



Full-time faculty union ratifies three-year contract

By Gavin Petrone
News Editor

Point Park's full-time faculty union officially ratified a new three-year contract with university administration on Wednesday, Nov. 20.

The contract runs until June 30, 2027, and includes annual wage increases of 3.6%, increased professor pay for overload courses and extra responsibilities, more funding for professional development and a new three level promotional structure for lecturers.

Wage increases will be retroactive to Sept. 1, 2024 and paid out around the end of the semester.

"I have already had promising conversations with union leadership about implementing the new contract quickly and effectively," Michael Soto, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, wrote in Point Park's November Leadership Report.

"With CBA negotiations in our rearview mirror, we can pursue our vital Point Park mission with more vigor than ever," Soto said.

The contract was ratified with a 72-3 vote. It required over 18 negotiation sessions that took place from May to October of this year.

Over the course of those negotiations, full-time faculty union members held a march and vote of no-confidence against President Chris Brussalis to protest stalled bargaining.

Zach Tanner, president of the Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh, which represents the full-time faculty, said in a press release that these efforts helped achieve the new contract.

"It's not just wages that we won," Tanner said, "but increased job protections and major improvements to the professional life of full-time faculty members."

"This is a contract that every faculty member at Point Park should be proud of," Tanner said.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette workers, also represented by the News-Guild, remain on strike. This coming holiday marks the third since staff walked out on Oct. 18, 2022.

Their last contract expired in 2017.

Bob Batz, editor emeritus of Pittsburgh Union Progress (PUP), the Post-Gazette workers' strike publication, said that the record length of the strike is difficult.

"It really is mind-boggling," Batz said. "We are the longest strike ever in Pittsburgh, we're told, and we are the longest on-going strike in the country right now. Neither of those are distinctions that we want."

"It's not a good time to be on strike," Batz said.

Rick Nowlin, a former news assistant and jazz critic for the Post-Gazette, had just married and bought a house when the strike began.

"Being part of this union has been a real help to [my wife and I]," Nowlin said.

Months into the strike, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

"Had I been active, who knows what might have happened, because right now the union is

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Gas leak shuts down West Penn

By Cassandra Harris
Editor-in-Chief



Cassandra Harris | The Globe

A worker from Peoples lowers a worker into the man hole on Wood Street.

On the day back from Thanksgiving break, students, faculty and staff received an email and phone call through Point Alert announcing that the West Penn building was closed and classes were canceled due to maintenance.

Nick Paradise, a representative for Peoples Gas, said it was notified of a "possible gas odor in the West Penn building at 8 a.m." and that technicians responded immediately after to shut gas off to the building.

The leak was identified by Point Park at 6:30 a.m. according to Chris Hill, vice president of operations for the Physical Plant. The communication to students, faculty and staff was sent out at 7:53 a.m. Monday.

At least six Peoples Gas vehi-

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SGA and Soto discuss potential changes to academic calendar

By Peyton Martin
SGA Beat Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) hosted Provost Michael Soto as a guest speaker during their weekly Monday meeting, discussing the possibility of adjusting the academic calendar.

Typically, the spring semester starts two weeks earlier than other universities, such as on Jan. 6, 2025. However, during spring 2026, the semester will begin a week later than previous years.

This means that, most years, the spring semester will start the day after Martin Luther King Jr. Day. According to Soto, there are a number of potential benefits to this change.

One benefit is it would allow students another week of opportunities to work and bring in income over the winter break. Additionally, the change also allows students to have more credit recovery opportunities.

"There are various programs across the country where you can transfer credits over a very brief window of time during winter break," Soto said. "This is really important to maintain financial aid and athletic eligibility in a lot of cases."

Also, the later start would al-



Peyton Martin | The Globe

Provost Michael Soto discusses a later start date for the spring semester in the future.

low staff to better prepare for the start of the spring semester. With the change, spring break would also move to be later than the end of February or the beginning of March. Traditionally, spring break happens before the start of spring.

"It would be a more reasonable approximation of spring," Soto said. "[For] most spring breaks here, there is still snow on the ground, so it doesn't feel like spring if you stick around Pitts-

burgh."

One drawback from the change would mean that the summer term would start two days after commencement, which primarily affects faculty members within the school of education.

There are multiple reasons why the university hasn't considered the change till now. One son is because Point Park students

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**BISON
BOOK
BUNDLE :**

**OPT OUT
WINDOW OPENS
DEC. 9TH**



NewsGuild members reach third holiday on strike

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taking care of medical bills,” Nowlin said.

Nowlin added that he is in good health and expected to recover.

Beyond the holiday, the recent re-election of President Donald Trump has further stressed timeliness from the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to hear the Newsguild’s case.

The NLRB can order the

Post-Gazette to stop bargaining in bad faith, which it has already alleged is occurring. They can also force them to restore the Newsguild’s previous contract.

In a news release from Oct. 23, 2024, the Newsguild stated that the Post-Gazette made a motion to argue that the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) is unconstitutional. That motion was dismissed.

Trump has already appointed highly contentious figures to head

many federal agencies. Newsguild strikers wonder if the NLRB will be in his crosshairs.

“The administration that’s coming in has been very open about wanting to dismantle some of these agencies and laws that we’re counting on to end our strike,” Batz said. “The Trump administration is not the one that’s gonna help you.”

Former transportation and infrastructure writer for the Post-Gazette, Ed Blazina, echoed

Batz’s sentiment.

“It’s put an even greater time-emphasis on getting accomplished what we need to get accomplished,” said Blazina. “It’s incumbent on us to impress upon the NLRB that you have to do everything you need to do as quickly as you can.”

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Two meal swipes to be allowed again at the Point Cafe

From SGA page 1

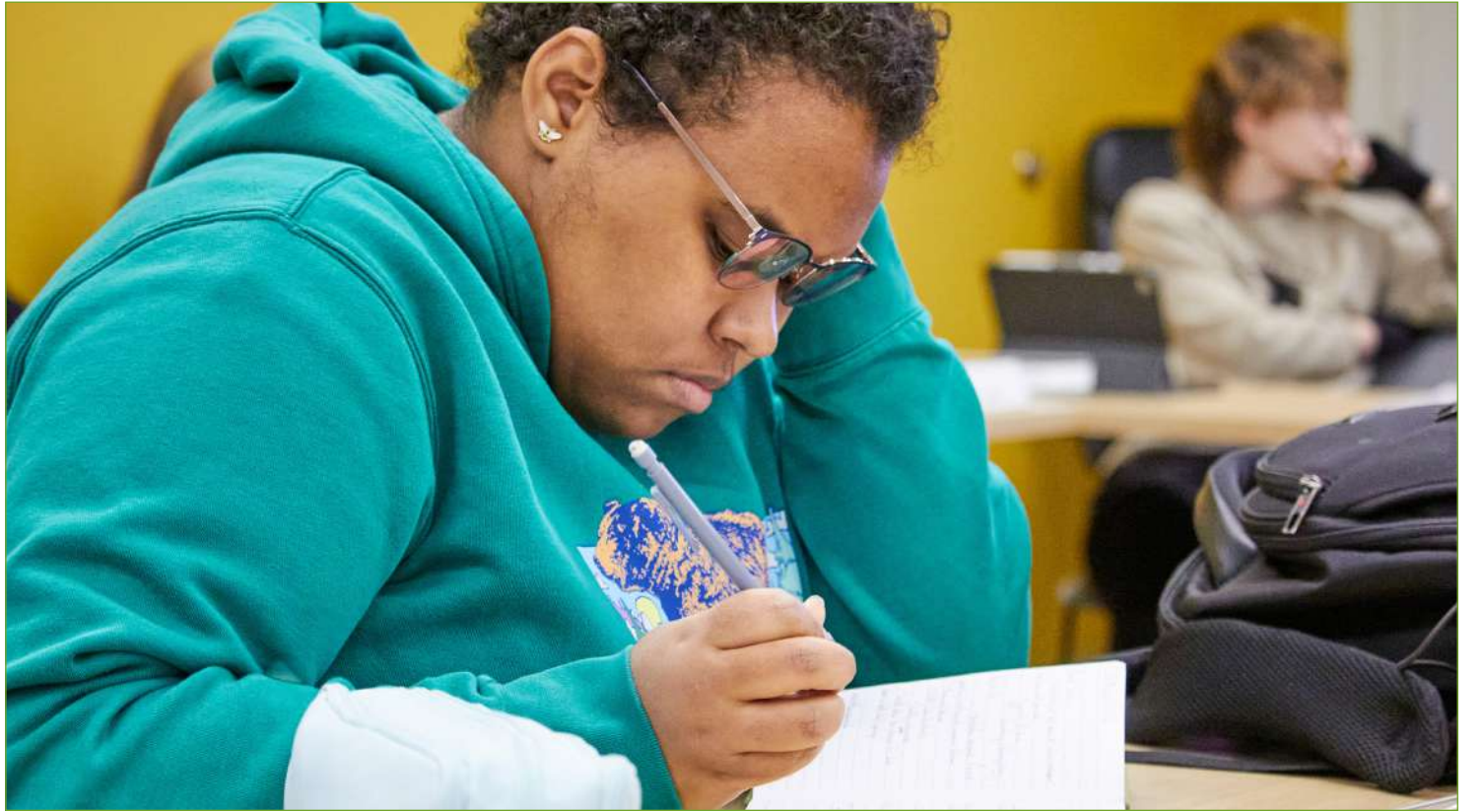
used to get a leg up on the competition when obtaining summer jobs but that no longer applies, since many students are looking for summer internships months before summer arrives.

Point Park also used to share the spring commencement cost with the University of Pittsburgh to rent out PPG Paints Arena. However, the University of Pittsburgh no longer does that after the arena was booked by a country singer the day commencement was supposed to take place.

“Thanks to Tim McGraw, we’ve got a divorce from Pitt,” Soto said.

The benefits of having an early start to the spring semester are no longer outweighed by the benefits of having the start time being later. With that in mind, Soto plans to send a draft for both a later spring semester start and a class period schedule with a common hour to SGA to be reviewed in the next week.

Lastly, during the announcements, SGA cele-



Peyton Martin | The Globe

SGA senator Sienna Wraith takes notes at the meeting held Monday in the Professional Career Readiness Center located in the Student Center.

brated being able to use two meal swipes in Point Cafe. This change will be put into effect immediately, allowing students to use their meal plans to get more than one meal from the Point Cafe a day.

This change brings the meal swipe program back to what it was during the

fall 2022 semester, when the cafe was last renovated, and the Boost mobile ordering app was first implemented.

Restrictions on the Point Cafe began with the cafe closing on weekends during the last week of the spring 2023 semester and then with the meal swipe

limitations starting during the fall 2023 semester.

The fall 2023 meal swipe restriction was never officially announced, leaving students to only find out once they tried to use a meal swipe in the Point Cafe a second time, only being told that they now can’t.

For more information regarding SGA, feel free to attend the final meeting of the semester at 3:15 pm on Dec. 9, 2024 in the basement of the student center.

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Classes canceled in West Penn out of ‘abundance of caution

From GAS page 1

cles were on Wood Street in front of West Penn at 9:46 a.m. along with a Duquesne light truck and a front loader. A technician stood on the corner of Wood Street near Fort Pitt Boulevard and in front of the CMI, lowering someone into the manhole on the sidewalk. According to Hill, Peoples identified that the leak was outside of the building and in their gas vault.

“I probably should have been more worried than I was more excited that I didn’t have class,” Makayla Wynn, a first year musical theatre student said.

Initially the building’s maintenance canceled her three hour long oral communications class scheduled for 6 p.m.

However, after Peoples restored gas service to the building at 10 a.m. according to Paradise, students and staff received a subsequent phone call and email at 3:44 p.m. through Point Alert. In the call, Wynn was informed that her class was no longer online and that



Cassandra Harris | The Globe

A Peoples Gas truck sits on Wood Street in front of West Penn with workers going in and out of the vehicle.

the building would reopen for the afternoon.

“I was looking forward to a night off,” Wynn said. “If it was over Zoom I probably would have preferred it less. I would be less motivated to stay awake if I

was in my bed.”

In the morning, Wynn still had 8 a.m. ballet, music theory and piano class. No other university building was affected by the leak.

Classes inside of West

Penn were canceled out of “an abundance of caution to keep students, faculty and staff safe,” Hill said in an email. “We closed the building until Peoples [could] make their repair.”

Some profes-

sors canceled classes while others held the A synchronistically.

Other first year students like Edison Toby and James Watts didn’t need to go to their city university life classes because they were scheduled during the maintenance in the morning.

“I had more time to sleep and get back into the groove of college,” Toby said.

Students were not formally notified that the building was closed due to a gas leakage.

“I wish that they could have been more open about it,” Watts said, in addition to city university life class his live entertainment business was also canceled.

If someone thinks they smell gas, Peoples recommends leaving the area immediately, then to call Peoples at 1-800-400-4271 and 911 to investigate.

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Pioneer Public: Animation professor Eric Joseph

Carson Folio
Editor-Elect

In the classrooms on the second floor of West Penn Hall, part-time animation professor Eric Joseph teaches sound design and production for animation students. With experience in the advertising industry, video editing and web development, being a musician outside of the classroom may be the last thing you'd expect his favorite pastime to be.

While Eric Joseph has been with several bands spanning decades, he is a blues musician who currently plays in The StreetSide Saints – a band that he, some friends and his brother created.

Before that, Eric Joseph has performed at many venues, from Louisville, Ky. all the way to Tokyo. His band has also seen radio play on 91.3 WYEP in Pittsburgh in the 1990s.

In The StreetSide Saints, Eric Joseph, who plays guitar and sings, is accompanied by keyboardist Michael Nelson, vocalist Dave “DJ” Joseph (Eric’s brother), drummer Denium Knight and bass player Dave “Sergeant” Stultz.

Eric Joseph is no stranger to both sound and animation – after all, he taught a very similar sound design for animation class at Pittsburgh Technical College for 21 years before it closed in June.

As for adjusting to a new campus and different community, Joseph hasn’t had any issues.

“After you teach 20-something years, it’s just transitioning into a new system,” Joseph said. “I don’t really get nervous about that stuff, because I’m used to improvising a lot of my life anyway.”

In his classes, Eric Joseph mostly teaches upperclassmen animation students about sound techniques such as the use of foley, automatic dialogue replacement and having a sound bank for their ani-



Courtesy of The StreetSide Saints

Eric Joseph, middle, plays guitar and sings with his bandmates in The StreetSide Saints.

mations at their disposal.

Students create their own sound banks by going around campus and recording sounds they hear such as pigeons cooing, people walking or cars honking. At the end of the semester, students then have to use these sounds in an animation.

While this is not Eric Joseph’s first time teaching a class like this, it is his first time being part-time instead of full-time. While he plans on teaching at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School in Midland after this semester, he is happy with his experience at Point Park so far.

“My students, you couldn’t ask for better,” Eric Joseph said. “And if I don’t come back next semester, some of these guys, they’re going to be graduating. I even told them, let me know so I can come and check out [their] portfolios because I really enjoy watching this crew.”

As for his interest in music, it all started when he was nine years

old and learned to play guitar. After his interest waned throughout the years, his cousins got together to form a band with him.

Eric Joseph’s love for classical guitar never went away, but going to Duquesne University for jazz in the 1980s made him appreciate the genre even more.

But Eric Joseph and the StreetSide Saints go beyond just one genre, as they have created originals ranging from surf guitar to pop and reggae.

The band’s name pays homage to the Joseph brothers and Nelson “busking” with their guitar cases open on streetside corners for people to put money into. The group was inspired by musicians in New Orleans doing the same thing.

Even though busking is part of the band’s founding, Eric Joseph said that it soon just became part of the band’s history.

“We thought, ‘you know what,

since we’re all kind of busking, we’ll do a busking band and busk as a trio,” Eric Joseph said. “Well, that was short-lived because we picked up our drummer and our bass player, and now it’s a full-fledged band.”

Pittsburgh’s music scene has changed in the last two decades, both with the public’s changing music taste as well as a loss of long-standing venues.

Coffeeshouses and clubs that commonly hosted musicians such as The Beehive on East Carson Street and the 31st Street Pub in the Strip District have closed, leaving a hole for groups ranging from rock to jazz musicians that isn’t easy to fill.

Despite this, Eric Joseph and The StreetSide Saints still manage to find places to play, such as the Dorothy 6 Blast Furnace Café in Homestead and The Parkway Theater and Film Lounge in McKees Rocks.

But where does Point Park stand in all this? It’s all about encouraging students to perform and support each other.

Eric Joseph hopes to not only start playing with his band at places close to campus such as Yuzu Kitchen on Wood Street and Forbes Tavern, but also talk to the Allegheny County Chamber of Commerce to get some money into Pittsburgh’s music scene and uplift it.

“All these young people have talent,” Eric Joseph said. “There’s no place for them to express themselves. If I’m part time in the spring at Lincoln Park, I’ll have some time to promote that and try to work on that.”

Eventually, Eric Joseph hopes to potentially work with Pioneer Records with recording music and maybe even getting his band to perform at Point Park.

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‘Burgh Bites

Burgh Bites: The Eagle; chewy fried chicken

Rating: ●●●●●

Cassandra Harris
Editor-in-Chief

It was Saturday night when I went onto Google and reserved a table for two at The Eagle. We missed our reservation for 6:30 p.m., though, because I spent over 30 minutes looking for parking.

Defeated, I gave up trying to park in the restaurant’s general vicinity and instead parked my car in the lot next to Conestoga Hall, taking a chilly 11 minute walk with my partner to the bar and chicken restaurant.

On foot, we arrived at 7 p.m. to a very busy restaurant, but immediately after we were seated, it seemed that everyone flocked out like birds. We were one of few tables left in the restaurant. Before the host left us, he placed a long slip of blank white paper on the table. I was excited when I saw it because I forgot a notebook.

Before our server came over, I took the slip of paper and began writing my order on it, calculating the food’s cost for my budget. That was before I realized that the slip of paper was for our waitress. She took the paper, made fun of me for not using my phone’s calculator, then ripped it in half, leaving me the bigger piece.

In order from best to worst, we ordered the fried chicken BLT for \$14, spoonbread for \$6, five drumsticks for \$12 and the spicy chicken dip for \$10.

After taking a bite from the fried chicken BLT, the flavors of the crispy italian bread, bacon, thick tomato slice, avocado relish, subtle jalapeno honey mayo and mixed greens sent me on a journey into the spice-verse. I would go to Dante’s Inferno and back for this sandwich.



Cassandra Harris | The Globe

(Left to right) Spicy chicken dip, salted tortilla chips, fried chicken, spoonbread and a BLT sandwich are set onto a table at The Eagle.

The chicken was creamy beneath its breading and the vegetable juice of the tomato elevated everything.

This is the best BLT sandwich I have ever tasted in my life.

On the opposite spectrum, I ordered the spicy chicken dip because it is often something that women put into their Tinder profiles, claiming it to be part of their personality. The dip, with the good kind of chips, took me off that cloud ride and down to earth with a burning sensation.

There was no notable flavor from it other than cheese and burning. My partner, who said he didn’t taste the spice at all, said that the

flavor wasn’t all that good in the first place.

It came with pulled chicken, spicy cheese sauce, smoked gouda and bleu cheese. The small portion, contained by the cast iron skillet it was served in, was not worth \$10. It’s better to make this cheaply at home or in your dorm.

Next the spoonbread, or cornbread rather, was also served in a skillet. It had maple butter that looked like melted cinnamon roll frosting.

It was warm, it was sweet, the edges were firm and almost crisp. The center was warm, a little bready, but added a tasty edge to the main

dishes served as a side.

As for the drumsticks, they were large and chewy, dredged in a tasty crust. The chicken was so moist, it was like taking a bite into a soft piece of rubber that was seasoned and lightly spiced throughout. For a moment, I thought I was chewing on real eagle meat.

If you decide to take the walk over for a few drinks and delicious chicken, if you love yourself, please order the BLT and leave the white slip of paper on the table alone.

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Production 4 senior thesis films begin to wrap

‘More Than You Can Chew’: A jewelry shop and some blood

Michael Klug
Co-Opinions/Website Editor

“More Than You Can Chew” is an upcoming P4 Horror short film directed by senior Michaelene Palermo.

The film follows main character Wren, played by Madyson Hearsh, as she tries to start up an oddity jewelry shop alongside her girlfriend, Harley, played by Zoie Sabreah.

“Something, or someone, gets in her way and we get to see her own special way of overcoming those obstacles,” Palermo said. “It’s about girls being weird just for the sake of being weird and jewelry that is handcrafted with care...and a little bit of blood.”

The film was overseen by Palermo, who directed and co-produced. Maggie Frey co-produced, wrote and is the director of photography. Sydney Frencho is the film’s editor.

“We were joined by fellow classmates Bayli Clack and Emma Crumling from the B-side crew as our Assistant Director and Set Decorator, Anna Segar and Adam Barret from other P4 crews as Assistant Camera and Sound Mixing, and we also had help from [another] classmate, Thomas Tyndall, on sound as well,” Palermo said. “As we head into post, our sound team also is joined by former Point Park student Georgia Maranville.”

“More Than You Can Chew” had about 10 people overall assisting with production.

Besides fundraising on IndieGogo, an online crowdfunding service, the crew also held a flea market in Village Park in October.

“From the beginning of this project, we wanted it to become a place for not only us as a film to create, but to open up the floor for our friends and peers to have a space to create and share their work as well,”

Palermo said. “We had five crazy cool vendors join us and we, as a film, had our own bake sale table.”

Palermo said the vendors and fundraising efforts covered all expenses for the film.

Despite a location being dropped and interruptions from bystanders, the film still made progress.

“Someone – totally not me – forgot to bring the chicken wings needed for a shot, so our crew had to eat chicken wings in a dark parking lot before a shoot,” Palermo said. “If you have a crew as solid as I feel ours is/was, it is easy to problem solve and persevere.”

“You just have to be passionate about what you are doing, and at the end of the day you will make sure it gets done,” Palermo said.

Filming for “More Than You Can Chew” occurred over two weekends in October and wrapped up on Oct. 20.

The film will be shown during the P4 showcase at the PNC theater inside the Pittsburgh Playhouse on Apr. 24, 2025.

“This film felt like a lot more to us than a simple school project,” Palermo said. “We really tried our hardest to create a safe and fun environment for like minded filmmakers like us, so we got everyone we love involved and had a majority female crew, [which] is rare in the industry, and by doing this and creating a safe space for female filmmakers, we hope to kind of set a precedent or maybe just encourage women going into the film industry.”

For more behind the scenes, cast photoshoots and crew photos, follow “More Than You Can Chew” on Instagram @toothfilm.

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‘Fade’: a relationship between father and son

“Fade,” an upcoming Production 4 Sports Drama film written by senior Declan Mooney and presented by Waddle Works Studios, is a story about a father and son whose relationship is put to the test when an injury disrupts their future plans.

The film follows the main character, Cam, played by Nicholas Ceniti. Cam is an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball star who recently suffered the loss of his mother and developed a strained relationship with his father, Bruce, played by Andy Pivarnik, in the process. During an intense match against his rival, Cam gets injured, and this injury reveals an underlying condition that drastically alters his hopes and dreams.

Mooney searched the Point Park Actor Database and Backstage, a website dedicated to finding local talent, for the actors for “Fade.” Every actor in the film came from Backstage.

The film was written entirely by Mooney.

“I started working on it over two years ago and refined it through the critiques from my classmates,” Mooney said. “It has gone through numerous iterations and ended as an entirely different script than it started as, but I’m extremely happy with the result.”

The short film had roughly 10-14 crew members present on every given day. Mooney is the director of “Fade,” Bayli Clack is the producer, Adam Barrett is the lead cinematographer and Emma Crumling is the production designer. Filming for the short film began on Nov. 8.

Regarding his other production experiences, Mooney was also part of the crews of other P4 films.

“I always love helping out on

other projects,” Mooney said. “I’ll take any excuse to be on set, in any role.”

“We wrapped our final day in a freezing cold parking lot on Nov. 17,” Mooney said. “We do have an extra day set aside for pickup shots, but I don’t foresee any need for it just yet.”

One of the issues the crew faced was making the basketball court sequence show more players than there were present.

“We basically filmed the action with two people on each team, and with the use of close ups we were able to avoid showing the emptiness of the court,” Mooney said.

The crew also did some fundraising on IndieGogo. Advertising the fundraiser on Instagram, they generated half of their budget goal with \$3,800.

“With the school’s reimbursements, that put us just \$600 shy of our budget,” Mooney said. “The rest of the budget came out of pocket.”

Mooney said this project is a passion project for him, reflecting on experiences that happened in real life.

“Being able to tie a real-life issue of lack of family communication with the game of basketball in a compelling way is what I set out to do,” Mooney said. “I hope that the emotions and actions translate to audiences the way it did to me creating it.”

“Fade” will be screened alongside the other P4 films at the P4 showcase at PNC Theater on Apr. 24, 2025.

For promotional content and previews of the film, follow “Fade” on Instagram @fadefilm2025.

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‘Bearhead McGee’: A half man half bear detective

Michael Klug
Co-Opinions/Website Editor

“Bearhead McGee,” a P4 short film reimagined by Logan Stanfa, is a comedy-noir of renowned detective Bearhead McGee, who is half man and half bear. The film is about Bearhead McGee getting back into the detective game, at which point he finds out that his former partner has turned to a life of crime and now calls himself “The Cheetah.”

The original creators of “Bearhead McGee” are Boston University junior George Atencio and University of Pittsburgh rising junior Zain Adamo.

The main cast includes retired marine, boxer and martial artist Brandon Keeton as Bearhead McGee, Point Park alumna Ivy Mackinson, who plays Detective Christine, and local actor Mike Psenick, who plays The Cheetah.

The film was written by senior Michael Bayer.

“We couldn’t have asked for a better person to do the job,” Stanfa said. “Michael is one of the best.”

Stanfa is the producer of “Bearhead McGee” and oversees a crew of a little over 13 people.

The director of the film is filmmaker Rashed Elami, the production designer is Jameelah Platt and the cinematographer and editor is filmmaker Georges Kassouf.

“The film is a loving call-back to old 40s noir films with an offbeat/comedic twist to it,” Stanfa said.

Stanfa created the crew and schedule for the project, but doesn’t consider himself to be a “boss figure.”

“We’ve also brought in a small

number of auxiliary support as well,” Stanfa said. “We have a very tight-knit crew, but we always help each other out to help get things moving.”

The crew did a lot of fundraising for the project, raising a total of around \$3,500 dollars.

“We promoted the film at Steel City Con and posted flyers all around certain areas of the Cultural District,” Stanfa said.

The filming for “Bearhead McGee” is nearly complete, with the final shooting day coming up this weekend.

Two of the main problems that the film faced were last-minute call-offs from the auxiliary crew and the replacement of one cast member.

“We all reached out to try and fill in these roles, and everything resolved itself,” Stanfa said. “Night shoots are also difficult because of the weather.”

The crew put casting calls out on Facebook and Backstage for the actors, and held auditions for those who were interested.

“We provide call backs, and we let them deliver their own, separate interpretations of the character,” Stanfa said. “We’re also paying our actors, so that definitely gives them some incentive to show up.”

“Bearhead McGee” will be shown at the P4 film screening at PNC Theater on April 24, 2025.

For behind the scenes and promotional images, follow the crew on Instagram @bear_head_mcgee_p4.

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‘She’s a Keeper’: A play on Romeo, Juliet and soccer

Michael Klug
Co-Opinions/Website Editor

“She’s a Keeper,” created by senior Anna Segar and written by senior Tiffany Scales, is a romantic comedy that infuses elements of 2000s romance comedies and sports. The film takes inspiration from movies such as “She’s All That,” “10 Things I Hate about You” and other works inspired from Shakespeare.

The film is about a queer couple, Romie and Jules, who have to face each other in their schools’ soccer regionals.

“I went to Tif with the idea because I’m not good at writing, and Tif did research on Romeo and Juliet as a whole, and then I really wanted to do a soccer story because I grew up with it,” Segar said.

The film has involvement from multiple people, including Point Park alumnus Ryan Peters as the director of photography, Thomas Tyndall on sound and Scales as the production designer by proxy. The director and producer positions are still uncertain.

“She’s a Keeper” has not yet started filming. This is partially due to location and scheduling conflicts, but the main reason is that the crew’s been waiting for the Production 3 (P3) films to finish production.

The script was also undergoing continuous developments until October.

“The script is never done,” Scales said. “Just stop writing.”

Segar said the crew didn’t get a chance to do any major fundraising for the group yet, but Scales worked

on a period product drive for a P3 film this semester.

The production did run into several issues, mainly with the scheduling.

“At one point we were thinking of doing indoors instead, so we were looking up places to film inside, but that is very expensive and we would have had to rewrite some stuff,” Segar said. “We have an intimacy and stunt person as well with us and we’re like – scheduling wise – walking it out.”

The crew put an ad out for actors on Backstage and Facebook.

“Something that was very important when we sent out the casting call was specifically saying ‘open to any queer person,’” Segar said. Jules’ actor is still being decided.

Scales wrote the whole production herself.

“I like forcing my way into writing people’s stuff for them,” Scales said.

“She’s a Keeper” will be shown at the P4 Film Screening at PNC Theater on April 24, 2025.

“We need people, other majors, to come to the screening. [There’s] so much fun stuff showing there,” Scales said.

The P3 screening will also be held on Dec. 13 at the PNC Theater.

“Go to the P3 screening and watch a guy get hit in the face with a tampon,” Scales said.

For more information about “She’s a Keeper,” follow their Instagram @shesakeeperfilm.

Michael Klug
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P2 SHOWCASE

Friday, Dec. 6 | GRW Theater | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

P3 SHOWCASE

Friday, Dec. 13 | GRW Theater | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM



CITY LIGHTS UP BRIGHT FOR LIGHT UP NIGHT

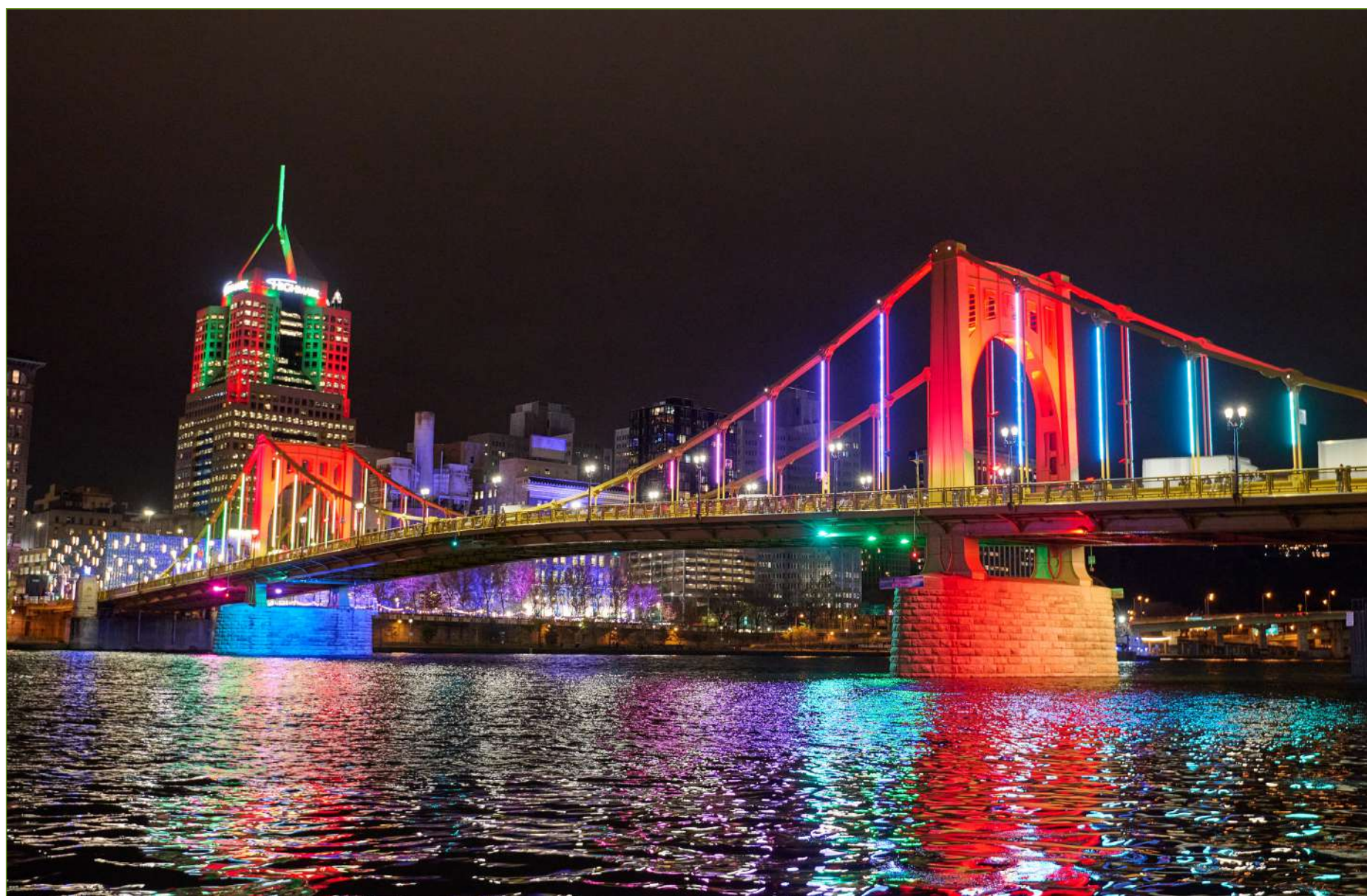


The holiday season kicked-off during Pittsburgh's Light Up Night on Nov. 23 in various locations in Downtown Pittsburgh. For the first time the Rainbow Circuit Collective program displayed its brand new light installation, now a permanent addition, on the Roberto Clemente, Andy Warhol and Rachel Carson bridges. At the Highmark Christmas Tree lighting the company handed out free Highmark hats before the Zambelli Rooftop Firework show at Penn Avenue and Stanwix Street. In addition to food vendors and drink vendors, and a silent disco the night ended with the Xfinity Fireworks Spectacular finale at the Allegheny overlook of Fr. Duquesne Boulevard.

Photos by Caleb McCartney



Lisa McCune, PPU grad 1999, hands out free hats during Light Up Night.



MJ the Musical at the Benedum Center

Melissa Garlock
Staff Writer

Most people know Michael Jackson's iconic tunes, such as "Billie Jean" or "Rock with You," but many people may not know the King of Pop's perseverance and passion for his craft, which "MJ" the musical explores.

Point Park students had the opportunity to see this hit Broadway musical Nov. 19 through Dec. 1 at the Benedum Center in downtown Pittsburgh. For the performance on November 21, the Campus Activities Board offered students discounted \$25. These were available for purchase in the SAIL office from Nov. 11-21. "MJ" the musical was

set to open in 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic until December 2021, opening at the Neil Simon Theater. After opening, the show proved to be a success at the box office. It was then nominated for ten Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The show would go on to win the Tony Award for Best Choreography, Best Actor (Myles Frost), Best Lighting and Best Sound Design.

This musical follows the rehearsal process for the "Dangerous World Tour," touching upon everything from Jackson's traumatic childhood to his rise to fame. Integrated throughout each era are mashups of his well-known songs, with fast-paced hip hop dancing

by the ensemble.

Choreographed by former ballet dancer and award winning Christopher Wheeldon, the movement pays direct homage to Michael Jackson's dance style. Featuring moves like the moonwalk, robot and toe-spin, the choreography reflects both Jackson and his influences. These include Bob Fosse, Fred Astaire and the Nicholas Brothers.

Both MJ's talent and vulnerability is highlighted in this show. The show is critically acclaimed by both the New York Times and Variety Magazine. For some viewers, the display of Jackson's childhood onstage can even be emotional, simply based on the nostalgia of the experience. The show

is highly immersive, and transports the audience to a live Michael Jackson concert.

The Benedum Center is a theater located on 7th Street in the Cultural District. Resident performance companies include the Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, the Pittsburgh Opera and the Pittsburgh CLO. Originally opening as a Stanley Movie Theater, the venue seats over 2,800 and features architectural elements from 1928. There are over 90 Crystal Chandeliers and a mirror-covered grand lobby. Beyond being aesthetically pleasing, the Benedum Center is designed to be an effective, practical concert space. The large stage, sound/ lighting systems

and acoustics create an ideal environment to watch performances of all kinds.

"MJ" the musical is complemented by its set design. For the traveling cast, projections and automated floor panels allow set pieces to move swiftly. The Benedum stage complements the scenery well, along with the physical structure of the auditorium further booming the sound of the powerful music.

Even though "MJ" the musical left the Benedum Center, students should still be on the lookout for other discounted Broadway touring tickets at the Benedum through CAB.

Melissa Garlock
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Empryeen Book Series Review

Peyton Martin
SGA Beat Writer

In my past two reviews, I've covered series written by Sara J. Maas, so for this week we'll be looking at another popular fantasy writer's work.

The Empryeen series is an adult fantasy, romance book series written by Rebecca Yarros. The series is currently not finished, with only two books out and a third to be released in January, but it is estimated to be a five book series in the future.

"Fourth Wing" is the first book in the series. It was released on May 2, 2023, and soon took off on the internet, primarily TikTok.

The book follows the main character, Violet Sorrengail. Sorrengail was trained to enter what is known as the scribe quadrant in Basgaith War College, where cadets are taught to transcribe and spread information and basically record history.

However, Sorrengail is forced into the rider's quadrant by her mother, where both her physical and mental strength is tested every day while she is trained to become a dragon rider.

"Fourth Wing" is a captivating book from the very beginning, and there is never a dull moment. From when Sorrengail's first trial takes place to the very last page, the book is filled with so many twists and turns that it makes it hard to tell what is coming next.

The plot isn't the only thing that is incredible about this book. The characters themselves and in relation to one another add to what makes this book so great.

To start off, Violet Sorrengail is an amazing example of a woman who doesn't need a prince charming to save her. She uses her own wits and strength to save herself. Instead of fleeing, she faces things head on, even if other characters need to remind her of things from time to time.

She isn't the only strong and powerful female character, either. There are several throughout the book that are strong in their own ways, but their strength doesn't take away from their femininity.

There are also so many great male characters, too. Liam Mairi made his appearance later on in the book, but he still left a big impact. He is an incredibly observant, kind and funny person. Even when others

seemed clueless about Violet's relationships, he always knew what was going on without being told.

He was also a great support both on and off the battlefield to those he cared about. Especially for Xaden Riorson, the main love interest in the book and Liam's non-biological brother.

The entire book is a masterpiece. The ending of the book was a tearjerker and also included a shocking cliffhanger.

"Iron Flame" is the next book in the series. While the book was great, it wasn't as amazing as the first.

With even more characters and plot twists, "Iron Flame" is a great continuation of the series. It does a great job of picking up where the last one left off with both the loss and love from the first.

A big flaw of the book is that Riorson kept several big things from Sorrengail because, if placed into the wrong hands, the information would put himself and everyone he cared about in jeopardy.

Regardless of that, Sorrengail was angry at him for withholding the truth for what felt like majority of the book. It appeared to be drawn out just to have a conflict going on until the next big plot twist.

Once it was resolved, the book became fast-paced and more enchanting to read than it was in the beginning.

The end of "Iron Flame" was a huge cliffhanger just like the first, and many readers of the series are impatiently waiting for book three.

"Onyx Storm" is book three in the series, and little is known about it. Here is what is known:

Book three releases on Jan. 21, 2025, with a deluxe, limited-edition hardcover for the first print of the book. The limited edition includes stenciled sprayed edges and special design features that won't be featured in the other editions. The deluxe limited edition is only available while supplies last.

The only other thing known for sure is the excerpt from "Onyx Storm" that was posted on Yarros' Instagram account.

As a final note, if you are looking for a book to get you out of your reading slump, "Fourth Wing" is an amazing book to consider picking up.

Peyton Martin
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Total Costs

💰 Airline cost: \$1,215
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Fundraising opportunities will be available!

Contact Robin Cecala for more information
rcecala@pointpark.edu



The three books from the Empryeen Book series by Rebecca Yarros, which she is best known for, sit on a table.

Picky eating is not a negative practice

Robert Fornataro
Features and A&E Editor

Thanksgiving, as we all know and love it, is a time when families gather around a nice big meal to celebrate the time of year. For picky eaters, however, it can feel like a stressful time more than a celebration.

As someone who is a picky eater, I understand the feeling of watching everyone pile their plates full of turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and so much more.

Meanwhile, you are quietly scanning everything on the table over and over, wondering if you can get away with a meal of mashed potatoes, bread rolls and mac and cheese without people commenting or noticing.

Spoiler alert: Someone will notice. They always do. And they will ask you things like, "Is that all you are going to eat?" with you having to awkwardly stare at your empty plate, then back to

them, as if you have just ruined their entire night.

It's these questions that make you ask yourself if they are genuinely curious or simply judging you for your plate.

Now, for picky eaters, or me at least, Thanksgiving isn't just about the food. I think of it as a way for families, such as mine, to celebrate their own traditions and have everyone able to come together, since most families don't typically see each other super often.

Thanksgiving typically revolves around the table full of dishes that have likely been prepared the same way for generations. For me and my family, that is our way of connecting with the loved ones in our family we have lost. Although I won't actually eat what is prepared, I still know the meaning behind why it was made.

This shows that being a picky eater on Thanksgiving doesn't have to be a misera-

ble experience. It is all about how you re-envision this holiday and lean into what makes you most comfortable.

There is no rule that says you have to eat every dish on the table to enjoy the holidays. If your ideal version of celebrating Thanksgiving is having some mashed potatoes and rolls, or maybe just rolls, then so be it.

You're celebrating Thanksgiving to be with loved ones, not to satisfy anyone else's idea of what a plate should look like.

Another good way to survive Thanksgiving dinner could be to bring your own dish to the celebration. Not only does this guarantee that there is something you will love, but it is also a chance to share it with your family and other picky eaters who might find this food comforting.

What you bring could become part of the family tradition, further ensuring you will have something that

you know you will eat and connecting you with your family.

If you are not a cook by any means, then eating a small thing before attending dinner could help. Showing up with a full stomach can allow you to sample the dishes you might fear committing to eating.

But like I said, it is important to remember that Thanksgiving is about more than just food. While the meal may be the centerpiece, the holiday itself is about connecting with your family and creating memories.

It is these small things that we tend to overlook.

This could be your dad or grandfather watching football with your cousins or brothers, helping set the table or just talking with family that you don't typically see. There is truly so much more to Thanksgiving than just what is on your plate.

Now, I am not saying that focusing on these will

completely change the experience. There still might be that person who is persistently trying to push you to "just try" something of theirs, and there might be a few glances when you skip eating turkey, but that is okay.

You don't owe anyone an explanation for what you do or don't eat.

So, for my picky eaters, the ones who always pass on the turkey and opt for some extra bread rolls instead, Thanksgiving is not about indulging in every dish.

It's about being present and finding joy in the ways that matter to you. Whether your plate is overflowing or barely touched, what counts is that you showed up.

You were part of the celebration. That is all family truly cares about.

Robert Fornataro
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It's OK to maintain your boundaries this holiday

August Stephens
Opinions Editor

With the late Thanksgiving (for those who celebrate), and early winter break, the holiday can seem even more intimidating and stressful than usual. The political state of the country can cause more disagreements than anyone would likely prefer.

Although, as college students, some of us are naturally younger than the other adults around us – we are also deserving of respect. We do not deserve to be attacked, insulted or made the butt of jokes just because we're different or have different beliefs from our family members or friends.

The practice of keeping boundaries is one which may come easier to some than others. As a naturally more introverted and reserved person, I find that it is rather easy for boundaries to dissipate around people who have formerly disrespected me.

During winter break, it is just as important for you to feel as loved and respected around loved ones as you would feel any other day. If preserving this sense of love means not seeing your family during the holiday season, then that is perfectly okay.

The simple fact that you are related by blood to a person does not mean you owe them your time.

"For many of us post-election, simply surviving is an act of resistance."

August Stephens
Opinions Co-Editor

Even if political beliefs are put aside, there may be certain subjects that you are not okay with discussing with family. Even if family members do not seem to understand, be firm. It is so important to keep repeating your boundaries in order to stick up for yourself. If your family is one to make comments regarding your eating habits, relationship status or amount of socialization you decide to participate in; you can always say these comments make you uncomfortable.

As someone who grew up with a cousin whose viewpoints on the world were constantly met with eyerolls, I understand the frustration that being disregarded can cause. This cousin is around 10 years older than I am, and was a 21 year-old when my family constantly rolled their eyes at them. Being in a

similar age bracket today, it's depressing knowing that my cousin was dismissed so quickly.

All in all, going home can be a triggering time for several reasons. Having a back-up plan and knowing how to disengage or decompress after any kind of gathering is beneficial.

If you are staying on-campus for the holiday season, I recommend attending a student organization Friendsgiving or hosting one of your own if other peers are staying in the city.

The overwhelming urge to return to habits which no longer serve you can also cause more long-lasting harm than the confines of the 3-4 weeks of winter break.

This can also be a time to go no-contact with your family altogether. If a person does not respect you, upholding that relationship may not be worth the emotional and mental health sacrifice.

For many of us post-election, simply surviving is an act of resistance. The "Point Park Bubble" will be here for you in January.

If you need help during the holiday season, please contact the Resolve crisis services or the suicide hotline 988.

August Stephens
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THE GLOBE'S POINT



Be proud of your accomplishments

The Globe
Editorial Staff

With this being our last issue until the next semester, we wanted to end on a positive note and reflect on everything that we as a university – and as a paper – have accomplished throughout the semester.

First of all, the university finally reached a decision with the full time faculty union.

After protests, faculty gatherings, student demonstrations and lengthy negotiations, the university and the faculty found a path to negotiating an agreement for their new contract.

On the Community Engagement side of things, the university created a new community garden behind West Penn Hall with the help of students and instructors. Additionally, the Pioneer Pantry was moved to a larger location in Thayer Hall, providing a convenience store-like space for students to pick up food and goods.

Pioneer Vision 2030, a plan by President Brussalis to improve the campus and prepare Point Park for the future, continues to be realized with the opening of new centers, the completion of the new Professional Career Readiness Center as well as directly addressing years-long student issues.

In the athletics department, we have moved from the NAIA's River States Conference to NCAA Division II sports in the Mountain East Conference.

As Point Park continues to try and improve, so does The Globe.

It doesn't take a sharp eye to see what changes we've made this semester. We finally retired our old masthead and replaced it with one that makes this newspaper something our campus community can be proud to read. We owe it all to our Graphic Designer, and first-year Khalil Johnson for making it happen.

In the future, we plan to continue to make The Globe nicer to look at. A good newspaper needs to deliver the facts, tell the stories that need to be told and be visually appealing both in print and online. From our editors to our staff writers, we have all worked diligently to improve the paper and it isn't stopping next semester.

At the end of the day, you should also be proud of yourself for what you've accomplished this semester too. A university education isn't easy and if you're taking part in extracurricular activities and clubs, be extra proud of yourself.

The Globe
globe@pointpark.edu

POINTGIRL



THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR READING POINTGIRL'S STUPID ADVENTURES! THIS IS THE END FOR NOW, BUT PLEASE FOLLOW MY SOCIALS FOR MORE COMICS AND ART! TWITTER: @idiotic_crybaby INSTA: adrianzilla123

Fisher ties conference record

Brynn Rees
Sports Editor

Senior Nazareth Fisher made history on Tuesday, Nov. 26, when he tied the Mountain East Conference single-game rebound record. His 14-point, 25-rebound performance awarded him MEC Men's Basketball Co-Player of the Week honors.

Fisher is the first Pioneer to receive an MEC award for basketball.

His notable night helped Point Park earn its first MEC win in program history, edging past Wheeling at home with a 75-71 final score.

In the previous game versus West Liberty, Fisher put up a career-high 30 points on top of a staggering 22 rebounds. He has recorded five double-doubles in seven games.

Fisher leads the team this season with 99 total rebounds and an average of 14.1 rebounds per game. He is the second highest scorer for the Pioneers with 88 points.



Kyla Pothier | For The Globe
Nazareth Fisher fights for a rebound against Penn State Greater Allegheny in November.

Indoor track competes in opening meet

Brynn Rees
Sports Editor

The men's and women's indoor track and field season kicks off on Friday, Dec. 6 at the Youngstown State Ice Breaker in Youngstown, Ohio.

All events are set to begin at 1 p.m. and will continue throughout the day.

Competing universities include Duquesne, Wheeling and West Liberty.

The Pioneers compete in this event each year, participating in over 11 past YSU Ice Breaker events.

The men's team concluded its 2023-24 indoor track and field season with its fourth straight River States Conference title, six NAIA national qualifiers and a 22nd place team finish at nationals.

Akeem Mustapha earned NAIA All-American, RSC Men's Indoor Athlete of the Year and Newcomer of the Year honors last year. He enters his sophomore year with the Pioneers this season.

The women's team wrapped up last year's indoor track and field season with its seventh straight RSC title, four NAIA national qualifiers and three NAIA Top 25 performances.

Sophia Lee-Hauser made her debut in the 3,000-meter racewalk event last year, earning a 13th-place finish in the NAIA indoor national qualifier. She enters her senior year this season.

The Pioneers begin their debut season of NCAA Division II competition as members of the Mountain East Conference. Point Park will compete in events against schools of various athletic associations, including Division I, II and III institutions.

Friday's event is the first of seven indoor meets and invitationals before the MEC Indoor Championships in late February.

The outdoor track and field season begins March 21-22 at the UNC Charlotte 49er Classic.

Updates and news can be found on pointparksports.com.

Brynn Rees
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Kyla Pothier | For The Globe
Fisher prepares to shoot free throws vs. the Nittany Lions at home.



Kyla Pothier | For The Globe
Fisher runs down the court to defend the Nittany Lions.



Kyla Pothier | For The Globe
Senior Lance Singh rests between plays against Penn State Greater Allegheny.

Pioneers face Concord in MEC road matches

Brynn Rees
Sports Editor

Men's and women's basketball travel to W. Va. on Wednesday to face the Concord Mountain Lions in a Mountain East Conference matchup.

Concord's men's team is sixth in the MEC with a 1-1 conference re-

cord. Right behind, the Pioneers are tied for eighth place with a 1-2 conference record.

Point Park comes off its first MEC win in program history after a 75-71 win against Wheeling at home last week. Senior Nazareth Fisher recorded 14 points and 25 rebounds to tie the MEC record for single-game rebounds.

Concord's women's team is tied for sixth place in the conference with a 1-1 MEC record. The Pioneers search for their first conference win with a 0-3 MEC record.

The Point Park women are recovering from a 72-63 loss against Wheeling last week.

The women tip off against Concord at 5:30 p.m., and the men begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Pioneers return home next week, as the men's team faces Penn State Fayette on Monday at 7 p.m., and both teams take on West Virginia Wesleyan on Wednesday, Dec. 11.

All MEC games are available to stream for free on mountaineast.tv.

Score updates and news can be found at pointparksports.com.



Kyla Pothier | For The Globe
Aichata Ballo shoots a three vs. Berkley.

Brynn Rees
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Point Park '24 ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

Women's Basketball

WEDNESDAY 5:30PM
AT CONCORD



Men's Basketball

WEDNESDAY 7:30PM
AT CONCORD



Track & Field

FRIDAY
AT YSU ICE BREAKER



Men's Basketball

MONDAY 7PM
VS PENN STATE FAYETTE

