



Photo courtesy of Allegheny College Instagram

• • • • • Spooky Season • • • • •

Uncovering the science of the season of autumn

See SCIENCE | page 5

ASG talks future green box program

By ALANA SABOL
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Allegheny Student Government announced the incorporation of a temporary blanket fund for clubs and the return of the green box program in Spring 2021.

With no guest speaker, ASG's general assembly began promptly with cabinet reports at 7:35 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, via Zoom.

Due to the nationwide presidential election on Tuesday, Nov. 3, Chief of Staff, Emma Godel, '21, began her report by discussing efforts that ASG can make to encourage students to vote.

"Given that all of us were either elected by students or confirmed by people who are appointed or elected by students, we should be serving as role models here by encouraging people to get out and vote," Godel said.

Godel announced that she planned to post a compilation of videos including ASG members talking about the importance of voting by Monday, Nov. 2.

After Godel, Attorney General, Trevor Mahan, '21, announced that his primary focus for this semester will be making constitutional revisions and getting them approved.

Following Mahan, Director of Finance Noah Tart, '22, reported that he plans to open a Stratum Fiscus, or a blanket fund, for clubs to use until budget hearings begin in the first week of November.

See ASG | page 2

Behind the Breonna Taylor vigil: student response, administration

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Some students expressed concern about the administration's response to the Breonna Taylor Vigil held on Thursday, Sept. 24, outside of the Henderson Campus Center.

"We are not about to act like this is not happening — like this is not going on in the world," Rosslin Watson, '22, said. "(Allegheny) tries to get their diversity number up by getting students of color here; now let's not silence their voices once they are here. Let's not stop acknowledging what they are going through once they are here. You have to create a space for all of that if you want students of color to be on this campus."

Watson is the Co-founder of A Lady's Place, Secretary of the Men of Color Advancement Association, Secretary of

the Pi Phi chapter of Zeta Phi Beta and a member of Black Girl Magic. She is also an Intercultural Advocate.

Watson was unable to attend the vigil but acknowledged that there were issues with the manner in which Link addressed the vigil in the follow-up email. She also acknowledged that these are not new issues at Allegheny.

"One of the biggest things for me within my classes that I did not appreciate was that in all of my classes, especially when the situation happened with Breonna Taylor, it did not sit well with me that we did not take the space out to acknowledge that this woman's life was taken away and that there were no repercussions to the individuals that took her life away," Watson said. "It just showed me what was more important in the academic setting here."

According to the New York Times and The Louisville Courier Journal, Taylor, a 26-year-old emergency room technician, had been in bed with her partner, Kenneth Walker, 27. After mid-

night on Mar. 13, police began banging at the door of Taylor's apartment. While the police account is highly contested, according to Walker, both he and Taylor called out, but police smashed through the door, and Walker fired once in self-defense, shooting Sergeant Jonathan Mattingly. In response, the police on scene opened fire on the pair — five or six of the bullets struck and killed Taylor. Taylor did not receive any medical attention for more than 20 minutes after being shot, and Walker called 911 himself.

While the officers were given initial permission for a "no-knock" entry to Taylor's residence, the permission status changed to "knock and announce" prior to the raid. Officers claim they announced, but Walker said otherwise, a detail which the police contested. While the warrant was issued under the suspicion that Taylor had a connection to a former partner involved in selling illicit substances, no evidence was found in the apartment.

On June 11, the City of Louisville banned "no-knock" warrants, and later that month former Detective Brett Hankison was fired from the department after investigations discovered he had blindly shot 10 rounds into Taylor's home on the scene. In late September, a grand jury was set to investigate the indictment of Hankison; they declined the indictment. Neither Hankison nor the other two officers who fired shots on scene will face charges for Taylor's death. In response to the grand jury's decision, the Mayor of Louisville expected "civil unrest" from Black Lives Matter demonstrators protesting the lack of accountability for Taylor's death.

As a result of the grand jury's ruling, students at the college hosted a vigil for the campus community.

"It is not about administration," Amya Ruiz, '20, said. "It is not about going against what they want. (The vigil) was not a protest — it was solely just to make a space for the students."

Ruiz was one of the student organizers for the vigil and said that the vigil provided an opportunity for students to grieve for Taylor after the release of the grand jury's decision.

"We did not organize much," Ruiz said. "We just made space. (The vigil) was literally done in less than three hours. We just showed up and made space."

After the vigil, two organizations who helped spread the word of the event were contacted by Dean for Institutional Diversity Kristin Dukes and Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students April Thompson in an email that requested the vigil organizers meet with administration on Friday, Sept. 25 to address policy concerns.

"We fully support your activism and want to support ways to amplify BIPOC voices across campus; that said, we must balance that support with adherence to College policy," a line in the email stated.

See RESPONSE | page 2

IN THIS WEEK'S CAMPUS

MENTAL HEALTH The CPDC looks to help students with their mental health when they are quarantined after leaving campus. Page 3		TOWN HALL Matthew Ferrence faces off against incumbent Brad Roae in a Town Hall moderated by the Meadville Tribune. Page 6		SEASON CANCELLED NCAC cancels the upcoming winter sports season. Page 8
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RESPONSE

from page 1

The email to the organizers included the college’s policies on advertising and posting, peaceful assembly policy and community standards that were also seen in the campus-wide email sent by President Hilary Link on Sept. 28, addressing student involvement in the vigil.

“I am reaching out to the campus community to provide information about ways in which our community can sincerely and wholeheartedly support Black people, Indigenous people, and People of Color (BI-POC),” Link wrote. “I deeply appreciate and thank the students who gathered in solidarity (on Sept. 24) at a Candlelight Vigil for Breonna Taylor held outside the Campus Center. Allegheny College also honors and remembers the life of Breonna Taylor, a Black woman who was shot and killed by Louisville police officers in March during a raid on her apartment. Last week it was announced that no one will be charged for Ms. Taylor’s murder. This decision does not represent true justice for Breonna Taylor.”

Some signs and messages were removed from the campus for not abiding by Campus Center guidelines for postings. The college photographed all messages and signs for the college’s archives. Community members also had an opportunity to retrieve their posters and signs from the Student Life Office, Link clarified.

“We recognize that many in the Allegheny community, in particular our BIPOC community members, are deeply impacted by the lack of indictment in the Breonna Taylor case, specifically, and the ongoing racial injustices in our society, overall,” Link added. “We understand that many of you are exhausted, angry, and saddened. College leadership wants to support you and stand alongside you at this important time ... We hear your voices and are looking for ways to constructively amplify them. As is evident from the signs and chalking left from (the Sept. 24) vigil, voices need to be heard and understood clearly.”

The college hosted several open forums where students were able to voice concerns about the campus community and response to recent events. The forums were held on Oct. 7, 8 and 9.

“I understand that our country is at a critical juncture and that the ability to advocate for what we believe in is essential,” Link wrote. “Allegheny College is committed to the principles of freedom of speech and inquiry, while at the same time fostering responsibility and accountability in the exercise of these freedoms. Allegheny College has policies in place to support activism, advocacy, and expression.”

Link encouraged students to review aforementioned policies as well as the policy against discriminatory and sexual harassment before hosting another event akin to the Breonna Taylor Vigil. This email upset some members of the campus community.

“(Link) knew she had to do her job and send out an email,” Watson said. “What I did not appreciate is that within her email the first thing that she mentioned is that this is how you are supposed to handle things like this on campus instead of ‘I know what is going on in the world and this is bigger than you just trying to receive an education — this is real life stuff.’ There were no resources. Instead it was just ‘we stand with you, now here is how you are supposed to hold a vigil, here is how you are supposed to hold a protest, here is how you are supposed to hang up flyers. It was just like, ‘oh, ok.’”

Dukes mentioned that the email aligned with the college’s inclusion efforts.

“I co-wrote the email with (Thompson and Link),” Dukes said. “I approved the email and stand behind the message that we wrote. ... The email aligns with the college’s inclusivity efforts in that it expresses gratitude to the students on this campus that work tirelessly to support one another and make Allegheny a more inclusive and welcoming environment.”

Dukes mentioned that the email expresses support for BI-POC community members, acknowledges and raises awareness about ongoing racial injustice in this country as well as provides additional information about the college’s policies in place for activism, advocacy and expression.

Many of the vigil organizers decided not to be identified or quoted in publication.

“Other organizers do not want to be identified because we did not do the work to be recognized, we did it to heal,” Ruiz explained.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, Dukes was invited to the CILC Leadership Retreat. Student leaders talked with Dukes for over an hour and a half. While students expressed concerns, Ruiz compiled notes of the common sentiments and created a list of demands that she summarized at the end.

“It was very frustrating and disheartening, honestly,” Aaliyah Coleman, ’21, said of the CILC leadership conversation. “It was student after student just talking about how hurt they were by the administration.”

Coleman is co-president of Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students, co-founder of A Lady’s Place, and Program Coordinator for Young Born Leaders and serves as Senior Intern at the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access, and Social Justice Center.

Ruiz listed seven demands, of which the administration has met five. The college moved the student posters from the vigil to a more permanent space, acknowledged racial violence as a response to the vigil, acknowledged the life and death of Breonna Taylor, sent the “activism email” and apologized for using the term “Blacks” to describe Black individuals.

“We left that meeting with a list of demands, so they did not send that email on their own,” Ruiz said.

The college has not, to the knowledge of Ruiz, had a discussion with faculty specifically for their acknowledgement of current racial violence with their students. Nor has the administration acknowledged the accusations of forced hysterectomies in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention centers.

“I feel like we have been having the same conversations with the same people, and there has yet to be real, palpable change,” Manuel Soares, ’21, said.

Soares is the president of the Association for the Advancement of Black Culture, and has been involved in campus organizing and activism since his first year. On behalf of ABC, Soares sent out the vigil details to advertise for the gathering. Soares was also in attendance at the CILC Leadership Retreat.

“Because tenisons were heightened, Dukes was invited to the meeting,” Soares said. “It was a good 1.5 hours of saying ‘we need more and desire more,

you have to do more’ ... We are continuously seeing a trend of ‘we want this, we need this’ and they are listening, but not actually acting, and then students graduate. ... Since freshman year, I still do not see any actual palpable change.”

Watson agreed that the college needs to do more to create a safe and healthy environment for their students.

“Depending on who you ask there will always be more that could be done,” Watson said. “I completely understand that it is hard to please and accommodate everyone but also at the same time, when we all decided to come here and give our money to Allegheny, Allegheny told us they would try to make this the safest place as possible while we lived here. It is not a lot for students to ask them to live up to that expectation.”

Mental health should always be a priority, especially right now, Watson added.

“One of the biggest things that this school needs to focus on is making sure that they are providing resources that students can use to check on their mental health,” Watson said. “There is (COVID-19) and then people of color, more specifically Black people, are living another pandemic. ... We can all sit here and act like everything is okay, but we know it really is not.”

Watson, Coleman and Soares agreed that a space needs to be created on campus to have these conversations with one another or at least acknowledge the injustices that are occurring within the classroom.

“For me, I feel like there is a true lack of empathy from administration in general,” Coleman said. “They know that they have students on this campus who are Black people, and they do not take the time to ensure that their mental health is steady.”

Soares suggested that classes be created focused on inclusion and professors be evaluated on empathy.

“One, requiring more classes on identity, inclusivity and making sure professors have some sense of empathy and knowledge on students backgrounds,” Soares said. “Something we wanted to put in place ... a space where all the CILC (organizations), leaders and students can say what they want to say, issues they want to be addressed. CILC (organizations then) take those

comments to (administration).”

Soares also suggested more efforts could be made to build relationships between public safety officers and students of color specifically.

“Not that I’m saying I won’t do the work with administration,” Soares added. “I’m exhausted. What I want to see before having more conversations is for them to actually put in policies.”

Sydney Francis, ’21, is a double major in Community Justice and International Studies, a Bonner senior intern and has served on the board for ABC and Black Girl Magic.

“(The administration’s email was) ... very tone-deaf,” Francis stated. “You should not have to explain to multiple students why hearing that verdict was detrimental. Anything you have done now after the fact as a response, does not feel genuine.”

Soares cancelled the general body meeting and left it open as a space for students to bring their grievances, or even to have a conversation about the verdict, Francis added.

“In the midst of all of the police brutality and killings ... it was just sort of like, we did not get anything,” Francis said. “We had to basically cause a stir for (Link) to send an email.”

Francis also made a comparison to administration and academic departments’ response to the death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Sept. 18. The college collectively mourned her passing, and provided a space for those who wanted to mourn.

“I felt appreciated and noticed because our CILC leaders are just honestly amazing at the fact that they put something together so quickly and comfortably,” Coleman said of the vigil. “They truly wanted it to be a place where we could come and relax, and that is exactly how I felt.”

Coleman also mentioned that she actively shared the AC Students for Change survey that found many students expressed a need for more transparent communication between them and administration.

“I know that it is not a quick fix,” Coleman said. “I know this will not change before I graduate.”

Coleman acknowledged efforts already being made on campus for racial healing beyond administration.

“(Administration) cannot always rely on CILC leaders to

create space for white people to learn about us,” Coleman adds, “We can take on some of that (because) we love our culture and love to teach people about us.”

Dukes mentioned several changes to the college, including the addition of an anonymous Campus Culture and Climate Feedback form posted on the Dean for Institutional Diversity website.

“Senior leadership wants to connect with students authentically, listen deeply to their experiences, and work collaboratively to improve our campus climate and culture,” Dukes said. “We recently held three open forums on campus climate and culture. We were able to hear directly from students about their experiences on campus and we are using that information to make recommendations to the appropriate offices and individuals that oversee areas of concern that were identified in these forums.”

Dukes added that the college would like to hold more sessions similar to the open forums and collaborate with ASG to regularly host listening circles.

“We see creating opportunities for students to talk with senior leadership directly as a way of amplifying students’ voices,” Dukes said. “We hear BIPOC students when they express that they do not see themselves represented in the conversations happening across campus and that our campus community should be engaging in meaningful conversations about racism. The Office of Institutional Diversity is launching a weekly dialogue on current events and social justice with the goal of raising awareness about systemic racism and racial injustice and encouraging our campus community to reflect and act.”

Coleman suggested that students applying to the college could write an essay on racial injustices, or curriculum could have a class that is mandatory on racial healing as well.

“Every year that I have been at Allegheny, there has been usage of the n-word by a white student,” Coleman stated. “Within the school, what are you doing that could be a part of the admission process to check the knowledge of their racial understanding?”

ASG

from page 1

“If (the clubs) need to do something or they want to do something then they have the access,” Tart said. “For example, Knitting Club has shown some dissatisfaction with the inability to get money and I think that’s a very fair and just thing.”

To end Tart’s report, the senate decided that clubs would be allotted \$175 until the budget hearing dates.

Director of Organizational Development Bennett Westfall,

’23, announced that he is collaborating with Director of Communication and Press Bree Gray, ’23 to make posters to put in the Henderson Campus Center that include information about voting times and locations.

After Westfall, Co-Director of Student Affairs Genesis Pena, ’22, announced that she and her committee will begin filling up product dispensaries in the Campus Center.

Director of Communication and Press, Bree Gray, ’22, announced that classes can create an Instagram account for their class for information and other announcements. College Relations and ASG are also collaborating to create GIFs for Instagram.

Gray finished her report by announcing that Public Safety now has an official Instagram account and will be holding office hours on Fridays from 1:00 p.m.

to 2:00 p.m.

Following Gray, Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs William Walker, ’22, reported that he plans to have a green box program in place for Module B of Spring 2021.

“We are going to spend basically every spare second trying to figure out ways to mitigate it, so our endgame is to retire the token system and convert fully to the GET mobile app,” Walker said. “So if you’re someone that likes to stock up on tokens and get like 50 green boxes, well, I’m sorry.”

Continuing his report, Walker also announced that recycling bins will be put around the campus grounds outside.

“You (won’t) have to walk to a building and walk all over campus to throw away a water bottle and you also (wouldn’t) have to throw it in the trash,” Walker explained.

Walker also stated in his report that Sustainability Coordinator Kelly Boulton suggested ASG help promote the idea of having a sustainability seminar during Orientation or Welcome Weekend.

Lucas Biniewski, ’23, raised a concern about how the cleaning of green boxes would be done to make sure COVID-19 was not spread.

Walker explained that the cleaning processes in place were

enough to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

“The school would not even consider (reintroducing green boxes) if there was (a possibility of spreading COVID-19),” Walker said.

After some more discussion, ASG moved into class reports. The classes of 2021 and 2022 announced that they appointed more senators to be sworn in.

Following that, Vice President Patricia Gaxiola, ’21, reported that she hopes to integrate healing circles, which are akin to diversity training, across all departments at Allegheny. Healing circles are already implemented in the athletic department and an organization in Meadville with positive responses, Gaxiola said.

After Gaxiola, President Abdikadir Lugundi, ’21, announced that two break days have been added to the Spring 2021 academic calendar: Wednesday, March 10 and Tuesday, April 3. Lugundi reported that Registrar Ian Binnington may come as a guest speaker to further discuss the academic calendar.

Lugundi continued his report by announcing that he and Gaxiola plan to meet with President Hilary Link on Friday, Oct. 30 to discuss student and administrative relations.

Following Lugundi, ASG moved into unfinished business.

To continue a previously unfinished discussion about fire pits on campus, Walker explained that basic fire safety is important to take into consideration when deciding where to put the fire pits and how they should be monitored.

“My advice as someone who has seen this happen in the area is to make sure that there’s someone around that’s kind of monitoring (the fire),” Walker said. “You do not want to put those close to buildings at all and I’d recommend to also make sure there’s no leaf litter either.”

Tart proposed to include the Volunteer Firefighter Club to help watch the fires in exchange for compensation.

“Including (volunteer firefighters) would be a great asset to the social community of Allegheny College,” Tart said. “I think not only that, it’ll push groups together. I know one firefighter on our campus, but I would love to get to know some more (in case my house ever burned down).”

After some more discussion about the inclusion of fire pits on campus and crosswalk safety, ASG decided to cancel the GA meeting for Tuesday, Nov. 3 due to election day conflicts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Allegheny Student Government holds weekly general assembly meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 7:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of ASG

CPDC focuses on students’ mental health during isolation

By **BREE GRAY**
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The Counseling and Personal Development Center works closely with the Allegheny College Health Agency to provide counseling services to students who are either in quarantine or isolation due to potential COVID-19 exposure.

“We will call, text and video chat just to check in with the students even if it is on the weekends or after hours,” Trae Yeckley, director of the CPDC said. “We know that quarantine and isolation can be very frustrating and very lonely so we do not mind going that extra step to make sure that they know that they are not alone.”

All counseling sessions and check-ins are remote for quar-



(CPDC) was consistent in making sure that I was okay. I had a very positive experience in quarantine ... I would have liked to be able to know what food I was getting, but otherwise the college did an amazing job.”

—RILEY WYCHOCK
Class of 2023

antined students. Yeckley added that the CPDC staff tries to alleviate as much stress as possible for the students, especially quarantined or isolated students.

“During move-in, we were present, especially with first-years who needed to quarantine in Edwards (Hall) for a few days,” Yeckley said. “We checked in on them and provided resources for them — not even necessarily just counseling, but just a sense of like ‘hey do you have any questions?’”

While in quarantine, the CPDC hosted game nights for the students to alleviate stress, Yeckley added. Once students were released from quarantine, a staff member from the CPDC accompanied the student to their dormitory in case they were unfamiliar with the cam-

pus, Yeckley added.

The CPDC did not just focus on students in quarantine during move-in, but also any student that has been quarantined or put into isolation this semester.

“My mental health during quarantine was alright,” Emily Spitz, ’23, said. “It was a mentally exhausting week of schoolwork, but the quarantine itself did not affect my mental health much. That being said, I began to feel quite lonely around Thursday, but by that point I knew I would be out soon.”

Spitz was in quarantine after leaving campus to attend a wedding. She was quarantined for six days — Sunday to Friday.

“This was a week that I was extremely busy with assignments for my classes,” Spitz said. “It was not particularly boring for me since I had a lot of work to do. ... The counseling center reached out to me via email on the Thursday of my quarantine, so day five. They emailed to check in with me because they know quarantine can be difficult.”

Spitz encouraged students feeling lonely to stay connected despite quarantine.

“I would advise people to call their friends and family when

they feel lonely or stressed in quarantine,” Spitz said. “I did this a lot and it helped greatly.”

Spitz also recalled receiving a bag with activities such as a crossword puzzle book on the first day of quarantine. The bag also contained CPDC’s business card for her to contact if needed, she added.

“We also have the 24/7 line, but it is nice to have someone check in,” Yeckley said. “We ask ‘how is it going over there?’ or ‘how is your homework?’ ... Just to be that extra person so they do not feel quite as alone.”

The CPDC staff try to meet with the quarantined students at the students’ convenience, Yeckley said. The staff work outside of traditional operation hours to accommodate the student’s schedule, including weekends and evenings.

“Especially for our students in quarantine, it is the weekends and the evenings that are the hardest because that is when friends are gathering for meals or doing homework together,” Yeckley said, “It is kind of nice and it breaks up the monotony of the day for us to reach out.”

“The college said that if I were to just go home and grab something that I would have been fine, but since I went to

a group event I had to quarantine,” Riley Wychock, ’23, said. “Overall for me, quarantine was just really boring. Once my schoolwork was done, I had nothing to do. People would stand in the Edwards parking lot ... Seeing people through the window was fun.”

Wychock also attended a wedding and was placed in quarantine upon arrival back to the campus last week. She was quarantined for five days.

“We were not allowed to interact with people on our floor and even the bathrooms were one person at a time — very limited contact,” Wychock added. “This is self-regulated but everyone, as far as I am aware, followed this rule. Everyone (in quarantine) did a really good job at staying away from each other.”

The physical distance and lack of social interaction could be lonely at times, but Wychock mentioned that she frequently FaceTimed her friends to occupy her time.

“There were definitely moments of loneliness and (fear of missing out) — major FOMO,” Wychock said. “Tell your friends to be prepared for constant FaceTime calls because that connection is all you have

to the outside world.”

Wychock compared the experience she had with the campus-wide quarantine to her recent quarantine in Edwards.

“It was definitely a lot lonelier this time around, but it was more short-lived so I was not as worried,” Wychock said.

Wychock recalled her anticipation and excitement to leave quarantine and reunite with her friends as well. She also mentioned that the CPDC did contact her during quarantine to check in.

“(Yeckley) emailed me early on in quarantine to say ‘hey, how are you doing?’” Wychock said. “They also offered to call and check in (on me) and asked me to let them know how I was doing ... I told them that I was doing pretty good right now and did not need them to check up on me.”

Wychock recalled having received several calls and texts during quarantine from the CPDC.

“(CPDC) was consistent in making sure that I was okay,” Wychock added. “I had a very positive experience in quarantine ... I would have liked to be able to know what food I was getting, but otherwise the college did an amazing job.”

Costumes and cultural appropriation

By **BREE GRAY**
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Each Halloween, people dress up in costumes and celebrate festivities. While students select their costumes to wear this weekend, Dean for Institutional Diversity Kristen Dukes reminds them to be respectful of one another’s culture and to be mindful of the costume that they select.

“As we get closer to Halloween, it is important that we are mindful of cultural appropriation and how we can celebrate together while showing respect to the diversity of people who are a part of the Allegheny community,” Dukes wrote in an email to the campus community on Oct. 21. “This message is to encourage us all to be proactive in thinking about our roles in sustaining an inclusive, caring, and respectful environment.”

Dukes mentioned that cultural appropriation has been an ongoing issue at the college and encouraged students to focus on the impact that their costumes may have on members of the campus community.

“In the past, there have been issues of cultural appropriation on campus that have distressed some Allegheny community members,” Dukes wrote. “Cultural appropriation, in its most basic definition, is the adoption of some specific elements of one culture by a different cultural group. The term most frequently refers to a dominant culture misusing or negatively representing elements of a minority culture, often by taking these elements out of their original context.”

In 2010, students wore Blackface around the campus dressed as Lil Wayne and Kid Cudi for Halloween. To address this, the Association for the Advancement of Black Culture hosted a “Blackface Assembly” in the Henderson Campus Center to discuss what had occurred. The main topic of the assembly was addressing several Halloween costumes where students used Blackface and even wore stereotypically costumes of Latinx individuals. Students remarked in the assembly that these actions were culturally insensitive, offensive and racist.

“(The student in Blackface) was ducking away from any Black people he saw,” Clay Grego, ’13, told the Campus in 2010. “So that to me, his trying not to be seen or avoiding people, marks his being ashamed ... I am not sorry for their feeling guilty or bad because I feel like that is where the learning takes place. That is where you mark where in time you start to make progress.”

For students who are unfamiliar with the term “cultural appropriation” and how it applies to Halloween costumes, Dukes provided a video that identified what cultural appropriation is in terms of cultural references in costume selection.

“The more you learn about the world and the people in it, the more you realize how diverse it is,” MTV News’ Franchesca Ramsey said. “So where is the line between cul-

tural exchange, appreciation and appropriation? Why does it matter? ... Cultural appropriation comes from dominant groups borrowing from marginalized groups who face oppression or have been stigmatized for their cultural practices throughout history.”

The video mentions several hairstyles that have recently appeared in popular culture, such as cornrows and braids, which have ethnic roots. These hairstyles have also been utilized in Halloween costumes despite causing significant stigmatization against Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

“It is great that you find another culture beautiful, but in order to show that you truly love it, you need to have respect and understanding,” Ramsey said. “If you really appreciate something then you should respect it, instead of assuming that you can use it however you want. ... If you know someone from that background and they do not mind your tattoo, costume or whatever that is cool, but remember that one person does not speak for all members of that community.”

Ramsey mentions that cultural appropriation does not just occur among caucasian individuals, but can occur among any race when individuals choose to use elements from another culture in their clothing, hairstyle or costume.

Dukes wrote in the Oct. 21 email that students can always ask if they are unsure of what constitutes cultural appropriation before deciding to wear the costume around campus.

Director of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Social Justice Center Angelica Perez-Johnston encouraged students to reach out to the IDEAS Center if they have any questions regarding cultural appropriation this Halloween.

“The line between cultural exchange, cultural appreciation, and cultural appropriation is sometimes difficult to navigate,” Dukes wrote. “The challenge to each of us is to take the initiative to educate ourselves about cultural differences so we can exercise our creativity in ways that respect the humanity of all of our community members.”

Dukes encouraged students to talk to each other to decide if their costumes are offensive and to address their reasoning behind wearing the costume.

“Allegheny affirms its commitment to the principles of freedom of speech and inquiry, while at the same time fostering responsibility and accountability in the exercise of these freedoms,” Dukes wrote. “Cultures are very diverse, and many ways of dress and symbols have significant traditional, cultural, and sacred meaning. Using cultural elements out of context can feel very dismissive and reductionist to your fellow community members.”

THE CAMPUS

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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.

Oct. 27, 2020
Theft
David V. Wise
Center

Does Canvas let our professors know too much about us?

By **LUDIA KOBLYUK**
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The pandemic has brought new challenges for many students, including adapting to remote learning and the frequent use of various online tools, such as the Canvas website. Many college students are probably familiar with the Canvas website as it is heavily used in the communication between students/instructors and in grading all assignments, exams, etc.

What many students are not aware of, however, is that our instructors have complete statistics of each student’s involvement with their website: this includes how often we view their page, a general time frame spent on assignments and students’ participation. This makes me wonder whether our instructors are using these numbers as a determinant of our grades within our courses.

“The Statistics page displays statistics for all Commons resources shared by

users at your institution,” the Canvas Q&A page states. “Statistics include the name of the resource, the author, the author’s email address, the approved content status, the number of times a resource has been favorited, the number of times a resource has been downloaded and a link to the source file in Canvas.”

Some students are concerned about the sanctity of their privacy on Canvas.

Two first-years, Lucia Jueguen, ’24, and Katie Perez, ’24, discussed their feeling about said privacy.

“I kinda knew about this already, but didn’t know they knew that much,” Jueguen said.

Along similar lines, Perez also described her feelings about using Canvas for class

“It doesn’t exactly show how much effort you’re actually putting into the class, which I dont think is necessarily fair,” Perez said. “It also can be an invasion of privacy.”

Transitioning to all-online work brings a new pressure towards academics, with everything online having a definitive answer with no leniency in regards to time. For instance, an assignment due by 11:59 p.m., is considered “late” if handed in at the exact time. Although many instructors are understanding when it comes to a few minutes after, it will leave a stain on the overall assignment which will be “late” and will statistically be marked as such.

Knowing that professors have this information raises the question of whether or not they will use this as a deciding factor in determining our grades. If so, the students would be losing out on a sense of communication amongst their professors in explaining their viewership and the time spent on specific assessments. For the students that always leave tabs open for weeks on end or download the same document various times (such as myself), we should be weary of the possibility that all this is being taken into account and that for those that compare our work to statis-

tics, it could be heavily skewed.

I then question if our professors have the ability to share this information with whomever they deem appropriate, such as the Learning Commons and other faculty members?

With this knowledge being brought to light, it leaves many students feeling vulnerable like our professors know a bit too much about our involvement in courses. I also personally feel it to be violating and one-sided with them knowing this information about us, while we are left in the dark.

Some semi-positive aspects about this information, however, is that it insures academic honesty amongst students on assignments/exams, which is trying to resemble the “real-world” as much as it can. Although, within the “real-world,” professors do not usually hold a stopwatch or timer when students hand assignments in, except for exams.

Also, a professor would be able to see if students struggle understanding specific concepts from the amount of times

they have viewed an assignment and the amount of time spent on it, which allows them to reintroduce the concepts within their lessons.

Why isn’t this information accessible for students, then? For struggling students, the stats of their involvement could be a telling sign of how they can improve upon themselves and better their overall learning, whether they need to spend more time on the course or participate a little more. Maybe the studying method they currently use is not working for them.

With all this being said, our stats should not be a big secret kept away from us, and instead should be available to us, as students, as well as our professors.

This article is in no means an attack on the instructors, but a means of informing the creators of the setbacks that are then set on the students and how to remove the one-sided aspect of it in hopes to benefit us all.

Steelers-Browns rivalry yet to resurrect

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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A high-stakes rivalry game occurred in Pittsburgh Sunday, Oct. 18, as the Cleveland Browns rolled into town in an attempt to extend their four-game win streak against the hometown Steelers.

Little did the Browns know they were in for complete decimation as the Steelers won by a landslide score of 38-7.

For the first time since 1994, the Browns headed into this game 4-1. After an abysmal first game against the Ravens, the Browns were on a hot streak with all the confidence in their direction. Their winning streak was shot down after a well-coached and talented defense of the 4-0 Steelers manhandled Baker and the entire team.

The biggest concern for the Browns throughout the duration of the game was third-year starting quarterback Baker Mayfield. Coming into the week with a rib injury against the Colts the previous week, Mayfield looked awful throwing for 10-18 with one touchdown and two interceptions. Although these numbers aren't the worst a quarterback has put up, the tone of the game was set early when Mayfield’s first pass was intercepted by Steelers safety Minka Fitzpatrick and taken the other way for 6 points.

From there the team seemed to crumble, finding themselves down 10-0 early in the first quarter. The only touchdown of the game for the Browns

was near the end of the first half when Mayfield was able to connect with wide receiver Rashard Higgins to make it a 24-7 game.

Unfortunately for Cleveland, it was too little too late. With a high-powered defense in the Steelers, the Browns couldn’t accumulate any more points and the game was in the power of Pittsburgh the whole way.

It’s hard to not think everything was concerning for Cleveland in this game, but another flaw that stood out was the offensive line. Earning their stripes through the first five weeks of the season to be named one of the most dangerous lines in the league, Mayfield was sacked a season-high four times while being hit seven times.

The double stunts and constant blitzes from Defensive Coordinator Keith Butler worked immaculately, as they were able to constantly put pressure on Mayfield from an offensive line that has been near-perfect all year. It is worth noting that the Browns were short-staffed on the line, not having one of their best linemen, Wyatt Teller. However, injuries are part of the game and the Browns could not handle the rushing attack of the Steelers.

The Steelers’ defense was the star of the show, only allowing a total of 220 yards, seven points and racking up two interceptions with four sacks. The Browns’ offense looked helpless, not being able to get anything going. The No. 1 rushing offense coming into the game amounted a total 75 yards, their lowest of the season. And the passing game tal-

lied only 145 yards.

As mentioned earlier, Mayfield was playing with a rib injury that affected his play on the field. It was noticeable that he was playing in pain, but that’s no excuse for not competing. If a player is too hurt to positively contribute to the team at the level they need to, then they should not be in the game.

These two teams have had one of the most well-known rivalries in all of sports. However, it hasn’t seemed like a rivalry since the Browns moved back to Cleveland in 1999. With the Browns having an atrocious 6-36-1 record against the Steelers since returning, it doesn’t even seem like a rivalry anymore.

The glory days for the Browns in this matchup haven’t come since the 1980s and the 1960s before that. Since then, it has been a runaway train for the Steelers, and with Sunday’s game of domination, it doesn’t seem to end anytime soon.

In the Browns’ defense, a total of 12 head coaches in the last 21 years compared to the Steelers’ two since 1992 has not helped. Lackluster game plans and inadequate scheming has ultimately put the Browns in a position to lose.

With new Head Coach Kevin Stefanski posting a positive record through the first six games of the season, his attitude and work ethic could be the Browns’ saving grace. There’s no denying what happened Sunday did not pose a good look, but there is also no denying that 4-2 is more than a respectable record, especially considering the team being the Browns.

These two teams will face off again for the last game of the season on another Sunday match Jan. 3. It will be interesting to see if Stefanski, Mayield and the Browns can flip the switch and figure out how to beat the Steelers in what will most likely be another important division game.

Letter to the editors



Golf ball photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons; devil horns courtesy of Needpix.com; angel wings and halo courtesy of thenounproject.com.

By **SARAH PILLITTIERI**
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Dear Campus editors,

I am writing in response to an article that was published on Oct. 8, entitled “A critical perspective on golf.” We are all entitled to our own opinions, yes, but I think that much of what was touched upon in this article is more of an attack on individuals, and for what reason? To paint every golfer and the industry itself with the broad brush of racism is at the very least close-minded, and, at its worst, serves to incite anger rather than trying to persuade them to agree with the points you have made.

Blaming the whole golf industry for the “ostentatious bourgeois wastefulness and patriarchal white supremacist ideas underlying the imagery of the well-manicured lawn” is pretty far-fetched. Are baseball, soccer, football and other sporting complexes not held to the same standard? They also take up a large share of land and use pesticides and fertilizers to maintain such a manicured look. Meanwhile, the Allegheny golf teams’ home course, the Country Club of Meadville, is part of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. This helps to guide environmental planning, habitat management, chemical use

safety and reduction, as well as water management and conservation on golf courses. Meadville is one of several hundred courses that are working to reduce the overall harm to the environment, one course at a time.

Yes, golf can be a very expensive sport to play. But what about all of the equipment, team fees, travel fees, and memberships that are required for any other sport if you play at a higher than beginner level? The clothing, while it may seem, how you stated, “arguably tasteless, (and reflects the) sort of bland, upper-middle-class, clean-cut, conformist standard of what is considered presentable that has become almost synonymous with whiteness,” just reinforced a narrow-minded view that clothing is representative of someone’s background.

Where this article really lost me is when you stated that “golf as a cultural practice is inherently classist and does a lot to support the exact sort of elitist attitudes that perpetuate racism.” This groups all golfers into a singular stereotype that is represented by a select few, and that is simply not true. A blanket statement that the whole golf industry is full of classist, elitist, racist white supremacists is lost within the acrimony of the readers who either play golf or know someone who enjoys this leisure activity.

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—KYLE CHANDLER
Class of 2022

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—SARAH PILLITTIERI
Class of 2023

[SCIENCE]

Neuromarketing project assists in creating COVID-19 safety plan

‘Judge the Nudge’ influences students to make smarter social decisions

By ROMAN HLADIO
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On Oct. 6, Gaia Rancati, visiting professor of marketing and neuromarketing, pitched a project to her neuromarketing class with the assistance of Priyanka Chakraborty, visiting assistant professor of economics.

Seeking to give their students experience, the professors found a way to implement their fields of study into current issues Allegheny College is facing in regards to COVID-19 safety regulations being followed by the college population.

“We are in the pandemic — this is kind of a big thing we have to consider,” Rancati said. “So I had an idea. I wanted to use the principle of behavioral economics to make (my) student(s) understand how we can nudge all the other students to follow the rules.”

The goal of the neuromarketing field is to study how people interact with the world and influence them towards a wanted outcome by applying neuroscience tools to marketing strategies, according to Rancati.

“I can try to understand if the product will be successful through traditional marketing research — surveys, questionnaires, focus groups and so on — or I (can) try to use some neuroscience tools, like eye tracking, heart rate (tracking), skin conductance, fMRI, EEG (to determine) if these product will be successful,” Rancati said. “Because these neuroscience tools are unconscious, you can’t lie.”

Once data is collected, neuromarketers create nudges — a type of messaging used to influence behavior and decision making — to attempt to change the result of an interaction or sway people towards or away from

certain options. Rancati referenced hanging a poster near a stairwell that shows how many calories someone burns for each stair as a simple nudge. Other nudges can be as subliminal as placing healthier food near the front of the lines in a dining hall, influencing patrons to eat healthier.

“On campus, the rules are top-down — you receive the rules, you have to follow the rules,” Rancati said. “But our brain doesn’t work like this. If I don’t understand that these rules are important, I will not follow the rules. This is science. So I said, ‘why don’t we ask the students what we can do to make students follow the rules?’”

The project — called “Judge the Nudge” — required neuromarketing students to research and present nudges to Rancati, Chakraborty and others on Oct. 20. The best nudges will be im-

plemented on campus throughout the rest of the semester and potentially into the future, according to Rancati.

“The goal of one student is presenting (their nudge) to a conference,” Rancati said. “But these students are also hired as research assistants, so they will be part of the lab.”

Rancati explained that the project was a fantastic starting point for neuromarketing at Allegheny.

“I came here to open, for the first time in Allegheny history, the marketing position,” Rancati said. “I’m the first professor of marketing. So I’m trying to build up, first of all, a neuromarketing lab, and I bought all the equipment.”

Within the neuromarketing lab, Rancati hopes to eventually have a more permanent lab set-up with more professional equipment.

“Right now, it’s five computers ... and I have also bought software licenses for five students,” Rancati said. “So the students, through their computers, can work on the study. Plus, I have a sensor that can be moved (around) — it’s not a big thing. So far, I didn’t buy the EEG — that is the electroencephalography — because we need real space.”

Electroencephalography consists of connecting multiple sensors to the head of an individual with the purpose of monitoring abnormal brain waves and electronic signals, according to John Hopkins Medicine.

Rancati explained that student participation is important to her throughout both the project and the lab.

“What I can tell you for sure is that the student will be the protagonist for sure,” Rancati said. “Essentially I was outside in my

backyard with (Chakraborty) — she has a PhD in behavioral economics — and I said, ‘You know what? I’m teaching neuromarketing, you are teaching behavioral economics. Why don’t we do something together? Why don’t we do something that makes sense for the student?’”

With complications of starting a new lab on campus, finding space for said lab and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Rancati has many challenges in front of her, but she expressed hope for the future.

“When COVID-19 stops — hopefully — we will have a real space, a real room,” Rancati said. “What matters in life, though, is not a space. It’s people that believe in the project. As long as I have people that believe in the project, I have the lab. When there is a goal, when there are values and these values are common, you have a team.”

The science of fall

Professor Venesky explains what occurs when leaves change color

By BROOK WRIGHT
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According to a 2013 study conducted by international research and data analytic group YouGov, autumn is the favorite season among American citizens.

Although northwestern Pennsylvania has already passed its peak of fall foliage, according to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, a variety of colors can still be seen around Allegheny’s campus.

While some people may believe that the changing color of the leaves is a signal of the tree dying, Matthew Venesky, professor of biology, explained that this notion is far from the truth.

“(This is) absolutely false,” Venesky said. “If the trees were dying they would be falling over.”

Professor Venesky currently teaches about investigative approaches in biology and physiological ecology. He amended that while the tree itself is not dying, it is losing part of itself.

In response to the shortening days and lack of light, trees sacrifice their own chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is the pigment that makes leaves green. Trees use chlorophyll in combination with sunlight and carbon dioxide for a process called photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is the process by which plants make their own food for energy.

“Trees make this decision,” Venesky said. “It’s a cost-benefit decision, and it costs too much money to continue to make chlorophyll to food. So what they do is start to break down chlorophyll, and when the chlorophyll leaves the trees, a bunch of different colors and pigments are

left and those are what make us see the really pretty oranges, yellows and reds.”

Venesky provided an analogy to better explain the process.

“I love to eat food, and I love to eat tacos and burritos,” Venesky said. “Those are my favorite types of foods. My (favorite) place that I like to go to is Chipotle. There’s a little place in town that serves Mexican food and I don’t like it a ton. I’m not gonna name it ... but I don’t like them nearly as much as Chipotle. So the cost benefit analysis for me is do I spend the time, money and gas to drive to Erie to get Chipotle, or do I just settle for the less desirable resource in town which is going to be the local restaurant.”

In terms of trees, Venesky explained that light is their burrito. All types of organisms make these trade-offs, whether

conscious or unconscious, he explained.

“The veins that carry fluids into and out of the leaf gradually close off as a layer of cells forms at the base of each leaf,” according to a USDA United States Forest Service webpage. “These clogged veins trap sugars in the leaf and promote production of anthocyanin. Once this separation layer is complete and the connecting tissues are sealed off, the leaf is ready to fall,”

Anthocyanin is one of the compounds that causes the color changes, and causes color in things like blueberries and plums, according to the USDA website.

Venesky also discussed the ramifications of climate change on this season. When seasons shift and the weather becomes warmer, this throws some processes off track that are not

thought about.

Professor Venesky spoke about the small streams that harbor many different types of organisms that rely on the leaves that fall into them. “If we are seeing a shift in any event such as climate change, it is going to throw off all these different interactions for organisms in streams and outside of them that depend on the energy inputs from leaves or anything like that.” This then affects the cycle of that ecosystem.

“We would call that a cascading effect,” Venesky said. This type of interaction is more commonly referred to as the butterfly effect in pop culture.

A “Yale Ask Sarah” thread talks about the fall season as well and how it has been delayed. This thread calls for more research on how climate change has affected fall. It compares the season to

Vivaldi’s “Autumn” from “The Four Seasons,” remarking that the addition of jazz melodies to the classic edition is representative of how fall may change in the future.

Another thing that may cause issues for Earth during fall is the way people discard their fallen leaves. Instead of disposing leaves in the trash system, or burning them, Venesky suggests that composting leaves is beneficial to the environment.

“If you dispose of leaves in other methods, say, landfills, that will have a pretty negative effect,” Venesky said. “Because of the way decomposition happens underground, it’s actually probably going to increase greenhouse gases.”

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Housekeepers union seeks hazard pay, additional equipment

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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This past week, contract negotiations began between St. Moritz Building Services and Workers United Union, which represents the St. Moritz workers.

The 2016 round of negotiations inspired the creation of the Allegheny Coalition for Labor, a student-led group that works to promote respect and awareness of workers.

“We began around 2016 during the contract negotiations between the St. Moritz workers’ union and St. Moritz to show students support (and) to send the message to the (Allegheny) administration that we as students care about how the workers are treated because they hadn’t gotten increased pay in many years,” said Shula Bronner, ’22, co-chair of the Coalition for Labor. “In the past couple years we’ve done worker appreciation lunches, and now that negotia-

tions are happening again, we’re really ramping up to support them.”

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, additional disinfecting procedures have been put in place across campus.

“We have to clean the bathrooms twice per day during our shift,” said Patty Ferry, union representative and housekeeper in Ravine-Narvik Hall. “Usually I’ll do the toilets and check the sinks, but then you spray with the disinfectant. I leave it on. That’s only the second (time) around. I (also) spray the handles and the doorways the kids come (through).”

To ensure that workers have enough time to complete their rounds, St. Moritz has adjusted the cleaning schedules and assignments at Allegheny, hiring new personnel if needed.

“I had Brooks also, but we just had bidding, and they took Brooks off to make the extra cleaning easier,” Ferry said. “There were three of us that had

Brooks and then we went to our own buildings. It did make it easier for us to get our second trip around ... They did hire one girl today (Oct. 22). I believe there’s more, but they have to be tested (for COVID-19).”

With additional workers comes a need for additional equipment, something that even current workers are sometimes struggling to find.

“(Some housekeepers) feel we need more hazard pay and more protective gear than what we have,” said Jennifer Garrett, union representative and third-shift housekeeper at the David V. Wise Center. “Some of them feel that we should be able to double-glove, because sometimes we don’t even have the gloves in the office. (Also) that they should be providing the masks, that we shouldn’t have gone out and gotten our own.”

Ferry noted that there already were some supplies available for workers, but agreed that there were sometimes shortages.

“They provide the paper masks — they did have some down there (that) have a filter in them, those are new down there,” Ferry said. “The Clorox wipes they got more — they’re hard to come by. They provide (for the workers in) Allegheny Hall and Edwards, the two buildings that they use for the students (that need to be quarantined) ... the suit, if they choose to wear the gloves, the respirators ... I mean the supplies, they come and they go. There’s a lot of people that we work with.

Ferry noted that hazard pay for working in Allegheny’s residence halls during the pandemic is expected to be on the agenda for the negotiations.

“The two people that do work in those two buildings (Allegheny and Edwards) do get extra pay,” Ferry said. “But as for the rest of the people, not yet.”

Given that the negotiations are private, Allegheny College and its students do not have a direct seat at the table when it

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We have our Campus Statement of Community, which says that we believe that everyone should be treated with respect ... that includes all members of the campus community, especially workers.”

—SHULA BRONNER
Class of 2022

comes to influencing the final contract. But according to Bronner, that does not mean that the college has no contribution to the discussion.

“We do have an impact on Allegheny’s message to St. Moritz when they renew their contract,” Bronner said. “We have our Campus Statement of Community, which says that we believe that everyone should be treated with respect ... that includes all members of the campus community, especially workers. We believe that they should be treated fairly and that they should be paid fairly. My message to the Allegheny administration would

just be to make sure that even though you are not directly hiring the workers, you’re contracting with St. Moritz, (and you should) make sure those values are shared.”

Beyond advocacy, Bronner also asked that students can help by paying attention to those around them.

“I think even just saying, ‘Thank you’ if you see them around, saying, ‘Hi,’ or ‘Good morning’ (can help),” Bronner said. “Also making sure to take care of shared spaces (and) not leave them a mess on purpose because you know you’re not the one cleaning up.

Ferrence, Roae face off in forum moderated by the Meadville Tribune

By **TAYLOR HAYES**
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The second 6th District State Representative Candidates Forum was held Tuesday, Oct. 27. It was moderated by the Meadville Tribune. Matthew Ferrence, the democratic candidate, is challenging incumbent Pennsylvania State Representative Brad Roae, a Republican. Each candidate had two minutes to answer each question and two minutes for a closing statement.

Roae opened the forum with the discussion of representing the majority of people. He discussed the tax set-up in Pennsylvania.

“All those taxes automatically rise due to inflation, so there is no need to raise them,” Roae said.

Roae highlighted his way of voting by voting distinctly for the local area’s majority opinion. He discussed how he grew up in the local area and truly rep-

resents the local people and what they want.

Ferrence’s opening statement touched on how he grew up in an identical county to Crawford in Ohio. It had been left by big corporations and it also has a college in the area. He discussed how he is running not as a Democrat, but a representative of all the people of Crawford and Erie County.

“We rank in Crawford County 56 out of 67 counties in per-capita income,” Ferrence said. “One in four people in Meadville live in poverty, and the state will be a big help.”

After each candidate gave their opening statements, the candidates moved on to the first question.

“How can the general assembly best help small rural school districts, which are gradually losing students?,” the moderator asked. “And how can it help them get through the financial challenges that they face this year and in the coming years?”

Roae answered first. He discussed how much state funding covers school budgets.

“Locally, about 50% is covered by state funding,” Roae said.

He went on to discuss that locally, schools are receiving more money than the average. Roae discussed how in 2016, the PA House passed a Fair Funding formula that increases school funding. Roae does not support further changing school funding.

Ferrence tackled this question as well. He discussed how Pennsylvania has one of the worst school funding policies in the country. Pennsylvania school funding is apportioned by ZIP code. He wants the funding to be distributed evenly throughout the state.

“Crawford Central pays \$1.6 million to pay for students who are going to a cyber charter school,” Ferrence said.

The second question was, “what forms of checks and balances are appropriate when it comes to the governor’s emergency powers?,” the moderator asked. “And what role should the general assembly play as a check on executive authority during extended disaster declarations?”

Ferrence took this question first. He discussed Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and hyper-partisan bills that were put

forward to be vetoed instead of bipartisan bills that would have been put through.

“A good example is, as early as April, there were bills coming across to open the state up completely,” Ferrence said.

He argued that the legislature didn’t work together.

Roae stated that when the legislature passes a resolution to end a state of emergency, the governor is required to issue a proclamation ending the state of emergency. However, that didn’t happen with the governor’s COVID-19 emergency declaration, and Roae feels that keeping the state of emergency up was a bad decision. He thinks it hurt Pennsylvania economically.

“That caused an extra 500,000 people to be unemployed,” Roae said.

He says without the pressure from Roae and other representatives, it wouldn’t have been lifted.

“Many school districts and municipal governments are facing revenue shortfalls as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,” the moderator asked. “What efforts would you support, if any, to help them in recouping their lost finances?”

Roae went first. He said that there is a lot of discussion on how much money was lost, but also on how much money was saved.

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(Governor Wolf’s state of emergency due to COVID-19) caused an extra 500,000 people to be unemployed.”

—BRAD ROAE
Representative (R)
PA State House District 6

“The heating of the buildings was turned way down, the water wasn’t running and the sewer wasn’t being used,” Roae said.

Roae went on to say that a lot of spending went down and a lot of the expenses went down.

“You get what you pay for,” Ferrence said. “Sometimes, you have to invest in schools in order to have the good schools that I think we need to.”

Ferrence continued to discuss how much they had to spend in order to make sure students have the best education they can while following pandemic health guidelines. He has a plan that would lower the taxes of 86% of the residents of District 2 and would tax the wealthy, that would generate \$2 billion in the first year.

The conversation continued to touch on incomes and taxes. Ferrence’s plan proposes raising the minimum wage. Roae discussed that during the lockdown, people’s wages were \$0. Roae also said that 1.5% of jobs

pay minimum wage jobs and half of the employees are high school and college students that work part-time.

Ferrence ended by stating that the 6th District is a complicated district. Ferrence said he is running as a candidate for everyone in the district and everyone that feels that their problems have not been helped. He said he wants to be an advocate for the district where people are being ignored.

Roae’s ending statement focused on how he has done a good job representing the area. He said he votes according to how the majority of the district would vote. He also said he has only missed one voting day to meet with federal officials. He discussed his business degree as an asset in his job when looking at financial statements.

Voting is on the local ballot and the candidates ended by highlighting the importance of going out and voting on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

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WARC returns with antenna difficulties and new health protocols

By **CHRISTOPHER WAKIM**
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WARC — a volunteer-based radio station run exclusively by students — has been broadcasting to the general Meadville area since 1964. Listeners tuning into WARC these days often find radio silence if there is no one in the studio, rather than the music that is broadcasted normally. Most people seem to attribute this as another COVID-19 casualty, but the real issue is another story.

“We are currently in the process of getting our transmitter fixed,” previous club President Michela Bocchine, ’21 explained. “We have a small sign-up this year because many people did not come back to campus ... funding from (Allegheny Student Government) has been put on pause for a lot of student-run activities on campus ... I am confident that WARC will recover from this.”

Bocchine explained some of the new protocols being put into place to protect the studio and the DJs or talk show hosts — including wiping down equipment and limiting the capacity of individuals in the studio to no more than two at a time.

The real trouble seems to be with a defective transmitter.

“It was one of those ‘life happens’ kinds of things,” Bocchine said. “... last summer, we had a really bad storm here in Meadville, and the transmitter was struck by lightning.”

Transmitters are a quintessential piece of equipment for any radio program, as it is quite literally what broadcasts the signal and frequency into the air. Bocchine explained that replacing one of these pieces of equipment was “a lot of money.” The damage from the lightning bolt strike had done extensive damage to the device.

Luckily, Bocchine explained, most of the equipment has been replaced, apart from a bracket and a couple of other miscellaneous pieces.

“If you turn the radio in your car to 90.3 (WARC) you will hear silence,” Bocchine stated, “our transmitter is off ... the FCC (dictates) if there is (anything) wrong with (a) transmitter... you cannot have your transmitter on for more than two days... so (students) flip it on and off when they do their shows.”

Joining WARC is simple enough, she explained. The only real requirement is that the students have completed one semester at Allegheny.

“Only 80% of the students are on campus,” WARC President Conor Kennedy ’21, explained. “There are not as many first-year students.”

Kennedy went on to emphasize the plentiful number of openings for students to schedule a session once they complete some standardized training.

“There is always something broken in the studio,” Kennedy said, “now it is three things at once.”

Kennedy discussed a subsequent reason why music is only broadcasted during the students’ scheduled studio times, explaining that the company that had created the automation software actually went under.

“Previously we would allow 4 persons per session,” Kennedy explained, “due to social distancing protocols, the number has been reduced to two ... masks are also required now.”

“The number one thing is getting the transmitter and the automation back up and running as it should be,” Kennedy expressed, “Number two would be reaching out to some of the new people on campus, as well as getting the ASG budget passed so we can pay some of these bills.”

Professor Joe Tompkins, advisor of WARC, described his involvement with the station over the years.

“I have been an advisor for WARC for, I can’t even remember how many years,” Tompkins stated. “I approach it in the truest sense that it is a student-run organization. I don’t take a very heavy



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

The WARC Studio in the Henderson Campus Center. Due to FCC regulations, the station has only been broadcasting during students’ shows

hand at what they are doing.”

Tompkins explained that the COVID-19 social distancing protocol has been troublesome for the broadcast.

“This is something that works best when they can get together and hang out in the studio ... and have board meetings and whatnot.”

Tompkins described how he felt about WARC as a student resource.

“I feel it is under-utilized,” said

Tompkins. “I feel there is a lot of potential ... students can do many things

with their own radio station ... I fear

they do not know the value of this asset

that a lot of folks don’t take advantage

of.”

On-campus childcare and preschool continues operations

By **GEORGE ACKERMAN**
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The return of students has also brought the return of Meadville Cooperative Preschool, located on campus in Oddfellows. As with many educational institutions, the preschool has had to make major adjustments in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Everything the college students are doing, we are doing,” said Mary Stewart, the director of Meadville Cooperative Preschool. This includes masks, social distancing and sanitization of shared spaces, Stewart said. Along with working to follow all Centers for Disease Control guidelines, the preschool has worked with Allegheny College to develop plans to ensure the college community is safe.

The preschool has been running since the semester began after working with Allegheny administration to ensure limited contact between the students and preschool. According to Stewart, there have been challenges, but things are going well so far.

In past years, work-study students have had the opportunity to work with the preschoolers, but this position was eliminated for this semester.

“We don’t really have any contact with students,” Stewart said.

“Everything the college students are doing, we are doing.”

—MARY STEWART
Director,
Meadville Cooperative Preschool

Along with limiting students’ contact with the children, contact with the Meadville community is also limited. Everyone is screened before entering, families are no longer allowed to come into the preschool, and classes have been staggered to allow for less contact, according to Stewart.

There has also been less enrollment, which makes the issues of ensuring health and safety easier for those at the preschool.

As is the case with students at the college, there are also floor markers and mask requirements.

“Everyone is wearing a mask, the children are doing very well,” Stewart said

Stewart also expressed appreciation for Linda Wetsell, Allegheny College’s CFO and vice president of finance and administration, who provided a lot of information when working to enable the preschool to continue to provide its services this fall.

Wetsell explained the procedure for on-campus vendors, which includes the preschool this year, saying, “(a)ny vendor is required to submit a pandemic safety plan.”

In this plan is an explanation of what precautions will be taken to limit the spread of COVID-19 between students and the on-campus vendor coming in from outside of the campus community.

For the preschool, this includes limiting the number of entrances, mandating masks for workers and students, deep cleanings daily and aligning with the college’s standards on COVID-19 protocols. All of the changes had to be drafted by the preschool and then approved by the college. The preschool came back into session about a week after Allegheny students returned to campus.

Provost Ron Cole talked about the lack of student workers this semester.

“In accordance with (the) health and safety plan, there were no off-campus placements,” Cole said. “(This helps



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

In addition to housing the two preschools, Oddfellows also hosts the English and Philosophy and Religious Sciences Departments

maintain the integrity of health and safety at the college.”

In terms of allowing students to work in the preschool, or off-campus in general, both Wetsell and Cole said that they would have to see how the status of COVID-19 in the spring.

“There will be no off-campus workers for the academic year, unless something changes,” Wetsell said.

Meadville Children’s Center provides childcare for children six weeks to 12 years of age. The children’s center is also based in Oddfellows, and as part of the college’s policy, had to make changes. The Director of Meadville Children’s Center could not be reached for comment, but changes have also been made there in response to COVID-19, according to Stewart.

Assistant Professor of English Susan Slote, who advocated and worked as the proposal writer to get the children’s center set up on Allegheny’s campus, talked about the importance of having childcare services available at Allegheny.

“In 1990, there was only one place, and it was private, that would take children under three in all of Meadville,”

Slote said. “For faculty to be able to teach and have quality childcare, a bunch of faculty got together and basically advocated for there to be on-site childcare.”

Slote also pointed out that the on-campus childcare was an issue of equity and something that was to be shared for the rest of the Meadville community.

“That was part of our initial argument with the college, it’s like here is a way to make a difference in the community,” Slote said. “We felt like it was one way for the college to do something really positive for the community.”

Slote also said that the presence of a children’s center and its story should be seen as activism that we may take for granted today.

“The world has changed to the point where maybe those problems got solved a little bit, so I guess that’s a hopeful thing about activism,” Slote said.

Despite the pandemic, both the preschool and children’s center are still in operation, and Stewart feels that things are going well.

“The children are doing tremendous,” Stewart said.

Comedy Column

By **KALEEL VAN VOORHEES**
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Kate Rubins, a NASA astronaut currently working in the International Space Station has announced that she has voted from outer space — the only American currently not present on Earth to do so. The process involves the Harris County Clerk’s office uploading a secure electronic ballot to the Johnson Space Center Mission Control Center, who then sends it up to ISS for NASA astronauts to cast their vote. Rubins, if you’re listening, it must be nice casting a vote in an atmosphere with no pressure.

In Oakland, California, a turkey named ‘Gerald’ was recently captured and relocated after terrorizing a neighborhood for several weeks, attacking various park goers, children and families. Rebecca Dmytryk, founder and director of Wildlife Emergency Services was hired to ‘humanely’ capture the bird. In fact, there was such a rouse, several full page news articles on the process of capturing the sadistic bird have been written and distributed to the rest of the nation. Sure, this was fowl play, but is it wrong to be surprised that this Turkey was no chicken? (More like a Gobbler ready to stuff the stuffer).

In a recent announcement, Dunkin’ Donuts has released its first ever spicy donut, called the ‘Spicy Ghost Pepper donut,’ available until December of this year. Decorated in strawberry icing, the donut’s mix consists of both cayenne and ghost peppers (ghost pepper is one of the hottest chili peppers in the world). Yup, Dunkin’ took it literally when they created a seasoned dead ringer.

Comics

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NCAC cancels traditional conference play for the winter season

By ADAM COHEN
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The NCAC declared unanimously on Friday, Oct. 16, that there would not be any traditional conference play for the winter season. The news was a shock to many because Allegheny currently has zero total active cases and 29 students overall that tested positive out of nearly 5,000 tests conducted.

Since Allegheny has been following COVID-19 guidelines, athletes such as Batmunkh Munkhjargal, '23, a freestyle and breaststroke swimmer were hopeful that a 2021 NCAC winter season could still be possible.



Photo courtesy of goyeo.com

“(The Allegheny Swimming and Diving team) were all so excited to have conferences since we were following protocols but then everything just got cancelled,” Munkhjargal said.

Allegheny students received an email from Bill Ross, the Director of Athletics and Recreation the same day the NCAC cancelled the winter season. The email also mentioned that despite the cancellation of a regular NCAC season, teams still could play competitively.

“This decision allows for greater flexibility in choices around competition while adjusting to evolving safety considerations related to virus transmission,” Ross wrote. “As an institution, this decision means

we will have the possibility to compete against NCAC or non-NCAC schools, always while strictly following the protocols set forth by the Allegheny College Health Agency.”

Allegheny’s coaches are currently in the process of speaking with fellow NCAC coaches about scheduling intercollegiate games. Max Niggel, Head Coach of the Men and Women’s Swimming and Diving team, remains optimistic that a swim meet could take place during the school year.

“I really hope that we’re able to do dual meets, intrasquad meets and smaller invites as well as virtual (meets),” Niggel said. “We are already allowed to do virtual meets. We are hoping to get two intrasquad dual meets and smaller invites.”

Unlike many other collegiate sports, swimming and diving can compete against other schools virtually. The competitors would swim in their school pool, and racing times would be compared online. Facing off against other schools electronically would be a different type of experience that swimmers and divers are used

to. Nevertheless, Munkhjargal also believes that swimming asynchronously could provide a unique experience.

“It will be a different experience,” Munkhjargal said. “You just don’t know who you are competing with. You are competing yourself. I got to get faster.”

However, Munkhjargal added that there could be significant drawbacks during virtual races.

“It’s way harder (virtually),” Munkhjargal said. “When you are on the deck and then right before you jump in the pool, there is this feeling that ‘okay, (I’ve) got to go faster.’ Then you look at the people around you; your team is cheering for you and the other teams are screaming. The whole atmosphere is way better.”

Having matchups in a safe environment was crucial to the NCAC swimming and diving coaches’ meetings. The coaches knew there was a possibility of the winter season not coming to fruition after the 2020 spring semester became remote. Thus, Niggel as well as his fellow coaches have been carefully planning

how to conduct collegiate events for quite some time.

“The NCAC swimming and diving coaches have been meeting biweekly since July,” Niggel said. “We decided collectively as coaches in the conference even though we are competitors that we wanted to put our brains together to give our students athletes the best ideas as far as to keep them in shape, how to motivate them and how to meet them in shape.”

Likewise, Men’s Basketball Head Coach Bob Simmons took similar steps in ensuring a successful athletic school year with or without regular conference matchups.

“The coaching community is very close, tight and we work together well,” Simmons said. “I have no doubt that there will be more brainstorming (sessions), more ways to pull off more games. They won’t be conference games, but it won’t be scrimmages. There will be non-conference games ... with teams in our conference.”

The NCAC announcement still complicates the ability to

schedule head-to-head matchups. Nonetheless, the announcement did not affect the way the team practices nor deter their work ethic. Simmons planned out a fall practice schedule ahead of time, and since Allegheny athletics are currently in Phase Two, teams are allowed to practice in larger pods. Simmons has confidence that Allegheny can reach Phase Three, where he would be able to coach intrasquad games.

Simmons continues to focus on the positives with his team during the 2020-21 school year. Simmons understands that while his team was placed in an unfortunate situation, it could have been worse.

“There’s so much bad going on in the world, why not look at the positives?” Simmons said. “We could have had our season cancelled and not play a game and be done. We get to work together, play the game we love with our brothers, and represent Allegheny College and our alumni. Those are a lot of positives, so let’s embrace those.”

Dodgers victorious over the Rays in the World Series

By TRAVIS LUXBACHER
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The Los Angeles Dodgers and Tampa Bay Rays met for the 2020 Major League Baseball World Series, the climax of a shortened season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Dodgers won the first game of the series 8-3, thanks to a quality start from All-Star pitcher Clayton Kershaw, and the Rays stole game two behind the pitching of their All-Star, Blake Snell.



Photo contributed by oddsshark.com

Going into game five, the Dodgers planned to start Clayton Kershaw, while the Rays hurled out the young Tyler Glasnow. The result of the game was a 4-2 win for the Dodgers, and they then needed to win just one more game to lift the World Series trophy.

ESPN Major League Baseball analyst and former player for the Los Angeles Angels and New York Yankees, Mark Teixeira, talked about his expectations for game 6.

“The Dodgers have been here before, with the ability to clinch their first World Series title since 1988. But they’ll have to accomplish it without using any of their best starters,” Teixeira said. “Tony Gonsolin will get the ball just as he did in game two, and that was the only contest in which the Rays scored first — a huge factor in their chances to win.”

The Rays sent out Blake Snell to try and help send the series to a game seven. Snell got through 5 ½ scoreless innings before being pulled from the game by Rays manager Kevin Cash. After the game, and a 3-1 loss that meant the Dodgers would lift the World

Series banner, Cash admitted he had made a mistake.

“I regret the decision because it didn’t work out,” Cash said after the Los Angeles Dodgers wrapped up their seventh World Series title. “But you know, I feel like the thought process was right ... If we had to do it over again, I would have the utmost confidence in Nick Anderson to get through that inning.”

Despite his opinion on the matter, Cash faced scrutiny from many sports media outlets and fans over his decision to take Snell out of the game in the 6th inning.

Cam Karnik, '22, a baseball fan, also disagreed with Cash’s decision and thought he should have managed the game in a more simple fashion.

“Pulling Snell was probably a bad move considering he was cruising the whole game and Mookie Betts’ splits against left-handed pitchers in the playoffs were extremely poor,” Karnik said. “I think Cash just tried to out play the game, which managers do quite often.”

For the Dodgers, Clayton Kershaw recorded his first ever World Series ring during a career that has included three Cy Young Awards, which are given to the best pitchers in the National League and American League every season. With his numbers already among the all-time great pitchers in Major League history, baseball fans have many opinions of whether or not this feat has helped his legacy reach new heights.

Kershaw has dealt with a large amount of criticism due to his past playoff performances, but according to many baseball experts, such as

“I obviously think Kershaw is an all-time great, but I’d still favor guys like Nolan Ryan and Roger Clemens over Kershaw just based off of a pure dominance standpoint,” Karnik said. “Kershaw definitely deserved a ring and I feel like every fan of baseball should be happy for him because he has worked so hard for this moment.”

Not only Kershaw, but the Dodgers organization as a whole, has long coveted this moment, last winning the title in 1988, some 32 years ago. For baseball

fans like Roman Santa, '21, he was happy with the result even though he was hoping the Rays would come out on top.

“I felt pretty good about the result,” Santa said. “I was definitely rooting for the Rays just given the fact that they have far less money than the Dodgers but in the end I loved watching great players play well in the spotlight.”

This season was shortened to 60 games, as a typical Major League Baseball season spans 162 regular season games.

Although the season was shortened, Santa believes that the Dodgers more than deserved this World Series title, and people should not think differently of it because of the unusual season.

“There is no asterisk on this season,” Santa said. “One hundred sixty-two games is an absolute grind, but so is 60 games in an incredibly short period of time, and what people don’t understand about baseball is how physically taxing it actually is. Playing 60 games in nearly 60 days is a struggle for every major leaguer and they all made major sacrifices to make this season happen.”

2020 GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION

Make a plan to **vote**

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3

•Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

•Rides to the Polls are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day on Brooks Walk. The bus goes to all three polling precincts.

•Get Out the Vote Activities, including games, activities, prizes, cookies, t-shirts and a

contest will be held on Brooks Walk sponsored by the Center for Political Participation, Rock the Vote, MitzVote, Andrew Goodman Foundation and Campus Vote Project.

•An election Returns Watch Party will be held at 8 p.m. in Quigley Auditorium.

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