



## Students that return to damaged dorms are displaced



Submitted by Ayden Miller

Paint and pieces of the wall left in chunks after maintenance workers created a hole in the wall to access a steam line for the dorm heater.

## Former PPU President Arthur M. Blum dies at 90 years old

Peyton Martin  
Co-News Editor

Arthur (Art) M. Blum became the second President of Point Park University in 1967, after working in multiple administrative roles, said Albert McLean in "Point Park College: The First 25 Years".

Blum was the youngest college president in the country at the time. During the time of his presidency, Point Park became accredited by the regional accrediting association. The college also expanded its programs and facilities and became an active role in the cultural life of Pittsburgh.

Additionally, Point Park purchased the Sherwyn Hotel, now known as Lawrence Hall, in 1967 under Blum's leadership.

However, Blum resigned from his role due to a financial crisis where Point Park failed to meet 253,000 monthly payrolls for 445 employees in 1973.

Helen Fallon, a Point Park alumna, worked as a student work employee during the summer of 1973 during Blum's presidency.

Fallon didn't get to know him, but she worked throughout the top administrative offices and would sub in and answer the phone in the president's office when Blum's assistant wasn't available.

Fallon was in the office during the financial crisis. Blum was receiving a lot of phone calls from newspapers, said Fallon.

"It was my summer job," Fallon said. "I am witnessing Point Park history basically."

A Point Park faculty member and alumni, George Bromall, was also a student while Blum was in office.

"He came into the Computer Center one evening as I was running student programs," Bromall said. "I thought I was in trouble."

It turns out Blum was simply curious about the computer and what Bromall was doing. At the time, Point Park had the IBM 360, which was the state of the art in computers then.

"We became friends, and I was amazed that the university president would care to spend time with a student worker," Bromall said. "That friendship prevailed until his death."

In the past several years, a group of students including Bromall started a tradition of travelling to Raleigh, North Carolina to spend a weekend with Blum for his birthday.

This year they enjoyed a visit with Blum to celebrate his 90th birthday, said Bromall.

"Art was one of the most creative and visionary people I have ever met. He was a Renaissance Man. His vision for PPU in 1967 was like he could see 2024," said Bromall.

"The stories of his time at PPU and his subsequent forays in ballet and business made for delightful afternoons, evenings that would last late into the night. He was a very important person in my life and education, and he is missed."

## Leaky Lawrence strikes again

Carson Folio  
Editor-Elect

Leaking hot water from a broken steam line pipe attached to Lawrence Hall's heating system caused significant water damage to multiple dorm rooms on floors 13 – 15 in the building over winter break.

The damage was not discovered until students who live in Lawrence Hall moved back into their dorm rooms on Jan. 5 and 6. The hot water leaked down from inside the walls of the affected dorms, causing moderate damage that required some students to temporarily vacate their rooms and stay in Thayer Hall.

Ayden Miller, a first-year broadcast production major, thought everything was fine with his room until maintenance workers knocked on his dorm's door on Jan. 6. They explained that water was leaking into

the dorm below and had to make sure his room wasn't the source.

Originally, maintenance workers thought that it wasn't a leak from Miller's dorm because the water dripping from the room's heater was not enough to cause such extensive damage. But according to Miller, they returned the next day on Jan. 7 to re-investigate.

Instead of just doing a slight visual inspection, Miller said that the maintenance workers created a hole close to the floor and to the left of the room's window, which is near where their heater is, to investigate further. With their findings, Miller said that he and his roommate were told that the source of the water leak was higher up the wall due to the bubbling paint.

After the maintenance workers made another hole higher up the wall, Miller said the source of the

problem became clear. He said they could see pipes that led to his room's heating unit that was ultimately the cause of the water damage.

"You could even see warm water spraying the inner walls and dripping down," Miller said. "There was even steam and mist coming from the hole they created."

Chris Hill, vice president of operations, said that a room on floor 14 was directly affected by a fan coil fitting failure, which caused water to leak as well as causing the heater to not work. Hill said the other rooms on floors 13 – 15 were affected by a steam line that split open.

"We are currently in the process of repairing the damage in

LEAKY page 2

## Honors Program announces new grad assistant

Peyton Martin  
Co-News Editor

Point Park University's Honors Program announced on Jan. 4 that Frederieke Rijlaarsdam is the new graduate assistant who will be working in the Honors Office.

Rijlaarsdam is from Leiden, Netherlands, where she obtained her Bachelor of Law degree. She has a lot of experience working in law already.

"It was like, okay I need to calm down because otherwise I can be working as a lawyer in a year. I thought that sounds fun, but I also want to live," Rijlaarsdam said. "Then I got the opportunity to combine soccer and go to university here."

As of August 2024, Rijlaarsdam joined Point Park to pursue a Master of

Business Administration degree while playing on the women's soccer team. However, she wanted to do more.

Rijlaarsdam decided to apply for the position of graduate assistant because she wanted an extra challenge on top of her graduate classes and the soccer program. The spring semester seemed the right time to take the position because, in the fall, there are a lot of things she must do for soccer, Rijlaarsdam said.

"I always want like an extra challenge, and it seemed like a nice way to do something extra," Rijlaarsdam said. "Also, it's a chance to learn more people at the school who aren't athletes because most of my friends are also from



Submitted by Frederieke Rijlaarsdam

Frederieke Rijlaarsdam, the new honors graduate assistant, poses for a photo.

HONORS page 3

BLUM page 2

# Faculty member celebrates Blum's 90th birthday before death



From BLUM page 1

Arthur Blum and George Bromall spent time together in Raleigh, North Carolina for Blum's 90th birthday back in August 2024.

It was a tradition a group of Blum's students started with him a few years ago.

Photos submitted by George Bromall

# Water damage wreaks havoc on dorm

From LEAKY page 1  
the aforementioned rooms," Hill said. "We are working diligently to resolve it as quickly as possible."

Lawrence Hall is no stranger to water damage problems, such as damage to the ceiling in the Point Café due to a leaking pipe attached to a dishwasher in the Dining Hall. Miller said that he was told a similar issue with the heating system happened before, but

was not told how recently or how long ago this problem last occurred.

As for Miller and a few other students affected by the problem, they have been offered a temporary room change to stay in Thayer Hall until their rooms no longer have holes in them and are safe to live in again. Miller currently stays in Thayer Hall.

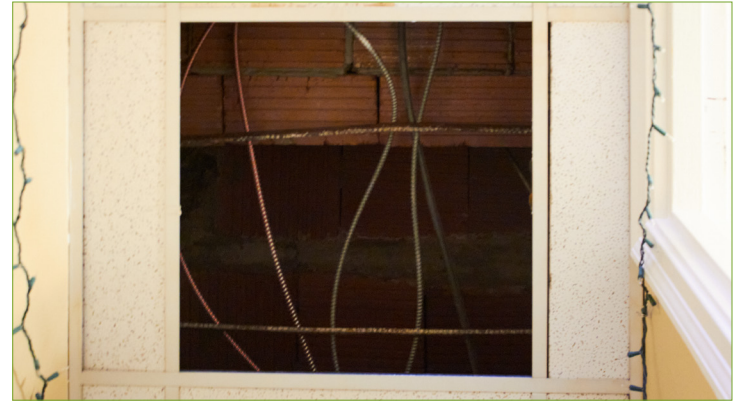
"Maintenance told us there was a chance of that happening," Miller said. "We shouldn't sleep in a

room risking our items getting wet and dirty and dealing with maintenance all day."

According to Miller, both maintenance and residence life apologized profusely for the situation and did not blame him or his roommate for the water damage caused by the broken fan coil unit.

Instead, the problem was blamed on the fact that Lawrence Hall is an old building.

Lawrence Hall, which was originally the Keystone



Peyton Martin | The Globe

A removed ceiling tile reveals wiring and parts of the ceiling above.

Athletic Club and then the Sherwyn Hotel, was built in 1927 and was renamed

to Lawrence Hall after former Pittsburgh Mayor David L. Lawrence. Point Park - which was still a college and not a university at the time - bought the building in 1967.

Miller said that the school told him that the fixes to his room will likely take two to three weeks and then he will be able to move back into Lawrence Hall.

According to Trane, a company that specializes in HVAC systems, fan coil unit-based units are typically found in commercial and office buildings.

Residence Life did not return a request for comment.

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Peyton Martin | The Globe

Water damage revealed several old layers of paint, such as a sky blue.



Submitted by Ayden Miller

The aftermath of maintenance created a hole in the wall by a heater.

## Corrections

A few photos in the last edition of The Globe were attributed to the wrong people. The photo of former provost Michael Soto in the story labeled "Shari Payne named interim provost" was misattributed to Gina Puppo and also had an incorrect cutline - the photo was taken by Photo Editor Caleb McCartney. The photo of the sidewalk clings in the story labeled "Point Park sidewalk clings elicit positive feedback" was misattributed to the writer, Melissa Garlock, and was also taken by McCartney. The photo of Chief of Police Jeffrey Besong was not credited - it was taken courtesy of Point Park's website.

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# CRIME REPORT

# Shari Payne ready to take on provost role

Gavin Petrone  
Co-News Editor

Dr. Shari Payne, who was promoted to the position of interim provost near the start of this semester, says she has thrown her hat in the ring for consideration as the permanent provost.

"I am interested in being a candidate for the position full time," Payne, the former School of Education dean, said. "There will be a search and I will have to go through that process just like any other candidate."

Point Park's provost is responsible for oversight of curriculum across schools.

"Dr. Payne has demonstrated exceptional leadership in her roles as dean of the School of Education and the School of Continuing and Professional studies and brings a wealth of experience in higher education administration to this role," Brussalis said in his announcement of former provost Soto's departure.

Dr. Ginny Chambers, the former School of Education professor turned interim dean, said she is looking forward to filling Payne's shoes.

"I feel fortunate to work alongside such a talented and collaborative team of faculty and staff in the School of Education," Chambers said. "Together, we are committed to innovation and continually enhancing the excellence of our undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs."

Payne discussed her efforts to overhaul School of Education classes after she was appointed as the dean in May of 2024.

She and a team of higher education professionals built a new alternative teaching program at Point Park to allow paraprofessionals to pursue teaching degrees while they work, a first for Pennsylvania.

"I don't know if you know this, but there's a large teacher shortage in Pennsylvania," Payne said. "So we really dove in to try to solve that problem."

The successes of the School of Education made Payne stand out, she says. However, she added that she had received help.

"There are a lot of talented faculty members spearheading that," Payne said, "and I was leading and managing it, but I do

want to give all the credit to them."

First beginning her career as a reporter for the Latrobe Bulletin, Payne was laid off and returned to the University of Pittsburgh, her alma mater, for work.

Pitt was the catalyst of Payne's 30 year career in higher education after she was given the job of admissions and financial aid counselor.

Since she first started, Payne has worked at Robert Morris University, where she spent 17 years, Shepherd University in West Virginia and Waynesburg University serving as vice president of enrollment.

Payne has been at Point Park since May of 2023, when the university initially brought her on as dean of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

"[Higher education] is the passion of my life," Payne said. "It's been my life's work. I'm not new to higher education even though I'm new to Point Park University."

The growing number of interim positions does not alarm Payne, she said.

"Sometimes an inter-



Shari Payne, the new interim provost who served as the dean of the school of education, poses for a photo. The Globe Archives

im position is really just to buy time for a search to complete the process," Payne said. "It's a neutral term. It's not good or bad. It's just really buying time for the search to complete its process. And at the conclusion of an interim process, a person can be chosen as the permanent position. There could be an external person chosen for that role."

In the meantime,

Payne says she encourages students to come to her with suggestions while she serves as provost.

"It's really important to me that I pack my schedule with meetings with folks to listen and hear what they have to say before jumping in and making any changes," Payne said.

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## Honors program hires new graduate assistant

From HONORS page 1

from sports teams."

The job of the graduate assistant is to answer student questions, help plan student events and help the execution of the events, said Jessica McCort, director of the Honors Program.

"The graduate assistant is really helpful in terms of the day to day running of the office, but also kind of behind the scenes," said McCort.

One task in particular that the graduate assistant performs is student referral cards. The referral cards are for when a professor recognizes a stand-out student in their class that is not already in the honors program, so the professor fills out a card and sends it to the Honors Office.

After the Honors Office receives the card, they reach out to the student to



Peyton Martin | The Globe

The door to the office of the honors program on the fourth floor on Lawrence Hall sits unopened.

see if they are interested in becoming a part of the Honors Program. The referral cards allow the Honors Program to reach out to students who would benefit from being a part of it.

"We want the Honors Program to be seen as really inclusive, and if it is a space you want to be in, then we are going to welcome you into it," said McCort.

Right now, Rijlaarsdam is in the process of learning about the program, that way students will be able to have their questions answered if McCort is not in the office.

"I'm most excited for all the symposiums or all the presentations because I've always been curious to learn more things," Rijlaarsdam said. "It always gets me excited when people are passionate about something because I love to listen and learn new things."

Outside of being the graduate assistant, Rijlaarsdam works for a legal clinic in the Netherlands where she is a team leader. The clinic provides free legal advice for everyone that needs it.

At Point Park, she is going to help the legal department reflect some implementation as well as take five graduate classes.

"I'm very busy because I'm bored if I'm not," said Rijlaarsdam.

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## Former Provost Soto's plans still in motion

Peyton Martin  
Co-News Editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) meeting on Monday discussed the effects of Provost Michael Soto departing from the university. Despite Soto departing from his role, the plans he discussed with SGA are still in the process of moving forward, said SGA President Kyle MacLaughlin.

Those plans include things such as shorter class periods that would allow for a common hour built

into everyone's schedule. Another one of the plans Soto previously discussed was Point Park having a longer winter break, which would allow professors more time to prepare for the spring semester.

SGA also talked about an upcoming event they have planned for Jan. 28 called "New Year New Connections." The event will be a small, relaxing event on the second floor of the student center with board games, snacks, tea and coffee.

"It's just for everybody to come and hang out and

be there for people to just feel some small community," SGA Vice President Dillion Peterson said.

During most of the meeting, SGA discussed updating its constitution. The members mainly focused on whether or not to require presidential and vice-presidential candidates to serve in the Point Park SGA at least one semester before becoming eligible to run for election.

There were a few key points to this argument. One point against the requirement was that, if there was an unpopular

year for student government, it would allow someone to come in and radically change it.

A key point made by supporters of the requirement was that, if someone were to serve in the top two positions in SGA, they should have some experience.

One suggestion for this debate is as follows:

"Any student who has served in student government association as a senator, senator at large or executive cabinet member for at least one semester or has held a leadership

role in a recognized club at Point Park University or another university for at least one semester shall be eligible to run for and hold the office of president and vice president," Sen. Riley Mahon said.

SGA approved the above statement to be added to the constitution with 10 votes.

For more information check out the next SGA meeting at 3:15p.m., Jan. 27, in the basement floor of the Student Center.

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# PPU students “Crash the Super Bowl” with Doritos ad

Gavin Petrone  
Co-News Editor

Doritos’ “Crash the Super Bowl” advertising contest received a submission from two Point Park students; Nihad Hebib, a senior accounting major and Shandon Walsh, a junior PR/AD major.

“Crash the Super Bowl” encourages amateur filmmakers across the U.S. to independently produce a 30-second Doritos advertisement.

The winner of the contest takes home \$1 million, and has their ad shown during this year’s Super Bowl.

Although their submission did not make Doritos’ list of 25 semi-finalists, Hebib and Walsh both say the contest allowed them to grow their respective brands and find new opportunities in advertising.

“I had always said from the beginning that winning a million dollars would be a long shot,” Walsh said. “Just being involved with this project itself was going to open up so many opportunities and give us potential to get our names out there.”



Submitted by Nihad Hebib and Shandon Walsh

The judge, played by Denny DiPalma, shows his fingers covered in Doritos dust for the “Crash the Super Bowl” ad submission by the two students.

The ad is set in a courtroom, and features an attorney resolving his prosecution of a child who ate Doritos.

The attorney points to the child’s Doritos-dust laden hands as evidence, but both the jury members and judge reveal they too have dust on their hands.

“The original idea was actually going to be some-

thing along the lines of a wedding, and then somebody crashes the wedding with the Doritos,” Hebib said.

“But I had just recently finished watching Suits, and so did all my friends and a bunch of people were talking about it. There’s a bunch of these lawyer shows on Netflix and Hulu that are all trending, so

I was like, ‘I feel like it’d be really good public appeal to do something like a court case,’” Hebib said.

The crew had to get creative to bring their scene to life. The “courthouse” featured in the video is actually a meeting room in a retired Braddock police station.

Casting took a bit of resourcefulness as well, ac-

ording to Walsh.

“The judge was my girlfriend’s uncle and the little kid was actually my younger brother,” Walsh said.

Both Hebib and Walsh hope to continue growing their advertising careers with the Doritos ad as a boon in their resumes.

“I’m pretty proud of the product that we made,” Hebib said. “So I’m going to be reaching out, cold calling a bunch of businesses, offering them a similar service. Like, ‘We can do something in Pittsburgh to advertise your business,’ etc., etc.”

Walsh made a promotional video for his Instagram to help proliferate the ad. He also reached out to several local media outlets, including the Globe and Post-Gazette, to spread the word further.

“This project wasn’t always about a million dollars,” Walsh said. “It would have been nice, but it was more about, you know, we’re doing something really cool here. And we have this passion project where we can pour everything we have into it and just see where it takes us.”

Gavin Petrone  
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Submitted by Nihad Hebib and Shandon Walsh

Members of the casted jury raise their hands to reveal their hands that are covered in Doritos dust, going with the theme that Hebib and Walsh went with.

## Student Health Center offers CPR classes to students

Michael Klug  
Co-Opinions Editor

When it comes to life-saving techniques, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is one of the many kinds of ways to save a life. Now, students are able to get certified, alongside faculty and staff who are also able to get CPR certified on campus by taking one class.

Nurse Rebecca Harper of the University Health Center started offering these classes in the spring 2024 semester. The classes are taught by her and Safety Manager Kelly Staschak. For a regular CPR class, the cost is \$20. For the full first-aid course, the cost is \$30.

The class consists of watching informational videos and practicing hands-on with the CPR dummies. This includes practicing rescue breaths and abdominal thrusts, formerly named the “Heimlich Maneuver.”

Harper said, besides student leaders, she hasn’t had a lot of students want to take the class,

“We’re still making it available to anyone who wants to take it,” Harper said.

Some of the organizations on campus are already CPR certified.

“Our police are obviously CPR certified,” Harper said. “Just right over break, we [certified] the CABBies, and I think we’re going to offer it to the RES over the summer.”

Harper said she also certified the Pioneer Ambassador Leadership last year.

Thea Smith, executive director of the Campus Activities Board (CAB), said 11 of the 13 student board members of CAB got certified.

“When it came to planning our Spring semester training, we were thinking [about] what would be most beneficial for our organization, since we hold so many events on campus and interact a lot with the community,” Smith said. “Seeing that you can never predict what can happen, it just made the most sense to get everyone CPR certified.”

Smith also said that CAB wants to be as prepared as possible for any situation. This reason is why they also got trained to correctly use fire extinguishers and also how to administer an EpiPen and an inhaler.

According to a press release from CAB, “the decision to include CPR, First Aid and Fire Safety training

came after student concerns arose at the start of the fall semester [...] regarding the lack of medically trained staff at on-campus events.”

“I am grateful to Nurse Rebecca and Kelly Staschak for allowing us this opportunity to ensure safety and security at all CAB events,” Sydney Rendahl, CABs vice president of marketing said in the press release.

Along with the CPR certification earned through this course, students can also earn Automated External Defibrillator (AED) certifications.

The press release quoted Keely Sapienza, director of Student Activities, Involvement and Leadership (SAIL) and the Student Center.

“This decision was an intentional step to empower students as leaders on campus,” Spaienza said in the press release. “It not only helps with being prepared for emergencies but helps with their professional development and gives them another thing to add through their resume.”

The classes are taught through the American Heart Association, which Harper is credentialed through.

“We go off what their guidelines are,” Harper said. “You get a card from the American Heart As-



Submitted by Sydney Rendahl

Thea Smith, Susie Iannitelli, Morgan Bakos and Dakota Nicholson take turns doing chest compressions.

sociation, actually watch the videos, the whole nine yards.”

Students interested in getting CPR certified can register for the class on PointSync or through appointment on the Health Center website.

Even without a certification, civilians can still do CPR, but Harper encourages students to get the certification.

“There’s been a big shift in CPR, which is interesting,” Harper said.

“We’ve kind of gotten away from doing breaths, and in the class, you’ll hear about hands-only CPR.”

Harper has been a CPR instructor for 10 years.

“You never know where you’re gonna be when someone needs CPR,” Harper said. “That’s why I offer it - because I think the more exposed you can get to it, the better.”

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# Dance majors continue training over semester break

Melissa Garlock  
Staff Editor

Point Park's Conservatory of Performing Arts is known for its rigorous program and talented individuals. Within the newly announced "School of Dance," dance majors uphold this reputation working day in and day out throughout the semester, perfecting everything from performance to technique.

In the dance industry, consistency is key. Continuously training and embarking on new opportunities is crucial to being a successful dancer upon graduation. So, while some college students may use winter and summer breaks to relax and reset, many dance majors hone their craft.

Many professors in the program specifically rec-

ommended that their students utilize break time to attend intensives held at dance companies, major branded studios or even Point Park's own summer training program.

Over this past winter break, Emma Jurado, freshman jazz concentration, found her experience at an intensive to be nothing short of enlightening.

"I did the Whim W' Him Seattle Contemporary Dance Intensive and I had a really great time and was super challenged," Jurado said. "I would really recommend company intensives because they are very personal and they offer a lot of one-on-one training."

Dance companies are the most common intensive opportunities, with a major benefit being the

connections made with professional dancers. For students looking to pursue a career within a dance company or even establishing their own, knowing members of the professional dance community is a major aspect.

Eddison Toby, freshman modern concentration, attended Complexions Ballet Company Winter Intensive in New York City.

"I was really nervous at first, the environment felt really tense because there is a lot of pressure for everybody to be doing their best," Toby said. "However, the teachers were amazing, and I learned so much from their class repertory, technique, and professional advice."

Other Point Park dancers simply attended classes

in their hometown. Considering the Contemporary Choreographers Showcase concluded on Dec. 15 and the first day of spring semester classes began Jan. 6, squeezing in an entire intensive may have been difficult over winter break.

For some dancers, summer intensives or summer performance jobs take priority over winter training due to more studios and more companies offering longer and potentially more advanced training.

These dancers instead spent the break working on performance reels, resumes and gathering up other audition materials to submit for summertime opportunities. The deadlines for these could be any time from Dec. 31 to the beginning of April.

Regardless of what

dance students are doing in their time away from the Conservatory, the grind clearly never stops. It is vital for performers to use their time away to rest their mind and bodies and maintain a balance with training.

While some may think that being a dancer is all work and no play, this busy and tiresome lifestyle is a thrill for most dancers.

"It's so exciting to learn from a space that is new to you and disconnected from what you know prior," Toby said. "It really pushes you in ways you could not imagine."

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## 'Burgh Bites

# Benny's Pizza: An affordable late night option

Rating:

Cassandra Harris  
Editor-in-Chief

Imagine holding a regular slice of pizza, then imagine a slice that is almost three times the size of that. Benny Fierro's Pizza on East Carson Street may very well be the largest slice of pizza that you will ever take a bite of. The pies are 28 inches compared to the regular 14, so unhinge your jaw and make room for a slice that will fill your tummy.

I might go as far as to say that the sauce is tastier than Genoa Pizza, and although the crust was not more doughy, the ranch, for an extra 50 cents, was better and sweeter.

Together with The Globe's Business Manager Nevaeh Wessel and Editor-elect Carson Folio, we ordered a total of seven massive pizza slices. I had the pepperoni, sliced sausage, chorizo crispy onion and the ham with mini pepperonis. The pepperoni was the most important to order. The flavor acted as a control to compare it to competitor pizza and rank Benny's other flavors of the day.

The most bland slice was the sliced sausage for \$6. There were eight sausage slices that did not sweat much residual grease onto the cheese. Unlike pepperoni, which changes the cheese's entire flavor, the sliced sausage did not, leaving the cheese to taste the most pure and similar to a plain slice with added protein.

Although, the amount of meat on this slice was kind of sad and would benefit from more. The sausage was not crispy either, rather it was soft and wasn't spicy compared to the pepperoni or to the other chorizo.

Arguably the best slice was the chorizo crispy onion for \$6.50. It was worth the extra 50 cents. The onion's added crispness complements the chewy and wet texture from the ground sausage. The meat by itself was a little spicy, but placed on top of the cheese, it enhanced the flavor. It was impossible to tell that it was spicy without trying the meat alone.

The crispy onion lived up to its name and did not become soggy when it mingled with the chorizo. It was

not overly meaty or spicy either, but flavorful.

Next was ham with mini pepperoni for \$6.50. In the flavor department, this one was not worth the extra 50 cents. Although, the 50 cents added a significantly larger amount of protein.

The flavor's name reminded me of the one time as a pre-teen when I ate a rancid ham and pepperoni hot pocket. Going for a car ride afterwards was a terrible decision. The bubbling grease in my throat and residual flavor of how the ham flavored the cheese made me wish that I threw it up.

While this slice of pizza brought back horrid memories, the flavor was much better and it was hard to taste the small ham chunks at all. The pepperoni flavored the cheese far more than that of the ham which just added a nice chewy texture.

The last slice was just plain pepperoni for \$6. It had a total of 10 pepperoni slices and overall wasn't super greasy like Genoa's pepperoni pizza. The pizza itself wasn't doughy or crispy, but a happy medium between the two.

In addition, I recommend the 50 cent garlic butter.

While I would never recommend eating butter directly because of health reasons, the extra flavor is creamy and elevates each slice to another level.

Benny's also offers company-made dessert ice cream bars for \$3. While the chocolate flavor I tried was a little freezer burnt, it was likely the best chocolate ice cream bar ever. The ice cream was rich and filled with chocolate chips. It was not overly sweet and the cookie itself was soft. They also offer a birthday cake ice cream bar.

The three of us went around 10:30 p.m. after class, right before they closed at 12 a.m.

Some other flavors I did not dare try were the feta and olives, the garlic mushroom or the bruschetta that looked quite tasty after Carson ordered it.

If you're looking to change up the late night or after class dinner date with your friends this semester, bus on over to Benny's.

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Cassandra Harris | The Globe

(Top to bottom) A slice of cheese, sliced sausage, chorizo crispy onion, pepperoni, bruschetta, pepperoni and ham with mini pepperoni all sit on a table with ranch and a bottle of Joe's lemon tea at Benny Fierro's Pizza.



Nevaeh Wessel | The Globe

Food Columnist Cassandra Harris holds a slice of ham and mini pepperoni, posing for a new Burgh Bites photo.

# Flow: a breath of fresh air

Ethan Rowinski  
Staff Writer

There were six films nominated for Best Animated Feature at this year's Golden Globe ceremony. Of the nominees, two of those movies were sequels, one was a film in an already-established franchise, one was a novel adaptation, and only two were fully original products. Of these original works, one was the stop-motion dramedy "Memoir of a Snail," and the other was the ultimate winner of the award: "Flow."

The movie completely stands apart from all the competition it had at the award ceremony and any other major animated feature released in recent years. Featuring zero dialogue, the film, the second feature-length movie directed by Latvia's Gints Zilbalodis, features a cat in a world once inhabited by humans. The surrounding nature has taken over man-made buildings, further proving that the world is void of humanity. When a major flood unexpectedly appears, the cat is forced to seek refuge on a boat and make companions with a capybara, a lemur, a golden retriever and a secretary bird to exist and traverse in this new world.

Notably, these are not animals that are anthropomorphized. They act like their respective animals, though with a little more sass added to each of their actions and expressions. The dog acts excitable and is looking to please those around him, the lemur is possessive and climbs around the ship, and the cat is curious, but

also initially agitated by everyone when he first meets them.

This puts the film in a category of its own in a world where the Disney formula of using animals as placeholders for people has prevailed for decades. While this could have led to the film feeling disjointed, making it hard for the viewer to relate to any of the characters, "Flow" does anything but. The movie succeeds in nearly every aspect, creating an incredibly enjoyable product for all viewers.

One of the most notable aspects of the film is its visuals. Made entirely in the free software Blender, "Flow" has many breathtaking shots that look like they should be hung in a museum. From the gorgeous sunsets that lay over the water as the flood begins to the forest backgrounds in the film's final scenes, it's hard to tell that the film was made with free software that every person with an internet connection has access to.

The only sign of the film's small budget, clocking in at only \$3.7 million, are the characters themselves. The fur on many of them often looks like a compressed video artifact, blocky and very much distorted. While it is distracting when first noticed, the viewer eventually comes to accept this as the film's visual styling and can further appreciate the eye candy the rest of the film has to offer.

The story itself is also wildly intriguing, as it's clear that we are only looking at a very small piece of the fantastical world in which



Ethan Rowinski | The Globe

A poster for "Flow" at the Harris Theater on Liberty Avenue.

these characters are found. Every moment of the film's runtime introduces new elements that create more and more questions about where these characters find themselves.

Where are the humans? How long have they been gone? How did the flood even get created? These are just a few of the questions that the viewer asks within the early moments of the film, and many more are bound to be asked during the remainder of the film. Many of these questions never get answered.

However, that never distracts from the core story that's taking place, nor does it leave the viewer with a sour taste in their mouth.

The use of water and its constant rising creates a real sense of anxiety in the viewer, giving an unsettling backdrop for the cat and the rest of the characters throughout the entire film. This sense of unease remains intact, even when the middle half of the film is much more relaxed and comedic compared to the beginning and climax.

This film never shies away from the dramatics, and thanks

to the breathtaking soundtrack written by Zilbalodis and Rihards Zaļupe, the viewer is entranced in these scenes. The first scene of the cat entering the boat perfectly highlights this feeling, and the entire segment is a standout of the film.

Overall, "Flow" is an absolutely breathtaking piece of cinema. From the visuals to the characters to the story that leaves each viewer with their own unique interpretation, the film is truly a standout in the world of animation. When it seems like every new film to come out is a sequel or a new addition to a franchise, a wholly original film is a breath of fresh air. "Flow" being amazing on top of that originality makes it something that all film enjoyers, not just children, should watch.

The film is now available to watch on Prime Video and Apple TV+.

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## Hot Tea with Z



Zarrick Plizga  
For The Globe

I know as you read this, you are probably thinking what makes me, a freshman, qualified to be giving other students advice. Honestly, I do not know if you would view me as qualified. Nevertheless, I am lucky enough to write this column.

I want all of you readers to trust me and feel comfortable enough to ask me questions. First, I want you to know me. I'm from Pittsburgh and I chose to attend Point Park because I felt there was a place for me in this community. I'm here studying a dual major in creative writing and psychology. I am also a senator of the Student Government Association.

If you have never read an advice column, then let me explain how it works. Each week I will pick an email submitted to me and write a response to the emailer's question. My email to take submissions will be placed at the bottom of each article.

I want to finish my first article by giving my first piece of advice:

"Always be open"

Letting your mind stay open to new experiences and new people will pull you outside your comfort zone. The best thing for a person is to experience new things and learn new skills.

I understand we are not all extroverts, but you do not need to be an outgoing person to let in new experiences. It may be hard to not instantly judge, as we have grown up in a society where people have the ability to say anything they think without fear of consequence.

People need to remember that everything you love was once something new to you.

Say you were a dance major and your parents never pushed you into ballet. You would never have learned all the amazing moves you know today. You would not be able to kill it on the dance floor let alone be at this school doing the thing you love.

So again I say, "Always be open," in hopes that it will lead you to a new love. Whether it's open to food or open to an activity or open to meeting your new classmates this semester, it is always important to give everything and everyone a chance.

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## 'Wallace & Gromit' an immaculate revival

Rachel Ross  
Co Features/A&E Editor

As a child, I was introduced to "Wallace and Gromit" through their 2005 film "The Curse of the Were-Rabbit." While it might not have been in my core VHS rotation, probably due to my very in-character fear of the were-rabbit transformation scene, I remember liking it well enough.

However, having revisited the series as an adult, I've developed a much deeper appreciation for the franchise, with its masterful animation and charming sense of humor.

With that in mind, I was delighted to hear that a new "Wallace and Gromit" film would be coming to Netflix after nearly two decades since the series' last entry. Despite the gap, "Wallace and Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl" not only lives up to the quality and charm of its predecessors, but manages to deliver a timely message while remaining true to its roots.

"Vengeance Most Fowl" picks up where 1993's "The Wrong Trousers" – arguably the most beloved film in the series – leaves off. Having foiled the plans of notorious jewel thief Feath-

ers McGraw, Wallace, an absentminded inventor, and his witty canine companion, Gromit, attempt to return to life as normal.

However, Wallace quickly upends the duo's lives once again after he creates a robot garden gnome named Norbot. Meant to alleviate the stress of yard work and household tasks, Gromit becomes suspicious of the Norbots and frustrated with Wallace's over-reliance on his inventions. At this point, the canine stumbles into a plot from their old foe to get revenge and retrieve the priceless Blue Diamond.

"Vengeance" instantly and effortlessly fits right in with the rest of the series, maintaining the same quality of humor, animation and Britishness. The series' humorous and timeless British mannerisms are on full display in this film. By placing itself within a loving caricature of British culture, it manages to avoid becoming outdated, allowing the characters to seamlessly pick up right where they left off, even two decades later.

Further, the comedy excels at feeling familiar without ever feeling repetitive or old. The series has always done a masterful job utilizing visual comedy, especially

from the animal characters such as Gromit and Feathers who don't speak. The visual gags in "Vengeance" are no exception. There were countless visual cues that got me, especially from Feathers, whose blank, thousand-yard stares never fail to make me laugh.

The claymation is a marvel as always. Aardman Animations, the studio behind "Wallace and Gromit" as well as other stop-motion franchises such as "Chicken Run" and "Shaun the Sheep," has created a reputation for producing high quality work. This film certainly lives up to the studio's quality. Every sequence is full of personality and emotion. In a business that is increasingly concerned with quantity over quality and cutting corners, the work from Aardman has only become a more commendable, welcome breath of fresh air.

Some of the sequences made me interested in the production process behind them, especially those involving water, which were frequent in this film. The climax, which sees a chase on both boats and trains, was probably the most impressive for its ability to maintain flawless animation despite the fast paced move-

ment. Beyond the loveable characters and enjoyable narratives, these films are worth watching for the animation alone. "Wallace and Gromit" remains the gold standard among claymation.

But perhaps the thing that stood out most in this film was their ability to deliver a topical, relevant message without pandering or compromising the spirit of the series.

Often when a series is rebooted or comes back from a hiatus, they try too hard to modernize or position themselves in line with modern issues, to the point that it feels forced. In these instances, it seems like production companies are making a commentary for the sake of being relevant, as opposed to having something to say about the topic.

"Vengeance," however, positions its modern commentary from a place of familiarity, being Wallace's penchant for inventing. Wallace's inventions have been frequently used as a source of conflict in the past, so the film builds off this perspective. By showing that Wallace has become over-reliant on technology – as so many of us have today – the film's commentary feels both earnest and earned.

Rather than fitting in a moral for the sake of it, the filmmakers utilize the story's natural position to commentate on a relevant issue. They had an opportunity to create a story progression that felt both natural and topical, and they rose to the occasion.

It's elements like this that make "Vengeance" much more than just a silly kid's cartoon. It's a quality piece of filmmaking on the visual and conceptual level, made all the more impressive for its ability to be enjoyable for all ages.

Similar to how Pixar has worked up a reputation for creating films that can be appreciated by both adults and children for different elements, so stands "Wallace and Gromit." Maybe they're not discussing issues like the complexities of life and death, but the films display clever, meaningful stories with incredible animation and comedy that anyone can appreciate at any age.

So if you're looking for a lighthearted yet solid watch, "Wallace and Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl" is certainly a rewarding option.

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# Support others during election grief

August Stephens  
Co-Opinions Editor

It's not the end of the world. It is the beginning of an absurd, brutal and destructive one.

If you had told 13-year-old August that Donald Trump would be a presidential candidate while 21 year old August was finishing their undergraduate career, applying to graduate school and living as an out queer person – I would have laughed in your face.

Now, after mourning the election, we once again feel a familiar sense of fear and uncertainty. This kind of personal and political turmoil, genuine turmoil, is one people of all belief systems need to face.

From the search “best countries to move to” peaking post-election, family members voting for a con-

victed felon, LGBTQIA+ people trying to gauge whether to leave the country and families of immigrants voting for a man who has repeatedly been discriminatory and violent towards immigrants, the vote is in.

People have pressed the red button which says “DO NOT PUSH.”

There is a message toward trans people that is supported, especially echoed in The 19th News, that reverts back to the “eradication of transgenderism” spoken about by Michael Knowles during the 2023 Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).

The idea of grief not being linear may be common knowledge, but there is an added level of depth to this saying when talking about an event that will unpredictably impact a community of people.

If you find all of the complex, heavy and intense emotions of the election coming back up again on January 20th, you are not the only one.

Anticipatory grief can feel like the worst kind.

According to the Mental Health Match, grief often happens when you least expect it.

Recently, Trump's “shock and awe” approach to executive orders has re-entered the professional zeitgeist, although this has been his tactic since 2017. After Tom Human, former head of ICE and the next ‘border czar,’ according to Trump, was quoted foreshadowing his approach to policy, as NPR reports.

Policies that attack and remove safety and security from people within the United States should not be justified or agreed upon. How-

ever, this will be the political reality of what will follow in the next four years.

For those who “voted for the economy:” in another election this may be excusable. However, if you do not feel weird when January 6th passes every year, have any women in your life you truly care for or love, have a friend or relative on Medicaid – congratulations.

You have officially compartmentalized to the detriment of other people, including yourself.

We, not only as students but as several communities, are still grieving the election results.

Students should not be expected to function at a “base” or “expected” level in these first few weeks. Regardless of ideology, Inauguration Day and the days that follow will be an adjustment for everyone.

Everyone is going to cope with the results of the Inauguration differently. The intensity and timeline of grief can suddenly change even by a date, photograph or song. I want to remind everyone that resources are available to you.

The Student Health Center and the University Counseling Center offer mental and physical health oriented events, counseling sessions and outreach referrals to local health networks.

Please be there for your friends, family and neighbors in the upcoming weeks. We may all be feeling a spectrum of emotions during the reckoning.

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## POINTGIRL (PPU TOURNAMENT ARC 2)



# THE GLOBE'S POINT

## Don't make your club a clique

Like it or not, deciding to go to a college or university does not just involve going to classes, getting your A's and moving on with your life. Regardless if you're at a small college or big university, your college career should involve doing a whole lot more than just the bare minimum if you have the time for it.

You'd have a difficult time finding someone that doesn't have the goal of standing out or doing the most. These are the people that go to as many clubs as possible, introduce themselves to almost anyone that walks by them or cannot be quiet in class.

And when those types of people get involved, chances are they get higher-up roles because of their dedication and eventually become part of the leadership. Such is the natural way of students moving up a club's totem pole.

Yet here's the problem: what happens to the individuals who are not given a chance to do anything in an organization? How do you justify singling a person out and treating them weirdly, even though they want to help you without malice?

There's only one reason to explain this: some people want to turn their clubs into cliques. This is not just something that happens on our

**“We all need each other to do well on this campus, so don't hinder that.”**

The Globe  
Editorial Staff

campus, either.

To be clear, there's a big difference between having selective membership, and not allowing people who have caused you problems in the past to be in your club, versus being weirdly standoffish towards someone who wants to do good for your organization.

Clubs on campus should welcome all potential newcomers because – let's face it – if you give someone else the cold shoulder, word will spread. Then, people will tell others not to be part of what you're working so tirelessly to put together.

And The Globe will be as candid as possible here: we used to be a clique, and it hurt us badly.

Don't make the same mistake that our editors did in previous years. While our current leadership has worked to undo the damage that was done, the feeling is still there.

People were routinely ignored and stories were previously edited to take a new writer's voice out of the story.

Unfortunately, if we don't pay attention, this will happen at a student newspaper. For one, trying to treat a student newsroom like it's “Mean Girls” is weird and cringe. It's weird and cringe at almost any student-run organization.

We know about other student media organizations outside of our campus who do this too. All we have to say is that by creating a clique, you are only hurting yourself just like we did in the past. Do you want your club to be remembered as the one that rejected and ignored first-years who were interested in joining? The joke is on the clubs that have lost potential talent – good luck trying to convince them to join later unless you've proved that leadership has changed, we've tried.

So how do you not be a clique? Easy: be welcoming to all, don't give people the cold shoulder for no reason, and don't form ingroups just for the sake of forming them. We all need each other to do well on this campus, so don't hinder that.

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## Streaming services are just too greedy

Michael Klug  
Co-Opinions Editor

Throughout the years, streaming services have gotten more popular and arguably more greedy. These services are often utilized by college students, whether for the sake of bingeing or providing background noise.

Netflix, a widely used streaming service, is one of the greedy giants of streaming. With the implementation of its password sharing rule, which prohibits people from accessing accounts in different households, college students who utilize this service are left to navigate somewhere else.

Other streaming services have either already followed suit or are planning to implement this feature.

Most college students share an account with their friends or family, sharing the password between one another. There is nothing inherently wrong with that. However, streaming services think that it's an issue to their business.

A rule on the Netflix Help Center website states that “a Netflix account is meant to be shared by people living together in one household.”

A subsection in the same menu also states that “people who are not in your household will need to sign up for their own account to watch; or in many countries you can buy an extra member slot to add an extra member to your account.”

This crackdown went into effect in May 2023 and sparked plenty of outrage from users of the service.

This rule is a useless regulation that I feel is used to line Netflix's pockets with more money.

Disney+ and Hulu are two of the other streaming services who have implemented this rule into their guidelines.

Password sharing is not the only issue that these streaming services have. Multiple services, including Netflix, Peacock, Hulu, Disney+ and Max also charge users more for an ad-free experience.

These services were originally intended to provide customers an escape from the commercials on cable television, providing an ad-free experience. This feature was once included in any tier of subscription, including the lowest.

For example, a Hulu plan with no ads costs \$18.99 a month. Meanwhile, the basic tier with ads costs \$9.99 a month, and the student plan costs \$1.99 a month, still with ads.

Don't get me wrong, I know that these companies need money to operate, but they seemed to be doing fine before these arbitrary rules started being put into place.

With the addition of the potential TikTok ban coming up, there's a chance that these services will become the go-to entertainment apps.

They should at least spare the college students from it. We're already poor, so don't add to the financial stress any further.

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Chloe Williams, Aichata Ballo, Emma Pavelek, Ari Bleda and Alexis Giles huddle between plays versus West Virginia State on Jan. 11 at home. Kyla Pothier | For The Globe

# Raddar resigns as women's soccer coach

Brynn Rees  
Sports Editor

After three seasons as Point Park's women's soccer coach, Kelly Raddar resigned from his head coaching role in late November.

Applications for the head coach position opened last month to the public. Vice President of Athletics Scott Swain stated that the athletic department plans to hire a new coach by early February.

In three seasons at Point Park, Raddar had a 24-21-11 record overall and a 17-10-8 record against conference opponents.

Raddar concluded his opening season at Point Park in 2022 with a 9-0-2 record in the River States Conference to win the RSC Regular Season Championship. He was also named RSC Women's Soccer Coach of the Year.

In 2023, the Pioneers went 11-5-4 to earn the No. 2 seed in the RSC Championship playoffs.

Point Park transitioned to Division II athletics in the NCAA prior to the 2024 season, forcing the Pioneers to face entirely new opponents in the Mountain East Conference.

The Pioneers finished with a 1-9-4 MEC record in 2024, putting them last in the MEC North standings.

Point Park women's soccer will continue with its spring schedule, including practices and exhibition games. The players and assistant coaches will be updated by the athletic department when a new coach is hired.

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# Women's basketball secures MEC win

## Pioneers break their five-game losing streak

Brynn Rees  
Sports Editor

Point Park women's basketball defeated West Virginia State 76-65 on Saturday to earn its first home Mountain East Conference win in the CCAC-Allegheny Gymnasium.

The Pioneers had a consistent offensive performance, but a relentless full-court press from the Yellow Jackets forced 28 turnovers on Point Park.

"They just bring so much pressure," coach David Scarborough said. "The pressure, I still feel like is still pressing us, even though it's two days later."

Despite the aggressive defense, the Pioneers took a steady lead in the second quarter after a 10-point run.

"For the most part, we handled their press like we had practiced and talked about successfully," Scarborough said. "There were times when we really didn't, [and] we kept them in the game."

But when we did, we got pretty good shots."

With five minutes remaining, the Pioneers held onto their double-digit lead through the end of the game. Numerous visits to the free-throw line and consistent outside shooting awarded Point Park its second MEC win and first MEC win at home.

"The energy was definitely high," junior guard Alexis Giles said. "Not only is this our first MEC home win, but we've been on a losing streak, so being able to win a big game like this felt awesome."

The Pioneers outscored the Yellow Jackets in all four quarters, ending the night with 40% field goal success.

"I think this also gave us some reassurance that we are a better team than what our record shows, so hopefully we can continue playing like this and get some more wins," Giles said.

The Yellow Jackets went 31.6% from the field and 45% from the free-throw line, missing 11 total free throws.

Point Park ended the afternoon with four double-digit performances. Giles led the court with 22 points to beat her season-high.

"Obviously it was a team effort throughout the entire game but being able to hit my shots toward the end to secure the win felt amazing," Giles said. "It shows that the hard work outside of practice really does pay off."

Giles is the leading scorer for the Pioneers this season with 12.3 points per game. She is in her third season at Point Park.

"Her growth has just been fun to watch," Scarborough said. "Specifically this year, she took on the role that she's gonna have to shoot a lot more and get a lot more opportunity, and she just sees that."

Joining Giles with double figures on Saturday was Ari Bleda, Camille Fultz and Emma Pavelek. Bleda recorded the sole double-double with 15 points and 13 rebounds.

# Men's basketball edges past WVSU

Edmee Idalis  
Staff Writer

In their first game at home since winter break, the Pioneers played West Virginia State on Jan. 11, at the CCAC-Allegheny gym where they won by one point with a final score of 76-75.

After this win against a Mountain East Conference teams, Point Park men's basketball improved its overall record to 9-5 and 4-4 in the MEC. West Virginia State left with an overall record of 6-7 and 3-4 in the conference.

The game was a nail-biter that proved to challenge both teams as the scores tied seven times with six lead changes.

"The most challenging part of the game was the physicality and overall energy," Point Park center Nazareth Fisher said.

Point Park's game leaders were Kaden Warner with 30 points and seven assists, and Fisher with 13 rebounds.

The Yellow Jackets maintained a steady lead throughout the first half, and the Pioneers didn't stray too far from them with the biggest point differential being eight points. The first half ended with the Yellow Jackets in the lead by two with a 44-42 score.

West Virginia State ended the first half above Point Park in field goal percentage with 51.61% against Point Park's 47.06%.

The second half looked as though it might be a repeat of the first half with West Virginia State maintaining its lead for most



Brenden Williams and Kaden Warner celebrate a point vs. WVSU. Kyla Pothier | For The Globe

of the half. The score only switched sides towards the end of the half with a Point Park lead at 72-71.

Even then, the lead was not secured for too long with the Yellow Jackets coming back to tie the game and get more points. The game-winning points came in the form of two good free throws by Warner with 23 seconds left on the clock; the game ended with a final score of 76-75.

"It was a great team win," Point Park first-year Aiden Miller said. "With conference matchups coming up, we are ready to face against whoever is in our way."

Both teams ended the second half with a lower field

goal success rate, the Pioneers being higher than the Yellow Jackets with 37.93% against their 32.43%.

"Moving forward, we definitely need to communicate more," Fisher said. "We sometimes struggle to talk out the defensive coverages and can sometimes get stagnant on offense."

The Pioneers are set to play two more MEC games this week; the first being on Wednesday against Fairmont State at home with tipoff at 3 p.m. The second game is on Saturday against Frostburg State on the road with tipoff at 4 p.m.

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# MEC STANDINGS

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	Overall	PCT	Conf.	Streak
Fairmont State	12-2	.857	7-1	L1
West Liberty	12-2	.857	6-1	W1
Charleston	8-5	.615	5-2	W3
Concord	5-6	.455	4-3	W2
<b>Point Park</b>	<b>9-5</b>	<b>.643</b>	<b>4-4</b>	<b>W1</b>
Frostburg State	6-8	.429	4-4	W3
Glenville State	8-6	.571	3-4	L1
West Virginia State	6-7	.462	3-4	L2
Davis & Elkins	5-9	.357	2-5	L5
Wheeling	6-8	.429	1-6	L2
West Virginia Wesleyan	3-10	.231	1-6	W1

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	Overall	PCT	Conf.	Streak
Fairmont State	11-3	.786	6-2	W3
West Virginia Wesleyan	9-3	.750	5-2	L2
Glenville State	10-4	.714	5-2	W2
Frostburg State	9-5	.643	5-3	L1
Concord	7-7	.500	4-3	W3
Wheeling	7-7	.500	4-3	W1
Charleston	7-7	.500	3-4	W5
West Liberty	5-9	.357	3-4	L2
West Virginia State	6-7	.462	2-5	L2
<b>Point Park</b>	<b>3-10</b>	<b>.231</b>	<b>2-6</b>	<b>W1</b>
Davis & Elkins	1-12	.077	1-6	L3