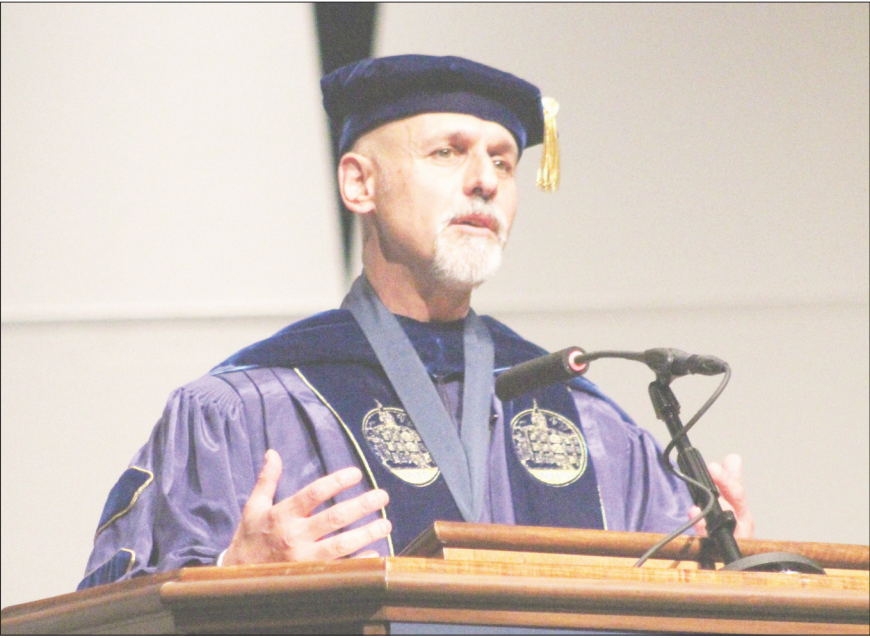


COLE INAUGURATED AS 23RD PRESIDENT



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

President Ron Cole, '87, gives his first remarks after being inaugurated as 23rd president in the Shafer Auditorium of the Henderson Campus Center on Saturday, Oct. 14.



AKIDA NOOHA/THE CAMPUS

The Inauguration Choir performs “In Meeting We Are Blessed” by Troy Robertson, accompanied by Jazz Band Director Rob Roth, '85, and Dominic Juliana, '26, on percussion.

By ANNA WESTBROOK
News Editor
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President Ron Cole, '87, was officially sworn in on Saturday, Oct. 14, as the 23rd president of Allegheny College.

In attendance at Cole's inauguration were members of the Board of Trustees, Presidents Emeriti Richard Cook and James Mullen, the Meadville mayor, members of the Meadville City Council, alumni, professors and about 150 staff and students.

Board of Trustees Chair Steve Levin-sky, '78, opened the ceremony, intro-ducing Cole as just the third alumnus in the college's history to serve as pres-ident.

“Today, Allegheny continues to be at the forefront of providing an edu-cation that empowers students to seek new perspectives, think beyond what's known to what is possible and to be problem solvers and make a difference,” Levin-sky said. “President Cole exempli-fies the best of Allegheny for his time here as a student, returning as a facul-ty member and serving for seven years as provost to his recent appointment as president.”

Levin-sky described Cole as a friend and a great leader, before turning the podium over to Reverend John Patrick Colatch, who previously served at Al-legheny.

Colatch described meeting Cole for the first time while they were swimming laps in adjoining lanes at the pool.

“When we both came up for air at the end, he said, ‘Hi, I’m Ron!’ — That greeting really does exemplify the man who officially becomes the 23rd pres-ident of Allegheny College today,” Co-latch said. “I can think of no one who better exemplifies the best of this place — a keen intellect and curiosity to al-

See [PRESIDENT](#) | page 2



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Board of Trustees Chair Steve Levin-sky, '78, presents Cole with the Presidential Medal, which is designed based on the Allegheny seal, as a reminder of the college's values of faith, virtue and knowledge.



AKIDA NOOHA/THE CAMPUS

Reverend John Patrick Colatch and Armendia Dixon, Meadville educator and recipient of an honorary Allegheny degree, sing the first verse of the college's alma mater.

Food waste signs posted in McKinley's

By PAIGE KAGENI
Contributing Writer
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Changes to student meal plans be-ginning for the fall 2023 semester not only changed McKinley's Food Court to a meal swipe system, but also aimed to aid the issue of food insecurity that some students face. However, with the new changes to meal plans allowing for students to take more food from dining halls during the week, it also opens up questions concerning food waste.

Now, students can choose either 21 meal swipes per week and \$300 in Ex-press Cash, formerly known as Munch Money, in the “Gator Gold” plan or 15 meal swipes per week and \$300 Express Cash in the “Gator Blue” plan. More meal swipes and Express Cash to use means more food being taken by stu-dents, which increases the opportunity

In this week's Campus...

for irresponsible consumption.

Aramark General Manager John Beers works to ensure that high-quality, safe and nutritious food can be found on campus at McKinley's and Brooks Dining Hall, as well as specific meal op-tions for students with dietary restric-tions.

Aramark only tracks food usage and not food consumption or waste, accord-ing to Beers. Though Aramark does not track what students physically throw away, there are other ways to track the amount of food leaving dining halls.

“What I have seen is an increase in compostable paper usage in McKin-leys,” Beers said. “So, that tells me that more food is going out — it may be be-ing consumed, but I don't have a way to know that because students take food to their room. But, as a result of the new plan, that's the reason for the paper go-ing up.”

See [FOOD](#) | page 3

Four students near Gaza conflict

By SAMI MIRZA
Editor-in-Chief
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Four Allegheny College students are within 100 miles of the current conflict in the Gaza Strip as part of the regular fall schedule of study abroad programs, and college officials say they are actively monitoring the situation as it unfolds.

“Our students' health and safety is obviously the utmost priority for me and for any education abroad profes-sional,” said Assistant Dean for Global Education Brita Doyle. “We do main-tain close contact with our students, es-pecially in times like these.”

Doyle said that one Allegheny stu-dent was enrolled at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in Kibbutz Ketura, Israel, and three Allegheny stu-dents were enrolled at the Council on International Educational Exchange program in Amman, Jordan, for this semester. Kibbutz Ketura is approxi-mately 100 miles southeast of Gaza near the resort town of Eilat, and Amman is

about 85 miles northeast of Gaza.

Doyle declined to comment on the students' current locations or any evac-uation plans, citing security concerns.

Those four students are the closest members of the campus community to a new page in one of the Middle East's longest conflicts. On Oct. 7, fighters from the militant group Hamas broke through the border of the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, killed more than 1,400 Is-rael- is and took almost 200 hostages. Hamas says the attack was in response to Israeli attacks on Palestinian wom-en and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the 16-year-long Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, according to CNN.

Israeli forces responded by push-ing Hamas back into Gaza, preventing food, water and fuel from entering the strip and bombing the densely-populat-ed territory, CNN reported. An Oct. 13, announcement ordering more than 1.1 million Gazans to move south is a pos-sible indication that Israeli forces will soon launch a ground invasion, CNN

added.

Israel and its supporters — including U.S. President Joe Biden — argue that the retaliation is justified retribution for the Oct. 7 attacks, which are considered among the worst in the state's 75-year history.

However, Israel has also faced in-tense criticism for its response to Hamas' strike. Palestinian officials say the bombing has killed more than 3,700 — including more than 1,500 children — and injured almost 12,500, according to The New York Times. Independent experts with the United Nations said in an Oct. 12 statement that the Israeli blockade and airstrikes are collectively punishing civilians and failing to dis-tinguish between combatant and non-combatant targets — which the experts concluded are war crimes.

Amidst all this, the U.S. State De-partment has issued travel advisories for both Israel and Jordan, which bor-ders Israel and the occupied West Bank.

See [WAR](#) | page 5

FLESH MACHINES COME ALIVE

Contributing Writer Joseph Klepeis, '26, reviews Allegheny's ongoing exhibition, “Flesh Machines.”

LOVE AT FIRST CITE

Some people are married to the job. Some are married on the job. Staff Writer Evelyn Zavala, '24, interviews two iconic campus couples to learn about what it's like being married on campus.

A RECORD TO BEAT

Field hockey goalie Meredythe Baird, '24, has a chance to break the single-season saves record in Allegheny's program history.

PRESIDENT *from page 1*

ways know more, a welcoming nature, an ability to integrate the best aspects of liberal arts tradition and a spiritual and ethical compass that insists every person be treated with equality and kindness and respect.”

Allegheny students are unique, Colatch continued, because they are focused and committed to academic excellence and serving their communities.

“The world is better because of the work done here and the vision and energy that the graduates of this venerable academy on the hill will take with them into the world,” Colatch said.

Five speakers then took the stage to speak about Allegheny’s defining values.

Faculty Council Chair, Professor of English and Director of Writing Alexis Hart spoke about innovation, pointing to the pioneering formation of the environmental science program 50 years ago and the recent formation of the Allegheny Lab of Innovation and Creativity as examples of the college’s drive to innovate. She described faculty as “cultivators of curiosity” who teach students to become “catalysts of change.” Hart emphasized the importance of listening in that endeavor.

“We know that innovation and creativity occur at higher rates at companies with more diverse workforces,” Hart said. “And that’s a result of listening and recognizing that better problem solving happens when not everyone is thinking about solutions in the same way.”

Alumni Council President Timothy Downing, ’85, talked about the importance of inclusion at Allegheny and pledged on behalf of all alumni continued support for creating an even more diverse, equitable, welcoming and inclusive college environment.

“For more than 200 years, Allegheny has been a place of refuge for those seeking knowledge,” Downing said. “However, for far too long, it was not a particularly diverse or welcoming place to those who were not straight, white, and male. That now has dramatically changed, and we’re a much better, more diverse and inclusive place than we’ve ever been before that has made it more welcoming and a better place for students, faculty, and staff. This would not have happened without intentionality, and President Cole has been and will continue to be intentional about these efforts.”

Administrative Advisory Committee Chair and Digital Content Specialist Kathryn Frazier spoke about the college’s sustained legacy of excellence as the 32nd oldest university in the country.

“Excellence is not competition,” Frazier said. “It’s about lifting up your classmates, your teammates, your coworkers. This is how we treat one another, is being passionate about what you do, putting forth your best effort for a greater good. I hope for the institution that each one of us strives for excellence in all we do. And we see that in you,

President Cole, as your leadership inspires us to be better and achieve our goals with intention.”

Staff Advisory Committee Co-Chair and Office Coordinator Kelly Wright, ’23, talked about how sustainability has been a part of the campus culture for decades. She praised Allegheny for being the first in Pennsylvania and the eighth in the country to become carbon-neutral.

“Staff, administrators, students and faculty all work together to keep sustainability as a value at Allegheny College,” Wright said. “We nurture the soil in our representative areas to make a difference on campus and in our community.”

Lastly, Allegheny Student Government President Nicole Recio Bremer, ’25, reflected on the importance of Allegheny’s “vibrant, diverse and close-knit community that we all call home.”

“As we welcome our president, we must reflect on the role of leadership in fostering and nurturing this sense of community,” Recio Bremer said. “A strong and inclusive community is not built by one person alone but it is important to have a leader that holds these values so that we can build this community through the collaborative efforts of every member.”

After the choir performed “In Meeting We Are Blessed” by Troy Robertson, Cole was joined by his family on stage and was officially installed as the 23rd president of Allegheny College. He was given the seal of the college to remind him of the college’s values of faith, virtue and knowledge.

After the installation, Meadville community member and educator and recipient of an honorary Allegheny degree Armendia Dixon took the stage to congratulate Cole on his long list of lifetime achievements.

Cole is the recipient of multiple awards, has more than 100 published articles and conference presentations, helped establish multiple successful academic programs and serves on several Meadville boards, including the Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship Board, which Dixon said he helped establish with his financial leadership. He also played the violin in the Allegheny College Civic Symphony as a student and is a certified martial arts instructor.

“Wow,” Dixon said, once finished describing his many accomplishments.

Dixon then indulged in a story to highlight the quality of Cole’s character.

“He pricked my heart during the 2019 Allegheny College graduation when he stood at the podium, carefully, clearly and slowly enunciating and pronouncing each student’s name,” Dixon said. “The graduates appeared to be bursting with pride when their names were distinctly called. Later, I shared my thoughts about this with Dr. Cole. He told me that each student was special and he made sure that he knew them. As much as

possible, he wanted to honor them by pronouncing their names carefully upon graduation. Names are special, students are special to him.”

Dixon expressed her excitement and certainty that Allegheny will continue to foster a healthy connection with Meadville and the broader Crawford County communities, emphasizing that they are intertwined and share the same overarching goal of prosperity.

Finally, Cole took the stage to give his inaugural remarks. He reflected on his time at Allegheny studying geology and the significant influence of the many mentors he had during his time as a student.

“Each of the mentors in my life became beacons lighting my path,” Cole said. “I stand today on the shoulders of these mentors who had the wisdom to know the value of education and the purpose to nurture that wisdom in others.”

He described his firm belief that the transformative multidisciplinary education Allegheny provides is exactly what is needed to solve complex, far-reaching problems that plague the world today. He spotlighted Ida Tarbell, class of 1880, who he believes represents the ideals of transformative education with her broad education, thorough research and relentless pursuit of fact.

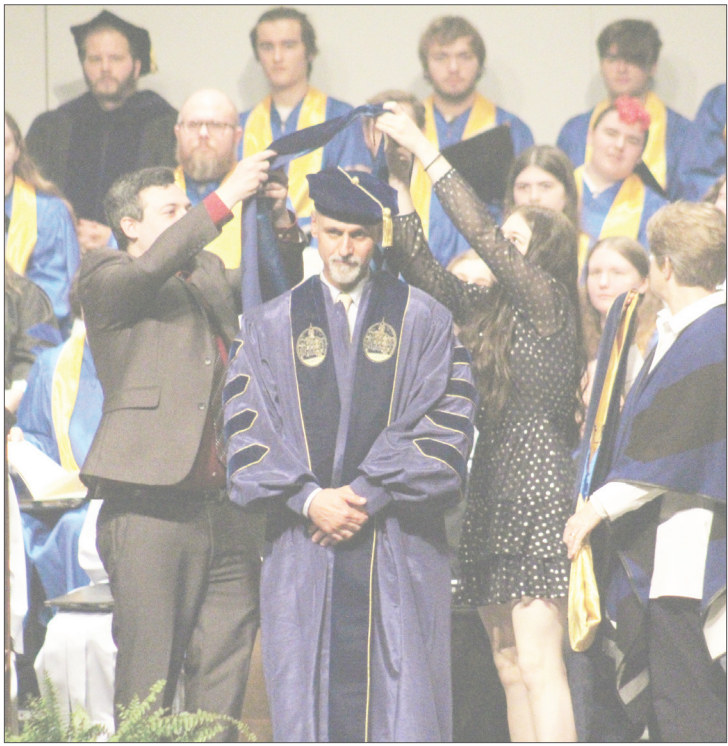
“The pathway for Allegheny is bright as we honor our history and those Alleghenians who have forged a proud legacy across two centuries while we move boldly into the future,” Cole said. “And our boldness will show in our wisdom to embrace new ideas, our courage to implement change and our discipline to stay the course.”

Cole was brought close to tears when he shifted to directly address the students of Allegheny.

“You, especially, bring inspiration and joy to me and to our campus as you turn your passions into purpose,” Cole said. “You are the bridge between Allegheny’s proud legacy and our endless future, reminding me of my purpose each and every day.”

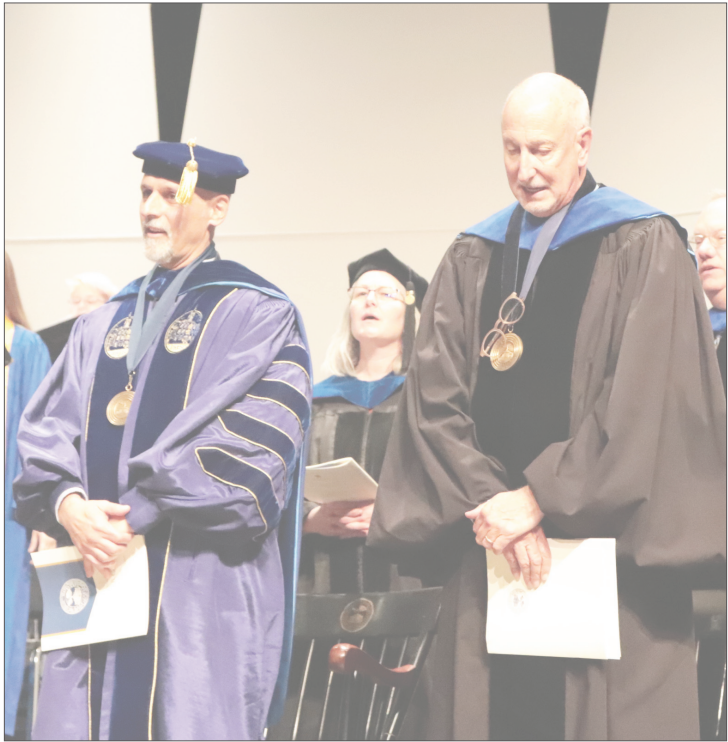
To close out his remarks, Cole read aloud and encouraged everyone in attendance to reflect on the charge that Allegheny has the tradition of offering to students at matriculation and commencement.

“To employ the full measure of your promise and potential in the pursuit of excellence and the service of others; To live lives of courage and conviction, always seeking what is just and what is true; To find and appreciate beauty, even when others may not; To find joy and laughter in the challenge of your day and to never forget what it means to be a friend,” Cole said. “I take this charge to heart, and I stand here today to affirm that my purpose and commitment to Allegheny College is deep and unwavering.”



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Cole’s children change his hood during his invocation while Cole’s wife, Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology Nancy Frambes, ’87, looks on.



AKIDA NOOHA/THE CAMPUS

Cole and Levinsky stand on stage while singing the first verse of the college’s alma mater.



AKIDA NOOHA/THE CAMPUS

Shafia Bhatti, ’25, Willow Vowler, ’25, and Hazel Ammons, ’25, enjoy the desserts at the reception in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center after Cole’s inauguration.

Local candidates visit campus to connect with students



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Meadville City Councilmember Autumn Vogel, ’15 (left), speaks with Joe Leszczynski, ’25, during the “Meet the Candidates” event on Wednesday, Oct. 18. “I enjoy any chance to talk with the people who make up Meadville,” Vogel said, adding that students are a part of Meadville in her eyes. Vogel, a Democrat, is running for re-election alongside Deputy Mayor Larry McKnight.

Seven candidates for local elections showed up to the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center Wednesday night to meet their Allegheny constituents.

All the candidates in the Meadville City Council race — Democratic incumbents Autumn Vogel, ’15, and Larry McKnight, as well as Republican challengers Bill Lawrence and Marcy Kantz — were in attendance. Also speaking to students were Associate Professor of Political Science Shanna Hodgson and Associate Professor of Biology Lisa Whitenack, Democratic candidates for Crawford Central School Board, and Crawford County Auditor Christopher Seeley, ’10, who is running to be a county commissioner.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

City Council candidate Bill Lawrence (left) speaks with Amani Green, ’25, as part of the “Meet the Candidates” event. “It’s great to get to meet students,” Lawrence said. “It’s nice to see how involved they are in politics.” Lawrence is campaigning under the Republican banner with former mayoral candidate Marcy Kantz to unseat Vogel and McKnight.

FOOD

from page 1

To date, a concrete way to measure the amount of physical food being thrown away at Brooks or at McKinley’s has not been developed.

“I believe the college may weigh it at some point,” Beers said, referring to the amount of food that is disposed of. “Then, they will give us feedback on how many pounds of waste and have a better idea.”

Beers trusts students are being responsible with their food usage.

“I feel like the students have adjusted and seem to be only taking what they need,” Beers said. “So, in the beginning — yes, they were hitting it really hard and pretty heavy. But, now, it seems like it’s scaled back and pretty normal consumption.”

Beers also agrees that the changes to meal plans have had a significant impact in tackling food insecurity on campus.

“I 100% believe that that’s resulted in reduced food insecurity,” Beers said. “I do see students take some food with them when leaving.”

For example, since students are able to not only eat while at the dining halls but can also take food elsewhere, it is seen as an extra meal for students without using additional meal swipes. This makes it so students can conserve meal swipes while getting the most out of the meal plan.

Food Recovery Network President London DeJarnette, ’24, also works

with Allegheny College to mitigate food waste and food insecurity on campus. Their work includes visiting dining halls, speaking with Aramark partners to find out what foods can be salvaged at the end of the day and packing foods to be taken to community organizations in Meadville.

“There’s constantly something going on,” DeJarnette said. “Every day I’m probably investing anywhere from 2 to 7 hours of work.”

The Food Recovery Network also recently opened the new Food Recovery Center on the third floor of the campus center near in the alcove by rooms 301 and 302. This area aims to fight food insecurity and food waste and features various foods for students to take at any point throughout the day.

“My comp (comprehensive project) right now is evaluating how centralized food resources, particularly modeled like that, are beneficial for supporting low income student retention,” DeJarnette said.

DeJarnette said it is important to have student feedback so they know how the Food Recovery Center is helping students.

“My collection of that data is pretty much primarily oriented in survey-based data intake,” DeJarnette said. Eventually, there will be signs around campus and on My Allegheny that have access to a survey that allows students

to identify what impacts having these resources has made on them.”

In terms of food waste, DeJarnette also hopes both students and campus administration could lend a hand in helping in reducing the problem.

“I wanna make it clear that I’m not like, ‘Students should be doing more’, but — first of all, I don’t think a lot of students know that we compost on campus,” DeJarnette said. “If we’re talking about food waste, that’s a major approach that can be taken.”

The food waste from dining halls are taken to an industrial composter in the Allegheny sports fields. Since there are individual recycling and compost bins in McKinley’s, students have the opportunity to do their part to reduce food waste by composting. The Food Recovery Network can also train students in food recovery themselves. Interested students can email the Food Recovery Network to see how they can get involved.

Still, DeJarnette believes more could be done on the part of institutional decisions on campus.

“If it were based more on student input, we’d have a better idea of what students want,” DeJarnette said. “If I was in Aramark for a day, I would be sitting down with students and listening to them all the time. At the end of the day, food is incredibly powerful and that goes beyond the traditional output.”

“

“What I have seen is an increase in compostable paper usage in McKinley’s. So, that tells me that more food is going out — it may be being consumed, but I don’t have a way to know that.”

—JOHN BEERS
General Manager
Aramark



ANNA WESTBROOK/THE CAMPUS

Signs were recently posted in McKinley’s Dining Hall requesting that students be aware of their food waste and that they try to mitigate it.

ASG: ‘Light Walk’ set for Tues, Oct. 24

By **SAMI MIRZA**
Editor-in-Chief
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The Allegheny Student Government announced the date and time of the “Light Walk,” approved more than \$15,000 in spending and appointed four students to college committees during their General Assembly on Tuesday, Oct. 17.

During her report, ASG President Nicole Recio Bremer, ’25, announced that a “Light Walk” would be held on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 8:30 p.m.

“We walk with Public Safety throughout campus — we literally go everywhere,” Recio Bremer said. “We see and talk about where people feel safe, where there’s paths that have to be lit up or there’s a light that is not working, or whatever feedback students have to make students feel more comfortable on campus.”

The event is open to the entire student body and comes just over a month after a sexual assault was reported in a residential building on campus. The assault is currently under investigation by the Meadville Police Department.

Director of the Treasury Hunter Goerman, ’25, announced changes to the club finance process.

“Starting for next week’s finance requests, there will be an updated form where you can select what type of payment you want to use, so you don’t have to have it approved and then submit another check request or credit card request,” Goerman said.

He also announced that clubs would no longer be required to attend a Finance Com-

mittee meeting to receive approval for their finance requests. This comes after the most recent GA on Oct. 3, when Goerman announced that only clubs with requests over \$100 would need to attend a Finance Committee meeting for approval.

Class of 2024 President Sasha Holguin asked Goerman about the current state of ASG’s budget.

“I was told that the budget was approved — like the college as a whole — by the Board of Trustees, but we have yet to get it,” Goerman replied. “I don’t know if there’s a timeline on when we’re supposed to expect it.”

Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley, who serves as ASG’s adviser, added that no college department receives a budget until the Board’s vote.

“They just met this past weekend, and so I don’t know when exactly ASG should be getting a budget, but I hope in the next week or so,” Yeckley said.

Last year, ASG passed a budget in mid-September, after the formal count of the student body on “Count Day.” This year, ASG has yet to discuss the size of its funding during open session, including voting on how much funding will be allocated to different pools of money. Ordinarily, ASG’s budget consists of the General, Surplus, Speaker, Student Action and Culture, Identity and Leadership Coalition funds and is used to define exactly how much money is in each fund.

Goerman did not mention new financial guidelines for this academic year at the Oct. 17 GA. He had previously said that the rulebook would be “fully completed” by the end of Fall Break, in a Sept. 21 email to The

Campus.
This week’s finance requests totalled \$15,381 — \$13,381 from the General Fund, and \$2,000 from the Speaker Fund.

New Business

The Senate voted in four students to college committees during the “New Business” part of the agenda.

Nickel Spartz, ’26, who is researching the integration of creativity into curricula, was approved for the Curriculum Committee with all but two votes — Holguin and Senator Arilyn Hicks, ’24, abstained.

“I believe this committee will allow me to gain new perspectives as I carry out my research and give me a place to advocate for students in a field I am passionate about,” Spartz said.

Kent Cervantes, ’25, was approved unanimously for the Curriculum Committee as well.

“I understand the importance of the Curriculum Committee and I’m excited to hopefully be taking a part in it and having a hand in upholding this college’s integrity and vision,” Cervantes said.

ASG also appointed two students to the Campus Life and Community Standards Committee. Gunnar Bretell, ’24, pointed to his four years of experience as a student on campus, while Emilia Grydniewa, ’27, cited a desire to improve the student experience at Allegheny.

After a two-minute discussion, the Senate unanimously voted against canceling next week’s GA, which will be held on Gator Day, Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 7:30 pm in CC 301/302.

“

I believe this committee will allow me to gain new perspectives as I carry out my research and give me a place to advocate for students in a field I am passionate about.”

—NICKEL SPARTZ
Class of 2026

THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

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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.

October 14, 2023
Carrying a False ID Card
On Campus
Referred to Dean

October 14, 2023
Theft
Robertson Athletic Complex
Active Investigation

October 16, 2023
Weapons Possession
Baldwin Hall
Referred to Dean

October 17, 2023
Alcohol Violation
Baldwin Hall
Referred to Dean

October 17, 2023
Theft
Ravine Hall
Referred to Dean

Ensuring a secure haven

A call for enhanced safety at Allegheny

By **AKIDA NOOHA**
Contributing Writer
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In the serene corridors of Allegheny College, where intellectual curiosity thrives and diversity is celebrated, a concern shadows the vibrant campus life – the question of safety. As a dedicated international student, my experience at this esteemed institution has been defined by a quest for knowledge, cultural exploration, and an unwavering commitment to academic excellence. However, a series of unsettling events have compelled me to reflect on the urgent need to enhance security and ensure that our beloved Allegheny College remains a haven of safety for all its students.

The campus was rattled by a deeply concerning incident on the night of Sept. 21st. A sexual assault transpired, sending shockwaves through our close-knit community. It is imperative to remember that one incident cannot be a sole gauge of campus safety; however, it is a stark reminder that our commitment to safety remains a work in progress.

Walking alone at night, particularly during my late-night weekend work commitments that often conclude at 11 p.m., has been a nerve-wracking experience. The dearth of visible campus security during these hours is disconcerting, not only for me but also for many students, both international and domestic, who depend on these jobs to make ends meet.

The concerns do not cease at the campus gates. In a chilling incident on North Main Street, I narrowly escaped a speeding car that came within inches of colliding with me. I reported the incident to the Office of Public Safety but regrettably

received no feedback. This incident underscores the pressing need for security cameras to record license plate numbers, facilitating accountability for errant drivers.

Additionally, I have encountered unsettling incidents on campus sidewalks during broad daylight. On one occasion, a red SUV suddenly screeched by me, while on another, a car filled with young individuals startled me with a sudden, loud noise. Such occurrences during the day are disconcerting and can leave one feeling unsafe even in the brightest of daylight.

Recently, while exploring other residence halls, such as Schultz and Baldwin, I was struck by the strong odor of marijuana emanating from almost every floor in Baldwin. For a freshman residence hall, this raises several concerns, particularly regarding safety and security.

In light of these experiences, I humbly offer some suggestions to make our campus a safer place for all students:

Enhance Campus Security Presence: Boost the presence of campus security personnel, especially during late-night hours, to provide students with a heightened sense of security.

Instant Alarm System Near Girls' Dorms: Install instant alarm systems near female dormitories and other vulnerable areas to enable swift reporting of unusual or potentially dangerous incidents.

Regular Safety Workshops and Seminars: Conduct regular safety workshops and seminars addressing personal safety, drug and alcohol awareness, ensuring that students are well-informed about

staying safe both on and off campus.

Address Substance Abuse: Enforce strict policies to curb substance abuse within residence halls and foster a safe and supportive environment for all residents.

Empower Students to Speak Up: Create an environment where students are encouraged to report any suspicious or concerning incidents, ensuring a system of follow-up and support for those who come forward.

As I conclude, it is with a heart that brims with hope and determination for a safer Allegheny College. This campus is not just a place of learning; it is our second home, a refuge where we nurture our dreams, forge lifelong friendships, and aspire to be our very best.

Every student, whether they hail from distant shores or nearby communities, should experience the security and peace of mind that our second home should provide. My earnest wish is that no other international or domestic student should face incidents similar to those I have encountered. Our collective endeavor must be to make Allegheny College the safest place it can possibly be.

Allegheny College is not just a destination; it is a journey. And on this journey, we must endeavor to safeguard not only our education but also the very essence of what makes our college experience extraordinary: a sense of belonging, acceptance, and above all, security.

May our second home be the safest place ever, for all who seek knowledge, camaraderie, and personal growth within its hallowed halls.

Taylor and Travis

Blurring yard lines and distorting lyrics

By **EMMA CONTI-WINDLE**
Contributing Writer
contiwindle01@allegheny.edu

She's not cheer captain, and she's not on the bleachers. She's in a suite, sitting right next to the star player's mom.

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce are at the center of sports media amidst appearances by the singer at several Kansas City Chiefs games following some flirtatious messages from the professional football player to the singer.

It's an adorable story for us Swifties. The cute tight end, fresh off of a Super Bowl win, son of one of America's favorite families, gives his number to Miss Americana herself via a friendship bracelet — a Swift concert staple — and the rest is history.

It's an even more adorable story for the National Football League. The star tight end, fresh off a Super Bowl win, son of one of America's favorite families, scores Miss Americana's loyal fans as viewers of Chiefs games, and the cash comes rolling in.

The NFL has been blessed with a development in Kelce's and Swift's personal lives that have resulted in a Sunday Night Football viewership increase among women ages 18-24 and over 35, making for an additional over 2 million female viewers, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

But before I try to convince my boyfriend who doesn't watch football to dress up with me as Kelce and Swift for Halloween, there are some patterns that go beyond playful media and an increase in jersey sales that are worth examining.

While I can appreciate the rhetoric that suggests that Kelce's sudden influx of, according to The Hollywood Reporter, almost 500,000 Instagram followers and a 400% increase in jersey sales since the first game she attended in support of Kelce, is yet another numerical representation of the cultural power of Swift, there is a deeper, uglier truth here.

The continued coverage and commentary on the relationship between Kelce and Swift is not because it's been a slow news week, or because it's the hard hitting stuff that people really want to know. It is instead due to the massive traffic and financial gain that it has brought the NFL and its merchandise suppliers, as well as a distraction from the negative and sometimes criminal associations with the or-

ganization. And with a relationship this new, and an opportunity this fleeting, considering the fact that Swift resumes her tour next month, sports media has to get creative.

Of course, Swift is not naive to the fact that as a celebrity she is going to be a topic of conversation in the media. She is, however, fiercely selective of which parts of her life she lets us see. When she writes songs that allow her listeners into the deepest parts of her heart and mind, she trusts them with the details about her life that she is willing to share. At the same time, by leading an intentionally private life, careful not to discuss the details of her romantic involvements with the media, Swift sets a boundary that allows her and her loved ones to maintain some peace.

Swift told us that in life, we'll do things greater than dating the boy on the football team.

Maybe it's the 12 Grammys, record-breaking tours, or her status as one of the greatest singer-songwriters of all time that tell me Swift has definitely backed herself up on this.

So then why, now that she is linked to Kelce, is their very new, highly speculative relationship the largest topic of conversation?

In a CNN op-ed, independent journalist Frankie de la Cretaz presents the idea that Swift's decision to accept Kelce's invitation to one of his games in the wake of a few less successful attempts by Kelce to get the singer's attention is the sole reason that there are so many more women and girls watching football. In other words, Kelce finally got the girl, saved the day and that is what's making women watch. This theory completely disregards the fact that before this news cycle and after it, women have and will continue to watch football. 46% of the NFL fan base are women and girls, according to USA Today.

By blurring the lines between a convenient marketing opportunity, and a platform for patriarchal practices to be modeled on a national scale to a newer, mostly young, female audience, the NFL is taking the story of Swift and Kelce's rumored romance to the bank and way too far beyond.

Alongside statistical misconception, is the all too familiar mill of conspiracy theories and narratives that paint Swift, the woman in the equation, as an aggres-

sor that has been skillfully acquired by Kelce, but of whom Chiefs fans should be wary. Swift, a Pennsylvania native, is known to be a proud Philadelphia Eagles fan. Some believe that, as something of an Eagles spy, Swift is going to get into Kelce's mind and compromise his psyche, therefore ruining the Chief's chances at another Super Bowl win.

Though theories of this nature may be unique to the world of football, narratives that portray Swift as a threat to the men with whom she is involved issue a warning to anyone that dare begin a romantic relationship with Swift that there, inevitably, will be a song written about the poor soul down the line.

As we are making puns with song lyrics, speculating about future football player related albums, and forming newer and more bizarre conspiracy theories about the situation, we are contributing to a conversation that Swift has been actively opposing for years; the motives, morals, and details of her dating life.

In their op-ed, de la Cretaz notes that the men at the helm of sports media are the ones that are advancing some of these narratives with the constant coverage and commentary in the interest of financial gain, despite Swift's team's wishes to minimize speculation on the issue. According to The Guardian, as Kelce put it in he and his brother's latest episode of their podcast, the NFL and sports media, are "overdoing it." This robs Swift of her control of a very new, very sensitive part of her life. As a feminist consumer of this feminist artist's work, this pattern doesn't sit right with me.

The romantic in me hopes that we see more of them. It's nice to see two people that are elite in their respective fields show appreciation for each other's greatness. It would, of course, be fun to see a real life rom-com play out. You definitely could make this stuff up, but now, you don't have to. And that's the thing.

These are real people that are often confused for commodities or good pop culture Halloween costumes. And while they may not be new or entirely opposed to the public's commentary on the more intimate details of their lives, as Kelce did offer his perspective on the podcast, it's always good that as a society, we look at who is really in control of these narratives, especially once money is involved.

Hint: It isn't Swift.

"Flesh Machines"

review

By **JOSEPH KLEPEIS**
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Flesh Machines opened Tuesday, Sept. 19. I attended the opening and have made numerous trips back to Doane Hall since to revisit the works of Professor Morgan Green, Rebecca Forstater and Danni O'Brien.

During the opening, the discussion focused heavily on language, gender and allowing art to fester. These three topics are evident in the work and are interpreted by the artists in unique ways. The gallery is well worth spending time with and should be visited to get your own feel for how such ideas are presented in the art.

I appreciated all the pieces, but there were three that truly stood out.

The first two works are quite phallic in nature, and that theme continues with other works that currently reside in the gallery. The discussion of priapism in some of the art here is something that to me was an afterthought. I had not considered any of this when in the presence of the art. That could be more telling of me than the work. The phallicity that is apparent in certain pieces was something that I clearly saw, but mentally, did not recognize until taking a step back from the works.

The first time I saw O'Brien's sculpture entitled "Late Bloomer" I was confused. The purposeful misuse of found objects in this piece is striking. The work combines a paperweight, gourds, a coat rack, bag clips and much more to form the final product. The mixture of seemingly unrelated items comes together to create a piece that is distinctive and peculiar.

My first impression of the sculpture was how Seussian it was. The overly complicated and unnecessary combination of objects linked together to form a hanging night-light-like sculpture. It was something I expected to see in the room of a Dr. Seuss character. That alone was fantastic, that feeling of something that should only exist in such an animated and fake world being brought to life. In a way, it gave a feeling of childlike wonder.

I strolled through the gallery, looking at the other works on display, but ended up back at "Late Bloomer."

My return to the piece is when I noticed the shadows. The gallery lights lit the piece brightly and proudly, but the shadows that paint-

ed the wall behind it were dark and sinister. The sculpture produced three unique shadows on the wall behind it, all terrifying. Each shadow conjured up thoughts of nightmares. The shapes in the shadows were bizarre and uncomfortable. My gaze was stuck on the shadows for so long that I began to find things in them. I kept seeing snakes piled on top of each other in constant motion. The childlike wonder was leaving me and a fear of the unknown that is exclusive to children entered my body. The uneasiness that was building in me was something I didn't expect from such a vividly colored piece of art.

The shadows of the work were awful in an amazing way. The playful and bright sculpture revealed its true colors in its own shadows. It was frighteningly lovely.

After finding such horror hidden within that piece I ventured across the gallery to "Horny Thorny Baby II." Another fine work by O'Brien, it was also an amalgamation of found objects; combining a baby rocker, styrofoam and ceramic peppers, plumbing fixtures and a further assortment of materials O'Brien collected.

It was brightly colored and hanging, just as "Late Bloomer" was. Snakes entered my mind again when I was face to face with this piece. It faced me like a defensive cobra, poised and ready to strike me down. I wanted to investigate the shadows it produced but it faced a window, robbing me of the secrets hiding within.

The Seussian look was at play here as well. The piece comes at you first like an animal, defending its nest, but after spending some time with it, becomes friendly and curls around itself in a playful manner. You have to face the piece and sit with it before it reveals itself. Another work that excites the mind, if you let it.

Hidden inside a dark corridor across the art gallery was "Slippery Characters." This work from Green is one I advise you to sit with and take in. The four characters on the screen are constantly morphing. I couldn't help but see these characters as four houses. Even when I decided to change my thinking and look for letters, I swear the piece ended up spelling out "home."

I implore you to go and experience the gallery with your own eyes. These works of art are intriguing, impressive and are hiding far more interpretations inside them.

The exhibition is running in the gallery until Nov. 23.



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS

"Late Bloomer" by Danni O'Brien is a Suessian combination of found objects: a paperweight, gourds, a coat rack, bag clips and more.



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS

"Horny Thorny Baby II" by Danni O'Brien is a snake-like amalgamation of found objects, including a baby rocker and plumbing features.

German program hosts Oktoberfest, Max Kade reading

By **ZAYNAB JEBUR**
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The German program hosted their annual Oktoberfest event at the Gator Quad on Wednesday, Oct. 4. Oktoberfest is a Bavarian festival that celebrates the transition from the harvest season to winter. The celebration is an exclusively southern German tradition, but it has been spread around to Austria.

“Oktoberfest is something we do more or less every year, and people like it a lot, people know it,” said German Teaching Assistant Yannick Borrmann. “It goes way back. It’s not quite the equivalent of Thanksgiving, but it’s a classy celebration that summer’s over and winter is coming. It’s very southern German.”

The celebration can encompass festivalgoers wear-

ing traditional clothing like lederhosen for men and dirndl for women. A well-known aspect of the festival is drinking plenty of beer. The Oktoberfest event consisted of non-alcoholic beer for people to enjoy alongside schorle, a popular German beverage which consists of half sparkling water and half a juice of your choice, the most typical variation being apple juice. German Professor Julia Ludewig was happy to make and educate people about the summertime favorite.

Along with their choice of drink, attendants could enjoy a bratwurst, vegan or sausage, with sauerkraut and a soft pretzel. There was even a dessert table that had an assortment of German sweets such as Haribo gummies, gingerbread cookies, strawberry yogurt-filled chocolates, milk chocolate

and Knoppers, which are a German wafer candy bar.

The German students who worked at the event were in charge of the snack and beer bar; replenishing food when needed and explaining the different snacks. Besides all the food, festivalgoers could pose behind a Bavarian background while wearing clothes such as a lederhosen, a dirndl, a hat, and snap a photo. Festivalgoers also had the option to put their head through a poster of a Bavarian man and woman for a photo opportunity.

Outside the tent, festivalgoers could play a game called Viking Chess. Viking Chess consisted of big wooden pegs being thrown at wooden rectangles on the ground, opposite of where a player stood, in order to knock down the other team’s rectangles. If you knock one of someone’s wooden rectangle down, then the other team has to throw their peg in the middle and try to knock the rectangle down in order to continue playing against their opponent. The winner is whoever was able to knock down all of the other team’s wooden rectangles and the king piece in the middle.

For German minor Cam Leshner ‘24, this was his first Oktoberfest.

“I knew some other people who were coming and I thought it would be a nice experience to practice German a little bit more outside

of the classroom as well,” Leshner said.

The German Department held another event on Tuesday, Oct. 17 in the Max Kade International Wing. Werner Rohner, a Swiss writer, read excerpts from his first novel, “Das Ende der Schonzeit,” or, “The End of the Season Where you Spare Women, Children and Animals.”

The purpose of this annual event is to bring in a German-speaking writer for the writer-in-residence program which solely focuses on German culture and language.

Before reading the excerpts, students from Rohner’s German creative writing class Sounds over Scents read aloud from their own short stories showcasing their cumulative result from the class. When Rohner presented them and talked about his approach to teaching German creative writing he said, “When learning a language, sound is everything.”

Afterwards, Rohner began by reading the first chapter of his book, then switched to reading a couple pages in the middle of the book. Before making the jump, he tried to explain where he was in the plot, but had some difficulty in making a summary and even quoted Proust, “If I could explain it in five sentences, I wouldn’t have written two hundred pages.”

After reading from the original copy, he read a few chapters of the unreleased



ZAYNAB JEBUR/THE CAMPUS
Werner Rohner reading from his novel, “Das Ende der Schonzeit,” in the the lobby of the international wing.

English translation which is titled “Waiting for Yesterday to End.” The story is about a Swiss man named Joris who goes to Vienna on an exchange program and comes back to his hometown of Zurich ten years after his mother died and starts unraveling the truth behind who his absent father was and who his mother really was.

After the presentation, a Q&A was held to give the audience an opportunity to ask a question to any of the writers. One of the student writers, Andrew Strobel ‘24, asked Rohner why he started writing. Rohner explained that he always referred to himself in the back of his mind as a writer, but he never really started writing until he was 24 years old. His journey began when he heard that Nick Cave was teaching a writing course at a school

in Zurich and he wanted to attend that class, but he had to submit his work in his application. Since he had not written anything, he used some work from his friend.

Fortunately, he got in. Unfortunately, Nick Cave no longer taught that course and he shortly dropped it because he realized he did not need the course to be a writer.

After Rohner was done answering questions, people got out of their seats and mingled with one another and the conversations mostly surrounded the writing and especially the process of choosing a writer from a German-speaking country.

The event is about a writer giving insight into modern German literature and it especially gives them some American attention to an up-and-coming writer.



ZAYNAB JEBUR/THE CAMPUS
From left: Naydean Massie, ‘27, Sophie Mackley, ‘27, Ben Stavnezer, ‘27, Madi Kermis, ‘25.

Bedbugs: From Paris to Meadville

By **EMMA CONTI-WINDLE**
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As France prepares for the 2024 Olympic Games, the city of Paris is facing an unfortunate issue: an outbreak of bedbugs.

Reports of bedbug sightings in Paris began surfacing this summer, according to the Wall Street Journal. Since then, the pests have remained a prevalent concern for both permanent residents and travelers. Sightings on public transportation, in movie theaters and inside the Charles de Gaulle airport have increased general unease surrounding the outbreak, according to Time Magazine.

Paris’ leadership addressed the issue as the outbreak continued through Fashion Week earlier this month. In a post on X, previously known as Twitter, Paris Deputy Mayor, Emmanuel Grégoire said, “No one is safe,” and urgently called for action from other Paris officials to work toward a solution. The outbreak poses “no threat to the Olympic Games,” according to CNN.

This is not the first time an outbreak of this sort has occurred, especially in a large city like Paris, but the widespread panic that comes with it is hard to ignore.

Some regard such outbreaks as common and inevitable. Associate Professor of French Briana Lewis is one of them.

“I’m sort of surprised that they’re treating it as new,” said Lewis. “I know that in

most major cities it’s sort of an ongoing low-grade kind of issue that gets worse, gets better, gets worse, gets better, but isn’t totally gone.”

Lewis said she believes that due to the fact that bedbugs were found on “high speed trains,” a form of public transportation, this current outbreak is garnering “something of a panic.”

She described Paris as being in somewhat of a “push-pull,” because France, like other countries, has banned insecticides that harm humans and the environment — but those insecticides also eradicate bedbugs. Public transportation, though good for the environment, is also contributing to the panic over bedbugs.

As of Oct. 4, a combined 47 traveler reports of bedbug sightings were made, though upon inspection no bedbugs have been found on public transport, according to international news agency Reuters.

As a common host of large, globally attractive events and sights, Paris is a beacon of travel, which is known to be a potential cause of the spread of bedbugs. Lewis suggested that based on her research, this idea — combined with the travel patterns of this time of year — may be one of the contributing factors to this particular outbreak.

“It’s a really significant feature of French and especially Parisian culture that everybody goes on vacation in August,” said Lewis. “You go to Paris and it’s a ghost

town in August because everybody’s on vacation and so everybody has just traveled a month or so ago, come back from their vacation, and now we’re seeing this.”

Paris is not the only place in which such an outbreak is occurring and its residents’ frequency of travel is not the only cause of a spread. Shared living spaces are also prone to such outbreaks.

Meadville Housing Authority’s Holland Towers, a housing complex in Meadville, has been battling a bedbug infestation as well.

The outbreak has been ongoing for over two years, according to the Meadville Tribune, and both residents and officials from Meadville Housing Authority have expressed increased frustration with the issue.

In an August 2023 article, the Tribune reported that, considering the vacancies in the complex due to impending renovations, “...nearly 25 percent of the building’s occupied units are currently being treated (for bedbugs) — a slightly larger percentage than in September 2021, when 32 of the 132 units were being treated for bedbugs.”

Various theories make up the supposed cause of the difficulty bringing an end to the issue.

Executive Director of the Meadville Housing Authority Vanessa Rockovich told the Meadville Tribune in August that a “harder approach” for tenants with infestations is the next step is getting the problem under

control. Rockovich is referring to warnings being issued to tenants that are not complying with regulations on moving about the building while carrying bedbugs, and therefore spreading them from room to room.

“If we don’t start telling them they can or can’t, then the whole building is going to have bedbugs,” Rockovich said.

Residents can be evicted for not following rules on visiting other units or having their own visitors, according to the Tribune.

However, residents, including Holland Towers Resident Council President Jackie Commins, have said that local officials are the ones at fault for the insects. “The Housing Authority needs to take responsibility instead of blaming us,” Commins said after a meeting in August. “It is their responsibility to get rid of the bedbugs, not ours for noncompliance. They cannot kick us out if we have bedbugs, and that is exactly what they are trying to do.”

Meadville Housing Authority Board member Tom Youngblood said that although the Board does not want to evict residents for noncompliance, the threat to do so may be essential to the eventual eradication of bedbugs, according to a September 2023 article in the Meadville Tribune.

The Meadville Housing Authority did not respond to multiple phone and email requests for comment.

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Israel and the West Bank are both under the second-highest advisory, where travelers are recommended to reconsider their plans due to “terrorism and civil unrest.” The State Department has organized flights out of the country for U.S. nationals from Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv and passage on a cruise ship out of the northern port of Haifa.

Jordan is under the State Department’s second-lowest travel advisory, where travelers are recommended to exercise increased caution and be aware of their surroundings.

Doyle said her office uses the State Department’s advisories in conjunction with additional information to keep track of the situation.

“I also receive daily security assessments from independent security analysts — not just from governmental sources, but independent security analyses of situations that are going on around the globe,” Doyle said.



If an evacuation is deemed necessary, students would either use the State Department resources or services provided by Allegheny’s travel insurance company. That insurance covers evacuation for medical or security reasons.

“Once a point of evacuation is determined necessary, we would review both options — whether it would be quicker for our students to get on one of the US government flights or whether we use our independent security evacuation benefit,” Doyle said.

Doyle also said that evacuation was not the only option; students could have their classes canceled or temporarily shelter-in-place.

“Every situation is different, so it’s hard to say how we respond in times of crises,” Doyle said. “We have to evaluate the specific circumstances of every crisis abroad, and we react based on the specifics of the situation and the advice that we’re seeing.”

Map courtesy of Google
Allegheny has one student studying in Kibbutz Ketura (bottom pin) and three students in Amman (top right pin) — both with 100 miles of the Gaza Strip (top left pin).

Love at first ‘cite:’ Allegheny’s married couples

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
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Some people are married to the job. Some people are married on the job.

At Allegheny College, relationships and work coexist as married faculty and staff navigate both their personal and professional lives within the community.

The list of married employees includes Professor of Political Science Sharon Wesoky and Director of the Center for Career and Professional Development Jim Fitch.

“We walk to work every day, so Allegheny is with us a lot of the time,” Fitch said. “I think that as the workplace goes, the college would like to



FITCH

be more than just a job, but more of a lifestyle. We have to work to not let Allegheny dominate our conversations.”

Wesoky added that she thinks the struggle of balancing work and life is partially about the college but also the culture of the country.

“There was just an article in ‘The Atlantic’ that I have open on my phone about ‘workism,’” Wesoky said. “Our whole lives are our work and our identities are our work. So with Allegheny, it is a place where many of us like what we do because it’s meaningful, and so the boundaries can get a little blurred because of that.”

Because of working at the same institution, professional differences can arise and cou-



WESOKY

ples have had to find ways to navigate through them.

“Most of the time, we are so closely aligned,” Fitch said. “If I get angry, it’s generally not long before I can say to (Wesoky) that I was wrong and overreacted and I think that our practice of meditation helps us in that respect. I also think that if we can listen to each other, taking in that other person’s perspective just expands and gives me an understanding of a different perspective which is helpful.”

Wesoky shared advice for couples who may be considering working at the same institution for how they can navigate having their space.

“It’s important, I think, to have both your own identity and your own sort of things that you are interested in,” Wesoky said. “Especially if you work at the same place, it is really important to have some things you enjoy doing on your own so that you are not always on top of each other.”

Technical Director LeeAnn Yeckley and Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley have little overlap in their professional settings. However, they still face the challenges of navigating family life while working

at the same institution.

“We’ve had parts of our jobs that require evenings, so balancing out when one or both of us has to be here at work when you would traditionally be taking care of youngsters at home,” Trae Yeckley said. “We just really try to communicate, knowing the demands of each other’s jobs, knowing it’s a lot easier for me to do my meetings from home because I don’t teach.”

Through working at the same institution, LeeAnn and Trae Yeckley have found that they can check in with each other more frequently throughout the day while also creating traditions with their children involving the college.

“My kids know how to bus their own tables at Brooks because they have grown up eating at Brooks,” Trae Yeckley said. “Almost every Friday, we’ve come to Kinz to get pizza and my kids are like ‘Yay Kinz!’”

Beyond creating family routines, Trae Yeckley is glad their children get to spend a significant amount of time on campus.

“I think a lot about my kids having the privilege of growing up on a college campus, versus, you know, first-gen



LEEANN YECKLEY



TRAE YECKLEY

students who have maybe never stepped foot on a college campus,” Trae Yeckley said.

Because the Yeckleys share a last name, students and staff at the college often ask the couple about how their spouse is doing.

“Sometimes people will check in on you (Trae) through me,” LeeAnn Yeckley said. “Like ‘How’s Trae doing?’ And I’ll say ‘We’ll be glad when this week’s done,’ and they’ll go ‘How are you doing?’ Because they will recognize the stressors of being a spouse of somebody who’s in a stressful phase of their job.”

Some of Trae Yeckley’s favorite memories are of this year’s Blue and Gold Weekend, which coincided with his birthday, allowing them to

bring their family to the event as a celebration.

“The atmosphere was positive and people said, ‘I am sorry you had to work on your birthday,’” Trae Yeckley said. “I felt like I didn’t because my family was with me and they are a part of this community as well, and I got to experience it with the greater Allegheny Community.”

LeeAnn Yeckley added that she has been able to mark their time at the college through their children’s growth.

“Our youngest was 15 months when Trae started and now he is going to be almost eight,” LeeAnn Yeckley said. “I would say what’s most memorable has been us being a family while here.”

BEDBUGS *from page 5*

Associate Professor of Communication and Media Joe Tompkins attended a recent meeting of the Meadville Housing Authority to “show support for some of the tenants there who are dealing with bedbug issues.”

“I think it’s not being handled very well by the Housing Authority,” Tompkins said. “The residents don’t think that the Housing Authority is doing what they should be doing to address the problem, (and) that they’re not following Housing and Urban Development guidelines,” Tompkins said, referring to the federal housing agency. “I’ve heard stories from residents of eviction threats from the Housing Authority if they complain too much or don’t follow arbitrary guidelines.”

Tompkins also said that the Holland Towers infestation was different from the Paris infestation in one key way; visitors from Paris are only in the city temporarily.

“Keep in mind they are going to get to leave eventu-

ally,” Tompkins said about Paris visitors. “These people who live in Holland Towers, they don’t have any options to leave, and they’re stuck there. So they’re left to deal with the constant stress of this bedbug infestation that doesn’t seem to be going away.”

The anxiety that surrounds a bedbug outbreak seems to contribute heavily to the way it is interpreted on a large scale over time.

Associate Professor of Biology and Biochemistry Margaret Nelson compared the public’s interpretation of bedbugs to that of other diseases.

“One of the things that re-entered the public consciousness with the time of the pandemic was being more careful about things like hand washing and, you know, not coming into work when you’re feeling unwell ... that on some level public health people had been telling you for a very long time,” Nelson said. “Then we became more vigilant, so there are probably other things about the spread

of these or other somethings that we should be more perhaps attuned to for good practice that we had just gotten a bit more cavalier about because for a long time it was seemingly not a problem.”

Nelson said that frequent cleaning and checking for bedbugs, especially when traveling or using second hand furniture or clothing will help in reducing the likelihood of an outbreak.

She added that patterns of public consciousness seem to be impacting the interpretation of various outbreaks.

“Bedbugs have been a problem since at least, the Egyptian times, so it’s not a new problem,” Nelson said, before adding that the use of insecticides from the 1950s lowered the number of outbreaks, and therefore social consciousness around them.

Nelson said that an increase in travel, the banning of and resistance to such insecticides within the last 20 years, and social media’s “amplifying effect” on the issue

“

Maybe you’re in more danger wandering across North Main while staring at your phone and not looking to see if there are any cars coming, than of the bedbug getting you in the dorm.”

—MARGARET NELSON
Associate Professor of Biology and Biochemistry,
Allegheny College

has contributed to panic that is spreading now.

“There’s a whole kind of area of this risk perception — somewhat unfamiliar things, things that are getting a lot of press, things that sort of seem gross to us ... that weighs more heavily on us psychologically it seems creepier or scarier,” Nelson said. “We aren’t always rational about how we assess these things.”

Nelson brought this idea of dismantling a harmful stigma home to Allegheny students.

“Maybe you’re in more danger wandering across North Main while staring at your phone and not looking to see if there are any cars coming, than of the bedbug getting you in the dorm,” Nelson said.

Associate Professor of Biology and Global Health Studies Becky Dawson elaborated on this point.

“I think more than anything it’s like a fear epidemic,” Dawson said. “It’s kind of gross to think that there are literally bugs in your bed and they’re biting you when you sleep.”

She clarified, however, the limited extent of the physical danger of bedbugs, calling them, “a common pest.”

“They’re everywhere all the time,” Dawson said. “I think that that’s normal. I think that they’re a pest and a nuisance. I mean, they’re a health threat in that they spread really easily and you wouldn’t want bedbugs to get into a healthcare facility, but, to the best of our knowledge, they don’t transmit diseases.”

Dawson said that during an infestation, bedbugs can be found in crevices of mattresses, drapes, light sockets and “places where we don’t normally see them.”

One of the most effective ways to eradicate bedbugs from entire rooms is extreme heat or the use of steam-heaters, but according to Dawson, “It’s not like you can just walk into somebody’s house and heat it up.”

She said that before such a heat treatment, all plastic and some wood would need to be removed and that two treatments often produce the best results.

“If they’re in your bed, you need to wash your sheets at a really really high temperature and you need to scrub in your bed and then vacuum your bed repeatedly,” Dawson said.

“They’re just hard to get rid of.”

She also commented on the reality of an infestation for people in shared residences.

“It definitely is an inconvenience for people that are living in communal spaces... if you’re in dorms, apartment, buildings, long-term care facilities, you’re depending on your neighbor, taking care of their stuff because they’ll (bedbugs) crawl down the hallway,” Dawson said. “They’ll crawl under your door. They are mobile, especially when they’re adults. They can move so it is really hard to get under control when you’re sharing space with other people.”

According to the Center for Disease Control, “bedbugs have been found in five-star hotels and resorts and their presence is not determined by the cleanliness of the living conditions where they are found.”

“We need to not stigmatize them and assume that this is something that has to do with self poverty, or people who don’t take care of themselves — that’s not the case whatsoever,” Dawson said. “I think we need to de-stigmatize it, acknowledge that they exist everywhere and work to get rid of them.”



IMAGE SOURCE: LOUIS-MARIE POISSANT/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
A bedbug (Cimex lectularius) as seen from under a microscope.

||||| Literacy Under the Lights |||||



Photo courtesy of Education Studies Program

Students in Allegheny’s Education Studies program read as part of Crawford Central School District’s annual “Literacy Under the Lights” event at Meadville Area Senior High School on Wednesday, Oct. 4. The annual event aims to connect families with educational resources and encourage young children to read more.

Photo courtesy of Education Studies Program
Nex Penna, ’25, (left) and Andre Wilder, ’24, (right) speak with a family about reading during “Literacy Under the Lights.”



Photo courtesy of Education Studies Program

Madeline Allen, ’24, cheers on family participants during a broomstick race. The race was meant to excite attendees about reading the “Harry Potter” series of young adult novels.

Cognitive Dissonance

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A DIAMOND IN THE DEEP BLUE

Jerry Diamond takes over at the helm for the Gators swim and dive

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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The Allegheny Women's swim and dive team is underway with another season of Presidents' Athletic Conference action. The Gators opened their strokes in the water versus Franciscan and, despite winning seven out of 11 races, fell by a score of 107-81.

The roster carries small for Allegheny, but one cannot underestimate the quality on board. At the top of the talent pool on the team and in all of the conference and region is Olivia Kraus, '24. A PAC Champion in the 50 and 100 freestyle, Kraus broke the school record in both departments last season.

Kraus looks to add to her resume this season. While what she accomplished in her last campaign caught the eyes of many, she is looking to take her talents to a bigger stage this year.

"One of my biggest goals is to make it to the Division III National Championships," Kraus said. "That was a big goal last year that I didn't quite reach. I want to get fast-

er in my main events, and do what I can to support the team in any way that I can."

Kraus put a lot of time into training in the offseason, but in a different lane than swimming. She spent time in the weight room and on the road running; building her stature into a stronger, more efficient machine to operate in the blue this year.

There are only six members representing the women's side this year. Although this may seem like a disadvantage for the team events, it has other benefits including improvement on an individual level. The team gets more attentiveness and a chance to gain quality reps in the water.

Attention to detail is everything when perfecting a stroke. With the goal being to replicate each stroke the exact same for an entire race, Head Coach Jerry Diamond spends extensive time with each player to perfect their craft. When asked what he's most excited about this season, Diamond cites the athletes themselves.

"Figuring out what these athletes here are willing to do to improve their strokes," Dia-

mond said. "My favorite part of coaching is helping someone improve some aspect of their technique. I love the mechanics of swimming. I love the mechanics of the human body, and trying to apply that to swimming in the best way possible."

Also working on her game is Josephine Reiter, '26. A First Team All-PAC and 100 breaststroke Champion, the local product from Pittsburgh is hoping to shorten her times and be one of the best yet again.

Reiter came in last year unsure of how it would pan out. After chronic back pain during her senior year of high school, she was not sure if collegiate play was in the cards. Eventually making the decision to give it a whirl, Reiter said it was the right one and that she is happy to be on the team.

"I was really scared going into college," Reiter said. "It's a new experience and new environment. I had come up for a visit in April of 2022 where I had met the wider team. My thought process was, 'Even if I suck, at least I will have that

group of friends coming in.' I've been swimming for my whole life and decided I didn't want to change everything at once."

She still has to be cautious of the way she trains and moves in the water. Just because Reiter has been one of the conference's best, does not mean that her pain magically went away. She is constantly in the trainer's room, taking care of her body. Electro stimulation therapy has been a big component of her rehab, as it is a way to ease tension of the applied muscle to release any pressure confined within.

After the college and former Head Coach Max Niggel decided to part ways, Diamond was called upon in July to take over operations. Division III is familiar territory for Diamond, as a coach and former student-athlete.

Diamond was a standout swimmer back in his undergraduate days at Ithaca College, where he earned multiple All-State performances in relay events and the 200-yard individual medley.

Previously coming from Sweet Briar College, a wom-



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Smith

Olivia Kraus, '24, being crowned the 50 freestyle Champion of the Presidents' Athletic Conference in 2022.

en's college in Virginia, Diamond was at the helm of the Vixens for five years and reinvigorated their program, leading the 2021-22 team to an 8-4 record.

Before his tutelage with Sweet Briar, Diamond spent a combined handful of years at SUNY Oswego and Hartwick College in New York. Now, he has a place to call home in Meadville.

"I'm feeling good about the transition to Allegheny Col-

lege," Diamond said. "I think it's a really good institution and I think it's a really good core group of team."

The team's next meet is against Washington and Jefferson College, taking place today, Oct. 20. Another key date to look out for is their home meet on Nov. 4, as the athletic department is setting up the material to conduct the first ever swim and dive broadcast to be released on the PAC Digital Network.

FIELD HOCKEY GOALIE HUNTING FOR SAVES RECORD

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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The old saying goes "defense wins championship." Although the Allegheny field hockey team will miss out on the playoffs this year, a silver lining in their defense has been Meredythe Baird, '24, who has a chance to break the single-season saves record in program history.

"I want to show up and be the best version of myself," Baird said. "It would mean a lot to me."

Baird currently sits at 71 saves on the year. The number to beat is 90, held by former three-year starter Hallie Reiger, '23, who broke the record in 2021. With three games to go, the achievement is up in the air — but with the way Baird has defended the net this year, it is certainly a possibility.

Whether or not Baird surpasses the single-season record, she is still well on pace to beat the single-season saves per-game record. The 2021 Gators field hockey team played in three more games than the current regime will endure. However, Baird's current 5.46 saves per game is the best by over half a goal for any previous Allegheny goalkeeper.

Despite how well she has played, Baird is still searching for more.

"There is always something to improve on," Baird said. "I think being comfortable is when you become stagnant. I'm constantly posed with 'How can I be doing better?'"

The opportunity for playing time was slim for Baird until this year. It was tough to earn minutes while playing behind Reiger, who was the 2022 North Coast Athletic Conference defensive player of the year and First Team All-Conference player. This, along with studying abroad in Spain a season ago, made it so Baird had to hone her craft throughout the offseason to prove she was the best option for Allegheny.

After the way this year has gone, there is no doubt that Head Coach Lauren Thomas made the right decision on who should guard the net.

"I am a large proponent of you practicing how you play," Baird said. "The goal of practice is to get better."

While keeping the ball out of the net is the number one priority, there are many other intricacies that Baird has to subdue in her role. Communication is a big one.

Baird has spent a lot of time working with Assistant Coach Allyson Osborne. The two have combined like-minded encephalons and determined that the goalie is in a game of chess. By seeing everything develop ahead of her, Baird has the ability to predict what will happen before it does, and she has to put her teammates in the best possible position to succeed.

Her back-line defender may see a pass coming to her. What she may not see that Baird does is the three attackers of the opposition coming to press the pass and pressure the last wall before the net. Baird also has eyes on the spacing of the field, and can

direct the moving pieces to stopping a breakaway or rallying to the ball.

"I'm always trying to think of staying three steps ahead," Baird said.

Although the season has not panned out as expected, there have still been memorable moments that Baird is fond of — her favorite moment being the comeback win versus Washington and Jefferson in overtime.

The 4-3 finale featured a come from behind thriller in what could be deemed as the Gators best win of the year. They fell behind 2-0 early, and scored right before halftime. Another goal surrendered in the third quarter seemed like the nail in the coffin for an offense that has struggled to finish.

With time running out, Allegheny rose from their ruins and found the back of the net twice in the final 14 minutes. The clashing of these two foes gave the fans extra minutes, and just over halfway through overtime Emily Robles, '26, punched in the Gators ticket to victory with a game-sealing strike.

"It was a team effort," Baird said. "When we finally scored in overtime, I was ready to tear up and just cry."

Allegheny will hope to string more quality substance together with three games to go in the season. Their next task is taking down the Kenyon Lords, with the opening pass scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 21 at noon. The Gators look to play spoiler and deny the playoff hopes of their opponents.



Photo courtesy of Ed Maillard

Meredythe Baird, '24, tracking the ball to make a save in front of the net.

CHANDLER'S CORNER THREE

Sports editor opines where the Cavaliers will land this NBA season

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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It is hard to believe that another season of professional basketball is just days away. But, as the NBA inches closer, the buzz throughout national media and fan bases continues to rise.

The preseason is already underway, and speculations have begun as to which teams will represent the cream of the crop and have a chance at the title. The Denver Nuggets are the favorites for many after their demolition of the Miami Heat in the finals last season. The Milwaukee Bucks, Boston Celtics and Phoenix Suns are also right in contention. But, my dark horse — the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Call me a homer if you must, but there's a lot to like with this young group. While there is no question that last year ended in an abysmal way — with the New York Knicks sending the Wine and Gold packing earlier than expected in the play-in round of the Eastern Conference Playoffs — a revitalized and more experienced Cavaliers unit could be dangerous.

What is there not to say about Donovan Mitchell? He was everything and more the Cavs wanted in a starting guard after picking him up from Utah in the offseason. The kid called "Spida" broke the franchise single-game scoring record, put up the best offensive numbers of his career and earned All-NBA Honors. He also earned his first start in the All-Star Game. If he can stay consistent, enough said.

Alongside Mitchell in showcasing the league's best is Jarrett Allen. The seven-footer averaged over 14 points and just under 10 rebounds per game. After almost being

snubbed, he was voted into the All-Star Game as a sub last season. Allen did not, however, perform well against the physical Knicks defense in the playoffs. It nicked his resume, and while everyone knows he has the potential to be the best in the league, Allen has to go out and prove it.

Who the backup center will be behind Allen still remains a question mark. For now, it is Damian Jones, who averages just 5.2 points and 3.4 rebounds per game in his career. While this is on limited minutes, it is hard to say how the 2016 first-round pick will fare in the upcoming season.

Tristan Thompson, a member of the 2016 Cleveland championship team who re-signed in the offseason, can also fill that role. The bench is going to be a pivotal factor in the Cavs' success, and if these can add to the production it could prove monumental.

Another big man looking to build on his first two years in the league is Evan Mobley. A 2021 draft pick of the Cavaliers, Mobley came in and was a top rookie in his class. Last year, he built on his early success and demonstrated his ability to be a two-way player. The trend needs to keep moving upward for Mobley, but his blocking, rebounding and scoring abilities make him a real threat to be a top frontcourt player in the Association.

Then, there is Darius Garland — the reason why I started following the Cavaliers again after LeBron left. Garland upped his three-point shooting to 41% last year and averaged over 21 a game for the Cavs with almost eight assists. While his play looked a little different from the adjustments of having Mitchell, being double-teamed more and working through the

team's spacing issues on the court, it was still a solid year for the four-year starter. He made some brilliant shots, and if he can build on the chemistry with his scoring partner, it will be exciting to watch those two go to work once again.

After parting ways with Cedi Osman and Lamar Stevens, the roles of Max Strus and Georges Niang will be tested. Both additions are big hopes to provide more offense to the team and take the pressure off Mitchell and Garland — who were the only two consistent scorers a season ago.

While there are still pieces that need to fall in the right places, there is no question this could be one of the best years the franchise has ever seen. Led at the helm by JB Bickerstaff, everyone knows what is at stake, and the expectations that are being put on them.

The great thing for the Cavaliers is they are set up for not only the short term, but also the long term. Of the four mainstays from last year, the oldest is Mitchell at 27 years old. He and the rest of the crew are into or nearing their primes and set up on contracts to stay additional years.

You have to give credit where credit is due. Owner Dan Gilbert and President of Basketball Operations Kobey Altman, turned the franchise around with a short rebuild period after the King left, putting them right back into the contending role.

The opening night tipoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 25. They will immediately be tested, as they head to Brooklyn to skirmish with the Nets, another Eastern Conference playoff team from a season ago.