four years and I feel ecstatic to compete in my last championship as a Gator.”

If either team wins the conference they will grab a bid for the NCAA tournament in May for first time since 2011 when the women’s team won the North Coast Athletic Conference. The players are amped up, and will be coming out with something to prove.

The golf program has made tremendous strides in recent years. With the addition of some great golfers over the last couple of classes, things are looking up for the future of Allegheny.

“There’s a lot to be excited for in the near future,” Hassenplug said. “Obviously I’m excited and ready to compete at PAC, but looking past that, a lot of opportunities await the Allegheny golf teams. If we are fortunate to win PAC, we will have the opportunity to compete in the National Championship. How can’t that be exciting?”



Photo courtesy of **ED MAILLIARD**
Carter Hassenplug, ’25, finishes a shot in the Ted Barclay Invitational back in the fall.

Cleveland is back in the NBA playoffs

They’re young, they’re fun but can they make a run?

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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With the NBA playoffs taking place over the next few weeks, there is a lot of anticipation for the top teams to perform well and take the reins of the league throughout bracket play. The Cleveland Cavaliers are one of those teams after grabbing the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference. However, after a disappointing Game 1 loss to the New York Knicks, questions have arisen about whether they have what it takes to make a run.

After hearing the buzz from around the league, the Cavaliers grew tired of listening to the critics. Darius Garland and company took note of what people were saying, and decided to let their play do the talking, coming out with a vengeance and cruising past the Knicks with a 107-90 victory in Game 2.

It was a dominating performance from top to bottom. After opening up a 20-point lead in the first half, the Cavs had control almost the whole way through. They shot an efficient 49.4% from the field, including a 42.4% night from three-point land.

These are the Cavs that fans were expecting to see once the playoffs rolled around. The team signed Donovan Mitchell in the previous offseason for more offensive explosiveness, and the three-time all star has notched 13 40-point games this season alone, and came close to another in Game 1 of the series with 38 points.

While Mitchell scored 17 in Game 2, it was Garland who stole the show. The point guard lit it up the floor, scoring 32 on the night including 26 coming in the first half. With his impressive display, Garland joined Kyrie Irving and LeBron James as the only

Cavaliers to score 25 or higher in a single half during a playoff game in the last 25 years. He was aggressive in the paint, hitting crafty layups, and mercilessly showed off his range, shooting 6-10 from behind the arc.

Caris Levert was also magnificent off of the bench. Production from the second rotation has been a question mark all season, and top-level analysts from The Athletic and Sports Illustrated have deemed it not strong enough. Despite this notion, Levert carried the reserves in Game 2, dropping 24 points into the net, which was the second-most on the entire team.

He had a great night with the rock, but the Cavs still have only 26 points off the bench in the first two games of the postseason, negating Tuesday night’s hoopla from Levert. It is critical that they give more production so the starters do not have to do it

all. If the Cavs want to make a serious run, they need all guys on the floor to produce.

The defense shined and helped lead Cleveland to victory on Tuesday. They held New York to a maximum of 22 points throughout the first three quarters, and the third-ranked defense in the NBA accumulated seven blocks.

Of course, it helps having two 7-footers in Jared Allen and Evan Mobley guarding the paint, but the guards limited the Knicks to an abysmal

24.1% from downtown. There were efforts from everyone, including a pair of steals from Danny Green and Mitchell, as well as a block from Cedi Osman.

Another positive for the Cavaliers is that they are a very young team. No one in the starting lineup is over 26 years old, which is ludicrous to think about given the amount of talent this group has. If they can keep playing together and stay healthy, they have a legitimate 10-year

window to make a run for a championship.

It could even be this year. They have made it this far, and in the playoffs anything can happen. But with the series knotted at 1-1, the Cavs’ work is far from finished. The waters will be tested with the team heading to Madison Square Garden for Friday’s matchup in New York, where they look to take a 2-1 lead over the Knicks.



Image source: **WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**
These basketball sculptures sit outside the home of the Cleveland Cavaliers, Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse. This image was originally posted to Flickr by EDrost88 at <https://flickr.com/photos/62091376@N03/25889595883> (archive). It was reviewed