



The Campus

Volume 149, Issue 14
Friday, February 7, 2025

Meadville, Pennsylvania
www.alleghenycampus.com

ASG recognizes two clubs, denies another

By **ANTON HODGE**
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Members of ASG and more than 10 constituents debated for over an hour during Tuesday's General Assembly about whether the body should vote to award ASG recognition to an Allegheny College chapter of Turning Point USA. In the end, ASG voted against recognizing the club, leading the group to seek recognition through the college administration so that it can operate on campus anyway.

Cabinet Reports

Director of the Treasury Doug Malcolm, '26, requested that all club organizers who submit finance requests commit to the mandatory inclusion of links for purchases, no matter how minor. Additionally, Malcolm announced Finance Committee meetings will now occur at 4 p.m. on Fridays.

Director of Finance Dominic Juliana, '26, reported that the week's budgetary expenses were \$4,767.71 from the General Fund, as

well as \$8,550 from the Surplus Fund to pay for a new espresso machine in Grounds for Change.

Director of Diversity and Inclusion Kaleialoha Froning, '25, announced that Indigenous programming will occur next week on Thursday, Feb. 13, and Friday, Feb. 14. More information about the programming will be announced at next week's GA.

Attorney General Chezka Quinola, '27, announced that election campaigns for ASG president and vice president will begin soon, with an official timeline announced by next week's GA. However, candidacy registration is currently open. The last day to register is Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. The required documents are a 50-signature petition, a statement explaining the ticket's reasons for running and short biographies and headshots for each ticket member.

Class Reports

Class of 2025 President Akari Brown reported that the group is still working with dining and the class dean on coordinating events.

Class of 2026 President Iris Styers announced the class would be tabling in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center on

Valentine's Day from 11 a.m. to noon. Alongside this announcement, Styers announced a pin design for Junior Appreciation Week has been selected and that the class will meet with Parkhurst staff on Monday to finalize food for the events.

Class of 2027 President Liam Shields announced they will also table on Valentine's Day.

Class of 2028 President George Asante is working with the class dean to coordinate future events.



RAY KRISHTUL/THE CAMPUS

ASG senators vote unanimously to recognize the Rotaract Club during the General Assembly on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

See [ASG](#) | page 2

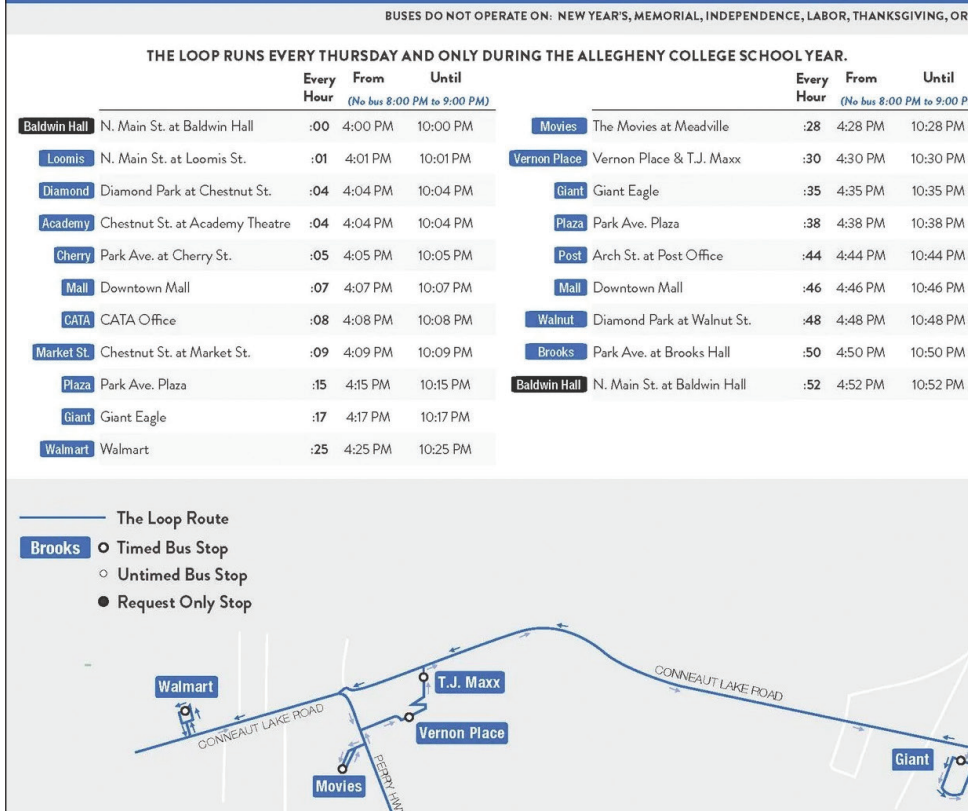
Get in the loop about The Loop

THE LOOP SCHEDULE

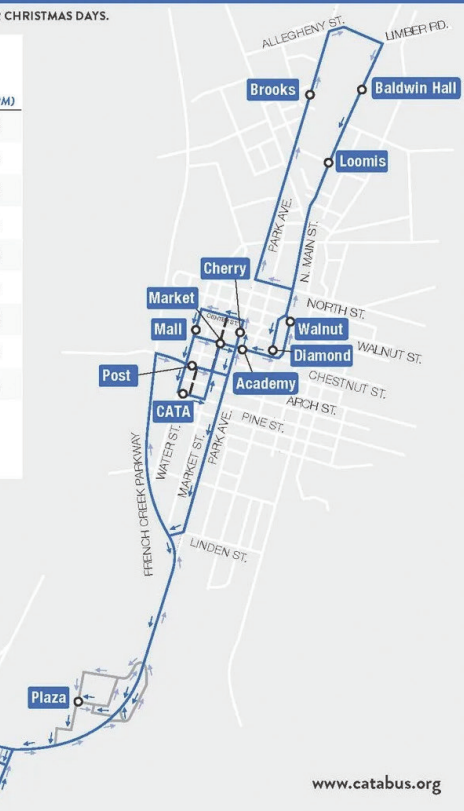
BUSES DO NOT OPERATE ON: NEW YEAR'S, MEMORIAL, INDEPENDENCE, LABOR, THANKSGIVING, OR CHRISTMAS DAYS.

THE LOOP RUNS EVERY THURSDAY AND ONLY DURING THE ALLEGHENY COLLEGE SCHOOL YEAR.

Every Hour	From	Until	Every Hour	From	Until
:00	N. Main St. at Baldwin Hall	10:00 PM	:28	The Movies at Meadville	10:28 PM
:01	N. Main St. at Loomis St.	10:01 PM	:30	Vernon Place	10:30 PM
:04	Diamond Park at Chestnut St.	10:04 PM	:35	Giant Eagle	10:35 PM
:04	Chestnut St. at Academy Theatre	10:04 PM	:38	Plaza	10:38 PM
:05	Park Ave. at Cherry St.	10:05 PM	:44	Post	10:44 PM
:07	Downtown Mall	10:07 PM	:46	Mall	10:46 PM
:08	CATA Office	10:08 PM	:48	Walnut	10:48 PM
:09	Chestnut St. at Market St.	10:09 PM	:50	Brooks	10:50 PM
:15	Park Ave. Plaza	10:15 PM	:52	Baldwin Hall	10:52 PM
:17	Giant Eagle	10:17 PM			
:25	Walmart	10:25 PM			



Legend:
● Timed Bus Stop
○ Untimed Bus Stop
● Request Only Stop



www.catabus.org

IMAGE SOURCE: CATA

CATA presents the route of 17 stops that The Loop services every Thursday from 4 to 9 p.m. Allegheny students and faculty can ride the bus for free if they present a valid Allegheny College ID card.

By **MILO WATSON**
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Allegheny students are going places — and on Thursdays, that list of places now includes the 17 stops serviced by The Loop, a Crawford Area Transportation Authority bus route that relaunched earlier this semester after a years-long hiatus originally instigated by the service's bumpy road through the COVID-19 pandemic.

CATA Assistant Manager of Operations Jamie Hartman stated that CATA and Al-

legheny convened recently to work out the revamped service's logistical details.

"That process began when we started talks with Allegheny in regards to bringing the service back, in the interest of wanting to ramp back up and doing this again, and I think that process took place about several months ago," Hartman said in a phone interview.

Together, the two entities identified a schedule that offered a balance of utility and ease.

"It's easier on Thursdays because I think there's a lot less programs running on that

day," Hartman said. "So it gives students a chance to break away and go downtown and do some things that they may need to do."

As one of numerous students without a car on campus, Eric Snider, '27, liked the idea of free bus transportation.

"As a student that doesn't have a car on campus, I would find that very helpful to go pick up supplies at Walmart," Snider said. "Yeah, I think that works perfectly for me at least, and I think most students, it's better it's not a weekend cause I think a lot of students are busy on weekends and Thursday works perfectly for me."

See [LOOP](#) | page 5

Panel on AI in Higher Education

By **OTIS THOMAS**
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Allegheny faculty members and the student chair of the Honor Committee discussed the role of artificial intelligence in higher education during a panel discussion on Jan. 30. in Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library.

AI technology is getting more advanced, and future generations will more likely grow up with a much deeper understanding of its capabilities. However, as AI learns from human interactions, it's important for educators to carefully engage with it. This means not only exploring what AI can do but also recognizing its limitations and ethical concerns.

Andrew Miller, the research and digital instruction librarian, asked the panel, "How do you use research in your classroom or your research?"

"AI is how I make my dollar," said Janyl Juminadina, department chair of computer and information science. "My research is broadly in the area of AI, looking at how we predict the building algorithms to predict different things. Also, we work in robotics, so this field has been around for a while, especially before these large language models became popular."

See [PANEL](#) | page 3

In this week's Campus...

BLAKE LIVELY LAWSUIT

Contributing Writer Akari Brown, '25, shares his opinion on the lawsuit between Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni over "It Ends With Us."

Page 4

COMEDY CORNER

Co-Editor-in-Chief Joseph Klepeis, '26, jokes about the U.S. economy, the upcoming Super Bowl, Punxsutawney Phil and sharks.

Page 5

REIS HALL RENOVATION

Staff Writer Jay Shank, '28, sheds light on the ongoing construction in Reis Hall and the timeline of the project.

Page 6

FRIDAY  H: 27° L: 18°
Snow: 5%
Sunrise: 7:26 a.m.
Sunset: 5:44 p.m.

SATURDAY  H: 33° L: 25°
Snow: 75%
Sunrise: 7:25 a.m.
Sunset: 5:45 p.m.

SUNDAY  H: 30° L: 20°
Snow: 12%
Sunrise: 7:24 a.m.
Sunset: 5:46 p.m.

ASG *from page 1*

ASG President Ella DeRose, '27, reported that ASG Vice President Joe Leszczynski, '25, and herself will meet with the Board of Trustees on Saturday. Additionally, DeRose said multiple petitions have been submitted asking ASG to consider amending its constitution to address concerns raised by Milo Watson, '26, during last week's constituent comment period. In his comments, Watson shared his concern that outside organizations could manipulate ASG elections by spending large amounts of money to push political agendas not held by the student body.

(Watson's statement is his own as a constituent and is not affiliated with any organization. He also serves as Layout Editor for The Campus. His comments do not reflect the views of The Campus.)

Unfinished Business

Rotaract Club and Ghost Club both passed their second rounds of voting for ASG recognition.

ASG voted at last week's GA to table the

who discriminate against conservative students and advance leftist propaganda in the classroom," according to its website.

"We were misinformed by misinformation," Hutter said. "We are directly affiliated with the Watchlist, both the Professor and the School Board Watchlist. But I just want to say that the way that professors are put on this Watchlist — it is done through a third party. TPUSA does not directly put people on the Watchlist themselves."

The Professor Watchlist website says its entries are sourced from published news stories. While the group accepts tips for new additions, it only publishes profiles on incidents reported and published via credible sources.

Hutter also said he reached out via email to Director of Faculty Development and Biology Professor Lisa Whitenack, who was added to the list in 2022. He said Whitenack has not responded.

Later in the GA, Hutter strongly denounced the Professor Watchlist and said he

it's more welcoming."

Class of 2026 President Iris Styers asked Hutter why he was not choosing to restart the College Republicans club that existed before the COVID-19 pandemic. Styers noted that most of the pushback from constituents she had heard since the last GA was directed specifically at Turning Point USA, not a more general club for conservative beliefs.

Hutter responded that the funding available to the group from Turning Point USA is "one of the biggest points," in addition to his commitment to remaining nonpartisan.

Brown challenged Hutter's belief that the group would be non-party-affiliated, saying it was "contradicting" to want to represent conservative values while remaining nonpartisan. Brown also named several conservative values he views as harmful, such as eliminating Critical Race Theory, and asked Hutter to clarify which conservative beliefs he would uphold.

"I think that if that were clarified, that it would give some reassurance to those people (minorities)," Brown said. "Because you are saying you are representative of values that are upholding to the community, but the group you are representing is not and it's very concerning"

Hutter maintained his stance that the club could do "good things."

"I think that your worries — I mean, I think that's all something that is up for discussion," Hutter said. "I'm not saying I agree or disagree, but we are in a space where we should be having discussions like those, questioning things that should be questioned."

Later, Hutter compared the club to his relationship with Allegheny College, saying that while he does not agree with everything Allegheny does, he still thinks the college is doing great things.

"I think that the club is in the same situation," Hutter continued. "I don't agree with everything that the club is doing, but I think that the resources and the actual mission that it says that it's here to provide is something that I align with personally."

Senators then voted to open the floor to constituent comments. During the 20-minute period, 11 students spoke.

Students Against Genocide President Syd Hammerman, '25, noted that Students Against Genocide is not ASG-recognized but that it has been easy to organize a variety of events and connect with the campus community.

Aubryanna Snyder, '27, said that the fact that there were so many constituents present at the meeting to listen and speak was proof that the student body already recognizes Turning Point USA and that ASG recognition is unnecessary.

"These are just the people that voice the



You are saying you are representative of values that are upholding to the community, but the group you are representing is not and it's very concerning."

**—AKARI BROWN
Class of 2025 Senator**

views that don't align with yours," Snyder said. "That doesn't mean we're not accepting you, we're not seeing you, we don't recognize you. We do. We know that you're here. We're present. That's why we're here — is because we know, and we know you want to be here."

Hutter responded that the club has not felt welcomed and that people have explicitly told him so via the club's Instagram.

(Snyder's statement is her own as a constituent and is not affiliated with any organi-

zation. She also serves as Features Editor for The Campus. Her comments do not reflect the views of The Campus.)

Another constituent pushed back against the idea that the club would not be ideologically affiliated with the national organization's "hate speech."

"I just don't really think that it's realistic that you can accept funding for an organization and yet say that you're not going to at least in some way also accept those ideologies," she said.

Hutter said that the club's poor reputation is a product of only a small minority of people in the organization.

"The club does not at all support or condone hate towards any organization of people," Hutter responded. "We are a completely separate entity from the other chapters."

Zula Stenger, '25, spoke again this week. During last week's GA, she urged ASG to "carefully consider" the type of organizations it brings to campus. This week, she proposed that since it is an option for Turning Point USA to receive recognition through the school, ASG recognition may be a more effective way to ensure the student body has a voice in Turning Point USA's actions. Recognition through the school would allow Turning Point USA to operate on campus, but would not make available to the group any of ASG's funds.

"If they act not in a way that we believe in or future administrations or board members act in a way that we as a student body do not believe in, we can call them out and stop it," Stenger said. "If we make them act independently, we will not have control."

Stenger also asked Hutter how the club plans to operate during an election season, citing her experience working with the non-profit Vote For Equality as reason to believe Turning Point USA might explicitly endorse candidates in the future.

"We would look at both sides," Hutter responded, "see what values both sides agree with ours and how we can show our support — not support, but show how both candidates are able to align with our ideology in a way within their policy."

Alex Coccagna, '27, spoke in support of the club.

"As Allegheny is a liberal arts education, I feel like being able to have those free, open conversations is a main point of the school and of what we stand for," Coccagna said.

After the last constituent comment extension period ended, senators decided not to extend it any longer.

Brown motioned to vote by slate on whether or not to recognize the club. No senator seconded his motion.

Class of 2025 Vice President Eva Dillaman motioned to vote via secret ballot. After Sen. Gary Murray, '26, seconded the motion, 18 senators voted in favor of voting via secret ballot, while one opposed. Secret ballots are typically used when votes involve topics of a sensitive nature. Last year, a secret ballot was used when ASG voted to adopt a resolution in support of Palestine.

After collecting all the votes on slips of paper, DeRose announced that ASG voted against awarding recognition to Turning Point USA. Because the vote was conducted via secret ballot, the vote breakdown is not public. The club cannot seek recognition again for the remainder of the 2024-25 academic year, per the ASG constitution.

After GA ended, Hutter told The Campus his next step will be to secure recognition via the college this semester. During the constituent comment period, Hutter also said the club would likely seek ASG recognition again next year.

GA ended at 8:47 p.m. ASG's next General Assembly is set for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11, in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center.



RAY KRISHTUL/THE CAMPUS

Turning Point USA President Ian Hutter, '26, responds to questions from ASG members on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

first round of voting on whether to award ASG recognition to Turning Point USA. On Tuesday, representatives of Turning Point USA's Allegheny chapter were once again present at GA to pitch their organization.

Turning Point USA President Ian Hutter, '26, fielded most questions during the meeting. He was accompanied by Vice President Braeden Means, '28, Secretary Robert Chirco, '27, Treasurer Ethan Scott, '25, and Social Media Manager Keygan Johnson, '28.

In his initial remarks, Hutter said the group had amended their proposed constitution in response to several concerns raised by senators and constituents during last week's GA regarding membership requirements. Those changes include adding "sexual orientation" to the list of characteristics the group cannot withhold membership based on, and clarifying what remaining "in good standing" with the national organization means.

The new constitution now defines good standing as maintaining "regular communication with representatives of the organization" and ensuring "all actions align with the organization's 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and mission."

The club's mission statement, as defined in its constitution, is to guide "citizens through developing knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to meaningfully engage in their communities to restore traditional American values like patriotism, respect for life, liberty, family, and fiscal responsibility."

Additionally, the constitution now stipulates that non-student associate members of the club can only partake in activities paid for through Turning Point USA assets and may not benefit from other funding sources, like ASG.

Hutter also walked back statements he made during last week's GA which asserted his group is a separate entity from the branch of Turning Point USA that runs the Professor Watchlist, a nationwide initiative "to expose and document college professors

is "taking the steps" to remove Whitenack from the list. He did not specify what those steps were.

"I think that both lists are really hurtful and harmful," Hutter said. "I think it goes against our own mission statement when it comes to freedom of speech."

Hutter ended his initial remarks by restating the important role he feels the club will play in the campus community.

"Right now, everybody looks at everybody by either being the radical left or the radical right, and I just want Allegheny to be known as the radical middle," Hutter said. "Right now, we don't have a voice of the right, and I think for there to be a radical middle, there needs to be — everybody gets to have a voice."

During a discussion period, ASG members asked a variety of questions.

A main theme during the conversation was whether Turning Point USA would use ASG funding and if so, how it would be used.

"We're not looking directly for ASG funding," Hutter said. "We are planning to be completely self-sufficient with our own funding provided by donations and Turning Point USA assets."

In response to Hutter's assertion of self-sufficiency, ASG members asked what benefits the club would receive from ASG recognition.

"The purpose of us being here tonight is that we want our peers to recognize us," Hutter said. "We don't want the school just saying that we're allowed to be here, we want our peers to say that we are welcome here."

Class of 2025 President Akari Brown asked the club representatives what views would be represented in a Turning Point USA chapter that would not be present in a College Republicans club.

"None except for we're just non-party-affiliated," Hutter responded. "I feel like it's just a more open environment for people to come and join the club and have more discussion on party-affiliated things. I feel like

PANEL *from page 1*

She explained how AI has been an important part of her academic career since graduate school, shaping her research and approach to teaching. As AI becomes very common in education, Jumadinova said it's important for educators to develop familiarity with technology.

Alexis Hart, professor of english and director of writing, said she primarily uses AI to assist with interview transcripts in mixed methods research.

"As someone who teaches writing, I think it's important to consider ethical uses of AI," Hart said. "Students need to learn both its advantages and its limitations, they need to trust but verify — just like with tools such as spellcheck and Grammarly."

As AI becomes a bigger part of everyday life, Kalé Haywood, chair of the history department, is taking a careful approach to how it's used in the classroom. She isn't rushing to adopt AI in her own work just yet, and her attitude comes from her own experiences with technology changing so quickly.

"In my own research, I'm not using AI," Haywood said. "Last week, I told my students, when I was in college, there was no internet. We were playing catch-up with every new generation."

She pointed out that today's students won't face that same challenge, but they'll have to learn to use AI as it becomes an even bigger part of their world.

"It's better to learn how to use it now because the generations coming up behind you are already going to have this knowledge," Haywood said.

Haywood doesn't see AI as a perfect solution, though. She sees its potential but also its risks, especially when it comes to working with images.

"I'd say it's 'don't trust and then verify,'" Haywood said.

She had her students look at fake versions of famous historical photos, like those from the Cuban Revolution.

"They've seen images of Che Guevara and others that aren't real," Haywood said, pointing out how easy it is to be misled.

Haywood believes AI could be helpful in education, but it needs to be used carefully.

"Which piece of AI is going to be the most helpful?" Haywood asked, making it clear that she has to think carefully about how it fits into teaching. "I need to make space in the classroom for it, and make the right choices."

While Haywood is still figuring out how AI fits into history classes, she's more open to how it can be used in other areas, like music.

"I think music is the next big thing," Haywood said. "You can not only generate poems, but also create songs that rhyme in another language."

"Not sure if it's helpful in history class, though," she added with a smile.

"This past summer, I used it more as a tool," said NealyClare Wheat, '25, the Honor Committee Chair. Wheat is new to the research world, learning through ChatGPT and asking specific questions so she can enhance her own skills.

"I see it within research as a tool to en-

hance but also again verify that what you're doing is correct," Wheat said.

In four years at Allegheny, she has never used AI in the classroom. As a psychology major, Wheat is looking at what AI currently does to people. While she has been working on her senior comp, she has had to sift through a large number of websites. Only during this did she realize that AI could be

already know," said Hans Vanderzyden, '25, an attendee of the panel. "With my family being full of teachers in the high school and middle school level, they are running into problems of students not wanting to learn the basics and using AI to generate things without gaining knowledge of the basic concepts. So, teaching students how to not use AI in a negative way would benefit them."



OTIS THOMAS/THE CAMPUS

From left: Alexis Hart, Professor of English, Janyl Jumadinova, Computer and Information Science Department Chair, Kalé Haywood, History Department Chair and NealyClare Wheat, Honor Committee Chair, speak during the panel discussion on Thursday, Jan. 30. in the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library.

a helpful tool with organizing all her sites. With her being on the Honor Committee, she's creating policies on how to use AI in classrooms for the next generations that come through.

"We should teach how to not use AI in a negative way," Wheat said.

"AI can be very dangerous if used in a way that prohibits the learning, but not necessarily the efficiency of something you

According to the panel, it's okay to use AI to generate ideas as long as you know why you're generating and what those ideas could be. This generation of teachers has to learn and accept that AI isn't going anywhere, but students must understand that AI is only permitted under special conditions. Both sides of future generations should learn how to use generative AI properly.

Ask Allegheny

What are your plans for the Super Bowl and who do you think will win?



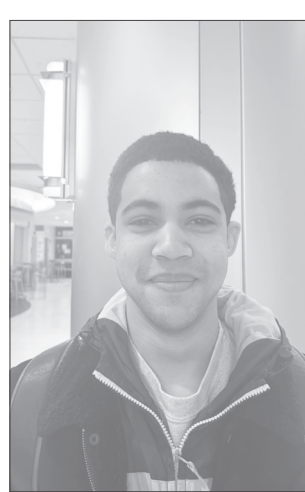
Left: Izzy Gray, '26
Major: Neuroscience
Minor: Spanish

"Well I'm definitely going to be watching the screen for Taylor Swift, so I'm thinking the Chiefs are gonna win. I'm probably gonna be with my roommates."



Left: Joe Leszczynski, '25
Majors: Political Science & Community and Justice Studies

"I don't think I'm going to watch. I'm just going to watch Kendrick because I don't want to watch Kansas City or Philadelphia."



Left: Xavier Villa, '27
Major: Computer Science
Minor: Spanish

"I'm an Eagles Fan. My plans if the Eagles win: I'm gonna go back to Philly and I'm gonna join in the destruction of Philadelphia win or lose. Go birds. I'm probably gonna watch it down at the Delt house with the brothers."

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 Wednesday before publication.

January 29, 2025
Fire
Brooks Dining Hall
Closed

THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

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

Super Bowl LIX: NFL history on the horizon

By **ALEX NASH**

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If you haven't been living under a rock since 2019, there are three things you can count on: death, taxes and the Kansas City Chiefs being in the Super Bowl. Nothing has changed this year. The Chiefs are back in the Super Bowl attempting to do something that has never been done in the history of the NFL, a three-peat.

Teams have won back to back Super Bowls before, but three in a row is unheard of. The Chiefs' matchup in Super Bowl LIX is the Philadelphia Eagles, a team that embodies everything that the Chiefs are not.

The Eagles embody the heart of their city. They're a gritty, hard-nosed football team that destroys their opponents with a relentless run game on the backs of quarterback Jalen Hurts and the NFL's rushing leader, running back Saquon Barkley. Along with the intensely pounding run game, the Eagles have one of the NFL's best defenses. The unit features stars of the past such as defensive back Darius "Big Play" Slay, stars of the present like the dominant duo of linebackers, Nolan Smith and Zach Baun, and even future stars in defensive tackle Jalen Carter and defensive backs Cooper Dejean and Quinyon Mitchell.

On the flip side, you have the quintessential evil empire, the star of the show, the

dynasty — the Chiefs. Kansas City doesn't dominate their opponents. Almost every game they play is close, but the Chiefs simply do not lose.

Patrick Mahomes has become football's LeBron Jame except he skipped Lebron's early team struggles and went straight into conversations with the all time greats of the sport. The Chiefs have lost just three playoff games in the Patrick Mahomes era. Mahomes has been the starting quarterback in Kansas City since the 2018-2019 season.

The only man to beat Mahomes in the

“

Of course, some people want to see Mahomes and the Chiefs make history, but that accomplishment will have an asterisk next to it in the eyes of many.”

—ALEX NASH
Class of 2028

playoffs multiple times is the only man that is definitively above him in the conversation for the greatest of all time, Tom Brady.

The Chiefs have shown levels of dominance that NFL fans have never seen before. However, they don't dominate by blowing out their opponents. That is where the controversy comes in.

The Chiefs' close victories typically involve their opponents seemingly falling

apart in crunch time; Mahomes doing something nobody has ever seen before to end a game; and — the reason for the controversy — biased officiating.

Kansas City is the most popular franchise in all of American sports, and at the current time, it's not particularly close. Mahomes is a global sensation in his own right, but the relationship between legendary Chiefs tight end, Travis Kelce, and the most famous female musician in the world, Taylor Swift, has truly catapulted the Chiefs' popularity above even the NFL itself.

So in order to keep the cash cow at the top, the NFL has seemingly had its referees favor the Chiefs with more than questionable calls to ensure victory. While this all sounds like a conspiracy theory, there have been at least 10 instances of blatantly incorrect calls favoring the Chiefs this year. The most egregious of the bunch came in the AFC Championship this season against the Buffalo Bills. On back to back plays, the Bills seemingly had a first down, but both times, the referees moved back the spot of the ball just enough to keep them behind the line to gain. Those movements of the spot caused the Bills to turn the ball over on downs, giving the Chiefs the opportunity to run out the clock and punch their ticket to the Super Bowl.

Obviously, the attention the Chiefs receive is not all praise. In fact, despite obvi-

ously being the best player in the NFL, Mahomes is the most hated player in the league. Kelce faces a similar fate, as his unpunished antics and global superstar girlfriend overshadow the fact that he is one of the greatest tight ends of all time.

On the other end of the spectrum, the usually unpopular Eagles have much of the sports world rooting for them. Of course, some people want to see Mahomes and the Chiefs make history, but that accomplishment will have an asterisk next to it in the minds of many. We've seen dynasties before like Tom Brady's Patriots, Joe Montana's 49ers, Troy Aikman's Cowboys, and Terry Bradshaw's Steelers, but none of them have ever done what Mahomes and the Chiefs have the chance to do.

No matter the outcome of the game, the Chiefs will remain immensely popular and will absolutely hoist multiple Super Bowls in the future. Hopefully, by then, the NFL's obsession with the Chiefs will be over, and Mahomes' greatness will be more respected.

This game means much more than just being able to hoist the Vince Lombardi Trophy and call yourself a champion. This game has the fate of the NFL hanging in the balance. The Chiefs are a win away from history. The Eagles are the last line of defense between Kansas City and the single most tainted team accomplishment in sports history.

Have we been here before?

The Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni lawsuit

By **AKARI BROWN**

Contributing Writer

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The legal battle between Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni over the production of "It Ends with Us" has become a flashpoint in Hollywood's ongoing reckoning with accountability, media manipulation and public perception. The lawsuits, which include allegations of a toxic work environment and a smear campaign, eerily mirror the highly publicized Johnny Depp-Amber Heard defamation case. Both cases reveal how crisis management teams and carefully curated public relations strategies can distort the truth, leaving the public to sift through conflicting narratives.

“

As we learn more, the public must resist the urge to pick sides based on incomplete information.”

—AKARI BROWN
Class of 2025

At the heart of the dispute are Lively's claims that Baldoni, who directed and co-starred in the film, fostered an unsafe work environment. According to court documents obtained by The New York Times, Lively alleges that Baldoni's behavior on set was "unprofessional and hostile," creating a

toxic atmosphere that undermined the production. Baldoni, however, has denied these allegations and accused Lively of launching a smear campaign to deflect criticism of her portrayal in the film.

The situation escalated when texts allegedly from Baldoni's crisis management team — the same team that represented Depp — were made public. These texts, as reported by The New York Times, suggest a coordinated effort to manipulate media coverage in Baldoni's favor. The parallels to the Depp-Heard case are striking. In both instances, the court of public opinion was heavily influenced by selective leaks, social media campaigns and carefully crafted narratives. For Depp, the strategy worked; public sentiment shifted dramatically in his favor, despite the lack of a definitive legal ruling. Baldoni's team appears to be employing a similar playbook.

The timing of Lively's allegations raises additional questions. According to Variety, before her claims went public, Lively faced backlash on social media for appearing "too happy and carefree" while promoting "It Ends with Us," a film that deals with domestic violence. Critics accused her of trivializing the subject matter by framing the movie as a romantic comedy rather than a serious exploration of abuse. Baldoni's lawsuit, as detailed in Forbes, suggests that Lively's allegations were a calculated move to redirect

attention away from this criticism and clear her name in the court of public opinion.

A video from Entertainment Tonight shows the difficulty of separating fact from fiction in a case where both parties have a vested interest in controlling the narrative.

Adding to the complexity, Baldoni has released outtakes from the film, which he claims demonstrate Lively's unprofessional behavior on set. According to Forbes, these outtakes are part of Baldoni's effort to counter Lively's allegations and prove that she was the source of tension during production. Meanwhile, Lively's legal team has argued that Baldoni's lawsuit is an attempt to silence her and discredit her claims.

As the case unfolds, the judge has threatened to move up the trial date, signaling the urgency of resolving the dispute. According to the Associated Press, the legal battle has already had significant repercussions for both parties, with the film's release and promotional efforts overshadowed by the controversy.

The public discourse surrounding the case also reflects a broader cultural shift in the wake of the #MeToo movement. Since 2017, the movement has led to the downfall of numerous powerful men in and outside the film industry, from Harvey Weinstein to Matt Lauer, as survivors came forward with allegations of misconduct. While #MeToo initially sparked a wave of support for survi-

vors, the backlash against the movement has grown in recent years, with some accusing it of fostering a "cancel culture" that unfairly targets men.

This backlash may explain the violent reactions to Baldoni's case. For some, the allegations against him represent yet another attempt to dismantle a male leader's career, echoing the sentiment that men are increasingly vulnerable to false accusations. However, others argue that this reaction undermines the progress made by #MeToo and discourages survivors from coming forward.

Ultimately, the Lively-Baldoni lawsuit is a cautionary tale about the power of media manipulation in the digital age. Just as the Depp-Heard case exposed the dangers of trial by public opinion, this latest legal battle highlights how easily the truth can be obscured by strategic leaks, social media discourse and crisis management teams.

Whether Lively's claims are rooted in truth or a response to public scrutiny, one thing is clear: Hollywood's obsession with image and reputation often comes at the expense of transparency and accountability.

As we learn more, the public must resist the urge to pick sides based on incomplete information. Instead, we should demand a full and fair examination of the facts — something that has been sorely lacking in both this case and the Depp-Heard saga.

Meadville history reignited by Allegheny reverend

By **PAIGE KAGENI**

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On the icy morning of Saturday, Feb. 1st, a number of Meadville residents and Allegheny College community members gathered at the Crawford County Historical Society for a talk given by the Rev. Sarah Roncolato, '80. The talk, titled "Re-Igniting the Past," focused on the story of Elias Allen, an African-American Meadville citizen who in 1880 petitioned to enroll his children into a school that at the time allowed only white students.

The petition challenged an 1854 law and a Crawford County judge soon found the law unconstitutional. On July 4, 1881, the state Legislature amended the law to forbid segregation in Pennsylvania schools. Roncolato spoke about investigating the story of Allen, along with what inspired her to share



I think that, under the attacks on DEI, et cetera, there is a danger of losing some of that inclusivity we have gained in our curriculum."

—**ALYSSA RIBEIRO**
Associate Professor of History

this story with the greater community.

"I got interested in the desegregation case

of 1880 last year," Roncolato said. "I read a piece in the Meadville Tribune that talked about the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. It reminded me of the sign that I had read in front of Second District School."

Roncolato said she never planned on the project taking as long as it did to research. As she gathered more information about the individuals involved, such as the judge and lawyers involved with the case, a more concrete narrative came together about how the pre-Civil War era law was overturned.

Tom Yoset, a former lawyer and Meadville archivist, worked to find and transcribe handwritten documents from the case, as well as accessing tax assessment records that gave a glimpse into Allen's livelihood. This introduced them to another figure: Judge Pearson Church, class of 1856, who ruled in favor of Allen but lost his re-election bid in 1887 as a result.

"It has been the most interesting project in terms of research," Roncolato said. "You had to have Elias's actions that confronted this school and the unjust law. You had to have Judge Pearson Church who was, as I said on Saturday, a child and a man of privilege. That part has been so important in looking at how unjust laws are changed. We need people in different places in life to bring about change."

A number of individuals also helped with the research, including Caitlyn Thompkins,

'25, who was an intern at the Crawford County Historical Society last fall. Her work began with an article by Meadville Tribune contributor and historian Anne Stewart as a jumping off point, which then led to other articles that detailed the case and its impact on the Meadville community at the time.

Thompkins spoke about Meadville's history with its African-American citizens, noting the opposition to Allen's mission to desegregate the local school.

"There were some people who were very against schools being desegregated. In some of the articles I read, people were saying some pretty awful things towards Meadville's Black population and Black people in general, which was difficult to deal with," Thompkins said. "Honestly, I don't know why I was shocked, but I was."

The talk comes at a significant time, as it was given to kick off Black History Month on Feb. 1. It also comes as a number of politicians, most notably recently elected President Donald Trump and other powerful political officials, have publicly attacked diversity, equity and inclusion measures in the federal government. On Jan. 20, less than two weeks before Roncolato presented the findings, Trump signed an executive order to end all Federal DEI funding and programs. Associate Professor of History Alyssa Ribeiro, who also coordinates the Black studies minor, spoke to the importance of learning national and local history in light



People were saying some pretty awful things towards Meadville's Black population and Black people in general..."

—**CAITLYN THOMPKINS**
Class of 2025

of these actions.

"It has long been a struggle in the United States to integrate histories of groups that have been more marginalized, and Black history is a huge part of that," Ribiero said. "I think that, under the attacks on DEI, et cetera, there is a danger of losing some of that inclusivity we have gained in our curriculum broadly speaking. I was pretty heartened to see a strong turnout of local folks at the historical society, on a Saturday morning, at the very moment that this stuff is getting challenged through federal actions."

Roncolato spoke about the importance of telling the stories of Black History.

"I was surprised to be given the opportunity to tell a story that needed to be told again and again and retold in this new day," Roncolato said. "I've been thinking about the new attacks lately about Black History Month. I would say if we're not going to have Black History Month, then bring it on. Let's do it all year because that's where it belongs."

Comedy Corner: Trade war, painkillers and the Grammys

By **JOSEPH KLEPEIS**

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A young shark whose species is normally found in southern waters has raised questions for researchers after its discovery off Charlestown in September of 2024, according to The Providence Journal on Jan. 31.

"Spinner sharks like the one found here are commonly found closer to Florida," said one of the researchers. "Maybe all that spinning caused the shark to get dizzy and lose its way."

CNN reported on Feb. 3 that President Donald Trump said he agreed to "immediately pause" tariffs on Mexico and Canada for a month after conversations with Mexico president Claudia Sheinbaum and Canada prime minister Justin Trudeau.

So begins the race to stock up on avocados and maple syrups.

US stocks opened lower, rattled by potential trade war after President Donald Trump unleashed tariffs, according to USA Today on Feb. 3.

This comes after fears of a slow economy and a potential to skyrocket inflation.

The handling of the economy was one of the biggest promises of the Trump campaign. He's handling it for sure. He never said he would handle it well.

The Kansas City Star reported on Feb. 3 on why Andy Reid's the perfect coach to lead Kansas City Chiefs' historic three-peat quest.

It's simple, he won them the last two.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported on Feb. 2 that Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, meaning six more weeks of winter.

"It wasn't an easy decision to make, but I call them like I see them," Phil said. "Besides, it'll be nice to snuggle up in my burrow with the wife and kids."

ABC News reported on Feb. 2 that Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. Kirsten Hillman said Canadians are "perplexed" and "disappointed" by President Donald Trump's tariffs.

So are we Americans.

Sacramento quietly ramped up criminal citations to homeless people, including tickets such as a criminal misdemeanor for camping, according to The Sacramento Bee on Feb. 3.

There's nothing more American than having to pay to be homeless.

The Seattle Times reported on Feb. 3 that Seattle lawmakers last year made a late push to expand the city's ability to crack down on misdemeanor crime and disorder in commercial areas — setting up six "stay out" zones for those arrested on drug-related offenses and expanding the number of jail beds available for Seattle-based bookings.

But three months later, those efforts have

gone largely unused.

What an interesting complaint to make, that there isn't enough crime occurring to fill the beds of the city jail. I would have thought open beds would be a good thing.

TIME reported on Jan. 30 that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a new drug called suzetrigine to treat moderate-to-severe pain. The prescription pills, sold under the brand name Journavx and made by Vertex Pharmaceuticals, are taken twice a day and represent the first new class of pain medications in 20 years—and the first non-opioid painkiller since that class first appeared on the market in the 1980s.

"I'm worried, I cannot lie," said a pharmaceutical sales representative. "If this isn't an opioid then how am I supposed to get doctors to overprescribe it and get their patients addicted in order to make a quick buck?"

DISCLAIMER: All quotes are fictitious unless noted otherwise.

LOOP *from page 1*

His views were shared by Jeremy Zengzhoujiacuo, '27.

"I think that it's a good idea to have it back, since it would benefit a lot of people who don't have a car but who want to go to Walmart and downtown," Zengzhoujiacuo said. "My classes, they end around afternoon, so it would be a good idea to take a bus from around 4 p.m. It would take me back in the night, so I think it's a good idea."

Students and faculty can ride the bus for free if they present a valid Allegheny College ID card, as can Pennsylvania Senior Transit Pass holders aged 65 and older, according to the Meadville Tribune. Members of the public will be charged a \$2 fare for a one-way trip.

According to the CATA website, one full orbit around The Loop takes an hour to complete. Service runs uninterrupted from 4 to 8 p.m., and then completes one final lap between 9 and 10 p.m. At the top of

each hour, the bus makes two stops on campus — one by Baldwin Hall on North Main Street and another at the corner of North Main and Loomis. From there, riders rumble past major destinations like Diamond Park, the Academy Theater, the Downtown Mall, Giant Eagle, Walmart, The Movies at Meadville and the Post Office. Upon returning to campus, the bus makes a stop outside Brooks Hall at 10 minutes till the next full hour and then continues on to restart the cycle outside Baldwin Hall. Live updates on bus location will be available on the mobile app myStop.

"Whether you're planning a shopping spree, catching the latest blockbuster, or enjoying a night out at many of the city's restaurants and taverns, this new service is designed to make your Thursday evenings more enjoyable and stress-free," CATA said in a Jan. 22 press release.

This is not the first time that The Loop has

reinvented its wheels, according to a 2022 Campus article about The Loop's history. If transported back to 1999, students would find a brand-new college-run shuttle service bearing the same name, although it originally shared more in common with today's Gator Express. In this earliest form, other students sat behind the wheel and ferried their peers back and forth between Meadville's downtown businesses. CATA took on the job the following year, and ran buses on a twice-weekly schedule for the next two decades. The 2020 pandemic stalled The Loop's operations from March till October, but subsequent attempts to jump start its return between 2020 and 2022 were met with low ridership counts, driver shortages and allegations of unfair contracts.

Hartman indicated that The Loop's current iteration only requires a handful of weekly riders to demonstrate the program's success.

"I think if we see a good count, roughly around 20 students — 15 or 20 students — would be great to see," Hartman said. "That would be awesome to see those kind of counts to make it really worthwhile running it."

Although the bus service is operated on a seasonal basis roughly corresponding to Allegheny's academic calendar, students staying on campus during shorter breaks can expect regular service.

"We're going to be running it during the semester seasons of the school year, so it'll definitely run on some [breaks], like spring break," Hartman said.

The Loop concludes its seasonal service on May 1, according to CATA's press release, and buses do not operate on New Year's Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day.

Reconstructing Reis Hall

By JAY SHANK

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The green fencing around Reis Hall has taken up a considerable amount of space, but not for nothing. On Jan. 12, Physical Plant began the 18-month project of renovating Reis Hall, the former second library on campus.

Last semester, it was announced to students that the construction of Reis Hall would be starting soon. The billboards facing North Main Street and Bentley Hall were installed, and an open house was hosted inside the building to showcase what the construction plans were. Now, Physical Plant has been at work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day as they prepare to completely remodel the building.

“I wanted it to be surprising,” said Byron Rich, assistant provost of academic innovation and associate professor of art. “I wanted people to walk into it and be kind of, like, taken aback a little bit and not expect just how of a contrast it is between the exterior and the interior. I wanted something that kind of embodied Star Trek: The Next Generation and Blade Runner.”

According to blueprints and construction plans, the inside of the building is going to be completely torn down and remodeled, while the exterior is going to remain close to what it looks like now. In order to keep the historic background of the building, architects intend to keep the exterior design the same.

“I want it to be a little bit gritty and represent 215 years of history. And that’s exactly what the renderings are. It’s going to be really quite wild,” Rich said.

The construction will be done in two phases, one which focuses on the exterior

and the other on the interior. Phase One, which includes new sidewalks, roofing, windows and landscaping, is expected to be finished by September of 2025. Phase Two — the bigger of the two — is expected to be done by December of 2026.

“We have a pretty fast timeline,” said Joseph Michael, director of facilities. “We’re hoping to do a major renovation in less than two years. The goal is that every class should be able to go in and see it, which kind of inspired our timeline to finish it.”

Major renovation is correct. The fencing around Reis Hall is actually there to prevent students from getting hit with debris as construction workers tear down the entire west side of the building -- the side facing Brooks Hall. In its place will be a plaza and an amphitheater for students to gather and socialize. Inside the building, the second floor will be removed and the basement will be raised to give more room for the Allegheny Lab for Innovation & Creativity (ALIC), which is being moved from Arnold Hall. Surrounding the new ALIC Lab will be large glass windows similar to the ones in the private study rooms in the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library. Next to the ALIC Lab will be room for student work, which will be visible from the outside of the building. The two upper levels of the building will house the Computer Science and Information Department, which is being moved from Alden Hall. Offices for professors and new classrooms with extremely advanced technology -- like smart boards built into the wall -- will be installed. A sidewalk connecting Reis Hall and Arter Hall will be created in an effort to make it easier to transport ALIC materials from one building to the other. Lastly, study rooms and social spaces will be added to ensure that students no matter their major can

use the building.

“I’m excited for the move to Reis,” said Ainslee Plesko, ’28, who’s currently studying Computer Science and Information. “I’m excited to see how [the ALIC Lab] will allow students to express their creativity in a cul-



BEN STAVNEZER/THE CAMPUS

Construction equipment sits in front of Reis Hall. Construction on the building has been ongoing since the first week of the semester.

turing environment.”

There is no doubt that the construction has a considerable effect on the students residing in Baldwin Hall, but Physical Plant has plans to ensure students are still getting adequate amounts of sleep.

“It’s all about safety,” Michael said. “We try to limit when the construction happens. We try not to do anything before 9 a.m. and we try to finish up by 5 p.m. The goal is to limit the construction when people are usually resting.”

Since the plans have been announced, questions regarding Alden Hall and the current ALIC Lab have arisen: what’s going to happen to them once everything transitions to Reis Hall? Plans regarding Alden

Hall have not been confirmed yet, but it has been said that it will be receiving a refresh to possibly house the new English, Philosophy and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies departments once Oddfellows Hall is torn down. In terms of the ALIC Lab, the current

space will be transformed into new Junior and Senior Seminar spaces.

“So, the Art Department is thriving right now. So, that’ll become an expansion area for student studios. For junior seminars and senior projects,” Rich said. “I don’t ultimately control the master plan but what we considered a couple years ago was to do a refresh of Alden to house English and possibly Philosophy.”

Regardless of what happens with Alden Hall and the current ALIC Lab, the college has relatively large plans for Reis Hall. So, the next time you walk past the construction of Reis, take a second to observe the current state of the building, because it will all be different by the end of 2026.

Allegheny College hosts International Film Series

By MARZIA MOHAMMADI

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The 2025 International Film Festival began last Thursday, presenting five weeks of language and culture in film at 7 p.m. every Thursday at The Movies at Meadville in Vernon Township.

The festival, organized by the Department of World Languages & Cultures, has been a staple of the college and Meadville community since the 1950s. It started as an initiative to showcase foreign films in Quigley Hall and later moved to the Academy Theater after Allegheny College donated a projector. With the shift to digital formats, the event now takes place at The Movies at Meadville, where it continues to provide free screenings to students and the broader community.

The films featured in this year’s festival represent languages offered at Allegheny College, including American Sign Language, Arabic, French, Spanish and German.

“Film is one of the easiest ways to open up conversations for people about different cultural experiences,” said Reem Hilal, co-chair of the film festival and associate professor of Arabic at Allegheny College.

Through storytelling, audiences are invited to step into someone else’s world, even if it’s just for a couple of hours, and see life through their eyes. It’s not just about watch-

ing a movie, it’s about connecting with universal human emotions, and recognizing the unique challenges and triumphs of specific cultures.

For example, one film that left an impression on Hilal was “The Man Who Sold His Skin,” a Syrian film based on a true story. The film follows a refugee who agrees to have the word “Visa” tattooed onto his back, and sit in a museum as an object, in exchange for safe passage out of the Middle East.

“It’s a beautiful film, but really hard to think about the experience, like why would someone have to make that choice in the first place?” Hilal said.

Barbara Riess, co-chair of the film festival and Professor of Spanish, recalled an Argentinian film titled “Argentina, 1985” which dealt with political violence and court trials.

“It was impactful because it shed light on a dark chapter in history,” Riess said. “Every film is a window into someone else’s reality, and sometimes, looking through that window changes how we see our own lives.”

Choosing the right films involves balancing faculty expertise, cultural relevance and logistical considerations. Each selection reflects the language and regions taught in the department, with professors proposing recent, appropriate films. Availability plays an important role, as organizers must make sure the films can be screened legally in the U.S.

“We try to find films that tell compelling

stories while also challenging stereotypes,” Hilal said. “For example, this year’s Arabic film is a Palestinian documentary. It’s a powerful story about resilience and identity, but it also invites viewers to reflect on what they think they know about the region.”

Riess emphasized the importance of representation.

“The Spanish film this year, ‘20,000 Species of Bess,’ explores themes of gender identity and self-discovery,” Riess said. “These are contemporary issues in Spain, and seeing them portrayed authentically helps our audience understand the broader context.”

But why does representation matter? As the world becomes more connected, how do we challenge stereotypes about cultures we’ve never experienced? These films do more than entertain, they encourage viewers to think deeply and see the world from new perspectives.

Availability of films is often a challenge.

“Last year, we had a hard time finding an Arabic film because many didn’t have an American distribution, this year’s Palestinian documentary was chosen because it reflects current realities and offers nuance about the region,” Hilal said.

The process begins months in advance, with faculty members proposing films based on their expertise. Once a list is compiled, it’s sent to the theater to check availability. “Sometimes, even if a film is perfect, we can’t show it because it’s not available in the U.S.”

Riess said. “That’s why flexibility is key.”

The International Film Festival is open to anyone curious about the world beyond western Pennsylvania. With free admission and transportation provided for students, there’s no barrier to attending.

“Come to the movies, grab some popcorn and open your world on a Thursday night,” encouraged Riess. “You never know what you’ll learn or who you’ll meet.”

If students are looking to expand their perspective, the festival is a chance to experience different languages, cultures and stories — one film at a time. But more than anything, it leaves students with a question: How might these stories shape the way we see the world?

For over two decades, the festival has brought together students, faculty and community members in a shared celebration of language and culture.

“It’s part of who we are as a department,” Hilal said. “Fall is culture night, and spring is the film festival. It’s a tradition we’re proud to continue.”

As the festival grows, so does its potential to inspire. Whether it’s sparking an interest in learning a new language, encouraging students to study abroad or simply broadening someone’s worldview. So grab your popcorn, settle into your seat and get ready for an experience like no other. The world is waiting and it’s just a Thursday night away.

Cognitive Dissonance

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