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College initiates Phase I of Action Plan for Diversity

By AMANDA SPADARO
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Released to the campus community at large on Jan. 23 was Allegheny's Action Plan for Diversity and Inclusion, Phase I, designed to make the community a safer, more inclusive and diverse community by addressing concerns voiced in the fall semester of 2014.

The Plan identifies the Oct. 3 forum, following Kirk Nesset's arrest, as key in identifying the areas where improvement was needed.

According to Ande Diaz, Allegheny's associate provost for diversity and organizational development, these issues were prioritized by the campus administrators in the fall to determine institutional methods for addressing them.

"This fall, there were a number of conversations, both large and small, where it became clear that there were really some deep issues that were talked about in the community," Diaz said. "…Those themes that were introduced in the fall were then prioritized later in the fall and that structure helped guide Phase I."

> "The other thing that this plan does is that it clearly says we're accountable to implement it and if we don't, we should have to answer for it."
>
> James Mullen
> *President*

Written by the Administrative Executive Committee, the Plan identifies five themes as its focus: (1) Safety, (2) Community and Campus Climate, (3) Leadership, (4) Recruitment and Retention and (5) Communication and Transparency. Included in the plan is a description, labeled "Context," of what Allegheny has done up to this point in addressing concerns. Following this is a section called "Action Steps," in which specific future steps are identified along with the departments on campus responsible for assisting these changes.

According to President James Mullen, this is part of the inherent strength of the Action Plan.

"I think what's strong about it is…it sets down what we have done to this point in a coherent way, and I think that's important because we were doing a number of important things but this connects the dots," Mullen said. "Second, it did come out of a

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AMASA SMITH/THE CAMPUS

General meeting addresses array of topics

Zachary Cramer, '15, addresses the Allegheny Student Government cabinet on Tuesday, Feb. 3 at its weekly general senate meeting. This week, Katie Pope, Allegheny's Title IX coordinator, attended the meeting as its guest speaker.

Some of the topics Pope discussed at the meeting included the Office of Civil Rights investigation concerning sexual assault on campus. Pope explained that the investigation is a lengthy process and that the college is putting together packets of data to be sent to the OCR. Following this sharing of information, the OCR will come to campus and conduct interviews.

In addition to the OCR investigation, the general meeting also voted to pass and approve the increase to the student activities fee.

Nesset's pretrial motions extended to February

Motion granted Nesset to stay at Arizona home

By SAM STEPHENSON
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A motion has been granted to extend any pretrial motions until Friday, Feb. 6 in the federal child pornography case involving former professor of English, Kirk Nesset.

Nesset, an award-winning writer, pleaded not guilty on Oct. 15, 2014 to receipt, distribution and possession of child pornography.

"The parties would like additional time to discuss possible resolution of the case," the motion reads. "To this point, such discussions have been put on hold so that the government's investigator could conduct additional forensic analysis of the defendant's computer."

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ASG experiences internal restructuring

New vice president and chief of staff appointed to office

By JOSEPH TINGLEY
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The first semester of the 2014-2015 academic year saw two high-level changes in Allegheny Student Government's student leadership. On Nov. 4, 2014, cabinet Chief of Staff Brogan McGowan, '16, resigned at the ASG general meeting. Soon after, on Nov. 18, Vice President Autumn Vogel, '15, also resigned.

According to the minutes from the Nov. 4, general meeting, McGowan cited his recent involvement in an incident that "…broke college policy and which resulted in a disciplinary sanction." He stated that because of this incident, he felt he could no longer, in good conscious, hold members of ASG to a moral standard.

"If I was going to be placed in a position where I put myself to be disciplined and put on probation, it wasn't very appropriate for me to be holding people to a particular standard if I couldn't do that for myself," said McGowan.

McGowan was replaced as chief of staff by Nicholas Totorici, '15, on Jan. 20 when the senate officially approved his appointment. In addition to his duties as chief of staff, Totorici still holds his previous position as director of the college committee's council. Totorici stated that one of his goals as chief of staff is to improve communication within the organization.

"A main goal that we all need to pursue within ASG is being able to communicate better as an organization and that's both inside and outside of the organization. So we want to pursue a better dialog between the administrative function of ASG and the more representative and senatorial function," said Totorici.

Totorici also explained that his hope is that ASG can become a more accessible organization for students to serve as elected officials.

"We also want to see in ASG, where if you came to ASG tomorrow and wanted to fill a position, you could do that and you could do it effectively," said Totorici.

In just the past few months, Totorici said, ASG has worked to make the Allegheny College community stronger and improve the overall quality of student life. He said that one issue they have addressed is campus safety by conducting a "light walk" to ascertain what areas on campus require more illumination.

"It's another proactive step

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Fraternity house to undergo renovations

By AMANDA SPADARO
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As a plan that has been in the works for the past couple of years, the members of Delta Tau Delta will begin renovations to the chapter's house sometime in late March. Initially sparked by discussions between DTD alumni and current members, the renovation aims to build a new wing to the house, adding 11 rooms and a bathroom. Additionally, the renovation will include refurbishing the interior and the addition of new common areas.

With housing like North Village I and II being more recent additions to campus, the members and alumni saw competition for nicer places where DTD members may choose to live instead of the house. However, the contract the house has with the college is that the fraternity must maintain a house population of 33. Otherwise, the rooms would be available for college use as a college-owned facility.

As explained by Matt Betush, '06, visiting professor of chemistry and co-adviser to DTD, the process of renovating the house began as a feasibility study, to determine if the necessary money could be raised to begin the project.

From there, the DTD House Corporation, a group of alumni from DTD's Alpha chapter, began a fundraising campaign. Initially, the project was planned to be a $2

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AMASA SMITH/THE CAMPUS

The Delta Tau Delta house, located on Highland Avenue, will begin renovations in March 2015.

PHASE I *from page 1*

lot of conversation…I think there are concrete steps in every area that are going to make us a more inclusive place."

As an example, under the theme of Communication and Transparency, the Action Plan states, "Context. The College has not done as well as it might have to communicate its diversity efforts. Community members have stated that they do not know the current state of Allegheny's work on diversity…This lack of community knowledge hinders our efforts; increased communication and awareness will advance our shared goals."

A large part of the Action Plan, according to President James Mullen, is transparency and how that will ultimately serve the goals outlined.

"I think the key to implementing a plan like this is for it to be transparent and continue to be a visible priority of the institution, to allow conversation to continue and voices to be heard," Mullen said. "…We just need to continue to transparently move forward on the initiatives you see here and developing that next set for Phase II."

Using this transparency is also crucial for designing Phase II, which Diaz hopes will be more collaborative with the Allegheny community at large.

"Phase II is something that will be community-engaged, where anyone who wants to have a role can have a role. In Phase II, we really invite broad participation," Diaz said. "I would personally like to invite academic departments, student clubs, administrative and staff groups to all be part of helping to change the culture, make it more inclusive and welcoming."

However, part of the challenge for Phase II will be ensuring that the changes outlined in the Action Plan take hold and prosper in the community, acting as a more long-term phase for maintaining the campus climate.

"We want to…look at how we sustain it over time but certainly those five themes will be the overarching principles that we'll be thinking about," Diaz said. "…But it's not something that is ever concluded because a lot of the Action Steps will be part of the campus practices: ongoing trainings or ongoing ways of recruiting and retaining diverse students."

Regardless of the scope of the Action Plan, the college will be dedicated to making the necessary commitments to fully address the campus' concerns, said Mullen.

"We've created [Diaz's Diversity Innovation] Fund to help make initiatives go forward, I think that's another commitment of resources. We will commit the resources we need to get this done," said Mullen.

The collaborative nature of the Action Plan also allows for ease of community conversation, which served a crucial role in the invention of the plan and will likely affect where the campus goes from here. Concerns and comments, from anyone in the community, are expected by the administration as primary feedback for the success or shortcomings of the Action Plan.

"The other thing that this plan does is that it clearly says we're accountable to implement it and if we don't, we should have to answer for it… Ultimately, if we're not getting it done, students are going to tell us that we're not getting it done and I'm going to hear that. It's my job to respond to that," Mullen said.

> "Phase II is something that will be community-engaged, where anyone who wants to have a role can have a role...I would personally like to invite academic departments, student clubs, administrative and staff groups to all be part of helping to change the culture, make it more inclusive and welcoming."
>
> Ande Diaz
> *Associate Provost for Diversity and Organizational Development*

The entirety of Phase I can be found on the Allegheny website at: http://sites.allegheny.edu/diversity/action-plan-for-diversity-and-inclusion-phase-1/

ASG *from page 1*

that ASG has taken to ensure that the student experience here is something which is worthwhile and competitive when it comes to other schools," said Totorici.

Totorici also expressed his satisfaction with the seamless transition that occurred in the wake of McGowan's resignation. However, this was not the only transition of leadership in ASG last semester.

Two weeks following McGowan's resignation on Nov. 18, 2014, Autumn Vogel, '15, resigned as ASG vice president at the start of the general meeting. Vogel cited the inability to implement change within the current structure of the organization as her primary motivation for her resignation.

"We were fighting for student voice and transparency, but the nature of the structure of our organization wasn't really allowing for that to happen," said Vogel. "If you want something to be changed and get done, then you are really passionate about it and care about it. It can really take a toll on you when there are so many roadblocks."

Vogel also expressed her discomfort in the job she performed as vice president. Vogel felt her main responsibility was to prevent people from speaking. She explained that a lot of this was the enforcement of the Robert's Rules of Order and that cutting people off who were in violation of the rules made it harder for people to speak out.

"I think that the rules were set up in such a way that it did silence voices," said Vogel.

Vogel also expressed her less than optimistic view on the direction in which ASG is moving, however she admitted she has not kept close enough tabs on the organization since her resignation to say for sure.

"There's not a whole lot of evidence it is moving either way," said Vogel.

Following Vogel's resignation, Mary Grace Warren, '15, a four-year member of ASG, was approved as the new vice president by the senate on Jan. 20. Warren said that in the short time she has been vice president she has been working with other ASG members to draft a new constitution, among other things.

The proposed constitution, which has not yet been adopted, is meant to improve modes of communication within ASG and includes such measures as decreasing senate and cabinet sizes.

"We also are working on more specific election bylaws, financial procedure bylaws and then also one of the bigger things that we are doing right now is the granted powers, because right now we are kind of in a...questioning stage of...what powers ASG has," said Warren

Both Warren and Totorici expressed their hope that students would continue to be more involved, either by reaching out to their respective senators, coming to ASG's open office hours on Fridays from 12-2 p.m. to voice any concerns or even running for office in the upcoming ASG elections.

"Anyone with a slight interest in student government and are just wanting to know more about what is happening in our campus or wanting to be more involved, I really encourage them to sign up and run for a position on student government," said Warren.

Warren explained that the date of the ASG elections has not been set, but that they will be held, most likely, in the next month.



Mary Grace Warren, '15



Nick Tortorici, '15

DELT *from page 1*



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY PWWG

Perfido Weiskopf Wagstaff + Goettel Architects design a mock-up for the proposed renovations on the Delta Tau Delta house. The renovations will include adding an additional 11 bedrooms and one bathroom to the building. With these renovations, students living in the house will all have singles.

million project, half coming from DTD and half coming from the college. Ultimately, though, the college negotiated and then approved a $1.2 million project, each party responsible for $600,000.

In order to raise the funds, a capital campaign began with Allegheny alumnus Keith Steiner, '73, who served as the campaign's chairman. The chapter hired an outside consulting firm, Kansas-based Pennington and Company, specializing in fundraising money for housing for fraternities and sororities across the country.

"Even though I made some trips to Pittsburgh and Cleveland and Columbus, the fundraising consultant has people around the country, like Florida and California," Steiner said. "They really extended our reach and helped us to be successful."

Class agents, an individual chosen from each class year of DTD's alumni, was then responsible for getting in contact with other members that attended Allegheny in order to raise the money. According to Steiner, donations and gifts were received from 180 out of approximately 800-900 DTD alumni.

Once DTD had received 80 percent of the $600,000 needed for its half of the project, the renovations could begin, as soon as it was approved by the Finance and Facilities Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees.

When building begins, the initial focus will be the addition of the new wing, slated to start in late March with excavation and laying the foundation. Although students will currently live in the house, the DTD members do not foresee this to be a severe inconvenience, according to Brogan McGowan, '16 and current DTD president.

"Most of the work they'll be doing is digging the foundation and laying the foundation and once that's done, the house will go up pretty quick," McGowan said. "That, in itself, will take a month and that is a little more quiet. I think the biggest thing, if anything, is that it'll be an eyesore and it might be a little muddy just from all the dirt being moved around."

Following Commencement, workers will have the opportunity to renovate the interior spaces without disrupting student life, as that was a concern for current members living in the house.

"We'll excavate now and disrupt a little bit at the end of this semester instead of not having a place for people to move into at the beginning of the next [academic] year," Mike Petronek, '15 and previous DTD president, said. "We'd rather have a finished project at the start of next year instead of having to jumble things up in the fall semester."

By adding another wing and 11 rooms to the current 22 rooms, the idea is that it will create 33 singles for the minimum number of students required to live there, but according to McGowan, this is subject to change until the actual interior renovations are completed.

> It's going to breathe this whole excitement around the house that wasn't there before.
>
> Mike Petronek
> *Class of 2015*

However, had DTD not fundraised as well as they had, the house renovations would not have been the highest priority for the college, despite the fact that Allegheny is partially responsible for the property as it is partly college-owned, a notion that Steiner and other alumni understood going into the fundraising campaign.

"Their success at fundraising allowed us to start here but it's part of a bigger plan for beginning to address our residence life needs in general," Sue Gaylor, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the college, said.

Despite the dedicated push from DTD for their own house, Allegheny began an assessment of the residence halls which took place from Dec. 2013 to Jan. 2014, according to Gaylor. When the college is allowed to assume more institutional debt in 2016, renovations that are considered highest priority will be the Caflisch, Brooks and Walker dorms.

Regardless, the hope is that the renovations to the DTD house will create a renewed excitement and desire for members to live in the house.

"I think it brings new life to the fraternity, it brings a new atmosphere. I'm not going to be here to see it but, I know I'm excited for the guys coming in next year," Petronek said. "It's going to breathe this whole excitement around the house that maybe wasn't there before. It's going to make people want to be there, make people want to live in the house and make people want to come down and visit so we won't just be the guys down at the bottom of the hill."

Phan waives hearing, faces trial for threats

By CHRISTINA BRYSON
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Luong Chi Phan, a former student at Allegheny College, waived his scheduled hearing before Senior District Judge Joseph Weindorf on Jan. 21.

Phan is in Erie County Prison where he will stay until his trial, which Diane McCoy from the Erie Police Department, assumed would not be until this summer. He is being held on $100,000 bond.

Phan was arrested on Nov. 23, 2014 on terroristic threat charges after allegedly posting a string of threatening Facebook statuses targeted at Allegheny College.

According to the affidavit, posts on Phan's Facebook included but were not limited to, "Death is coming for all," "Everything will END in 2 days if you don't believe in me," and "Allegheny College, you are hell on earth. Everyone living there you better leave ASAP. Death awaits you."

The college responded to the threats in conjunction with the Erie police and the Office of Safety and Security. The Meadville Police Department also agreed to assist the college if needed. The college remained confident in the Erie police's handling of the situation.

In one of Joe DiChristina's, dean of students, emails to the Allegheny community he stressed the capability of the Erie authorities.

"The police and other authorities have responded to a complex situation and have assured me that we are safe," DiChristina wrote.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Screening of "Into the Wild"
Friday, Feb. 6, 8 p.m., Meditation House (373 Sherman St.)
A short discussion will follow the film. All are invited to enjoy the movie, popcorn and tea.

Snow Quidditch with Dumbledore's Army
Saturday, Feb. 7, 4-5 p.m., Murray Hall lawn
No experience is necessary. The rules will be explained at the start. Make sure to wear appropriate shoes and dress for the weather.

Faculty Voice Recital
Sunday, Feb. 8, 3:15 p.m., Ford Chapel
Voice teachers Carol Niblock, Diane Kalinowski and Vicki Jamison will present a recital of opera duets and trios. The singers will be accompanied by Professor Emeritus of Music Ward Jamison.

Annie Dandavati: "Brothers, Sisters and Soldiers: Political Participation and Transitional Society in Egypt"
Monday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m., Tillotson Room of the Tippie Alumni Center
A Year of Voting Rights and Democratic Participation event, Dandavati's talk will focus on Egypt and the role of the Muslim Brotherhood, gender and the military. Dandavati is a professor of political science at Hope College.

Megan Ming Francis
Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m., Ford Chapel
Francis' work sits at the intersection of race, law, history, capitalism and civil rights. She is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Washington. This is a Year of Voting Rights and Democratic Participation event.

Single Voice Reading Series: Scott Cairns
Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m., Tillotson Room of the Tippie Alumni Center
Scott Cairns is professor of English at the University of Missouri and founding director of Writing Workshops in Greece. The most recent of his seven poetry collections, "Idiot Psalms," was published in 2014, as was the Greek edition of his spiritual memoir "Short Trip to the Edge."

International Film Festival: "The German Doctor"
Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m., The Movies (11155 Highline Drive)
The International Film Festival continues with the Argentinean film "The German Doctor" (in Spanish with subtitles). Admission is free with an Allegheny ID. General admission is $7. Free van shuttle service departs from North Main Street at Brooks Walk at 6:10 and 6:30 p.m.

ASG UPDATES

ASG voted to raise the student activities fee to $250 for the 2015-2016 school year.

CRIME BLOTTER

Jan. 30, 2015
Schultz Hall
Two students being investigated for smoking marijuana.

Jan. 31, 2015
Brooks Hall
Unknown actor/s set a laminated sign on fire, setting off the smoke detectors.

Jan. 30-Jan. 31, 2015
Delta Tau Delta parking lot
Four students vehicles had been vandalized by unknown person/s.

Feb. 2, 2015
Walker Hall
Two students smoking marijuana in college building.

CORRECTIONS

In last week's issue, we misspelled Oreill Henry's name.

NESSET *from page 1*

Additionally, a motion filed on Nov. 24, 2014 by Nesset's attorney stated that Nesset would like to travel to Prescott, Ariz. to tend to his house in the event that he is incarcerated and take care of his elderly father. The motion was granted and following a recent motion filed on Jan. 8, Nesset's stay in Arizona was extended until Sunday, Feb. 1.

Nesset was arrested on Oct. 1, 2014 after federal and state officers executed a search warrant where they found more than 500,000 videos and images of child pornography on shared file. On Oct. 2, 2014 Nesset resigned from the college. On Oct. 14, 2014 he was indicted, citing child pornographic activities taking place over the span of nine years, from 2005 to 2014.

If found guilty, Nesset faces a minimum sentence of five years in prison.

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Social Justice Corner: What real darkness looks like

Looking inside mental heath stigma, awareness and care through the African-American community

By JAYA MONTAGUE
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With the stigmatization of mental health and problems related to the mind, not only in America, but also societally around the world, the topic is not widely spoken on.

If the examination of mental health were thoroughly looked at, on an almost nonexistent scale, one would notice that the discussion of mental health in African-American communities and other marginalized groups is not there.

Like most issues, African-Americans do not receive invitations because of the lack of statistics and information accounted for the culture and people. This is due to the fact that white privilege in the arena of treatment and care for mental health exists.

According to the Surgeon General's Report from 2001, taken from the American Psychological Association studies show, "African Americans are just as much at risk for mental illness as their white counterparts, yet receive substantially less treatment."

Also from the same set of data, an analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau shows that "in 2005, African Americans were 7.3 times as likely to live in high poverty neighborhoods with limited to no access to mental health services."

One of the main reasons why African-Americans are less likely to receive diagnosis and treatment of their mental illnesses are the cultural biases that exist within the African-American community about mental health and the health profession.

In statistics gathered from the National Alliance on Mental Illness' Multicultural Action Center, "only 2 percent of psychiatrists, 2 percent of psychologists, and 4 percent of social workers in the U.S. are African American." While this information factors in with why some African-Americans do not receive treatment, there is also evidence of discrimination against African and Caribbean-Americans who do seek treatment.

In a questionnaire study done by professors Christopher Salas-Wright and Trenette Clark from the University of Texas-Austin and University of North Carolina, respectively, found that "83 percent of the participants faced discrimination during the past year.

Nearly 50 percent of the participants reported recurrent discriminations and approximately one-seventh (14.7 percent) reported frequent experiences of discriminations. The participants belonging to the last two groups were more likely to report symptoms for depressive disorder, alcohol-use and illicit drug-use disorders."

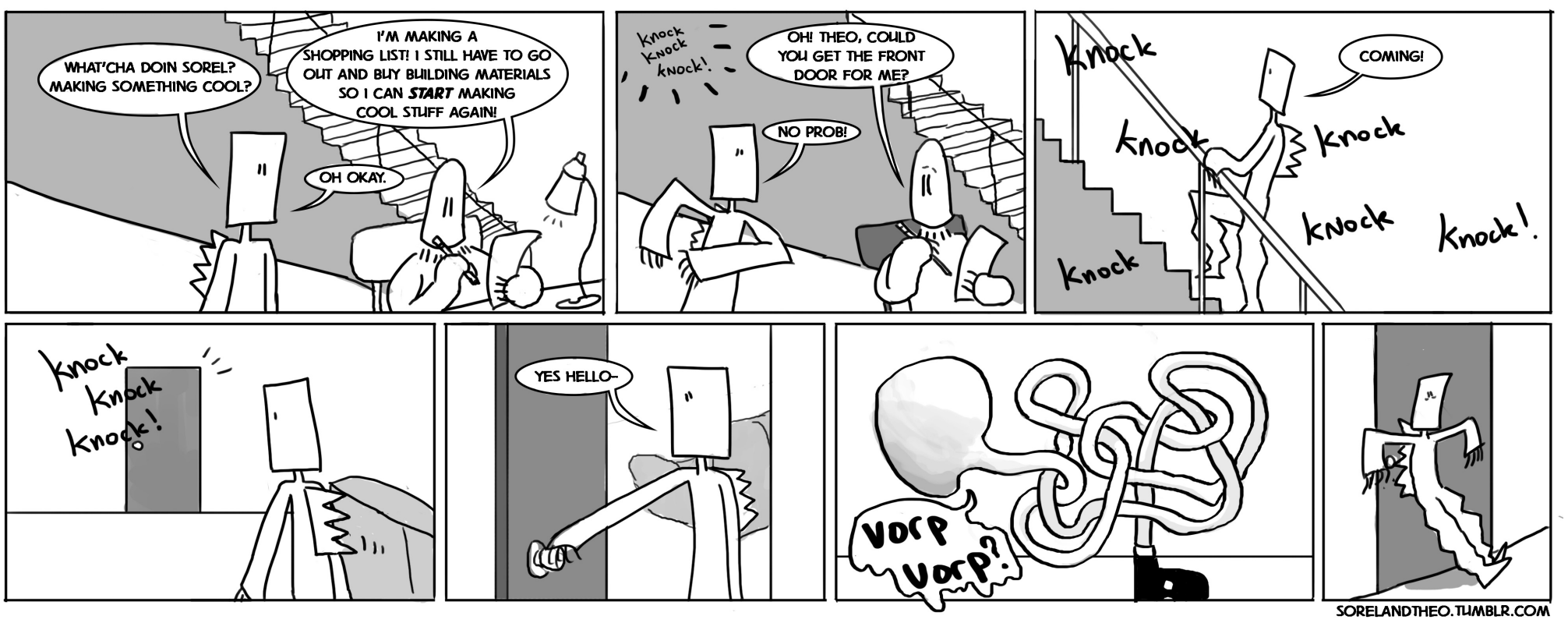
Another crucial reason as to why African-Americans receive less treatment is insurance. Also from the Surgeon General's Report published by the American Psychological Association, "nearly 25 percent of African Americans are uninsured and are also more likely to use emergency and/or primary care specialists." There is also evidence of psychiatrists and physicians "short-changing" their prescriptions to African-American patients so that the patient receives less or more than the average dose.

The NAMI Intercultural Center reports information that suggests, "that African Americans metabolize medications more slowly than Caucasian Americans, yet they often receive higher doses of psychiatric medications, which may result in increased side effects and decreased medication compliance."

Now that the information is out in the open, what steps are there to make sure that African-Americans receive adequate mental health care?

Ones step would be to provide more resources for lower-income African-Americans. Seeking out help is important, but access to help is even more important.

THE SIMPLE THINGS



COMIC BY JONATHON YEE

Just the Tips answers all your questions

By JANELLE CARLSON
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Question: What is a "sex drive" exactly?

Answer: In short, a sex drive is a person's libido, or their desire for sexual activity and contact. A sex drive is not static and various aspects of someone's life can affect and change it. Biological, emotional and social elements all can have an affect on a libido. For instance, a particularly stressed individual can encounter a very low sex drive and not want to engage in sexual activity for a period of time due to the effects of stress on their body. It is all relative and individual where your sex drive is at during parts of your life.

Q: Any tips for fingering a person with a vulva?

A: Since everyone enjoys different things when it comes to their sexual desires, ReproCo cannot truly tell you what you should and shouldn't do while fingering a vulva-friend, however, we will try to offer up some "universal tips" that may help for your next handsy visit.

· Do not imagine fingering as substituting a penis with your finger. Two different ballparks, two different sensations and things to focus on.

· Focus on the external areas of the vagina (clitoris). Most vaginal orgasms are not reached through penetration alone.

· Have a steady rhythm with your hand movements. Do not go at a clitoris like you're trying to rub a stain off it.

Q: Do antibiotics really make birth control not work?

A: This is a very important question, mostly due to the popular myth surrounding antibiotic and birth control pill usage. After doing some research on a few reputable sites such as Bedsider, Planned Parenthood and Mayo Clinic, it is apparent that the effects of antibiotics on the pill is a bit over stated. Most commonly prescribed antibiotics will not make the pill any less effective. The only antibiotic that has had a number of studies show a negative effect on the pill is rifampin, which is used to treat tuberculosis.

Q: How do I give a good 'BJ'?

A: First of all, giving a "good BJ" is completely arbitrary. As stated in our earlier question, we cannot ascertain what is pleasurable and what is not for specific individuals. All we can do is give very general "tips" and let you busy bees explore and find out what you and your partners like for yourselves!

· Take your time. Slow and steady wins the race; fast and furious leaves you potentially choking on your own spit.

· Utilize both hands! Working the shaft with your hand allows for more mouth work near the tip (the more sensitive area of the penis). Testicles are there for playtime too!

· You do not have to deep throat! That is a skill porn stars make careers on, not a universal talent everyone can achieve instantly. If you can (and want to), go as deep as you want! If this is difficult, see Tip #2 and focus on utilizing your hands for more coverage.

Q: I ran out of lubricant and want to know if there are any alternatives I can use when the store is closed and there's no one to turn to?

A: Great question, because lubricant is oh so important and underrated! First off, let's start with the basics. Most lubricants are water, silicone or oil based. Water based are fairly common because of their easy clean up and they are safe to use with sex toys and condoms. However, they dry up fairly easily. Silicone based lubes cannot be used with silicone sex toys, but can be used with condoms. Oil based lubricants should NOT be used with latex condoms. The oil breaks down the latex, so any usage of the oil based lubes should be during solo play. Always make sure before using anything as lubricant that you test it on a small area of your sensitive skin first. Now, for alternatives within these categories we suggest:

· Good old fashioned saliva (seriously, lube hasn't been around for that long)

· Water

· One hundred percent aloe vera (be sure to check your bottles first. If they say "for external use only," do not put it inside of you. 100% natural aloe does amazing things for your body, and some lubricant companies are even making aloe based lube now)

· Baby oil (not for use with condoms)

· Petroleum jelly/Vaseline (not for use with condoms)

Meadville residents share copy of last email sent from astronaut killed in Columbia space shuttle disaster

By ANGELA MAURONI
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As the twelfth anniversary of the Columbia space shuttle disaster comes and passes, Meadville residents Richard and Phyllis Ackert have decided to share a printed copy they have found of one of the Columbia crew member's final email.

> "You were just saddened by the loss of life."
>
> Richard Ackert

On Feb. 1, 2003, the Columbia space shuttle returned to Earth after spending 16 days in space. The shuttle, which no one knew had sustained damage from foam shedding when it launched, first lost its left wing and then broke apart midair on its return to Earth, killing the seven astronauts aboard, including Laurel Clark, one of the mission specialists.

"You were just saddened by the loss of life," Richard described.

The email was found by the Ackert couple when they cleaned out Richard's mother's home after her death. It depicts some of the sites and experiences of time in space, and serve as a few of the last words Clark could share.

"We're like the most unlikely people to get this email," Phyllis commented.

Once they received the email, which had sat unused and unviewed for some time in Richard's mother's home, they deliberated what to do with it. Phyllis said it seemed like a shame to let the email lie around uselessly and she decided to share it with the community instead.

With the email was also an extensive list of all the people it had been sent to before, to which the Ackerts found it had come from Augusta Valentine, a cousin working in Texas.

"It's something like a German petri dish," Richard described of the previous recipients of the email. "You know, it just keeps multiplying and multiplying and multiplying."

Shafiqur Rahman, professor of physics, believes that Clark herself made the loss greater because she was a woman, along with Kalpana Chawla, another female mission specialist who was killed on the Columbia space shuttle.

"A loss of a female astronaut is a greater loss in the sense that the amount of women in the scientific community is lesser," Rahman explained.

Altogether, four female astronauts have been killed after their shuttles were launched compared to fourteen men.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration closed its space shuttle program in 2011 in order to utilize its resources for space travel farther out than low-Earth orbit.

In the near future, Rahman said the public should not expect any trips into space. He believes the big projects for space travel will continue eventually, but the problem now is that the projects require extensive funding.

According to associate professor of physics James Lombardi, the accident itself caused the price of space travel to increase.

"The accident did cause for increased safety regulations and checks, which led to an increased cost per mission," he said. "By the end of the space shuttle program, the cost of each mission was between 1 and 1.5 billion dollars."

Laurel Clark's Last Email

I have seen some incredible sights: lightning spreading over the Pacific, the Aurora Australis lighting up the entire visible horizon with the city glow of Australia below, the crescent moon setting over the limb of the Earth, the vast plains of Africa and the dunes on Cape Horn, rivers breaking through tall mountain passes, the scars of humanity, the continuous line of life extending from North America, through Central America and into South America, a crescent moon setting over the limb of our blue planet. Mount Fuji looks like a small bump from up here, but it does stand out as a very distinct landmark.

Magically, the very first day we flew over Lake Michigan and I saw Wind Point clearly. Haven't been so lucky since. Every orbit we go over a slightly different part of the Earth. Of course, much of the time I'm working back in Spacehab and don't see any of it. Whenever I do get to look out, it is glorious. Even the stars have a special brightness.

I have seen my "friend" Orion several times. Taking photos of the Earth is a real challenge, but a steep learning curve. I think I have finally gotten some beautiful shots the last 2 days. Keeping my fingers crossed that they're in sharp focus.

My near vision has gotten a little worse up here so you may have seen pics/video of me wearing glasses. I feel blessed to be here representing our country and carrying out the research of scientists around the world. All of the experiments have accomplished most of their goals despite the inevitable hiccups that occur when such a complicated undertaking is undertaken. Some experiments have even done extra science. A few are finished and one is just getting started today.

The food is great and I am feeling very comfortable in this new, totally different environment. It still takes a while to eat as gravity doesn't help pull food down your esophagus. It is also a constant challenge to stay adequately hydrated. Since our body fluids are shifted toward our heads our sense of thirst is almost nonexistent.

Thanks to many of you who have supported me and my adventures throughout the years. This was definitely one to beat all. I hope you could feel the positive energy that beamed to the whole planet as we glided over our shared planet.

Love to all,
Laurel

CONTRIBUTED BY PHYLLIS AND RICHARD ACKERT

Professor researches issues of pollution in China from export industry

By MEAGHAN WILBY
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Assistant professor of economics Jialu Liu Streeter is currently conducting research on the environmental cost of China's international trade. According to Streeter, her research aims to connect international trade with environmental economics, and is focusing on trying to understand how much of the current pollution in China is caused by production in the export industry.

"China enjoys large trade surplus and an increasing amount of foreign exchange reserves. However, there's a cost to be paid. All the production processes need energy, labor and raw material and many emit hazardous pollutants to the air and water," said Streeter. "My goals are to gain a quantitative understanding of the impact of international trade on China's environmental degradation, and to think about policies that could potentially ameliorate the situation."

Many of Streeter's former publications have also focused on development and energy economics, with a particular focus on China. As someone who immigrated from China to America 10 years ago, Streeter said she is fascinated by China's fast economic growth and structural and institutional changes. Her previous publications have dealt with topics such as whether health insurance decreases health expenditure in China; China's rural-urban migration and entrepreneurship and China's renewable energy technology exports.

Don Goldstein, professor of economics at Allegheny, coauthored "Understanding China's renewable energy technology exports" with Streeter and spoke to Streeter's creativity as a researcher.

"She is a very flexible and creative researcher who goes from one thing she has studied to something that's related that's equally interesting," Goldstein said.

According to Goldstein, students have found inspiration for their own senior composition research from his and Streeter's work.

Streeter has been interested in development economics since she was a Ph.D. student. She finds that unlike developed countries, the developing world usually lacks a mature legal system and enforceable rules and regulations.

"Many things that are taken for granted in developed countries are not as available or missing altogether. For example, a sound health care insurance system, effective protection for private property, including intellectual property and environmental protection regulations," explained Streeter. "I spent my first 20 years in China and the next 10 years in the U.S. So it's fair to say the U.S. is my second home. The experience of living in both countries gives me many opportunities to observe, compare and evaluate. The gaps between China and the U.S. prompt me to focus on studying developmental issues in my home country."

Streeter is not working with any students on her current research but says she would be happy to explore that option when she is back on campus. She is currently on sabbatical with her two month old son. When she is on campus, Streeter usually teaches principles of macroeconomics, statistics for business and management, economy of China, developmental economics and senior seminar. She may also offer courses for international trade or environmental economics in the future.



Jialu Liu Streeter
Assistant professor of economics

Economics major Brian Holland, '16, had Streeter as his professor for statistics and said she made everything simple and wanted everyone to succeed. Although he is more interested in financial economics than macroeconomics, he believes that Streeter's work is important.

"Being able to find ways to sustain economic growth while conserving the environment is a chief concern today for sure," said Holland. "Because China is in its manufacturing and production stage, that's necessary for them to catch up to Western countries; there is a big question whether countries like that should have an allotted amount of time where they can produce freely without having too much concern for the environment."

JUST FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

Columnist: 'Learn to fail'

By GAVIN NIRMAIER
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"It's not about how hard you can hit; it's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. How much you can take and keep moving forward!"

This quote from the fictional bad-to-the-bone character, Rocky Balboa, is one of my favorites of all time. It can be applied to almost any situation in life, because it is extremely hard to navigate through life without failing. For some, failure is a scary thing. No one wants to admit they couldn't do something the first time. Often, this fear of failure is unhealthy, because it holds us back from reaching our true potential.

In the world of fitness, goal setting is everything—I have touched on this in previous articles. However, setting a goal is a double-edged sword. On one hand, you can reach your goal, feel a great sense of intrinsic reward, and set a new goal. The alternative, however, is not so rewarding: you could fail.

You either lift the weight you set out to, or you don't. You either cut your mile time, or you don't. You jump higher, sprint faster, or cut some weight—or you don't.

Naturally, most people consider failing a failure. They give up and say they can't just because they failed once. However, I urge you to begin viewing failure in a different, more positive light.

I believe that if you're failing, you're doing something right. Sure, meeting or exceeding a goal is always nice, but many people set goals that they know they can attain. If you set a conservative goal that you know will be easy to reach, are you improving? Maybe in some ways, but you aren't leaving your comfort zone and you definitely aren't pushing yourself to your limits physically and mentally. Set goals that you know will be hard to reach—goals that you may not reach at first. When you fail and fail again, you are only setting yourself up for sweeter success.

To demonstrate what this may feel like in practice, I will quickly allude to a personal anecdote. This year, I have set a goal to squat a certain amount of weight for one maximum repetition. To reach that goal, my squat will have to increase by almost 15 percent. I will have to hit numerous personal bests along the way to reach my goal.

Last week, I was attempting a personal best that would bring me closer to my ultimate goal. I got under the bar, squatted to parallel, and attempted to drive the weight up. I failed. I had to tip backwards, rolling the heavy bar off my back. Instead of giving up, though, I got the bar back on the rack, regrouped, mentally prepared, and hit the same weight I had just failed with for a clean rep.

Obviously, this is not meant as self-glorification; it's meant to illustrate the fact that failure is not a bad thing. Failure should only increase your motivation to reach your goals. If you take away one thing from this week's installment, realize that failure is okay—even necessary. I promise that if you're failing, you're working towards much sweeter success in the future. Don't become so caught up in always reaching goals and impressing yourself and those around you by reaching them. Understand that failure is a part of life and a part of your fitness endeavors. When you realize these things, you will free yourself of mental limitations. Failing will make you a better version of yourself, so learn to fail.



PHOTOS BY YUTONG WANG/THE CAMPUS

Students cover their heads with newspapers while watching Rocky Horror Picture Show on Saturday night, Jan. 31, 2015 in GFC. The audience are mimicking the female character who uses newspaper to keep her from getting wet in the rain.

GFC hosts annual "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" screening

By ALEAA REYES
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It was a terrific turnout. Students dressed in fishnets, wearing tap shoes and the iconic red lips filled the scene on the not-so-stormy night in Grounds For Change on Saturday Jan. 21.

the annual screening of The Rocky Horror Picture show is "GFC's most popular event," said GFC Board Member, Rachael Robertson, '17. In previous years, the board had decided to host the screening during Halloween, which gave people the chance to dress up. The event attracted many spectators and often groups of them would come in costume.

At this year's screening the first 25 guests received prop bags upon arrival. The props were to be used during the show. Each bag contained a water gun, playing cards, a newspaper, a straw, cardboard lips, confetti, rice, a pair of latex gloves, toast and a party hat. Attached to the prop bags were clear sets of instructions on how to participate to maintain a level of safety and responsibility.

The majority of the audience had never seen the film before. The audience nicknamed these students, Rocky Horror "virgins." Milton Guevarra, '18, said he had never seen the film.

"Not at Allegheny," said Megan Greig, '18 who came to the event dressed up and sat in the front row.

As expected, audience participation was lively and added to the electrifying atmosphere brought first by the musical numbers in the film. Witty side comments were yelled at the right moments, maintaining the satirical humor.

GFC board members also posed as the characters within the film and performed some of the scenes, which added an extra dimension to the event. The audience yelled, cheered and applauded during their performances and encouraged the whole board to dance along with the film's finale.

"It was a wonderful experience, I wish I had done it sooner, instead of my last year here," said Melanie Perez, '15.



Rachael Robertson, '17, Melissa Mattwig, '17 and Nick Gordon, '15, still wearing their costumes, clean up the coffeehouse after screening The Rocky Horror Picture Show.

Reviewer: "Cooper's performance delivered"

By CHRISTOPHER BRINDLE
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"American Sniper" is the true story of a U.S. Navy SEAL named Chris Kyle. The movie revolves around Kyle's four tours in Iraq, but the film also follows his relationship with his wife and family, and his development of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Bradley Cooper did a fantastic job representing Chris Kyle. One of the biggest challenges he faced was capturing the physical presence of Kyle, who was extremely tall and muscular, along with learning to speak with a Texas accent. However, after watching interviews with Kyle, it is easy to see just how well Cooper mastered the accent.

Cooper was also successful in trying to gain a similar physique to Kyle. He apparently put on 40 pounds of pure muscle in preparation for the role. After going to greath lengths to look and sound like Kyle onscreen, Cooper's performance delivered.

The biggest thing that made Cooper believable as Kyle was the personality he portrayed. After reading Kyle's book, "American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History," it's clear that Kyle is a goofy and fun guy with a corny sense of humor. Cooper really captures this side of Kyle well in the movie.

It could have been easy to neglect this side of his personality and instead opt to write Kyle only as a stone cold killer, but the dichotomy that arises from his playful nature and lethality is what makes the movie so emotionally tormenting.

In addition to Cooper's stellar performance, Sienna Miller also performed admirably. Despite the fact that she didn't get as much screen time as one would've liked in her demanding role as Kyle's wife, Taya, Miller does an impressive job of creating a character that the audience becomes attached to.

This is a story of marriage as much as it is a story of Kyle's four tours in Iraq. The fact that Miller and Cooper were able to create such an intimate relationship on screen, despite a majority of the film taking place in Iraq, is an impressive feat.

The only downside to this film is that some of the choices made throughout the production give the film a cheap feel, and this really prevents one from getting fully immersed in the story. For example, the movie begins with a corny, overly romanticized childhood scene in Texas.

This scene is designed to give context to Kyle, but instead delays your emotional attachment to him because of a combination of poor child acting and an idealized representation of rural America. A scene with a small town church and another where a school yard bully beats up Kyle's younger brother gives the film a cheap feeling.

It is these choices that are the most frustrating in the film because while they are minor, they are still enough to keep you from becoming fully engrossed with the movie. As I was watching these cliche scenes, it felt as if a pane of glass was between the audience and the film.

On the other hand, this movie did a great job of using symbolism to create a more human side to Kyle.

Whether it was his combat boots being set down next to his cowboy boots, or him second guessing shooting a small boy after a flashback to when he held his son for the first time, this film does a great job at subtly exposing Kyle deteriorate as his tours progress, both physically and emotionally. This movie gives a great scene of the toll war took on him.

If you are looking for a narrative on the Iraq war, or a movie about the justification or legality of it, or even a film geared toward gun rights, you will not find it in "American Sniper." This film was intended to be a character study of Kyle and nothing more, and it does a great job at side-stepping all of the controversy connected to this film.

The only way you will find controversy in this movie is if you go looking for it, as there is barely any commentary about the Iraq war at all. At times one can even forget where the movie is taking place because there is such a lack of focus on it.

If you are also looking for a film where the theater will stand up and cheer at the end, you will also not find it here. Never will you experience a quieter, more solemn theater.

Despite the small shortcomings that emerge throughout the film, Cooper's incredible performance combined with the powerful and inspiring story makes this film one of the most thought provoking, and emotionally draining films that has been released in some time.

ADVERTISEMENT

A Stunning Difference
What your Teachers will not tell you
Dr. George A. Kuck - Class of '64
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Our American culture is based on the three items found on the quarter. They are Liberty, "E Pluribus Unum" (Of many, one), and In God We Trust. These three items are the foundation of the Republican Party. They are not the foundation of the "Progressive" movement. "Progressives" have replaced liberty with equality of outcome and finances. "E Pluribus Unum" has been replaced by multiculturalism. "In God we trust" has been replaced by "In government we trust." Stark differences between the results of these philosophies have been shown during the last 6 years. Liberty and the ability to rise to our greatest capabilities have been replaced by demonization of the "rich" who make over $200,000 per year. People not agreeing with progressive ideas have been targeted by the IRS. Multiculturalism has led to the cultural separation of each different group and the targeting of each group for special privileges to attract their votes. "In God We Trust" has been replaced by "In Government We Trust." Progressive philosophy has led to an increase in the national debt by over $1,000,000,000,000 in debt each year. We cannot give everyone what they desire. The result will be a country overwhelmed by debt – debt that you as a young person will pay. Think about it carefully before you vote next time. Do you want to be a feel good progressive or a logical Republican?



Julia Bartlett, '16, and Ally Bartlett, '16, listen to Sue Anderson tell a story about her dog, Danny, during the spring semester's first therapy dog visitation on Monday Feb 2, 2015. Below, Lizzy Person, '17, pets recently certified Lily.

Therapy dogs visit campus for the first time this semester

Photos and story by
MEGHAN HAYMAN
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At the beginning of each month students gather in Reis Hall to pet, hug and play with several of Allegheny's therapy dogs. This month Isaac, Lily and Danny welcomed their visitors with the always happy attitude dogs have.

The program began eight years ago when Dr. Yvonne Eaton-Stull brought her now 12 year old lab, Maggie, to campus. Maggie has worked as a service dog before coming to campus. Eaton-Stull and Maggie have responded to national disasters and crises.

"In order to come to campus, therapy dogs must be credentialed with a national organization," said Eaton-Stull.

"I am the person who coordinates the events and invites specific dogs, usually after I have observed their temperament and feel good about their interaction with our students."

Debbie Myers is the owner of Isaac, the bear-sized black newfoundland. She is also the owner of three other dogs who are also certified to work as therapy dogs.

"Dogs have to be a year old to get certified," said Myers, adding that Isaac is three years old. She and her dogs have been visiting campus for the past two years.

Sue Anderson has spent seven years in the program with her three dogs. This month she brought Danny, a collie, who is three and a half years old. Anderson and Myers are a part of the Bark Park program that travels between Edinboro and Greenville, Pa.

Mike Smyntek sat by as students cuddled Lily, his four and a half year old pug. Lily is his first therapy dog.

"She recently became certified last fall… technically three months ago," Smyntek said.

Eaton-Stull decides which dogs visit campus each month after watching the dogs' temperaments around different students.

The next time students can interact with the dogs is March 2.





PHOTOS BY RODOLPHO CAMARGO/THE CAMPUS

Professor Elizabeth Ozorak and Louise Silk hold one of Silk's quilts after her presentation on Wednesday Feb. 4.

Artist: quilts tell stories

By MEGHAN HAYMAN
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Annette Boswell holds one of the other craftworks by Silk. The quilt pictured a tree outside of Silk's home in Pittsburgh.

Fiber artist Louise Silk completed her first quilt in 1972. A local of Pittsburgh, Silk gave a presentation showcasing well-known works throughout the history of quilting on Wednesday, Feb. 4.

"[The craft is] around. There are a lot of ways to participate," said Silk. "There are lot of organizations now. In Pittsburgh there are three guilds and probably ten shops."

Psychology professor, Elizabeth Ozorak, met Silk through a sewing meditation class taught by Silk eight years ago. They have been in contact ever since.

"A bunch of us [in the class] found out she was a quilter in the course of the conversation," Ozorak said. "And we said, you should do a quilting class."

Ozorak teaches an FS 102 class called "Quilts, Stories and Social Change" where students pick a theme and work on their own pieces to be sewn in a final project.

"As a guy who really doesn't share his feelings and is quite conservative when it comes to talking about stuff like that, it was a challenge," said Johnathon Opet, '17, who was in the class last semester. "The class, when it came to creating things, was enjoyable and different from a normal class and allowed me to be more comfortable when presenting in class or in front of a group."

The craft is a meditative activity whether one is creating or receiving a work, Silk said.

"Quilts are trying to express all kinds of ideas."

Claire's Kitchen: Sugar cookies

By CLAIRE TEAGUE
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CLAIRE TEAGUE/THE CAMPUS

If the dough starts to stick to the rolling pin you can always add more flour to the dough or to the counter.

Ingredients:

2 cups sugar
2 cups butter (4 sticks)
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup milk
7 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
3 teaspoons baking powder

Instructions:

Measure out the sugar, butter, eggs and vanilla and combine in a bowl. Beat these ingredients together until it becomes light and fluffy.

In a separate bowl, combine the flour, baking soda and baking powder and loosely stir together.

Measure out the one cup of milk and set aside. Slowly add the dry ingredients to the sugar and butter combinations, alternating between adding the flour and adding the milk. Begin and end with the flour mixture.

Place the finished dough in the refrigerator for a minimum of ten minutes. This makes the dough easier to roll out and cut into shapes.

The dough can stay in the refrigerator for a few days at max, otherwise place the rest in the freezer. Once the dough has stayed in the refrigerator take it out and place on a cleaned and floured surface.

Roll the dough out and use cookie cutters to cut into the dough. Place the cut out cookies onto a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake the cookies at 350 degrees for ten to twelve minutes until the edges are golden brown.

If you don't want to make frosting, you can decorate them easily with sprinkles. Crack an egg white into a bowl and lightly brush it onto the unbaked cookies. Top them off with sprinkles and bake as usual.

If you're at school trying to bake these and find yourself without any cookie cutters in your dorm there are few other options.

You can go to the Office of Student Involvement on the third floor of the campus center and use their supplies to cut a variety of shapes out of paper. Then place the paper cut outs on the cookie dough and trace the shape with a knife.

Gator baseball gives back to community, hosts Winter Camp for local kids to learn the game

By ALEX HOLMES
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The men's baseball team is hosting their annual Winter Camp for the children in the Meadville area.

"The camp is an opportunity to give back to kids," Ben Murray, '15, said. "We remember when we were their age and players wanted to be involved with us, putting a smile on a kid's face and helping them become a better baseball player is great."

According to Kelly Swiney, head coach, the camp is a fundraiser for the team's trip to Florida over spring break in addition to providing an opportunity for the team to give back to the community.

"Learning how to vocalize what you've learned is really important," Paul Vojtek, '15, said. "The kids are sponges and take everything in, we were in their spot and appreciated the help of older players."

Vojtek added that the kids are always smiling and listening because they respect the older players and want to hear what they are saying.

The younger kids learn the basics of hitting and pitching, and the older kids focus more on specifics.

"The kids have fun and learn basic baseball skills that will help them in the spring or summer leagues. They meet friends that they will play with and look up to the college players," Swiney said.

In the past few years, the camp has developed and grown.

"We have had a lot more campers in the past few years. I attribute that to our assistant coach who is from Saegertown and knows the community," Swiney said. "Word of mouth from kids who have come in the past also helps."

Vojtek said some of the kids who started four years ago that could not do much are getting better and can now play baseball.

"As a coach, it's fun to see the players have to explain and be the coaches themselves. They are teaching the kids and have to know what they're talking about," Swiney said.

Murray said talking about the basic mechanics and how the kids are playing makes the team think about how they are personally playing.

"Any time around the game is an opportunity to learn, as a player we take that for granted," Murray said.

Many of the players on the team participated in similar camps as kids and bring those experiences into their time helping with the Winter Camp.

"The interaction with kids is the most important part and the most fun," Swiney said. "It's great for them to pick up knowledge, both basics and complex things."

The players work one on one with the kids and help them get better at hitting and pitching, telling them ways to improve their techniques.

"We always reiterate that it's only a game. It doesn't matter how stressful it gets up on the mound or at bat, it's meant to be fun even if failing means the end of the game," Vojtek said.

The rest of the team agrees with Vojtek, they enjoy the competition and the challenge of college baseball.

"Baseball is supposed to be fun," Murray said.

In addition to playing baseball, campers and players discussed other sports topics, such as the Super Bowl.

"The camp always runs on Super Bowl Sunday, it's fun to listen to the kids talk about who is their favorite team and who's going to win the game," Swiney said.

The Gator baseball team is in preseason practices in preparation for their first game on Feb. 21 against John Carroll University.



MEGHAN HAYMAN/THE CAMPUS

Cy Perry, '18, helps Andrew Choffel, age 7, at the Baseball Winter Camp on Feb. 1. The camp will be holding its last day on Sat. Feb. 8, in the Wise Center.

Men's and women's basketball teams beat Kenyon

Allegheny victories make teams fourth in the NCAC conference

By EMERALD WRIGHTCOLLIE
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The men's and women's basketball teams both traveled to Ohio last weekend to face the Kenyon Lords. The women came out on top 66-61 while the men topped the Lords 59-56.

The women's team had three players in double figures. Emma Pellicano, '16, finished with 17 points, while Kendall Hoffman, '15, added 14 points and Ifeyinwa Uwazie, '16, scored 11 total points in the game.

The Gators started off the game with a 10-4 lead over the Lords in the first half. Kenyon fought back taking the lead in the beginning of the first half. The Lords increased their lead over the Gators to five points with seven minutes left in the half.

Kaitlyn Fromknecht, '16, and Uwazie had back to back layups with no answer from the Lords. This decreased the lead to just one point putting the score at 27-26. Both teams exchanged buckets in the remainder of the first half. Despite a 3-point shot from Pellicano with four seconds left in the half the Lords took a three point lead going into the second half of the game.

"My teammates have definitely been supporting my offensive game and their hard work on offense and defense just makes it easier for me to score," said Uwazie.

Coming into the second half, the women were held down by the Lords with no score in the first two minutes of the game causing the Lords to hold a seven point lead. With 16 minutes left in the second half the Gators went on an 8-2 run to cut the lead down to one point at 43-42 with 14 minutes left in the game. Rachel Vigliotti, '16, gave the Gators the lead back, but the team could only hold the two point lead for a short time after Keyon scored to take the lead again by three points. Vigliotti fought hard for the Gators once more putting them in the lead over Kenyon. The Lords answered back with a 3-pointer but with just under two minutes left Hoffman clutched a 3-point shot allowing the Gators to take the 62-61 lead over the Lords.

"We had really good team chemistry and energy that lead us to come together for the win," said Pellicano.

The team was able to hold of the Lords for the remainder of the game with Uwazie and Pellicano combined their efforts to go 4-for-4 from the free throw line allowing them to gain the 66-61 victory over Kenyon.

"We came into that game with a clear goal of sweeping Kenyon and putting them behind us and I feel that was an important part of our mental game which transferred onto the court our last few minutes of play. We came out with a great win on the road," said Uwazie.

The women's basketball team is ranked fourth in the conference.

After losing in overtime in their last meeting, Allegheny's 59-56 victory pushed them to 7-5 in conference play and maintained their fourth place ranking in the conference.

The Gators pulled off a close win with Josh Valentic, '15, leading the team in points scoring a total of 15 points in the game, followed by Evan Schweitzer, '16, with nine points and Dante Wallette, '18, with a career high of eight points.

"Kenyon is always a tough game for us in the conference," Valentic said. "It was nice to get a win and play so well on the defensive end. Guys made clutch plays for us especially in the second half."

Both the Lords and the Gators had a weak offensive performance at the start of the game, combined both teams had eight field goals in the first eleven minutes. Wallette broke the trend with a 3-point shot followed by a free throw from Chris Koryak, '16. This put the Gators in the lead over Kenyon at 14-11 in the beginning of the first half. Kenyon held off the Gators as they were unable to score for four minutes allowing the Lords to take an 18-14 lead over the men with only five minutes left in the first half.

Wallette revived the team with a jumper which kicked off a 9-2 run from the Gators followed by a 3-point shot from Koryak and topped off with a layup from Valentic allowing the Gators to take a three point lead over Kenyon with three minutes left in the first half. Kenyon cut the lead back down to one point until Valentic scored at the buzzer, sending the Gators into the locker room with a three point advantage over the Lords.

Kenyon returned to the court strong in the second half scoring the first eight straight points. Allegheny answered back to Kenyon's early run with a corner 3-point shot from Schweitzer which decreased the gap at 36-35 with 16 minutes left in the game.

"I'm more confident now. I struggled before that offensively. I listened to my teammates and coach, this caused me to score more than I usually do," said Schweitzer.

Leslie-Paul Jamerson, '15, scored to give Allegheny a one point lead over Kenyon with fifteen minutes left in the game. Schweitzer clutched the 3-point shot increasing the lead by four points. Gabe Semidman, '15, scored four points followed by a 3-point play the Gators went on a 13-0 run to make the score 44-36 with fourteen minutes left. Wallette scored a 3-followed by a jumper from Valentic allowing Allegheny to get their largest lead of the night.

Kenyon answered back to the Gators by going on a 14-3 run to eventually tie the score at 55 with just three minutes left in the game. Under pressure, the Gators were 0-for-7 from the field until Valentic showed up at the free throw line giving the Gators a two point lead over Kenyon. The Lords made one shot from the free throw line thinning the lead to just one point but, down to the wire, the Lords failed to overcome the Gators who closed the game out with Connor Macomber, '16, at the line making both attempts putting the final score at 59-56.

The victory over Kenyon put the Gators standing strong as fourth in the conference.

Women's lacrosse prepares for competitive season

Team begins indoor practices as 2015 game season approaches

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The women's lacrosse team is off to a cold start of the 2015 season with indoor practices and preparation for the season to come.

"Our biggest goal is winning the conference championship," head coach Ashley Hughes said. "Last year we had a great group but our season ended early with a loss at the semi finals. It was a heartbreaker but it is motivation to go to the semi finals and finals, and pull out a big win."

Emily Watto, '18, said the team also has a goal of achieving the highest sports GPA.

The team is working on acheiving their goals and readying themselves for the season. However, being a spring sport, practices can change at the last minute.

"The weather is always a challenge," Hughes said. "As long as it isn't snowing and it is above 30 degrees we are outside. They will plow off the turf for us, but the temperatures keep us inside longer."

Colleen Bodnar, '17, said indoor practices are a challenge because of the limited space available, and the air being different indoors.

"Space inside is a tough, and a big issue. The width of an outdoor field is 60-70 yards and indoors we have maybe 40. Also the balls bounce differently," Hughes said.

After practicing indoors for a few weeks, the first practice is expected to be an adjustment but the team is ready to play outside.

"The first day outside is an adjustment because it is a whole new world out there," Hughes said.

Each practice brings a new chance for the team to tune their skills and grow as a player.

"We have a general structure for practice," Hughes said. "We start with a warm up, then last year we started doing a fun team bonding activity after warmup. Things like relays, human knot, non lacrosse related leadership things. Then we do some drills, at least 20 minutes of scrimmaging, and some fitness."

Watto said the preseason practices give new teammates a time to learn how others play and helps the team work together.

"A new freshman class coming in is a challenge. The talent is great, we have to readjust and click again, it's a learning curve," Hughes said. "We graduated three starting defensive players, so we will have a young defense. We have to catch up very quickly and that's something we are aware of in practice."

Spring sports have a five week preseason, compared to the two week preseason fall sports have.

"A spring season is difficult because there is a long preseason. The monotony of being inside and the weather outside can be draining on spirits," Hughes said. "Energy levels can differ but strong leaders help to keep it up. Then games bring a new energy level."

Bodnar said the team takes it upon themselves to watch out for each other and keep spirits up.

"This year is our second year with a new coach, our returning players and coach know what they are doing so we are working on fine tuning," Bodnar said.

The team is ready for the game season to start.

"The game season is exciting. We have built the schedule with more competitive, non-conference games," Hughes said. "Then our conference play after, which we will be well prepared for. I'm excited to see where we can go. I have faith in our talent and motivation."

Bodnar said she is looking forward to the spring break trip the team is going on to Florida.