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# THE GLOBE

SINCE 1967



September 11, 2024

Issue 3

## 'Sewage' stench invades Lawrence Hall

Gavin Petrone  
Co-News Editor

A smell resembling raw sewage has been wafting through the lobby of Lawrence Hall throughout the first weeks of the fall semester, according to students and faculty.

"Sewage... smells like sewage," Brian Preston, a clerk at the Mailroom in Lawrence's lobby, said. "It's terrible."

According to Preston, the Mailroom's receiving room is often bombarded with the stench every morning.

"I think it smells awkwardly moist and also somewhat like eggs," First-year student Frank Aldridge said, "I remember one day passing outside of Lawrence Hall too. I smelled it just very heavily."

According to the Physical Plant's Vice President of Operations, Chris Hill, he said the stench could be sourced to a ventilation grate outside the doors to the lobby on Wood St.

"Usually once a year the city will clean out their pipes using a foam substance that they put through the pipes," Hill said. "The problem is when they do that, if you notice on the sidewalks you'll see what looks like a vent, that's where the smell comes through."

According to Hill, the stench of the cleaner drifts

up and out of the sidewalk ventilation outside of Lawrence's right entrance. Hill said it then wafts into the lobby when the entrance doors are open.

While there are no grates or ventilation on the sidewalk, there is a sewer grate on the street in front of Lawrence's Wood St. entrance.

Hill said that hot weather also made the stench linger much longer. "On a 95-degree day with high humidity and the doors being opened, it was

a perfect storm," he said.

Point Park's move-in began on Aug. 17 and concluded on Aug. 24. According to AccuWeather, Pittsburgh's temperature the week of move-in peaked at 88 degrees Fahrenheit on Aug. 24.

As of publishing and according to AccuWeather, the highest recorded temperature in the past two weeks was 95 degrees on Aug. 27.

Humidity peaked at

STENCH page 2



Caleb McCartney | The Globe  
The Wood Street entrance of Lawrence Hall and the grate creating the alleged source of the "sewage" smell when the doors open.



Evan Levine | The Globe  
Trump supporters protest near a Biden-Harris Labor Day event.

## Harris, Trump differ in campaign strategies ahead of 2024 presidential race

Chloe Humway  
For the Globe

According to the 2024 Presidential election poll from "270 To Win," both Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are neck-in-neck, with Harris leading at 48% approval and Trump behind at 46%. However, their campaign strategies are vastly different.

After President Biden stepped down as the Democratic presidential nominee on July 21, Kamala Harris's campaign raised 81 million dollars in the first 24 hours of her launch, according to the Kamala HQ Instagram. Riding on her youth and record as a prosecutor, her campaign is heavily tar-

geted at newcomer Gen-Z voters. Through social media accounts, Kamala HQ has and continues to post a lot of content following current TikTok trends.

Her popularity with youth on social media started when an old clip of Harris resurfaced.

"You think you just fell out of a coconut tree," she said in the clip. The saying quickly became a viral meme across social media platforms, with some edits surfacing including to Charli XCX's song "360." Even now, Kamala HQ's bio on several social media platforms is, "Providing context," referring to the clip. "You exist in the context of all in which you live

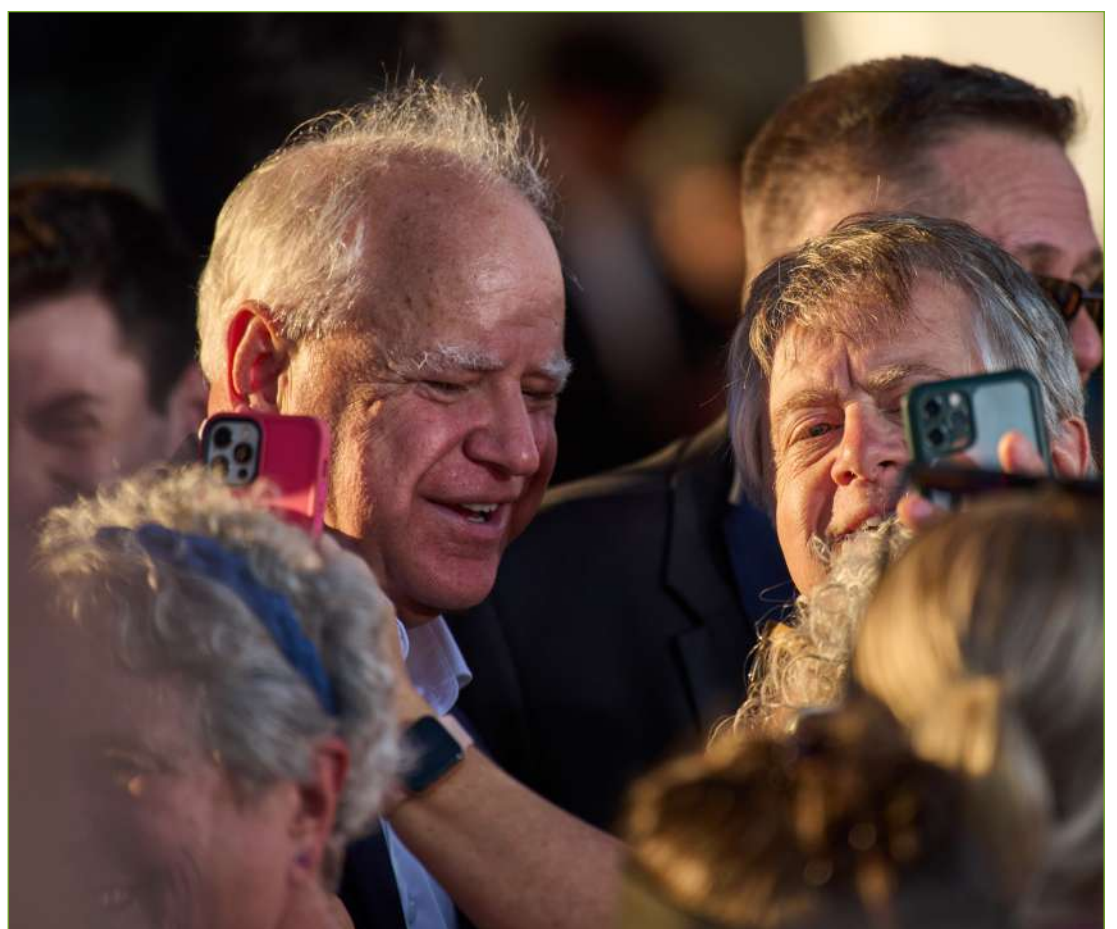
ELECTION page 3

## TIM WALZ RALLIES AHEAD OF PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE



Ahead of a Kamala and Trump debate, Tim Walz, (pictured above) the Democratic vice presidential candidate drew an audience of 2,500 supporters during a rally in Erie on September 5. He spoke at the Highmark Amphitheater in Liberty Park, discussing topics like Project 2025 and the school shooting in Windor Atlanta, Georgia on September 4.

Photos by Caleb McCartney



## Vents outside of Lawrence are the alleged source of smell

From STENCH page 1

93% on Aug 30, according to CustomWeather.

According to the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA), no chemicals are used in the cleaning of the city's drain system.

In a statement given via email, Deana Whipp, a representative of PWSA, said, "Instead [of chemicals], our sewer team uses high-pressure jetting and mechanical methods to flush water into sewer pipes and brush away debris."

Whipp said that an odor, "sometimes occurs during periods of heavy rains when stormwater enters the combined sewer system."

According to the PWSA's website, sewage and stormwater flow through the same pipes across roughly 75% of the city.

When periods of heavy rainfall occur, water levels within the combined sewer system rise, sometimes causing sewage overflow. This overflow can result in odor.

"As the rain passes through and the capacity within the sewer system returns to normal, the odor

will subside," said Whipp.

Pittsburgh experienced heavy rainfall between Aug. 16 and 18, and more recently, between Aug. 30 and 31, as well as Sept. 6, according to the Weather Channel.

While it is still unclear the exact cause of the smell, Hill said that Physical Plant is taking measures to eliminate the stench as soon as possible.

"We're actually putting a deodorizer into the HVAC system," Hill said.

The deodorizer will be a permanent addition, according to Hill, and should mitigate any lingering scents that follow visitors of Lawrence Hall into the lobby.

Physical Plant said that it encourages students to submit work orders for any maintenance issues found around campus.

Work orders can be submitted online at [pointpark.corrigo.com](http://pointpark.corrigo.com) with a valid login, or by calling (412) 392-3960 in the event of an emergency.

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Caleb McCartney | The Globe

The first floor lobby of Lawrence Hall where the smell is most prominent in the building.

## Faculty look into Adobe suite alternatives evaluated

Michael Klug  
Co-Photo Editor

*While Chris Rolinson is the faculty advisor for The Globe, his input is essential to the content of this article.*

Staff members at Point Park University are starting to discuss an idea that would replace the Adobe suite with free applications in a few years. The cost of the Adobe suite and Adobe's AI policy are sparking this discussion.

However, this does not mean that the university will be moving away from Adobe anytime soon. Instead, several university staff members are considering the

possibility of phasing it out a few years from now.

"There is no official motion to stop using Adobe, but instead we are looking at ways to structure a potential getaway from it," Faculty Chair for the School of Communications Chris Rolinson said. "Nobody has ever discussed ending this like we are."

Adobe suite programs like Photoshop, Lightroom and Premiere have been an industry-standard in universities, media and art programs for decades.

There are also concerns regarding Adobe's AI policy. Over the last few years, online discussions have commonly taken place

on Adobe Community Forums about Adobe utilizing user projects to train their AI.

"My big concern is that if you're using the Adobe Cloud Service, which some students do use through the portal, you might be automatically consenting to help develop their AI protocol," Rolinson said.

A section in Adobe's General Terms of Use, last updated on June 18, states that they, "will not use your local or cloud content to train [their] AI models except for content that you choose to submit to the Adobe Stock Marketplace."

However, this does not stop students' natural distrust of AI. Eliana Holderbaum, a junior multimedia major, does not appreciate the addition of AI to the program.

"I don't think that [AI] has to do anything to help us if we're using Adobe," Holderbaum said. "[I don't want AI] to do my work for me."

Aside from the concerns of Adobe's AI implementation, many people also have concerns with Adobe's subscription pricing. Access to the full Adobe suite on an individual plan costs \$60 a month.

Tim Wilson, associate vice president of IT, said that discussions about the situation are constant.

"There is always a financial discussion that happens between IT and academia related to the cost of deployment and the financial resources available," Wilson

said.

With the Adobe suite requiring a monthly subscription, it's more expensive than a one-time purchase of an editing or drawing program.

On campus, when Adobe is required for a class, many students resort to exclusively using the computer labs around campus. This is often a roadblock for commuters who do not purchase the suite for their own devices.

"Even with a student discount, it's the most expensive subscription I have,"

Dakota Nicholson, a junior graphic design major, said.

From Nicholson's experience, the programs in the suite are not very user-friendly either. "I'm still always having to look up how to do things despite using these programs for years," she said.

While the Adobe suite is still an industry standard, "Freeware" versions of similar programs exist, such as GIMP, a Photoshop alternative.

"Our faculty spend countless hours making sure the instructional materials selected for a course meet the learning objective needs," Wilson said. "I am very confident that the faculty are taking every opportunity to ensure the success of students while at Point Park and beyond graduation."

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Michael Klug | The Globe

The 24-hour computer lab in Thayer Hall. The Adobe suite is installed on all lab computers.

## The Globe News Briefs for September 11, 2024

Cassandra Harris  
Editor-in-Chief

### James Earl Jones, voice of Darth Vader in 'Star Wars', dies at 93

James Earl Jones, the actor best known for voicing Darth Vader in "Star Wars", has died at age 93.

His representative confirmed his death to NBC News on Monday.

Jones earned two Tony Awards, two Emmy awards, an Academy Award and a Grammy during his career.

Jones moved to New York City to follow his dream of acting after two years in the Army. He worked as a janitor while studying at the American Theatre Wing.

He made his Broadway debut in the play "Sunrise at Campobello" in the late 1950s, NBC reports.

Jones moved from Broadway to television and then onto movies, where he was chosen to voice Darth Vader for the "Star Wars" franchise.

He also starred in "Conan

the Barbarian" alongside Arnold Schwarzenegger and was the voice of Mufasa in Disney's "The Lion King."

Jones was awarded his Academy Award in 2011 for a prolific career (WPXI.)

### Argument over parking space leads to stabbing and shots fired in Turtle Creek

One man has been stabbed after an argument in Turtle Creek.

Allegheny County first responders were notified of a stabbing in the 200 block of Seneca Street just after 4 p.m. Monday.

Arriving personnel found an adult male who had been stabbed. The victim was taken to an area hospital and is currently in stable condition.

Preliminary information shows there was an argument over a parking space with contractors working across the street, according to a media release from county police. The argument allegedly became physical, and the victim who resides on Seneca Street was stabbed.

Shots were also fired at the contractors as they left the area. The contractors went to the Turtle Creek Police Station, and are cooperating with the investigation.

Anyone with information concerning this incident is asked to call the County Police Tip Line at 1-833-ALL-TIPS. Callers can remain anonymous (KDKA.)

### Former Allegheny County judge charged with DUI after fender bender

A former Allegheny County district judge was charged with driving under the influence after police said he caused a crash on Banksville Road.

Former District Judge Anthony Saveikis, who resigned in January after he was accused of "impropriety" in incidents involving three teenage boys, is facing multiple charges, including DUI and careless driving after the crash on Friday.

According to court paperwork, police were called to the scene of a three-vehicle fender bender with little to no damage at the intersec-

tion of Banksville Road and Crane Avenue shortly before 10 p.m. on Friday. When officers got there, police said two of the drivers told them they were sitting at the red light on Crane Avenue when Saveikis rear-ended one car, pushing it into the other.

Police said both drivers told them they believed Saveikis was drunk. They said they had been at the Lebanese Food Festival and had seen Saveikis drinking there. They also said that Saveikis refused to provide valid insurance, insisting that there was no damage.

Police said they tried to get insurance information from Saveikis, but he gave them an old card for a different vehicle twice. According to the court documents, his speech would switch from mumbling to excited and while in close proximity officers smelled alcohol (KDKA.)

Cassandra Harris  
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# Harris, Trump campaign tries to reach young voters

From ELECTION page 1  
and came before you," she said, at the end of it.

When Harris's decision to run was first announced on July 21, the Kamala HQ TikTok account made a post using a green background and Arial font based on Charli XCX's recent album "BRAT." It gained popularity when, in the post, they shared hit star Charli XCX's tweet, "kamala IS brat."

With the help of social media, Kamala's team takes advantage of this spotlight and tries its best to follow current media trends while Donald Trump has a different approach.

On July 13 of this year, Donald Trump survived a failed assassination attempt at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania ahead of the national republican convention in Milwaukee. The bullet grazed his ear, but it did not stop Trump from continuing to hold speeches and rallies. A photo of Trump's security escorting him away from his podium

with blood trickling down his face and his fist raised took the media by storm. The historic photo is one of Trump's most popular to date. Then, only two days after the photo was taken he made his first public appearance at the Republican National Convention with a bandage over his right ear, once again, pumping his fist into the air. Following the appearance, Trump's supporters wore bandages on their ears in support.

Regardless of political preference, many thought his assassination attempt might earn him enough notoriety to win him the election.

"I don't think I'm the only one who, after the attempted assassination on Trump thought, 'Oh yeah, he just won the election,'" said Carson Brunn, senior and president of the Bridge USA Point Park Chapter. Although, Brunn thinks that Trump wasted the lead he had and Harris took advantage of that.

Assistant Professor of political science Dora Ion,

said that each candidate's approach in the tight race is a reflection of polarization between the two parties.

"[This] happens when very large segments of the electorate hold opposed views on political issues," Ion said. "It is also the result of a fierce and very adversarial competition for undecided voters."

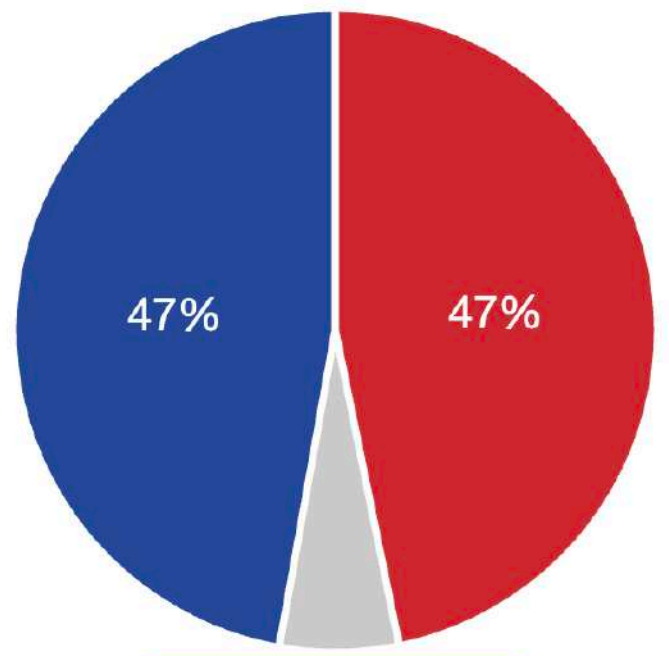
With their approaches, Ion said that both candidates have strikingly different personalities and political platforms.

"The tight race demonstrates that both candidates are capable of mobilizing the electorate effectively," she said.

While both candidates may have different approaches in their race to presidency, their separate and effective utilization of the media at this point in the race, makes it anyone's game.

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## Pennsylvania (19)



Harris 0.4%

Average of 5 Polls\*

Last Poll: Sep. 9

All Pennsylvania Polls

270twin.com | For The Globe

# A protest policy is not in the university's handbook

Carson Folio  
Editor-Elect

Unlike Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), which now restricts on-campus student protests to those who are registered with the school, Point Park does not appear to be planning on enacting a protest policy.

According to CMU's expressive activity registration website, any social gathering including peaceful assembly, demonstration, or protest must register with their Office of Student Leadership, Involvement and Civic Engagement (SLICE) to be permitted on their campus grounds.

"As outlined in the Student Handbook, the University has a detailed policy and process in place regarding the Code of Student Conduct," said Natalie Rice, vice president of human resources, in a response given by email.

"The Handbook also clearly outlines what type of conduct may violate the code, and any reports made on potential violations are handled in a careful, thoughtful process by trained staff members and University leaders," Rice said.

When trying to find information on the Point Park website regarding events like protests, none of the given results are related to student-led demonstrations on campus.

The same is true for terms like "expressive activity," "demonstration" and "protest."

Additionally, the 2023-2024 student handbook does not contain any mentions of the three previous terms.

The same is true for language regarding student encampments on university property.

It is unclear if the 2024-2025 student handbook does contain these terms, as it has not been



Freepik.com | For The Globe

published online.

Regarding free speech, the only mentions in the student handbook are about the usage of university-owned computers.

According to the section labeled "Policy for the Responsible Use of Computer and Technology Resources," the University "respects the individual's rights and protections under the First Amendment" in the context of technology usage.

However, the section also goes into the expectations of each user to use caution, be mindful and follow university policies as well as applicable laws.

Since it is considered private property, a demonstration on university property may not always be protected under the First Amendment. The First Amendment can only be applied as a blanket term to public property.

However, the 1968 Supreme Court case, Amalgamated Food Employees Union Local 590 v. Logan Valley Plaza, Inc., affirms that peaceful protesting in an area

open to the public is protected by the First Amendment, no matter who owns it or whether it is legally considered private property.

Marsh v. Alabama also affirms this, which could apply to Village Park as well, since it is open to the public despite being considered private property.

Village Park has been the site of gatherings in the past. In October 2018, the Globe reported on students who peacefully gathered in Village Park after Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court confirmation. Otherwise, the space has neither been used for student gatherings of this type often, nor has it been used for newsworthy protests.

While the legality of protests in privately owned public areas may not be up for debate, the same cannot be said for student encampments.

While Point Park has not had to face the problem of encampments on university property like other universities, the rules are ultimately up to how the administra-

tion would want to respond if such an event took place.

Kyle MacLaughlin, president of SGA, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Jeff Besong, assistant vice president of public safety and chief of police, said that Point Park police serve to maintain order on campus.

"We maintain a staff of fully accredited police officers who are trained and prepared to monitor demonstrations and ensure they remain peaceful and lawful," said Besong. "We are always working with University leaders to ensure our officers are at the highest level of preparedness, should any unusual circumstances take place. Any public expressions on campus must be respectful, lawful and follow all applicable University policies and procedures."

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## NEED HELP?

Call PUBLIC SAFETY at 412-392-3960

<p><b>8/20</b> <b>Drug</b> <b>Violation</b> Playhouse steps Arrest</p>	<p><b>8/20</b> <b>Drug</b> <b>Violation</b> Playhouse steps Arrest</p>	<p><b>8/24</b> <b>Drug</b> <b>Violation</b> Playhouse steps Warning</p>	<p><b>8/27</b> <b>Sex</b> <b>Offense</b> Lawrence Hall Open</p>
<p><b>9/4</b> <b>Drug</b> <b>Violation</b> Playhouse steps Warning</p>	<p><b>9/4</b> <b>Gun</b> <b>Arrest</b> Central Business District, Arrest</p>		

# CRIME REPORT

8/20-9/4

# Students win prizes in returning Ping Pong Drop event

Peyton Martin  
Staff Writer

On Sept 5, Point Park's Campus Activity Board (CAB) started off their events this year by making it rain ping pong balls.

Inside the Lawrence Hall ballroom, Hailey Stoner, a junior SAEM student and event coordinator of CAB decided that after four years of absence, it would be great to bring the ping-pong drop back. During the event, Stoner stood on the ball room's balcony, throwing ping pong balls into the crowd below with the help of other CAB members.

"When we got ready to drop, the people below would set themselves up in a tight cluster," Stoner said. "They also raised their hands up and did little grabby hands."

Stoner said that it was awesome and rewarding that students were excited and having fun at her event.

The rules of the event were simple: If you catch one of the ping pong balls that were thrown from the balcony before they hit the ground, you'd win a prize depending on the color of the one you caught. The red ones were for the large prizes consisting of Jelly-

cat plush toys, disposable cameras, a hydro flask and more. The blue ping pong balls represented medium prizes, which ranged from puzzles to a small Lego set. The white ping pong balls were then for small prizes which mostly consisted of many little animal figurines.

Paige Reeves, a first-year exploratory student, caught a white ball earning herself a small prize. She ended up selecting a small, green whale she temporarily named Greeney.

"I was so indecisive looking at the trinkets, but he called to me," Reeves said. "I love him, he's joined me in every class since."

Due to everyone in the crowd trying to catch a ping pong ball, the game also became one of trust, since it was hard to see when the ping pong balls hit the ground.

Natalie Quinn, a first-year cinema production student, said, "I feel like most people were being honest at least about the large and medium prizes, but I feel like the balls could have been thrown a little better."

Regardless, she said that she would absolutely go to future events and



Peyton Martin | The Globe  
Junior SAEM student Hailey Stoner drops ping pong balls off of the balcony in the Lawrence Hall ballroom for CAB event.



Peyton Martin | The Globe  
A small prize won at the event; prizes were awarded based on the color of the ping pong ball caught by the player.

that she really enjoy these cute types of bonding events.

Morgan Bakos is a sophomore CAB member, that had the opportunity to help work at the event. She enjoyed watching the event from two perspectives as she helped take the ping pong balls back up to the balcony to be thrown.

"I think it was an amazing first event of the year," Bakos said, a PR/Ad student. "It was simple and engaging and gave everyone a taste of what's to

come this year!"

Looking forward to future CAB events Bakos is most excited for bingo.

To find more information about future CAB events students can look at the Social Scoop that's sent to every Point Park student's email each Monday.

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## 'Burgh Bites

### Point Perk: RIP Black Diamond

Rating:

Cassandra Harris  
Editor-in-Chief

*Clarification: Meals at the Dining Hall cost \$8 for faculty and staff, last week Cas was charged \$8 and was mistaken for a staff member. For students, meals cost \$12 at the Dining Hall.*

New changes are being made to Point Perk, including a rehaul of their entire menu catered by the same group that runs Point Park's Dining Hall.

In a letter to the editor, University President Chris Brussalis said that the changes being made to both Point Café and Point Perk were to significantly reduce the cost for students and enhance their overall Pioneer experience. Well, this week I learned that he wasn't wrong – the food on the menu is decently affordable. But does it taste good?

First on the menu I tried the cheese nachos. Although, I almost didn't review them in

the first place because, in my opinion, chips are chips. They came with sour cream, melted cheese, shredded cheese, green peppers and something else, but I only tried them with the cheeses and sour cream; both on the side.

Opening the box right away, I could tell that these nachos were not your basic white girl nachos that you might order at Chipotle or get for free at Moe's. The contents of the chips were, I quote my editor-elect, "the good kinda chips." They were thick and crispy, plated inside one of the brown, square cardboard containers that every meal came in.

Together we ate the entire thing in one sitting.

The same editor also told me that the nacho cheese was definitely the same cheese used in the Point Café to make the mac and cheese. It was really good.

In the future, you will definitely find me in the Perk ordering some hot chips for an in-between class snack.

When I was there, I or-

dered three drinks, all of which were absolutely delicious. They had two different slushy flavors: a sugar-free watermelon slushy and dragon fruit slushy. I bought the dragon fruit slushy, which costs \$4.95. When the worker behind the counter said he couldn't try the dragon fruit drink because of his strawberry allergy, it made me sad. As I drank, his comment made me wonder if the slushy contained any dragon fruit at all. It was a little sweet, but is still worth trying if you have Flex Dollars to spend.

Although I realized they were still using the same cups from the Starbucks "We Proudly Serve" model and, as I was trying to get the slushy out of the cup, I could only suck out the juice without a straw, leaving the ice inside.

I also ordered two other drinks. The farmer's Punch at \$3.95 had an unidentifiable fruity taste and was almost sweeter than the slushy. When I was there, they had small cups to try each juice. I would recommend stopping in for a sample sometime.

Next, I tried a mango flavor and, in the sample, the drink's flavor was really concentrated. Yet, after ice was added, it tasted more diluted than I liked. If you order it, ask for light ice. The mango flavor is decently strong and the drink in general was refreshing.

I brought this next meal into the office. Since the first day of class, I have been hearing rumors of bison chili and couldn't believe that it, allegedly, has real bison meat in it.

The bison green chili at \$7.95 is a cup of chili that comes in a small container. Although the price is a bit high for the portion, I give it the pass, figuring that bison meat is probably expensive.

When I opened the lid,



Caleb McCartney | The Globe  
An order of chicken wings from Point Perk, one of their new menu items.

I saw what I imagined Black Diamond would look like if he was put inside of a blender. The color of the meat mixed with the green peppers was the same shade of green as Point Park's.

The appearance made me apprehensive but, after trying it, I learned that it was actually super tasty. The peppers made it spicy, but the burning sensation in the back of my throat was more painful than the spice on my tongue. At times I had to close my eyes and attempt to forget what the chili looked like to keep eating. As an in-class snack, I wouldn't recommend eating this around your peers, yet again if you like spice it's surprisingly good.

It might not be a bad idea to order the nachos and chili with friends to make some spicy bison-meat nachos.

I was told that apparently the most popular item on the menu are the chicken wings at \$8.95. To be honest, next week I'm going to review Forbes Tavern on Forbes Avenue. They have five wings for \$7.50 and their wings taste way better.

If you're in a pinch, sure, get the wings. But if you have time? Don't. The meat felt almost hard and was difficult to pull off the bone. I was served entire wings too, which should be exciting because they were big, but I didn't get any more meat. I just wasn't sure about

the whole ordeal.

If you plan to eat them in class like I sometimes do, don't get it dredged in sauce. It gets messy and would probably start an awkward conversation between you and your professor.

The last thing I tried on the new Perk's menu was the turkey bacon cheddar panini for \$8.95. In my opinion, the sandwich was small and had basic flavor for the price. Opening its brown container, I saw that it was just a fancier turkey sandwich. I didn't eat the whole thing but it would be filling, again, in a pinch.

This review comes from someone who doesn't have Flex Dollars. For me, the only food worth your real money is the chili, the nachos and any of the drinks. However, I know that a lot of you reading this probably do have an abundance of flex dollars to spend. Now there's another spot on campus where you can actually get real food that isn't half bad.

Shout out to the Point Perk staff who told me that my order was the biggest one they had received so far for the semester. They were really nice and found a janky brown bag to help me carry everything back to The Globe office.

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Caleb McCartney | The Globe  
Students wait in line to order items off the new menu at Point Perk.

# Student-run theater companies prep for Fall's productions

Robert Fornataro  
For The Globe

Student-run productions have been announced for the semester, with the production companies gearing up for an exciting season.

With on-campus organizations such as Ghostlight Theatre Company, Bridges Theatre Company, and Pinnacle Productions having breathtaking shows lined up for this semester, you surely do not want to miss out.

While the Playhouse has wrapped up its casting process, these student-run organizations are just beginning their audition journey. With auditions running from September 1 to 13, in both the Boulevard Apartments as well as the Playhouse, students wanting to try out may get a chance in the spotlight.

When asked about the challenges of preparing for this production season, Esai Martínez, senior theatre arts major and director of their very own production titled "OFRENDA", shared that "student involvement" was their biggest hurdle, especially when it came to casting.

Despite this, Martínez reflected on the rewarding experience of working with their peers to bring this show to life.

"I definitely wrote the script to tell the stories of my family and who I am as a person," Martínez said. "It is my capstone, and the point of a capstone is to embody the experience you've had here at Point Park and what you've learned. I also created the production to fit the needs of students and

really give them a space to truly create."

Now for the shows themselves, this is what you can expect for this semester.

## Ghostlight Theatre Company

Sep. 20, 2024: "Reaching for the Stars: A Miscast Cabaret." Under the direction of Quinn Starrett, a sophomore musical theatre major, this one-night-only show is a cabaret that is different from the rest. An event filled with gender-swapped singing and performing in the roles you've always wanted to play!

Oct. 18-20, 2024: "Orphans" by Lyle Kessler. Under the direction of Morgan Kivlan, a senior acting major, this show follows the lives of two grown orphan brothers in North Philadelphia, Phillip and Treat, whose relationship is rifted apart when, Harold, a Chicago gangster, shows up.

Nov. 8, 2024: "Putting The Ghost In Ghostlight." Brought to you by director August Carter, a sophomore theatre arts major, this show is a spooky cabaret filled with songs, dances, and scary stories. This show will provide an encore for the spookiest time of the year – Halloween won't be over on November 1.

Dec. 6-8, 2024: "That Starling and the Sparrow" by Aryan Cheruvattath. Written by Aryan Cheruvattath, a sophomore theatre arts major, and directed by Stella Frazer, a junior theatre production major, this musical story follows an ordinary family named the Montgomery's. Upon the death of their son, Leanne

and Eli Montgomery, must battle with their grief while still learning how to live their lives.

Dec. 8-10, 2024: "Drive Thru" by Amy Rose Scoggins. Directed by Mady Thetard, a senior theatre arts major, this show is a workshoped solo performance that is set at a family meal with the show's very own writer, who must navigate their traumatic relationship with their mother.

## Bridges Theatre Company

Nov. 1-3, 2024: "7 Stories" by Morris Panych. Directed by Eli Plummer, a senior theatre arts major, this dark comedy tells the story of a man standing on the seventh-story edge of an apartment building contemplating his life. The residents interrupted his plan, each telling a story.

Nov. 15-17, 2024: "OFRENDA" by Esai Martínez. Under the direction of Bridge's Artistic Director and its very own writer, Esai Martínez, a senior theatre arts major, this show follows a woman who has found herself at an ofrenda. Her story gives a comedic yet dramatic recount about her family who have had their own struggles.

## Pinnacle Productions

Sep. 15, 2024: "24 Hour Playwriting Festival." This annual show is a performance that no one could expect. With the writers starting at 7 p.m. the night before, the entire production team is given 24 hours to put on multiple plays for a show that very same night.

Oct. 11-14, 2024: "I am

ophelia" written by Paisley Kinch. Under the direction of Madeline Bedford and written and performed by Paisley Kinch, both senior theatre arts majors, this original show is a solo performance piece that dissects girlhood and everything that it encompasses. Specifically, looking at how the change from childhood to adolescence affects girls and how a Shakespearean character is connected to it.

Oct. 25-27, 2024: "One Night: Ultimate Werewolf" by Mando Gonzalez. Written by Mando Gonzalez, a junior theatre arts major, this story follows a group of villagers in the town of Clifton as they grapple with their own identities and a growing werewolf threat. With supernatural forces at play, the line between friend and foe blurs, leading to a dramatic confrontation where survival comes at a heartbreaking cost.

Nov. 8-10, 2024: "Days without end" by Eugene O'Neill. Under the direction of Nicole Brady, a senior theatre arts major, this show follows a man named John Loving who struggles with his psyche. This play, which takes place during World War II, explores how "crisis awareness" affects mankind.

Nov. 16-17, 2024: "Macheteland" by Carissa J. Atter. Written and directed by senior theatre arts major Carissa J. Ater and co-directed by Amy Rose Scoggins. This show is a three-act post-apocalyptic family dramedy that explores how relationships change during hard times and what it means to grow up in a world you don't recognize any-

more. Three queer siblings and an ex-camp counselor take on grief, sickness, and a man who hallucinates people-eating sewer rats in this action-packed play.

Sophomore musical theatre major Cate Velasquez is among the students auditioning this fall for the first time with a student-run company. She's said that she found this production very close to their heart.

"I think it's very important to talk about culture, especially in the city of Pittsburgh. The Latinx community is very small, and I'm very blessed and grateful to be a part of it," Velasquez said when asked about her motivation to audition.

She also spoke about how she handles nerves during the audition process.

"I always try to make sure that I'm focused on what needs to get done," Velasquez said. "A lot of rehearsal and coaching with friends helps, and I give myself more grace, knowing that I improve every day."

Velasquez gave her excitement about potentially being part of a student-run production.

"I just love being on the stage and being with people... creating something for everyone to enjoy."

For more information on these productions, students can visit the social media pages of each company to stay up to date on each project.

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## First look at "Minecraft" movie disappoints fans

Robert Fornataro  
For The Globe

The beloved childhood game Minecraft is getting its first motion picture adaptation, and the initial reactions are far from what fans anticipated.

Produced by Warner Bros., the upcoming Minecraft's first trailer has been released, sparking a wave of surprise and confusion. Featuring a star-studded cast including Jason Momoa, Jack Black, and Jennifer Coolidge, many expected this film to be in line with the game's iconic blocky look. What they got instead was something completely different.

The one-minute trailer shocked fans by revealing that the film will be live-action rather than animated. But if that wasn't startling enough, there's much more that has left viewers unsettled.

One of the most noticeably uncomfortable attributes of this film is Jason Momoa's hair. Sporting an awkward, almost feminine, shoulder-length haircut and bangs, his look leaves fans wondering, "why?" Yet, a more glaring than his look is the decision to place real-world actors into a video game setting.

The film relies heavily on green screen and CGI to recreate the Minecraft world, but the result is an awkward blend of live-action and digital effects that does not look realistic at all. Instead of using voice acting and animated characters to match the game's signature design, the filmmakers opted to place ac-

tors directly into the game. This makes for an unrealistic representation of what Minecraft is.

Jack Black, playing the main character Steve, looks nothing like the familiar in-game protagonist. With a long beard and shaggy haircut, he is almost unrecognizable until he later introduces himself.

Despite these concerns, it's hard to deny that the film will likely perform well at the box office. After all, it's Minecraft, a cultural phenomenon with millions of dedicated fans worldwide. However, just because the movie will attract viewers doesn't mean it's a successful adaptation.

There are many ways to produce video games into live-action films while respecting the game, as movies like Mortal Kombat have shown. But this Minecraft movie seems to miss the mark by failing to honor the elements that made the game a global hit.

With the film set to be released in April 2025, fans can only hope that the final product improves upon the initial trailer. Perhaps the storyline will be more engaging than what has been teased so far, and the visuals will be refined before hitting theaters.

For more information on the Minecraft movie and its production, follow Warner Bros. and Minecraft's social media pages to stay updated.

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## FILM PITTSBURGH HOSTS TWELFTH ANNUAL REELABILITIES FEST



On September 6 and 7, Film Pittsburgh hosted part of their ReelAbilities Film Festival at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. The festival, which showcases works featuring and created by people with disabilities, presented a collection of shorts on Friday, and the film "Good Bad Things" on Saturday, followed by a Q&A with lead actor Danny Kurtzman. The festival was hosted by Film Pittsburgh Executive Director Kathryn Spitz Cohan. The organization has been presenting ReelAbilities since 2013; the festival continues virtually through September 11.

Photos by Rachel Ross

# Campus events need to have medically trained people present

Sydney Dabney  
For the Globe

Campus-held events are generally thought to be safe for everyone. Although Point Park is located in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh we have the right to feel safe in its parameters. The university itself promotes the message of providing care for its students. For me, this was not the case on Labor Day, Sept. 2, around 5 to 6 p.m.

I was in Village Park during the Pioneer Picnic. Everything was going well that evening; the weather was perfect, warm and breezy. It was a beautiful day to reconnect with friends I hadn't seen since last year while enjoying a meal together.

Yet, while I was being introduced to a group of people by my friend, a honey bee stung me through my pants.

I, of course, was frightened. What happened didn't register to

me until I realized that the sharp pain was not going away. That's when I remembered that people can be deathly allergic to bees. I began to panic. I had no idea if it would swell up or not.

Thankfully my friend was there with me on Labor Day of all days.

Our first idea was to go visit the health center. Yet, to our dismay, it was closed for the holiday which I can understand. As one of the only full-time medical staff, nurse Rebecca Harper needs a break too.

After this, we resorted to asking a CAB member if they knew where urgent care was Downtown.

Not one of them had a single clue.

My friend and I scrambled all throughout Downtown that day trying to find at least one place that could have checked the sting. We couldn't find anywhere open or close enough for walking distance. The CVS pharma-



Caleb McCartney | The Globe

The Student Health Center on the third floor of the Student Center. The center was closed. Places like AHN and many other facilities were also either down for the holiday or were not within walking distance.

Fortunately, I later learned that I wasn't allergic, which I came to terms with after a reasonable amount of time passed.

It made me think: What if I actually was al-

lergic? What if someone else was actually allergic? Forget bee stings. What if someone just got seriously injured that day?

For the future, I believe that all campus-held events need to have medically trained or medically informed individuals present. Once again, I understand that the health center cannot be open at

all times, as Nurse Harper is only human. Yet if we can't have 24/7 medical staff, then each year the pioneer ambassadors, residential educators and a few CAB members should at least go through some form of medical training. Similarly, information or directions to AHN, Urgent Care at Shadyside and other facilities should be more available to students around campus. That way, rather than scrambling to Google them, students are more likely to have the information accessible and don't need to waste time going somewhere that's closed. Especially if it's a holiday.

Things can happen anywhere, anytime, any day. All Point Park students deserve to have medical information more physically accessible on campus, even on holidays.

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# Point Park needs a studio art program

August Stephens  
Opinions Editor

The University has a gap in their academic offerings, and a studio arts program could diversify and financially benefit the Point Park community. Although the Conservatory of Performing Arts offers a rich series of opportunities for individuals, a studio arts program would expand upon our existing degree programs and make the university more appealing to more potential students.

After the closure of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and lack of output for students growing with their artistic practices, downtown Pittsburgh has an education of the Arts sized hole. Drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and ceramics could all be future programs supported by Point Park's professional connections and alumni network.

The reputation of the university can only grow if more students are drawn to the school. According to the Arts Education Navigator, arts education improves academic skills and advances students' motivation to learn. However, a potential studio arts program should exist within its own school, and not within COPA in order to create a more economically accessible and approachable program. The Animation major could move from COPA into the new studio arts program, to be considerate of the artistic demands and overlaps in the industry.

From Forbes, the average cost to attend a four year college full-time has increased 180% since 1980. There has been an average 1.7% decrease for private non-profit four-year schools, which can be attributed to pandemic tuition freezes. Point Park has not participated in pandemic tuition freezes, with 2024-2025 tuition rates

increasing by nearly 4%, as The Globe previously reported.

If a studio arts program was an option for prospective students, then it could additionally develop into a graduate program where students could learn and live in the 36 Best Place to Live, according to the U.S. News and World Report.

The push for athletics and heavy sports involvement at Point Park should be met with balance. The majority of feedback personally heard about molding the reputation of the University already as an Arts school into an athlete-centered college seems odd and ill-suited. Our athletic students do deserve to be much-less isolated and more celebrated amongst the entire student body. However, Point Park is not a public nor D1 college. Students are attracted to this University because of its eclectic, inclusive, and urban nature; not because of how often they can watch their college's football team – especially since we do not have one.

If the idea of a studio arts school is brought to life, empty city buildings or underutilized classrooms, such as the upper floors of West Penn Hall, could at least be a temporary space for studio equipment and instruction spaces.

The option of a minor in studio arts would be of advantage for graphic and interactive design and photography majors at Point Park who already require illustration or visual media courses to improve their skills. The openness to free-range, taught creativity could result in an increase in artistic student showcases, award-winning exhibitions, and a myriad of opportunities for students.

August Stephens  
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# THE GLOBE'S POINT



## We are a valued institution and it's time to write like one

*This week, The Globe's point is responding to a letter to the editor written by David Rullo, a published author and senior staff writer at the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle.*

While the same anxieties of its Point Park College days are gone, things are still not perfect here. That is true of any private university - COVID-19, enrollment cliffs and a dwindling college population have not helped matters. The situation has improved in recent years, but – in no uncertain terms – the pandemic struck a blow to our staffing numbers. To be candid, we did not have enough people on our editorial team.

Editors were too busy with writing and balancing several stories on a weekly news cycle due to a shortage of staff writers. For reference, in 1999, we had 10 editors, including the editor-in-chief and editor-elect, along with 22 listed staff members. Last semester, we had nine editors and eight listed staff members, who didn't write every week.

With this, the errors Rullo pointed out were regretfully kept in the paper. While The Globe has offered an explanation, we are not handing out an excuse for sub-par work or bias.

Last semester, several pieces regarding the Palestinian territories were published in the paper. These include "Students for Change meets in Solidarity with Palestine" on Feb. 2, and "The Globe's Point: We stand with Palestine" on Feb. 7. Rullo points out that both stories had AP style, terminology and factual errors. This is unacceptable.

However, we would like to specify that Robert Ross, who represents the club, did not instruct any staff member or editor to write descriptors that he liked. Such would be unethical. The Globe would not bend to any person's demands to modify a piece in such a way.

Rullo questions why no history professors were interviewed to give additional background on Ross' statements. One-sided activism journalism and late submissions are something we are working to remove in our newsroom so that errors are caught and coverage in The Globe is not partisan. Being balanced, giving fair coverage and getting more sources per piece is a priority for us.

Ross has had works regarding the Israel/Gaza conflict published numerous times. Due to this, The Globe stands by its use of Ross as a source regarding the conflict. What earns someone the distinction to speak on the issue is ultimately subjective. Still, having a differing opinion does not automatically mean that someone else's perspective is not worth considering.

Regarding "The Globe's Point: We stand with Palestine," a correction should have been published on all the errors, such as the misuse of the word "mass." This was a recurring problem last year - even after learning of errors, a correction was rarely, if ever, given. Rest assured the editorial staff is aware of this issue and corrections will be given whenever necessary, either online or whenever possible in print from now on.

It is true that Hamas has rejected every proposed cease-fire ever since the October 7 attack and uses civilians as human shields. It is also true that Israeli forces have targeted humanitarian and civilian buildings within Gaza.

To be transparent, we are rethinking The Globe's point – while displaying itself as an agreement between the whole editorial board, it has historically been the writing of one person without consulting the rest of our team. Instead, from now on, we want to give every editor a chance to write instead of only giving the space to the editor-in-chief or occasionally, the editor-elect. Our team is more than just the first in command.

We strongly condemn the atrocities that occurred in Israel on October 7. We also strongly condemn the deaths of innocent people in the Gaza strip that have no connection to Hamas. It is possible to be against anti-semitism and also be against the deaths of innocent people that are not being used as assets in war. The rise in anti-semitic attacks throughout the country, including here in Pittsburgh, is impossible to ignore.

The Globe was far from perfect last year, and it will never be perfect - no newspaper is. However, what we can promise is quality pieces devoid of the glaring errors that plagued our issues last year. We are proud of the improvements we have already made with our first three issues, and this trend will continue.

The Globe  
globe@pointpark.edu



The Globe editorial board consists of Cassandra Harris, Carson Folio and fellow editors. Opinion articles, letters to the editor, columns and cartoons do not necessarily reflect the position of the newspaper or editorial board. The Globe reserves the right to refuse advertising and edit all submitted articles and letters to the editor. Letters to the editor must be signed and include author's contact information. The Globe offices are located at the corner of Wood Street and Fort Pitt Boulevard. Writers should address letters to:

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Scan to read  
more online!

## Letter to the Editor: University President wants to reduce costs

Chris Brussalis  
Letter to the Editor

I liked your recent Globe article on bookstore prices. Making supplies, food, and clothing more accessible and affordable to our students, faculty, and staff has been a priority of mine since I became president.

I hope that you noticed that we changed the business model with our food service vendor to significantly reduce the cost of food for purchase through Point Café and Point Perk. We did this by having the

University take more risk in purchasing. We also changed the format of Point Perk by greatly expanding food offerings and hours of operation. We hope to make more improvements over the semester as we garner more student-faculty-staff customer feedback.

We have been examining our bookstore operations, which led to the Bison Book Bundle. I agree with you that we need to do more to make Pioneer spirit clothing and other supplies more affordable, and we will continue to work on this.

I want to assure you that our University leadership is focused on ensuring that your Pioneer experience is of the highest value possible.

Congratulations on publishing the first edition of the Globe on the first day of classes. I have heard this was a first. Great job and keep up the good work that you are doing for the University community.

Go Pioneers!

Chris Brussalis  
cbrussalis@pointpark.edu



Submitted by Lou Corsaro

## Letter to the Editor: Response to coverage of Palestine-Israel conflict



Submitted by David Rullo

David Rullo  
Letter to the Editor

I attended Point Park College during its pre-halcyon existence in the 1990s. The school, not yet a university, seemed to operate in a constant state of anxiety, unsure if it would remain independent and open. And yet, its professors were top notch, creating a hands-on environment where students learned by keeping their heads down and working hard at whatever craft they had chosen.

The college was foundational in my career. I was a contributor to the Globe and Pioneer Magazine, an editor of the Cavalcade, a DJ at WPPJ and served as the radio station's general manager, program director, music director, production director and sales director. My career has spanned the landscape of local journalism and communications. I was the production director at KQV, an account executive at KDKA, produced programs at WTAE, WDSY and several other local stations. I've written for both the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, have had pieces published in literary journals around the world and won both local and national journalism awards. I am currently a senior staff writer at the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle and a bestselling author.

None of this would have happened without the learning opportunities I received at Point Park College. Despite its size, the school maintained the highest standards and its newspaper and radio stations were operated like professional organizations.

It is for this reason that I was pained to have read several stories in The Globe that were filled with factual and grammatical errors and paid no heed to the industry standard "Associated Press Stylebook." These pieces ignored the most basic journalistic standards, showing a clear bias toward one opinion.

"Students for Change

meets in Solidarity with Palestine" (Feb. 2) is illustrative of the errors I found. As an example, the first sentence reads: "Last Monday, the Point Park Students for Change (PPSC) held their first club meeting." As I'm sure you are aware, the use of "their" is not correct in this sentence. The club is a singular thing and not a person, so "it" should be used. The story is littered with other examples or writing contrary to AP style, such as spelling out "ten" rather than using the figure 10.

A larger problem occurs when the writer reports that Robert Ross has left for "occupied Palestine." "Occupied Palestine" does not exist. I suspect this descriptor was written under the direction of Ross. The Palestinian territory is not a state and should not be classified as one, according to the AP style guide. A territory known as Gaza does exist. "Occupied" hasn't been a correct adjective for the region since 2005, when Israel pulled its troops and residents from the territory.

Just as troubling is the lack of context given to any or all of Ross' statements. No history professor, of which PPU has many, was interviewed. Rather, Ross, a professor of social justice studies and community engagement, is given the import of someone trained in discussing the nuances of Middle Eastern history. He has not earned that distinction.

The story also quotes a student who says there is an "Israeli occupation" but does nothing to question what that means. Nor does the reporter discuss the cease-fire that was in place before Oct. 7, 2023, and which Hamas violated.

The paper's editorial, published Feb. 7, "The Globe's Point: We stand with Palestine," also contains factual, journalistic and grammatical errors that should be addressed in the paper's newsroom, if not in the form of a published clarification or correction.

The first error is fairly simple and innocuous. It appears in the second paragraph, calling Israel's war to wipe out the Hamas terrorists that invaded it a "mass conflict." I'm not sure what that term means but the current operation is in no way a "mass conflict." It is between one democratic state and a terrorist organization that has governing power over the Gaza territory. "Mass" would seem to imply several different nations involved in a regional, or larger, conflict.

The editorial lists several figures, some reported from the Hamas-controlled Health Ministry, others from the United Nations. It, however, provides no context for those numbers. It doesn't report or explain that Hamas often surrounds itself and its arms with Gazan citizens, most of whom are women and children. Nor does it explain that many of the men living in Gaza are fighting against Israel and are being hid in underground tunnels and bunkers, keeping them

safe — something Hamas could do for its women and children, but purposefully doesn't.

The column ends with a call for a cease-fire, stating that The Globe's staff aren't experts on geopolitical conflicts. Indeed, they are not. They certainly don't seem to understand that prior to Oct. 7 there was a cease-fire. It was broken by Hamas. Israel, the United States and several other countries have proposed multiple cease-fire plans. They have all been rejected by Hamas. Better to not write an editorial about something of which the editorial board knows little than to get a column so wrong.

These types of stories make Jewish students on campus less safe. There have been studies by the Anti-Defamation League supporting this opinion. More than that, I have interviewed victims of antisemitic attacks since Oct. 7 and can talk of the harassment experienced by local students, all of which are given cover by these and similar stories.

I have also witnessed the horrors and atrocities committed by Hamas on Oct. 7, on video footage recorded by the terrorist organization. This is not a war of oppressors versus the oppressed. This is, instead, a war for the very existence of the Jewish people living in Israel and around the world.

Point Park College, now University, has a history of professional-level journalism created by its students. It is my hope that this tradition will reassert itself this semester and that the basic tenets of journalism will be reinstated to the stories that are published by The Globe. If not, it isn't simply the school, its Jewish students, larger student body or Pittsburgh that will suffer. Instead, it will be the entire field of journalism, as the Globe's staff finds employment in publications across the city and country.

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**Point Park '24  
ATHLETIC  
SCHEDULE**

- Men's Soccer**  
WEDNESDAY 7PM  
AT CHARLESTON (W.V.)
- Women's Soccer**  
THURSDAY 7:30PM  
AT CARNEGIE MELLON
- Volleyball**  
FRIDAY 3PM  
VS. FROSTBURG ST. - VULCAN INVITATIONAL
- Cross Country**  
SATURDAY 9AM  
AT ROBERT MORRIS INVITATIONAL
- Men's Soccer**  
SATURDAY 7PM  
AT FROSTBURG ST.
- Golf**  
MONDAY  
AT CALIFORNIA (PA) INVITATIONAL

# Men's soccer falls to first MEC opponent

Megan Lukitsch  
Staff Writer

The weather was perfect at Highmark Stadium on Sunday afternoon for Point Park University's debut in the NCAA's Mountain East Conference (MEC).

Point Park athletics made the jump to Division II over the summer after the university accepted an invitation to join the MEC in mid-January.

The Concord University Mountain Lions, hailing

from Athens, West Virginia, were set to be the Pioneer's first-ever MEC opponent in the school's history.

Concord opened their season against a Point Park team that was coming off of an 8-1 non-conference victory over Chatham University on Thursday.

The Mountain Lions came ready to play out of the gate, getting four shots on Point Park's graduate student and goalkeeper David Ali in the first 11 minutes of the game.

Concord finally broke through Ali 13 minutes and 29 seconds into the game on an unassisted goal from Concord sophomore forward Syrus Connolly, his first of the season.

Although, Concord's goal wasn't an exact indicator of perfect play early in the game. Shortly before Connolly's goal, Concord forward Richard Henry bodied into Point Park's junior Baptiste Gaume as he gained possession of the ball. Henry's foul resulted in him receiving a yellow card from the referee.

The Pioneers earned five shots through the remainder of the half, but Concord's strong defensive structure made it difficult for Point Park to convert on their chances.

Concord midfielder Santi Possu extended his team's lead to 2-0 with about six minutes left in the first half, being assisted on the goal by Concord's Richard Henry.

Sixteen minutes and 45 seconds into the second half, Point Park was given a



Luka Strickland | For the Globe

The starting lineup in a huddle before their game against Concord.

yellow card of their own after junior forward Fridolin Gerfoer tripped Concord's Patrick Alouidor, who was seemingly injured on the play.

The Pioneers ended the Mountain Lions' shutout bid on a penalty kick taken by midfielder graduate student Cherokey Briard with about 20 seconds left in the game.

However, Concord was able to hold on for the re-

maining few seconds to win their first game of the season with a 2-1 victory over Point Park.

The Pioneers will continue their debut season in the MEC when they travel to West Virginia for their first road game of the season to take on the University of Charleston at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Megan Lukitsch  
melukit@pointpark.edu



Luka Strickland | For the Globe

Grad student, team captain, and goalkeeper David Ali gets a save.

## Meet the Coaches hired to new wrestling program

Brynn Rees  
Sports Editor

In May, Point Park hired two wrestling coaches to bring another athletic program to the university and expand the athletic department. Zach Mizer heads the men's team and José Martinez heads the women's team.

Mizer and Martinez will spend the 2024-25 academic year recruiting and building their rosters. Matches are set to begin next school year.

Construction of a designated practice facility is underway on the third floor of the Student Center, and athletics is ordering custom wrestling mats for the area. This process of ordering and installation will take several months.

Mizer hails from Canton, Ohio and previously served as head coach at Lyon College, an NCAA Division III school in Batesville, Arkansas. He worked at Lyon for two years, coaching seven NCWA National Qualifiers, five all-conference members and three scholar All-American honorees.



Men's Wrestling, Zach Mizer  
Courtesy of Point Park Athletics

"Zach is very experienced, having been a Division III and an NAIA head coach," Vice President of Athletics Scott Swain said. "We're getting a veteran college coach with [him] and we thought he would be a good fit."

Possessing over a decade of collegiate coaching experience, Mizer coached for Muskingum University (Ohio) for seven years and Buena Vista University

(Iowa) for two. In college, he wrestled for Division III Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, earning three national qualifications and a national runner-up title during his senior year.

Mizer shared that he is excited to kick-start a new program, although it is a large undertaking.

"Starting your own program is kind of difficult, but it's neat because you can grow it the way that you want," Mizer said. "It's just getting your name out there, getting kids to buy into your culture, and you can start fresh."

Mizer also spoke about how he aims to recruit students to Point Park for both athletics and an outstanding education.

"There [are] jobs here [in Pittsburgh] for [students], Mizer said. "Whatever [their] major is, we can find you something here. I think that's a good selling point to kids as well."

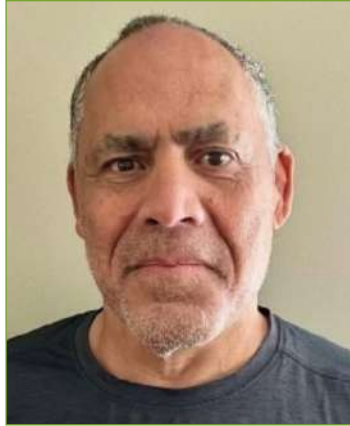
Now coaching the women's team, José Martinez was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, but has spent most of his career in the Pittsburgh area. He previously served as a varsity wrestling coach for North Hills Area School District, about 15 minutes from campus.

In 24 years of coaching at North Hills, Martinez earned a total of 271 varsity wins, NWCA/USMC Coach of the Year and coached 17 PIAA qualifiers and two state champions. He also had a part in founding the women's wrestling program at Penn Hills.

Martinez earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Pittsburgh, where he was a three-year starter, two-time Eastern Wrestling League (EWL) runner-up, and two-time NCAA qualifier.

"José is a great personality, and he is infectious with his positivity," Swain said. "He knows Western Pa. and knows girls wrestling [on] the high school level so well. We believe that [he] will be able to recruit very well to get this program off the ground."

Martinez is coaching on the collegiate level for the first time in his career. He has worked in the area for 24 years and is extremely familiar with the local wrestling scene.



Women's Wrestling, José Martinez  
Courtesy of Point Park Athletics

"I think that wrestling has a future here," Martinez said. "I think if everything's done correctly, Point Park University will have some really, really good years and could be a top contender."

Martinez shared that there is apparent wrestling interest in the area, but he is focusing on getting Point Park's name out.

"There's a lot of work to be done on our part," Martinez said. "We have to brand this program, and we have to brand it as one of the best wrestling programs around."

The university hired Mizer and Martinez within the same month as Cody Golon and Erik Ingram, the new men's and women's lacrosse coaches. All four teams will compete during the 2025-26 school year in NCAA Division II athletics.

"It's very exciting because adding new sports is an exciting time to an institution, and our four new head coaches are busy recruiting for these sports," Swain said. "We think the four sports are a good fit for our university."

Construction for the wrestling facility on campus is underway, and Mizer and Martinez will continue to spend the year recruiting for their new teams.

Brynn Rees  
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## Pioneers dominate soccer in home opener

Edmee Martinez  
For the Globe

The Point Park men's soccer team introduced the 24-25 season with a powerful and strong home opener, winning 8-1 versus Chatham University. Before losing the match to the Point Park Pioneers, Chatham had one win and one draw, with the Pioneers matchup bringing the Cougars to 1-1-1.

The starters for Point Park were as follows: Captain Alexis Lamontagne, Captain David Ali, Edward Bowers, Baptiste Gaume, Finn Syson, Javier Morejon, Cherokey Briard, Ruben Kuypers, Ran Arad, Bruno Lancellotti and Fridolin Gerfoer.

"It's a good feeling," Coach Cameron Williams said. "It's a historic moment for Point Park as it was our first NCAA DII win."

By the end of the first half, Point Park scored five goals, with Chatham having scored zero. The first goal was scored by Morejon at the 11-minute mark who had received an amazing assist from Gerfoer after some intense passing sequences.

Chatham hoped to return with a goal of their own and decided to run an aggressive offense, but they failed to maintain possession of the ball. Point Park drove to the Cougar's side of the field, resulting in a Pioneers goal at the 14-minute mark by Kuypers, with another assist from Gerfoer.

Gerfoer rounded out his assist streak with the third goal. After a great recovery of the ball by Morejon, the Pioneers took possession of the ball and, not long after, scored their third goal. Gerfoer added another beautiful assist, putting the ball directly at the feet of Briard, who scored at the 21-minute mark.

Morejon scored his second goal at the 23-minute mark with an assist from freshman Ido Chalamish. Chalamish drove a well-aimed pass to the center, leading Morejon to cleanly score the goal.

The fifth and final goal of the first half was an unassisted shot from Nils Ben-

ning. Benning shot the goal outside of the penalty box, cleanly soaring into the net and bypassing the defense with ease at the 34-minute mark.

These five goals concluded the first half of the game.

The first and only goal for the Cougars came after Point Park fouled Chatham, giving the Cougars a penalty kick. The penalty kick was saved by Ali, but an impressive bicycle kick from Azavier Coppin came too soon after to save.

At the 48-minute mark, Point Park came back with a goal of their own, as Benning scored his second goal of the game. Like Chatham's previous goal, this came from rebounding a penalty kick by Briard.

With ten minutes left in the game, Point Park scored two more goals within a minute. The first was scored by Ian Thomas, with an assist from both Ethan Villa and Agustin Rodriguez.

Thieler capped the night off with the eighth and final goal for the Pioneers. Soon after the kickoff from the previous goal, Thieler scored from a rebound after Kush, the goalie, failed to save the previous shot on goal. Thieler was assisted by Kuypers and scored at the 82' minute.

"We had energy, we possessed [the ball] very well for almost ninety minutes tonight," Williams said. "One thing that stood out for me was our possession and our ability to exploit their weaknesses."

The Pioneers went home with a dominant win, getting three yellow cards, 34 total shots, two saves, nine corner kicks, and 10 fouls.

"We were really focused on the game," team captain David Ali said. "It was tough at the second part [and] at the beginning, but we stayed focused." He finished by saying that the team was motivated and excited for its conference game with Concord.

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