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THE GLOBE

SINCE 1967



September 4, 2024

Issue 2



Ethan Rowinski | For The Globe

SHAPIRO SHOWS SUPPORT IN LABOR DAY CELEBRATION



Ethan Rowinski | For The Globe
A unit of the Newsguild which will be on strike two years in October.



Evan Levine | The Globe
The Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers walk in the parade.

UA closure creates 41 new student transfers

Michelangelo Pellis
Co-News Editor

On May 31, The University of the Arts in Philadelphia (UA) announced a sudden closure. 41 UA students chose to transfer to Point Park, where all of their credits were transferred and the previous price of their tuition was matched.

Marlin Collingwood, vice president of enrollment, said the closure was unprecedented.

"No one knew this was coming. Within 10 minutes of the Philadelphia Inquirer breaking the story, President Brussalis texted me asking what we could do," Collingwood said.

Shortly after, Colling-

wood began to receive emails from concerned UA parents, and over the weekend more poured in. Conservatory faculty also began receiving texts and emails.

By Monday of that weekend, the university was able to agree on a teach-out agreement with UA that ensures students can remain in their same class and program as well as retain the credits they earned at UA.

AmiRae Lehr, a sophomore cinema production transfer student, planned to return to UA for her second year.

"After taking about a week to process every-

CLOSURE page 2

Full-Time Faculty Union Negotiates new contract with Administration Seeking higher pay and health benefits

Cassandra Harris
Editor-in-Chief

Park Park's full-time faculty contract under the Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh's Unit Local 38061, which began in September 2021, expired on June 30, 2024.

According to Karen Dwyer, a full-time professor of creative writing and lead negotiator for the Newsguild's bargaining team, the administration is legally obligated to honor all terms of the old contract until a new contract is negotiated.

The Newsguild is composed of two units, she said. One half is Point Park's full-time faculty, and the other is the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, which will be on the second year of their strike in October.

"For clarity, the part-time faculty of Point Park is also unionized," Dwyer said. "Their contract is with the Steelworkers. Staff at Point Park do not have a union at this time."

The Globe also reached out to Natalie Rice, vice president of

human resources for Point Park and main negotiator for the contract on the administration's side, but didn't receive a direct response.

"Out of respect for the process, university leadership will keep private the details of the negotiations," Louis Corsaro, vice president of public relations, said in a statement.

He said that the university looks forward to negotiating a fair contract that will continue to allow the university and its faculty to provide Point Park students with a world-class education.

Ronald Kubilus, a sophomore criminal justice major, said that he supports unions because his dad is a part of one for sanitation in New York. He said that he believes everyone should have a choice and say in their pay and that being a part of the union gives that to the full-time faculty.

Associate Professor Mark Voortman of business, a faculty negotiator, was not available for an interview but said in an

email that one critical issue in the negotiations for him is high inflation.

He said that other full-time faculty would like to see that reflected in their new contract.

"Our peer group accepted a lower wage increase than what we would have liked to have," John Hines, vice president of the union and professor of social justice studies said.

When talking about the Newsguild's old contract that was negotiated while the university was recovering from low enrollment rates and inflation, Hines said, "We wanted to say that we did our part by accepting less of an increase last time for congeniality."

According to the previous contract, the wage for full-time faculty increased by 3.5% in 2021, 3.75% in 2022, and 4.25% in 2023.

In a three-year contract, percentage increases are not at a set rate but are agreed upon for each year as they will be decided in the new contract.

Associate professor of

CONTRACT page 2



Michael Klug | The Globe
Shepherd Fourgson, a first-year non-traditional student, paints a mural at the new community garden.

Pioneer Pantry expands into new corner store space in Thayer Hall

Carson Folio
Editor-Elect

Despite its footprint taking up as much space as a closet, the Pioneer Pantry's mission hasn't been small. Solving food insecurity on college campuses is no easy feat, but this little corner of campus has helped students get free ingredients for their next meals since 2017.

While the closet of produce may be charming, and can still serve students without issue, the needs of the student body have become bigger. With these increased needs, it was time for an upgrade.

The Globe previously reported on the university receiving a \$34,000 grant to expand the pantry on campus in January. The grant, awarded to the university by the

State Department of Education, also helped create an on-campus community garden behind West Penn Hall named "The Pioneer Community Garden." Tomatoes, peppers and watermelons are just among a few of the choices available in the garden. Much of the produce is going to the pantry, but the garden is open to everybody – not just volunteers within the pantry.

The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (GPFB) has a free food space dubbed "The Market." The space is designed like a mini grocery store, right down to the looks of the store and the feel of picking out products. This is intentional, as the GPFB says they want to de-stigmatize going to the food bank. Heather Starr-Fiedler, chair of the Department of Community

Engagement and Leadership, said she wanted to do exactly this for students.

Despite the big changes in store, the Pioneer Pantry will not be closed. Instead, the pantry's "corner store" will be stocked and ready for operation by September 9. Starr-Fiedler said she hopes that both the new store and community garden will become student-run volunteer initiatives. The corner store will be located on the first floor of Thayer Hall, past the Office of Financial Aid.

While the community garden may have been built by Point Park and is located on our campus, it is not barred to people outside of our campus community.

"One of the questions I keep getting is, 'Aren't you worried that people will just come in the garden

PANTRY page 3

Point Perk drops Starbucks' product from Menu



Nick Koehler | Taken from Point Park's website

Point Perk first opened in 2018 after student Tiffany Walker named it in a contest. She was rewarded with a premium Point Park Pioneer gift package and \$100 in flex-dollars.

Gavin Petrone
Co-News Editor

Point Perk officially dropped Starbucks' products provided through the company's We Proudly Serve program on Monday, August 26.

Point Perk, which first opened in 2018, updated its menu to include pizza, paninis, wings, and Bison Chili instead of strictly breakfast items.

The new menu items are covered by Flex Dollars included in students' meal plans.

Dean of Students Keith Paylo said the main reason behind the menu change was a student survey held over summer break by Assistant Professor of Business, R. Hagen Starz.

Starz did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Paylo said the survey gave the administration the idea to change from the "We Proudly Serve" model to another concept that would allow for longer hours of operation.

"We're changing the concept from being a coffee shop to more of a cafe," Paylo said.

Under the We Proudly Serve program, Point Perk closed at 5 p.m. from Monday to Thursday, and at 4 p.m. on Fridays. With the new changes, the cafe could stay open as late as 10 p.m., according to Paylo.

Because most of the equipment in the We Proudly Serve model was sourced from Nestlé Distributors, Starbucks' parent company, it was all taken out in mid-August and replaced with new equipment.

There was only one exception: an espresso machine.

Sophomore Mia Cicconi said she was disappointed with the new menu's lack of drink choices.

"I understand the reasoning behind why they wanted to change it," Cicconi said, "but I do think that students really enjoyed having multiple drink options."

Paylo said he was aware of the lack of espresso.

"We have already started to talk about that," said Paylo. "Many things are still on the table."

"If we have a number of requests that say, 'Wow we'd really like to have some of those espresso drinks back,' well then it's our

role to do everything in our power to bring them back," Paylo said.

SGA's new administration also played a significant role in the decision to drop Starbucks.

"With [Starbucks'] lack of support of Palestine and their anti-union policies, we and a lot of other students weren't coming in here," Kyle Maclaughlin, a senior political science major and President of SGA said, "We weren't using the space because we were boycotting Starbucks and we didn't want to give money to a place that sourced their product from Starbucks."

Paylo said there was no financial or political reason behind the removal of Starbucks.

Clifford Greenfield, a cook at Point Perk, said he came to Point Perk with the new menu.

"[The reception] has been pretty positive so far," said Greenfield, "It's doing pretty good right now."

"Point Perk is an incredible space for students to come and hang out," Mia Martinez, a senior psychology major, said, "I love all these new improvements on food

and dining, the space is really gonna bring a lot more students in for socialization and good food."

Originally, the name for the Point Perk was selected by the Student Affairs office in 2018 by a student named Tiffany Walker.

Paylo said he is looking to run a similar contest to change Point Perk's name again.

"It's not Point Perk anymore," said Paylo. "I have been getting names unsolicited already, which is great."

Although he didn't mention the specifics, Paylo said that he'll be offering another prize for whoever selects the winning name. The contest to rename the Point Perk is to begin this week.

Paylo said, "I know change is hard sometimes — of what we've had for so many years — but yet change in my mind in some ways that's progress."

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Students in support of Full-Time Faculty contract negotiation

From CONTRACT page 1

sociology, Marion Dixon, said that the full-time faculty are salary workers and are paid on a monthly cycle.

Dixon said her main points in negotiation are to improve retirement, healthcare, workload and other benefits like faculty benefit funding, or money faculty receive to attend conferences and workshops out of state.

Right now, each faculty member can use \$700 of "professional development funds" to pay for the expenses it might take to go to these conferences and workshops.

They can apply for up to \$1,300 in funding that at least 25% of faculty members can receive. Dixon hopes for this stipend-like funding to be negotiated to a higher amount for the new contract.

The two parties have been ne-

gotiating the new contract since it expired this summer. Their schedule for negotiations was fairly irregular, Hines said, but they tried to set up a meeting every week.

With the start of the fall semester, the parties negotiate on Fridays inside classrooms when faculty negotiators are available.

Although at first, he said he thought it might be exciting to negotiate a contract, Hines said that the negotiations are "fairly mundane."

At the negotiations, each party has a lawyer present, according to Hines. The lawyer for the union is Steven Winslow of Jubelirer Pass and Intrieri law firm.

According to Corsaro, the lawyer for the administration is Matthew Robers of Steptoe and Johnson PLLC.

Hines said that in the negotiations the administration is try-

ing to "significantly" change their healthcare benefits and that the union leaders are trying to convince their faculty that it is in their best interest to make sure any healthcare changes aren't extreme.

Three years ago, the full-time faculty union took to the streets to demonstrate during their previous contract negotiations. Hines said that the point in time to do that again might come soon.

Nick Mauro, a second-year cinema productions major, works part-time at Market District, a grocery store in Murrysville where he and his coworkers are unionized. He said that he is in full support of the full-time faculty being able to negotiate their contract.

Although he pays \$20 for union dues on each paycheck, he said that the extra \$2 the union negotiated for his and his co-work-

er's pay is worth it.

"Unions save lives, they give us weekends, they give us pay," Mauro said. "They're very important to our society of workers and society as a whole. Good on them, hopefully they, [the full-time faculty,] get whatever they want out of it."

Hines said that one of the most rewarding parts of his professional career has been his ability to be a part of a union at Point Park and negotiate a fair contract. His co-worker and co-union member Dixon feels the same.

"It's exciting to have a voice at the table and to be a part of the decision-making process at the university," Dixon said. "We hope that we're going to get a fair contract soon, I feel confident."

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Dance department accepts additional students for teach-out program

From CLOSURE page 1

thing that was going on, I decided to reevaluate my original choices for prospective schools," Lehr said. "Point Park offered me immediate acceptance and waved the application which was super helpful."

Lehr said that she was helped one-on-one by faculty members in the admissions office to complete the process of officially accepting the university's offer.

Lehr said that the university's advising office has been paramount in helping her transition into the school year during the Pioneer Experience in preparation for the first week of class.

"They helped ensure that I would be on track to catch up with my peers as well as guide me onto my future path," said Lehr. "They were able to ease my anxieties about falling behind academically and made sure I am on track to be able to graduate on time."

However, this teach-out agreement was not able to cover dance, musical theater and acting since



Cassandra Harris | The Globe
Dancers line up bags during auditions.

those programs were already full, according to Collingwood. Yet, after working with Susan Stowe, chair of dance, they were able to add 25 spots to the conservatory's dance program.

Stowe previously stated to the Globe that the number of prospective students that audition for the conservatory fluctuates each year, but traditionally the dance department auditions roughly 1,000 students for approximately 90 spaces in all three concentrations: ballet, modern and jazz.

Giavanna Marino, a sophomore theater arts transfer from UA previously studied musical theater at the now-closed university. Marino was unable to join Point Park's musical theater program due to the program being full, which she said was unfortunate.

"When I first heard the news, I thought it was a joke," Marino said. "Then I was very shocked and upset to learn the reality of the situation. [UA] initially told the press before the student body."

Marino said that UA and Point Park share similar community aspects with both universities centering around the arts. However, Point Park's many academic avenues set it apart from UA.

"[Point Park] has done as much as they can to help, and obviously no solution was going to be perfect," Marino said. "But they helped me more than I expected, especially when they didn't have to. I know that I and all of my peers from UA are grateful."

Aubrey Gleason is a first-year

theater production major transfer student from UA who was unable to begin this semester as a sophomore student.

"Point Park was the first school to put their all into helping me and giving me what they could," Gleason said. "Unfortunately, repeating freshman year has felt redundant so far. Luckily I was already assigned a show to work on which has helped me transition to the university better."

Gleason said that, while Point Park and UA are different in many aspects, the Downtown campus lifestyle makes them similar.

On behalf of the university, Collingwood said he welcomes all of the UA transfer students to the Point Park family.

"We're thrilled to have you here," Collingwood said. "We're hoping you feel at home. Remember to breathe."

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Block Party raises Awareness against Sexual Assault

Peyton Martin
For The Globe

Many students come to Point Park from all over the globe and are unaware of the local resources available to them. In collaboration with It's On Us (IOU), an organization designed to raise awareness about sexual assault across America, Rebecca Harper, director of health services, started the Sex, Drugs, and Rock n' Roll block party.

The event is designed to talk about safety on campus in an awesome way, Harper said. Since applying for the grant in October and being awarded \$40,000 in January, she thought the grant would allow for a grand launch party for IOU. Plus, it would be the perfect opportunity to introduce Sex, Drugs, and Rock n' Roll to Point Park. She's had the idea for an event that provided resources and safety information for all incoming students right at the beginning of the fall semester since she saw the University of Indiana doing it on Instagram two years ago.

After taking over the university's (IOU) organization last year, she decided the block party would be a great way to share this information.

"My goal for the event is for it to become a cornerstone every year to hit students right when they get here with information," Harper said.

She wants to use the event to educate students about IOU, but also about the Red Zone or the first few months of college where students, typically first years, are more at risk of being sexually assaulted.

Harper invited many community partners like Title IX, the counseling center, Point Park's safe-

ty department, Allies of Health and others to come and table at the event. She designed the block party to be fun for students, but at its core it's a safety fair.

For first years like India Battle the different resources provided by the block party are extremely helpful, and it's good to know that the university offers many kinds of safe spaces. At the public safety department booth, she relearned how to use pepper spray.

She said what she liked most about the event was how much help they had for different types of situations where a student's security might be compromised.

The event was not only a way to get important information out to students, but it also helped to launch a new club named after the grant called IOU. Grey Dixon, a senior community psychology major and Vice President of IOU, is proud of what the organization is already doing. "I think we are going to be doing such great work to stand against sexual assault and create a community where it is not acceptable as well as support those that have been victimized by it," Dixon said "I'm super proud of the event turn out. There are so many pledges. We genuinely got 75 pledges of people that support the cause and the things we stand against." Dixon said. "I feel like it's a really great thing to have for campus knowing that there are so many people that care about this."

To get more information and resources about campus safety, students can go to the IOU Instagram at @iouatppu and check out the link tree in their bio.

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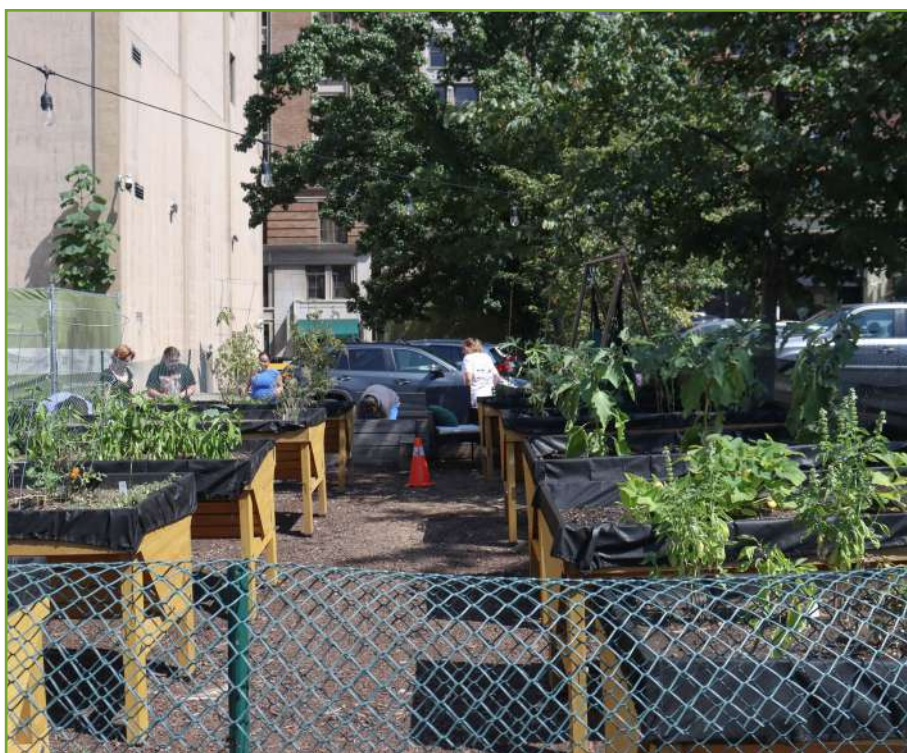


Michael Klug | The Globe
From left: Drew Williams, Kyle Maclaughlin, and Dillion Peterson - SGA representatives.



Michael Klug | The Globe
A student driving a "Drunk Buster," which simulates the feeling of driving under the influence.

Access to Fresh Food continues to grow on Campus



Michael Klug | The Globe
The new community garden located behind West Penn Hall.

From PANTRY page 1

and take the food?' And my answer to that is, 'It's a tomato!' Starr-Fiedler said. "If somebody who is unhoused needs a tomato, please let them take a tomato! They're part of our community downtown just like our students."

Additionally, anybody interested in the garden does not have to utilize it for the plants alone. String lights, chairs and a hammock allow the community garden to be a hangout spot for those who just want to be among the plants, as Starr-Fiedler puts it.

On August 30, members of the Bonner Leaders Program, along with first-year students in the City-University Life course, worked to create a mural at the Pioneer Community Garden.

Students have been asking for a community garden for close to seven years, according to Starr-Fiedler. With the garden finally being a reality, the new students who can now experience it are happy with what they're seeing, along with the opportunities it presents.

Shepherd 'Shep' Fourgson, a first-year SAEM major, enjoyed being able to apply his experience volunteering at other community gardens to the Pioneer Community Garden. He sees gardening as a passion that lets you forget about the world outside of the green space.

"Usually when you get lost in your moment, it's a you thing," Shep said. "But to participate in something that affects people in ways - this is going to feed hungry people, so that's a blessing within

itself, just being able to participate in that."

Shep hopes to start a non-profit program to get people more involved in their communities. Teaching gardening is one thing he would like to do, especially with the experience that the Pioneer Community Garden will give him.

Ren Seger, a first-year fine arts and animation major, was one of several students painting that were also involved with the Bonner Leaders Program. They described their excitement to finally get to the mural after being delayed due to orientation week, and how volunteering can be a great way to connect with people.

"The school is all about helping people, no matter what organization you're a part of," Seger said. "And this space is exactly that, it's for helping people whenever they need it and I think it will be a lot of inspiration and a lot of help, especially in the next coming years."

Luka Strickland, a first-year sports communication major, thought that having more green space in Downtown could help revitalize the entire area.

"One of the things that we talked about in a lot of orientation was, 'What do we think we can do to bring, like, help Pittsburgh like, rebuild after Covid?'" Strickland said. "And one of my things was, we need more green down here."

"I feel like this is so nice to have, and also, providing fresh fruit and vegetables to the students, it's an all-around great thing," Strickland said.

Kyrique Mitchell, a first-year broadcast production major, thinks that a garden on campus works to beautify Downtown. Mitchell, who lives in the west end of the city, noted how he is used to seeing abandoned buildings and

empty lots with no green space. He said that the only convenience store near him was "taken down," but thanks to similar beautification efforts with community gardens in the west end, there is finally hope for his neighborhood as well.

Both the community garden, as well as the Pioneer Pantry corner store, have volunteer opportunities available for students, staff and faculty. If interested, contact Heather Starr-Fiedler at hstarr@pointpark.edu.

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Michael Klug | The Globe
First-year Kylie Dennis (Front) and first-year Bella Sandoval (Back) paint garden mural.

FOURTIETH ANNUAL LABOR DAY PARADE



Gavin Petrone | The Globe

Pittsburgh's 40th Annual Labor Day Parade was held on Monday, Sept. 2. The parade began on Centre Avenue, snaked through Grant Street and Boulevard of the Allies, and finished outside of the Steelworkers Building. Thousands of unions, elected officials, community members, and marching bands participate every year, making it one of the biggest Labor Day celebrations in the U.S.



Cassandra Harris | The Globe



Gavin Petrone | The Globe



Cassandra Harris | The Globe



Cassandra Harris | The Globe



'Burgh Bites

Point Park Dining Hall: Weird Rice

Rating:

Cassandra Harris
Editor-in-Chief

I will admit, in the past few years The Globe has published some not-so-nice things about Point Park's Dining Hall, but I am here to try and do my best to give you the most unbiased perspective solely based on the food's taste. Since I was a freshman, I've commuted from Westmoreland County to Downtown Pittsburgh, so I have never had a meal plan and have never been required to have one. The only other time I ate at the Dining Hall was during my orientation week in 2022 when, for a day, all the meals were free for freshmen.

After trying multiple dishes I found one word to describe pretty much everything sold: processed.

Walking past the salad bar and through the all-you-can-eat area back to where the pizza is, I quickly remembered my first experience at the Dining Hall when I first saw the self-boil pasta. The first time I tried it I didn't realize this and ate it cold. This time, with my new knowledge I made sure to boil my pasta, although as a germaphobe, it was mildly concerning to watch the pasta boil in the water that everyone else's pasta touched.

The noodles had a weird,

chewy almost elastic texture and the meat sauce that I put on them had way too much sodium, but without it the pasta tasted far too bland.

Next, I tried the dinner brisket and rice special they had. The students I sat with at my table were pretty optimistic about the food, but I figured they had to be since that was what they ate every day.

The rice tasted like it did at my high school cafeteria. Super dry, bland and almost rubbery. Rice should be white and sticky, but the brown rice they serve is flavorless and reminds me of huge flakes of cereal or sand the way it falls against gravity. Rice should fall like one big chunk, but this rice had no hope of sticking to itself.

The brisket, on the other hand, was worth trying and had a strong herbal taste. The kids at my table said that the rice specials they often had were usually good and tasty. Apart from the extremely bland rice, I agreed with them.

Next I, of course, had to try a slice of pizza which, to my surprise, also had an herbal taste like the brisket. Although Genoa's pizza would still beat it, as it was a bit cold, the slice was decent. It made sense when the student sitting across from me said that the pasta and pizza usually were good options when everything else in the cafe looked unap-

petizing.

The waffle fries were probably the best thing I tried. Although I wouldn't recommend filling up on them, the crispness and seasoning on the fries were satisfying.

The strawberry yogurt also tasted great, but I assume that's because the school buys it rather than makes it like their other desserts.

Although they were tasty, one of my main concerns was seeing that the dessert bar didn't have labels for each of the dishes. The girl sitting to my left even said that one time she tried the banana cake by mistake and it caused a non-threatening allergic reaction in her throat due to it being unlabeled.

If you don't have flex dollars or a meal plan I would never recommend going to the cafe. Although, after checking my bank transaction I saw that after everything I ate, I was only charged a whopping \$8! I seriously thought that it cost at least \$10 or \$12 to eat at the Dining Hall. So, if you're starving, broke and want really processed food or cheap dessert, the third floor of Lawrence Hall would be your prime destination.

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CAB THROWS PIONEER PICNIC



Michael Klug | The Globe
From Left: Tim Johnston - Sophomore Cinema Arts, Dominic Scott - Sophomore Cinema Arts, Gavin Meckes - Junior Cinema Arts, Tyler Roman - Sophomore Cinema Arts.



Michael Klug | The Globe
Students grab a variety of foods like hamburgers and hotdogs at the Pioneer Picnic.

Soul food fest hits Point Park's campus

Cassandra Harris
Editor-in-Chief

Michael Klug
Co-Photo Editor

Pittsburgh is a huge city where different cultures come together and interact with each other daily. Every year, the city holds festivals and events that unite these cultures even further. The Soul Food Festival, held from August 30 to September 1, is one of those events.

At the Soul Food Festival held this past Labor Day weekend in Market Square, diverse culinary traditions and flavors from Southern cuisine and hand-crafted merchandise were brought together in a unique and engaging way. Vendors from all over the country arrive every year for this one event.

"We've been coming here for three years from Gary, Indiana," Rod Robinson, a political clothing vendor at the event said. "It's a great gathering of good people. You can have a laugh, hang out in a peaceful environment, and do some shopping, eating, or just listen to some [live] music."

In addition to the food trucks, there were also merchandise vendors at the festival. Most of the merchandise was hand-crafted, ranging from clothing and jewelry to sculptures and fragrances.

Valerie Threats, another vendor at the festival, sold her hand-crafted clothing, jewelry, and other items based on African culture. "I am a great lover of African fabric," Threats said. "I love making things. I started sewing at 11 and haven't stopped since then."

She said that the diverse range of cultures is what makes the Soul Food Festival so unique.

"It's nice to see the dif-



Cassandra Harris | The Globe
Senior Point Park students, Becca Bivona and Kalibur Sharrer.



Cassandra Harris | The Globe
Attracting people from varieties of cultures, the Soul Food Festival sold cuisine from mac and cheese eggrolls to steak brisket.



Cassandra Harris | The Globe
Azariah Williams, Delaney Pittman and Lexi Lewis, Juniors and Kalyan Paradis and Alexis Faessel first-year dance majors outside at the festival.

ferent nationalities mingle," Valerie said. "We can come together as Black, White, Asian, or wherever anyone is from and just enjoy each other's company."

In the heart of Downtown on the Boulevard of the Allies and Wood Street, the Soul Food Festival also attracted students from Point Park University. With the festival right down the road from dormitories, it introduced students to the various cultures of Pittsburgh and beyond.

"I heard it from my Lawrence Hall dorm and I thought it sounded fun, so I went down to check

it out," Alexa Waldron, first-year cinema production major, said. "I like being out in the city. I come from a quiet place about 20 minutes away but now I'm here."

"It's cool to see different ethnic groups coming together," Kalibur Sharrer, a senior SAEM major, said. "Everyone comes together and it's great to see."

Living on Point Park's campus gives students the opportunity to easily attend these events. They not only enrich the cultural tapestry of Pittsburgh, but also foster a sense of community among residents and visitors alike.



Cassandra Harris | The Globe
Alexa Waldron a first-year cinema productions major at the festival.

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THAT'S CAMP: FIRESIDE SNACKS AND 'PITCH PERFECT'



Cassandra Harris | The Globe
With other students, two SGA senators gathered around a fire pit in Village Park.



Cassandra Harris | The Globe
Students watch 'Pitch Perfect' in Village Park, due to the tentative rain, there were tents.



Cassandra Harris | The Globe
A s'mores table was set up in Village Park to roast marshmallows around a campfire.



Cassandra Harris | The Globe
Nariq Burks, Xiomarei West, Cooper Slocum, Ruthie Light and Rebekkah Zeh

Pittsburgh Playhouse announces 2024-2025 season for Conservatory

Robert Fornataro
For The Globe

The new season for the Conservatory of Performing Arts is in full send. This year, the Pittsburgh Playhouse has presented multiple productions for the department of dance and theatre that are sure to excite.

Under the direction of Kiesha Lalama, the managing and artistic director for the Playhouse, they're launching several new programs.

Lalama did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

One such program people are looking forward to is the "Arts Accelerator." The first of these events listed is titled "ASCEND." It states that it's a "highly stimulating and interactive production for thrill-seeking audiences," which ensures to be exciting. It will begin in a state of calm, transitioning to a "cosmic dance party."

Listed below is a schedule for all the shows planned this year.

Dance

October 9-13, 2024: Fall Dance Concert. The fall dance concert is a production put on by the Conservatory Dance Company that occurs every year. This year features choreographers Roni Koresh, Julie Lane, and Ilian Lopez.

October 23-27, 2024: Fall Student Choreography Project. In a dance-major's capstone, they are required to choreograph a routine performed by peers of their choice. Held each year, this project showcases all the years of work these students put into the dance program and allows them to display their knowledge and skill.

December 11-15, 2024: Contemporary Choreographers. Featuring works by newly hired staff members of the conservatory dance company, this project will bring to life their outside ideas and stories. The dance faculty involved will be announced at a later date.

February 19-23, 2025: Winter Dance Concert. Featuring works by Omar Román de Jesús, Nacho Duato, Karla Puno Garcia, and Houston Thomas, this project aims to warm up the audience with its choreography.

March 5-9, 2025: Spring Student Choreography Project. A continuation of the capstone for dance majors,



Robert Fornataro | The Globe
The Pittsburgh Playhouse's main entrance on Forbes Ave.

this project will feature routines choreographed by Point Park seniors. The show will further highlight the creativity of the university's students.

April 16-20, 2025: Faculty Choreo-lab. An annual show brought on by the conservatory dance company's own faculty, this production will bring to life the ideas and artistry of Point Park's staff, for which they are renowned.

Theatre
October 10-20, 2024: The Trees by Agnes Borinsky. This surreal play explores community and identity. Friends find themselves transformed into trees, challenging their connections and understanding of the world.

November 13-17, 2024: Steel Pier. Set during a 1930s dance marathon, this musical showcases the perseverance of contestants striving for victory, highlighting both grit and glamour.

December 4-8, 2024: Arcadia by Tom Stoppard. Blending past and present, this play weaves love, science, and mystery together across generations, filled with wit and deep reflection.

February 19-23, 2025: Jerry's Girls. A lively revue celebrating Jerry Herman's greatest hits, featuring songs from

'Hello, Dolly!,' 'Mame,' and more.

March 26-30, 2025: 12 Ophelias (a play with broken songs) by Caridad Svich. A modern take on Hamlet, this play follows Ophelia's journey to reclaim her story, blending poetic dialogue with haunting melodies.

April 9-13, 2025: Legally Blonde: The Musical. The main protagonist, Elle Woods, brings her charm and determination to Harvard Law in this upbeat musical, proving that being true to yourself is "in."

For Jacqueline Trinh-Juarez, a second-year musical theatre major, "Legally Blonde" holds a special place in her heart. "Although it is a silly and fun show, it packs a big punch," Juarez said. "The show reminds us that we can do hard things under any circumstance—and do it in pink."

Her personal connection to the character of Elle Woods, a determined young woman navigating the challenges of law school, resonates deeply with her. She was the first in her family to leave Texas for college. With its empowering message, this production is one she eagerly anticipates.

Deborah Wason, is equally excited about the season, particularly for the Contemporary Choreographers production. She said that the show is interesting because of the mix of faculty and outside choreographers.

Wason is a senior dance major with a concentration in ballet, so she's also choreographing her own piece for the fall student project.

"It's incredibly rewarding to see my choreographic ideas come to life," Wason said. She hopes that audiences will gain a deeper appreciation for the arts through performances this season.

Tickets for the upcoming season are available to subscribers, and individual tickets will be available in purchase in the future.



Cassandra Harris | The Globe
Dance bags lined up while students audition for the Fall dance concert, contemporary choreographers and the student choreography project.

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A&E Editor Rachel Ross recommends Summer reads

Rachel Ross
Feats/A&E Editor

Last November, I wrote an article saying I wanted to read more. Well, almost a year later, I finally have! This summer, I found myself in a place where I was not only reading consistently, but enjoying it, and regarding it as a refreshing escape from the stress of the day-to-day.

One of the reasons it took me so long to get there was the difficulty in finding books that I enjoyed reading. Apparently I'm very particular, who knew? The string of books I read over the summer not only captivated my interest through unique, affective stories, but reinvigorated my desire to read for fun. So with that, here are my reading rut solutions.

Truly Remarkable Creatures

I went back and forth on "Truly Remarkable Creatures" a number of times before finally deciding to give it a try. I was caught between whether the concept was unique enough to be intriguing or outlandish enough to be stupid.

Ultimately, the former proved true, as author Shelby Van Pelt manages to turn a story about an elderly woman befriending an octopus into a touching exploration of loss and the nature of humankind.

Not only are the story's array of eccentric, layered characters captivating in their journeys of growth and self-exploration, but discovering how they're all connected adds a further level of intrigue. As engaging as the main narrative is, where this book really excels is in its ability to capture the more obscure, simple joys of life. Every element of this book, from the characters to the plot, to the themes feels so thoughtfully planned out and written.

No matter your age or what stage of life you're in, this book has something to offer everyone. It's one of the most touching and original books I've ever read.

Lessons In Chemistry
You've likely heard of Bonnie Garmus' "Lessons in Chemistry" before, as it skyrocketed to fame shortly after its release in 2022. But if, for whatever reason, you haven't read it yet, this is me urging, pleading and screaming for you to do so.

On a literary level, this is not only one of the most proficient, unique books I've ever read, but on a content level, it's one of the most important. Garmus captures the plight of women's suffrage in the 1950s and 60s through the ingenious lens of a female protagonist who struggles to maintain values ahead of her time, in a period that constantly wants to suppress and stifle her.

Through this, the reader experiences a brilliant time warp that creates a great sense of immersion within the character. It's not just telling what life was like during the time period, it's showing by inserting a modernized person and forcing them to live within the constraints. Rarely has a book affected me as this one has, and it's because of this unmatched story device.

With the very poignant,

often unjust circumstances that take place throughout the novel, it can sometimes be a bit of a difficult read. However, these moments are off-set with eccentric side characters and situations that help to lighten the mood. The world of the story is so unique yet also realistic.

With a rich and truly original story, deeply developed characters and an unparalleled writing style, every element of "Lessons In Chemistry" is masterfully crafted. It's a bit heavier of a read than the others on this list, but it's worth it and then some.

Malibu Rising

After reading and loving "Daisy Jones and the Six" last year, I made a mental note to come back to author Taylor Jenkins Reed's work. Although I can't say this novel has exceeded the very high bar "Daisy" set, "Malibu Rising" is still an enchanting, stirring family drama.

If you meet the same niche intersection that I do of loving summer and being obsessed with the 1980s, this is certainly the book for you. Both the season and the decade set a rich yet subtle background for the story, integrated in a way that feels thoughtful and necessary, as opposed to obnoxious or nostalgia bait-y.

In the center of it all is a deeply layered, affecting story about a family's past and present, exploring how their experiences have and continue to shape who they are. Each of the four main characters are faced with decisions and struggles that feel timeless, relevant, and unique. The events of the story demand the siblings to face their past, themselves and who they want to be going forward. "Malibu Rising" offers the perfect balance of engaging story and intriguing characters.

Eragon

Though an outlier amongst the books I've read this summer, I've enjoyed Christopher Paolini's "Eragon" enough that it deserves a mention. I read a fair share of fantasy novels as a kid, with my favorite being Ridley Pearson's "Kingdom Keepers." I still regard the series as my favorite of all time. By no means is it the best fantasy series that's ever been written, but I had a good time reading it.

"Eragon" exists in the same space for me, which is the reason I wanted to read it in the first place. I was hoping to find something that had the same energy, and this does. Is it basically just "Star Wars" but with dragons? Yeah, but so are a lot of things.

At the end of the day, it meets the craving for low brow fantasy that I was looking for, and I've had a great time with it. Though I never read it as a child, it still has a nostalgic quality to it that makes it a cozy, relaxed read. If you are a 2000s kid like me who passed by the iconic cover over and over again in libraries throughout your childhood, I would definitely recommend giving it a go.

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Students cannot afford Point Park bookstore prices

Cassandra Harris
Editor-in-Chief

People, if you read my Burgh Bites food review column, you know that I am always on the search for the cheapest things Downtown, and well, the Point Park bookstore and merchandise store isn't one of these places.

In my three years at Point Park, I have often considered writing an article about how I see more students wearing University of Pittsburgh merch or Penn State University merch than I see wearing our own school's merchandise. I also know that when I was covering the Student Government Association beat in 2022, an issue they brought up was the lack of school spirit Point Park Students have for Point Park overall.

They attributed this to not having a football team. I attribute this to students not having affordable spirit wear. Although, compared to two years ago, I believe that our school spirit is way stronger than it was. Yet, the prices in the merchandise store need to be cheaper.

After a search on Point Park's official spirit wear website, the cheapest hoodie I could find \$39.98. At first, I became excited to let you all know that there is a single reasonably priced hoodie at the store for purchase,



An assortment of merchandise displayed last Spring. The Bison Book Bundle is to make more merchandise available in the store.

Cassandra Harris | The Globe

and then I realized that it is only for youth sizes.

The next cheapest option I found for hoodies was around \$44.98 on the website, although it wasn't an actual hoodie but instead a men's fleece crew-neck. The third cheapest option was \$49.98. I found what I believe to be a plain version of this same hoodie listed online by Champion Teamware for only \$21.99.

If you want the hoodie just to have Black Diamond's face on it then it's going to cost a student, Alumni or faculty member

\$69.89, and if you want to go all out to get the really nice yellow Point Park hoodie – which I personally want – it's going to cost \$79.98.

A third party, Barnes and Noble, operates both the bookstore and the spirit wear side.

In an interview with Marlin Collingwood, president of enrollment management, at the end of the Spring 2024 semester, he told me that as the Bison Book Bundle is implemented, the bookstore is going to lean away from selling physical books and

this would open more opportunities for us to sell merchandise.

This is our opportunity, Point Park administrators. I know that the partnership we have with Barnes and Noble is not going to go away, especially with the new Bison Book Bundle, but maybe if the books are no longer being sold directly out of the physical store this is our opportunity to purchase our merchandise from another, cheaper company. Stop letting third parties sell our merchandise. This move is our opportunity to

make the bookstore profitable for the school and more affordable for students.

It is my dream to one day walk around campus and see more students wearing the words Point Park on their chest rather than Pitt, Penn State, or see a kid on a sports team who is wearing merchandise only because it was given to them.

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THE GLOBE'S POINT

Point Park University Police are here to support our community

Happy week two, Pioneers! We hope that all of you are getting settled into your classes and are starting to get a feel for how to balance your schedule. Remember, it's best to maintain a balance between the responsibilities of your classes, job and any additional campus activities you may be part of. As a student, taking care of yourself is your most important responsibility.

We would like to touch on the tragedy that occurred on Rice University's campus on August 26. According to CBS, Andrea Rodriguez Avila, a student who had transferred to Rice in the Spring 2024 semester, was shot to death in her own dorm room. Our thoughts are with her family and everyone grieving the loss of Avila, as she should still be here today. Any death caused by reckless gun violence is a death that could have been prevented.

It is troubling that nobody seemed to know what happened to Avila before her parents requested a welfare check. How is it that not one student heard gunshots ringing out in a dorm hall, or that police weren't notified the moment this senseless act of violence took place?

Rice University police

handled the situation well after finding Avila, but this still should not have happened. We would like to remind all returning students as well as new students that Point Park does have police officers that are here to protect students every hour of the day.

Regardless of your thoughts on policing, remember that they can handle potentially dangerous situations better than the average college student. Unlike most city police officers, ours are trained to communicate clearly with students and understand our concerns. The campus police officers are members of our community and are there to help students who are asking questions or requesting help.

If you are ever in a situation on campus where you feel unsafe, call 412-392-3960. Saving this number as a contact in your phone can help too. Remember, our desk security and our police are two different groups. Point Park police are not security guards or "mall cops" – they can help you just like the Pittsburgh police can, if not better.

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Artificial Intelligence should be a tool

August Stephens
Opinions Editor

As a student, the word "artificial intelligence" seems to carry a decent amount of buzz. Students and teachers equally turn their heads at the mention of AI – asking questions like what it should be used for, how it has progressed so quickly, and even whether or not it should be incorporated into the class in the first place.

While fear tactics may often be used through threats of disqualification, expulsion or suspension, there is also a nuanced side of positivity to AI. AI can, and should, be used as a tool to improve a person's work. Still, no one should be proud of creating a piece of art or writing an essay which would normally be outside of their skill set through the use of AI. That is frankly embarrassing and should be a point of transparency from the individual before the piece of work is reviewed.

There are several spaces where AI could be used: healthcare, government and, the obvious, academia. According to Nature magazine, the use of AI to aid already advanced hospital technology is a point of debate, where it should be used to diagnose patients and shorten wait times. As a chronically-ill person, the idea of not having to see five doctors and wait six months to receive a diagnosis would be life-changing, but would also highly depend on the person's medical and physical place.

AI technology should be a work in progress, comparable to how the internet and television revolutionized the world once they were first introduced to human society. This is just the beginning of AI, and we should learn to adapt and use it in our academic and work settings.

As a student who has only used AI in Photoshop, I can agree with some of my peers that if AI could do

"This is just the beginning of AI, and we should learn to adapt and use it in our academic and work settings."

August Stephens
Co-Opinions Editor

household chores or write an outline for my LinkedIn posts, it would help with efficiency. Not only could AI help with efficiency, but it could also change how a person with depression lives their life. Artificial Intelligence technologies could help give motivation to individuals, or give them a reasonable list of tasks for a day, such as keeping mouth wash next to where

you sleep if it is too difficult to get out of bed.

According to the BBC, the gaming industry is also starting to apply AI to the production of video games. Artificial Intelligence can create a catalog of ideas for creators, which can build on storytelling methods. Although the risk of job cuts are realistic, AI cannot create games that precisely replicate the complicated human experience the way a game made by humans can.

It would be a lie to say Artificial Intelligence does not scare me. The production, and explicit sharing, of deep fakes and AI-generated scripts should startle people. It is difficult, if not impossible, to tell when deep fakes will progress to the point where they cannot improve further. According to the Northwestern Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, this Buffett Brief details how digital impersonation could also affect military documentation. Research projects could mitigate damage done by AI through a "deliberate and inclusive process."

Ultimately, AI should be used with careful thinking. While guidelines should be truthful and transparent about the use of AI in varying academic and professional spaces, there should also be room to change and grow with the evolution of Artificial Intelligence.

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THE GLOBE SINCE 1967

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Golon and Ingram kickstart lacrosse program

Brynn Rees
Sports Editor

Point Park hired Cody Golon and Erik Ingram in June as the university's first ever lacrosse coaches.

The two teams will not compete in official matches during the 2024-25 school year, however Golon and Ingram began recruiting and building their rosters. Lacrosse is set to begin NCAA play during the 2025-26 academic year.

The lacrosse teams will practice and compete at Highmark Stadium.

"We've got a beautiful facility right across the river," vice president of athletics Scott Swain said. "I think both men's and women's lacrosse are set up for success in the years to come."

Golon and Ingram shared that Highmark Stadium acts as a valuable recruiting tool and adds a unique aspect to the university's lacrosse program.

"I think it's probably the coolest venue in Division II lacrosse, or one of them," men's head coach Cody Golon said. "Practicing there, playing there, having a night game there – creating that environment is really important."

Golon is a Pittsburgh native and graduate of Baldwin-Whitehall High School, a school about 20 minutes from the city. He played lacrosse and earned his Bachelor's at Seton Hill University, an NCAA Division II school in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

During his time at Seton Hill, Golon had three post-season qualifications – one for the NCAA Tournament and two for ECAC tournament.

Golon began his coaching career by volunteering for Baldwin-Whitehall's team. On top of his day job, he got increasingly involved in high school and club lacrosse.

Years later, Golon earned his first full-time coaching position at his alma mater as a graduate assistant, taking on the role of assistant coach and offensive coordinator. He helped lead the Griffins to a GMAC regular season championship and an NCAA playoff spot.

Golon most recently served as women's lacrosse head coach at Washington & Jefferson for three years. He is no stranger to Pittsburgh-area collegiate lacrosse, as he once coached at La Roche College as well.

"He has a great background in men's lacrosse," Swain said. "He is no rookie to it at all, and he's been successful recruiting and a successful coach."

Golon's first year as head coach consists of recruiting and forming a complete team by next year.

"We're having a lot of guys on campus for visits," Golon said. "That's gonna be a big part of it for this first year, just getting a solid roster together."

Golon will pioneer the first men's lacrosse team in Point Park history, one of four new athletic programs coming to the university.

"Anytime you take on a new challenge, it's so different. It's energizing," Golon said. "In the athletic department as a whole, there's a really good, positive energy going on."

At the forefront of the women's lacrosse team is Erik Ingram, a Pittsburgh native who attended Plum High School. Ingram has a diverse background of coaching several sports on the high school and collegiate level.

Ingram most recently coached women's lacrosse at Geneva College in their first year of the program. Before that, he served as both a la-



Joey Bova | Globe Archive
Lacrosse will hold their practices and games at Highmark Stadium.

crosse and soccer coach at Fox Chapel High School.

Between 1997 and 2003, Ingram helped launch the University of Pittsburgh's women's soccer program. He began as assistant women's soccer coach and eventually became a head coach.

"I think his recruiting ability was what we really saw in him," Swain said.

Ingram said that he aims to bring in 14-16 recruits during this first year. He states that he has a couple of verbal commitments and hopes to make it official during National Signing Day in November.

"Based on our campus, the facility we use for home games, [and] the amount of resources that have been

put into athletics, recruiting has not been a challenge at all," Ingram said.

Ingram shared that he plans to recruit both internally and externally. He will target high school recruits in addition to finding interested students within the university.

Only two months into his tenure, Ingram is in the works of forming a complete roster.

"It's been first class, and the resources that they give the coaches to be successful are pretty amazing," Ingram said. "So I've enjoyed it quite a bit."

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Russell Wilson's ride carries on in Pittsburgh

Peyton Celesti
Staff Writer

For Super Bowl champion and 35-year-old quarterback Russell Wilson, the journey to becoming starting quarterback of the Pittsburgh Steelers has undoubtedly been a long and unexpected one, filled with peaks and valleys.

Wilson overcame the odds of being an undersized and overlooked quarterback for most of his young career. He played football and baseball for NC State then transferred to Wisconsin, where he led the Badgers to a Rose Bowl appearance.

In 2012, the Seattle Seahawks took Wilson with the 75th pick in the third round. He eventually asserted himself as one of the best dual-threat quarterbacks the league had ever seen. Wilson was selected to nine Pro Bowls and went to back-to-back Super Bowls with the Seahawks, winning Super Bowl XLVII.

Although critics undervalue Russell's success with Seattle due to the "Legion of Boom" defense, they cannot deny his production. Wilson broke many franchise records with the Seahawks, including single-season passing yards and hee is the third quarterback in NFL history to record 250 or more passing touchdowns in the first nine years of a career, joining Dan Marino and Peyton Manning.

The Denver Broncos made one of the biggest offseason trades in March of 2022, acquiring Wilson and signing him to a five year, \$242 million deal.

The Broncos signed Russ as their franchise's savior, expecting Wilson to bring their team back to Super Bowl contention.

To almost everyone's surprise, Wilson's storybook career took a dramatic turn for the worse. From his first snap, he looked

nearly unrecognizable. A Broncos team with Super Bowl aspirations finished 5-12 in 2022, and Wilson finished with a career-low 38.7 quarterback rating and 16 touchdowns.

The Broncos brought in offensive guru Sean Payton in 2023 to try to bring back some of what Russ used to be. He improved his performance statistically, putting up 26 touchdowns to eight interceptions and a 98.0 passer rating. A midseason surge from Denver was not enough to prevent another disappointing season.

Payton's displeasure with Wilson was obvious, so it was no surprise when the Broncos released him and swallowed the \$39 million guaranteed in his contract. After a long free-agent visit with the Steelers, Wilson signed with Pittsburgh on a bargain one year, \$1.2 million deal in March. From his first press conference interview, it's easy to see that Wilson's personality and leadership qualities fit well with Tomlin's personality and the team culture he likes to create.

This one year deal looks good on paper for both sides. The Steelers are a team that impressively won ten games last year with incompetent quarterback play from Kenny Pickett and Mitchell Trubisky for most of the season.

Wilson is coming to the Steelers with the expectation of being the best version of the player he is now, not to be the superstar he once was.

It would be naive to think that the pressure isn't on Wilson in his first year in the black-and-gold. This year is his last chance to prove that he can be a reliable, winning quarterback in the NFL during the twilight of his career.

It's reasonable to think that the odds of Wilson succeeding in Pittsburgh aren't exactly in his favor. He has to adjust to a new offensive play-caller in Arthur Smith.

He has a relatively young offensive line in front of him and a receiving core with many question marks. Not to mention, his leash may be short with a younger, more athletic Justin Fields waiting in the wings.

If Russ is going to succeed, he has to adjust his playstyle, and Arthur Smith will have to help him do that. The days of constantly ad-libbing in and out of the pocket and holding onto the ball too long must be over. Wilson has taken 527 sacks in his 12-year career, recently passing Brett Favre for fourth all-time on that list, and by the year, he is becoming too old and slow to avoid and break sacks like he used to.

In general, Wilson won't have much time in the pocket if the offensive line struggles, so Smith must have plays handy that set up quick reads, especially over the middle of the field where Russ has not thrown the ball enough in recent years.

Pittsburgh's run game must be the best part of their offense, so the team can limit the number of difficult situations that Russ has to be in. Wilson isn't built to throw the ball over 40 times a game anymore, but his strengths still lie in play-action and his famous "moonball" that he throws deep downfield. This part of the passing game will open up, as long as the offensive line's strength of run blocking creates holes for running backs Najee Harris and Jaylen Warren.

With Mike Tomlin at the helm, every season for the Pittsburgh Steelers is one heck of a ride, and this year, Russell Wilson will be taking the wheel for one of the craziest and most unlikely rides in Steelers history. Russell Wilson is familiar with the spotlight, so at least give him some time to see if he can shine.

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Pirates enter fall in a familiar spot

Nathan Schivins
Staff Writer

One day after the MLB trade deadline in July, the Pittsburgh Pirates were 55-52, two games out of the wild card race, six games out of first place in the National League Central, and second in the division.

Optimism was running high as trade deadline acquisitions Isiah Kiner-Falefa, Bryan De La Cruz, and Jalen Beeks joined a roster that included pitching phenom Paul Skenes, all-star Bryan Reynolds, former all-stars Mitch Keller and David Bednar, and up-and-coming stars like O'Neil Cruz and Jared Jones. Though a tough stretch of opponents loomed ahead, many fans (including myself) believed this was the best chance the Buccos had at October baseball since they made the playoffs three consecutive seasons in 2013, 2014, and 2015.

Those hopes and aspirations faded remarkably fast immediately following the deadline. The Pirates lost an error-filled final game of their series against Houston, blew leads in two games against Arizona, and proceeded to have a ten game losing streak that knocked the Pirates out of postseason contention.

There was nothing abnormal with the Pirates' performance during that stretch. They were scoring fewer runs than they had all season, but not by too much. It wasn't like they were lighting it up offensively prior to the losing streak. The starting pitching wasn't terrible either. The bullpen was really bad, but it has been one of the worst in the league all season.

The common denominator throughout that stretch, and really all season, has been the inability to close out games. In those ten losses, five of them were by one run, and during three of them Pittsburgh

had the lead going into the ninth inning.

It's easy to cast most of the blame for this collapse on David Bednar, Colin Holderman and the much-maligned bullpen. They deserve a large portion of it, but shouldn't part of it fall on those who oversaw the collapse as the losses piled up?

This season marks year five of the Ben Cherington, Travis Williams, and Derek Shelton era. After being given the green light to completely start over following the 2019 season, the first three years were about trading away veterans for minor league prospects and losing 100 games. In 2023, the team began showing signs of life, starting 20-8 before fading and ending up 76-86.

Going into 2024, the hope was that an improving roster combined with the arrival of Paul Skenes and Jared Jones would put the Pirates on the fringes of wild card contention during the last couple weeks of the season.

While a late-season surge is not ruled out, the Pirates will not only fail to reach .500 by season's end, but they won't be close to the wild card hunt. Instead of each game having massive consequence and fans holding their collective breaths when a runner reaches scoring position, the storied lines this September will be Andrew McCutchen's milestones reached in a Pirates uniform and whether or not the team will shut down Paul Skenes.

As the offseason nears, it's fair to wonder if Derek Shelton and Ben Cherington will be on the hot seat. After five seasons and not even sniffing postseason baseball, when is it fair to question if they're capable of getting Pittsburgh to the playoffs and even further?

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