



Annual Clery Act report reveals crime trending downward across campus and nearby areas

Carson Folio
Editor-in-Chief

Content warning: This article includes discussions of hate crimes and sexual assault.

Comparing data collected from Clery Act reporting reveals major crime incidents and non-DUI related citations decreased from 2023 to 2024, with thefts excluding car theft shrinking from 124 total incidents in 2023 to 44 incidents in 2024.

The Clery Act became law in 1990 and is also known as The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crimes Statistics Act. It requires colleges and universities to report all crime incidents on campus, off campus near the college or university and on public property that surrounds a campus.

The Clery Act does not require all public property crimes to be disclosed, according to the annual security report.

With thefts excluding cars, Point Park's numbers are now lower compared to the University of Pittsburgh's. In 2023, Pitt had 101 incidents — and 131 incidents in 2024.

Duquesne University has not published its 2024 data, but the university's Clery Act Report for 2023 showed zero theft incidents.

Neither Chatham University nor Carlow Uni-

versity have a section for thefts which exclude car thefts.

However, each Pittsburgh university listed has statistics for drug and alcohol violations, which differ substantially between the schools.

Point Park, for example, had 13 total arrests for drug law violations in 2023 and 27 in 2024. Every arrest in 2024 was on public property near campus; not in a residential dorm hall or on campus.

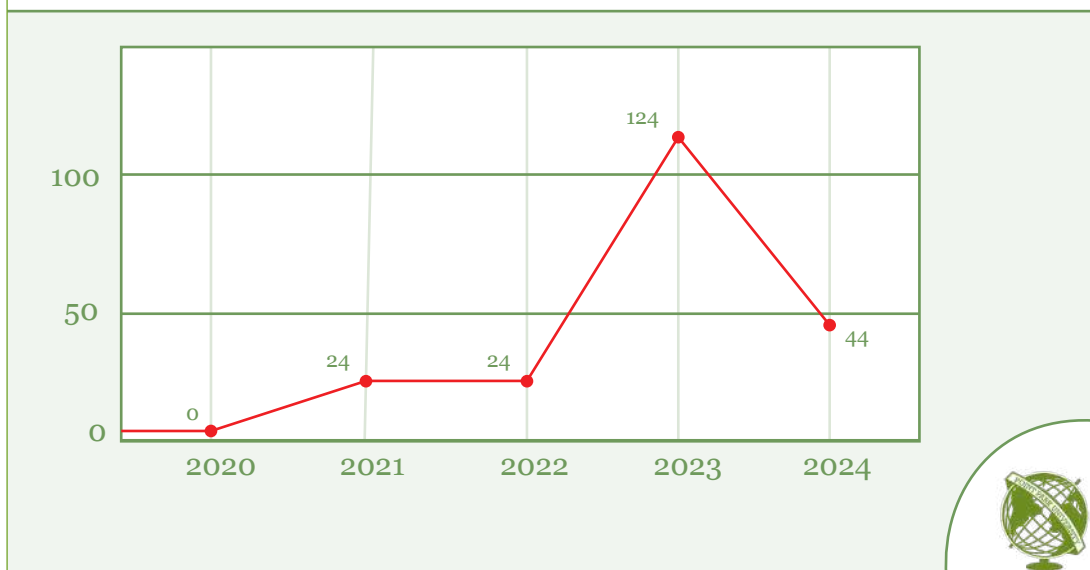
For liquor law violations, Point Park had seven arrests in 2023 and four in 2024 — again, none were on campus property. In contrast, Duquesne had eight recorded incidents in 2023, which includes four reported in a residential dorm hall. Pitt had 43 incidents in 2023 and 33 in 2024, while Carlow had zero reported incidents in 2023.

Each university differs in response to liquor law violations. For instance, Point Park, Duquesne and Chatham list arrests for liquor law violations. They also have a section separate from the arrests, listing certain liquor law violations under a "referred for disciplinary action" category.

As for referrals, each university lists significantly higher referral numbers than arrests for liquor law violations.

For instance, Point

Point Park University's theft rate from 2020-2024



Khalil Johnson | The Globe

Data from the annual Clery Act report, a required collection of crime incidents on college campuses, reveals incidents such as theft are currently decreasing at Point Park.

Park lists 48 liquor violation referrals in 2023, 22 of which were reported in a residential dorm hall and 46 in 2024, with 23 occurring in a dorm hall.

At Duquesne, the numbers are much higher. 222 violations were reported in 2023, with 108 occurring in a residential hall and 113 listed on campus. Carlow is on the lower side, with only two referrals related to liquor law violations listed for 2023, with one being in a residential dorm hall and another being on campus.

Despite its size in comparison to Duquesne and Point Park, Pitt has 43 violations listed in 2023 and 33 in 2024. However,

Pitt's data does not specify whether an incident occurred on campus, off campus or in a residential hall.

As for sex crimes such as rape, three were reported at Point Park in 2023, with one in a residential dorm hall and two listed on public property. Forcible fondling is listed four times in 2023 and twice in 2024 — only once was the crime reported in a dorm hall for both 2023 and 2024.

In comparison, Duquesne reported nine rapes in 2023, three of which were in a dorm hall, and four forcible fondling cases, with one in a dorm hall. Carlow reported none

in 2023, while Pitt reported one in 2023 and four in 2024.

Chatham, however, had three rape cases in 2023 — one of which being in a dorm hall — and five forcible fondling cases, with two occurring in a dorm hall.

One of the only pieces of data where Point Park is like other small universities is reported hate crimes. The Clery Act requires hate crimes to be reported individually along with crimes that were committed due to a victim's "race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity,

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Women's lacrosse prepares for introductory season

Edmee Idalis
Staff Writer

The women's lacrosse team began preparations for the spring season, marking the team's first season at Point Park.

Coach Erik Ingram and the three captains, Lexi Spears, Presley Masters and Taylor Desko have shared how the team has gone so far.

"I am loving every minute of the fall offseason," Ingram said. "The training sessions, team meetings and lifts are always so fun, and it's so rewarding to see how hard they work and how much progress has already been made."

Echoing Ingram's sentiments, the captains praised and recognized their fellow teammates for



Andrew Hartung | The Globe

Women's lacrosse coach Erik Ingram talks to the team.

the work that they have put in.

"I believe our team has really excelled at discipline and accountability," Desko said. "With a team of mostly freshmen, everyone

has had to quickly adapt to new rules and the higher level of play, and they've done it with such a positive attitude."

The difficulty that comes with a new team was

not lost on them, as they all highlighted the persistence needed to break through the barriers they faced.

"The team has done a great job persevering," Masters said. "It is an ex-

tremely difficult task to play on a brand new team with people you just met with no prior stones set in place. So, with how well everyone is already working together, it is very exciting. Every day we are getting so much better."

Each of these captains were selected by coaches and players alike, deemed a largely unanimous decision by Ingram.

"Since this is a brand new program, it's an honor to be one of the first captains and to help set the tone for the future of our team," Desko said. "It's rewarding to see the team come together and build connections both on and off the field that will translate into a successful

LACROSSE page 8

Burson research report recommends pivots in university advertising, alumni relations

Gavin Petrone
Editor-elect

A report drafted by the Burson Group, a global public relations firm, found that Point Park could improve its brand by restructuring its advertising around its educational offerings.

The research was conducted in three phases, the first being a series of interviews with administrators, members of the Board of

Trustees and other university stakeholders. Burson also organized several focus groups with students from across Point Park and quantitatively surveyed students, alumni, faculty and staff on the effectiveness of the school's messaging.

The firm found that many misconceptions exist around Point Park's programs. It noted that many people regard Point Park as exclusively a performing

arts school or as a safety school.

One faculty member, who was not identified in the final research data, said the school's admissions standards might be contributing to the perception of Point Park as a back-up choice.

"Point Park is easy to get into — they accept all students who apply," the faculty member said in their survey response.

"This is not a misconception — from my perspective it is accurate, and I feel the school should be more selective."

Marlin Collingwood, Point Park's vice president of enrollment management, said current admissions standards will not change. Instead, Collingwood proposed bolstering the school's existing Foundations for Success program.

Foundations for Success is a two-week program which aims to help students — who do not meet the required 2.50 cumulative GPA standard for admission — succeed through early courses ahead of the start of the fall semester.

"We're trying to do more of that," Collingwood said, "and I think that [Foundations for Success

STUDY GROUP page 2

First-year students shouldn't 'fall through the cracks'

From **STUDY GROUP** page 1

is] really key to give to students that might need more support.”

Collingwood added that he wants to avoid letting first-year students fall through the cracks and drop out. According to the Education Data Initiative, 39% of first-year students who drop out while seeking a bachelor's degree will not complete their degree program within eight years.

“That to me is something we should work hard not to have happen,” Collingwood said.

The plan, though, is “absolutely” to pivot the school’s marketing to emphasize its educational offerings, Collingwood said. He added that its marketing currently focuses too much on Point Park’s Downtown Pittsburgh location.

“While our location is really important — and part of the reason I think it’s important is because it is so unique — it’s our programs that students are coming here for,” Collingwood said. “It’s the smallness of the campus; it’s the sense of belonging.”

Another key factor of what makes Point Park’s educational offerings worthwhile, Collingwood said, is the university’s part-time faculty.

“We heard from students and alumni that one of the things that really made a difference for them is that they were learning from faculty

The Verdict

Don't make major changes – The Point Park University Brand is Strong

- Research confirms a strong and healthy brand and provides a critical baseline for long-term strategic planning and brand development.
- While there's not a need for a completely new brand, Point Park would benefit from a more unified and consistent brand.
- A stronger university narrative is highly recommended that articulates Point Park's unique value proposition, moving beyond individual program strengths to a holistic university identity.

Courtesy of Burson Research

Results from a focus group study conducted by Burson Research indicates that Point Park's branding needs more consistency.

who at other times during the week were going to their jobs in accounting, or going to write for the newspaper,” Collingwood said. “That made a big difference. So, I think we are going to take from this that we really need to continue to talk about the unique educational opportunities that we have.”

Survey respondents suggested that alumni could help with this aspect of Point Park’s educational programming.

“I’d rather teach a seminar than donate money,” wrote one School of Communications alum.

“I would love to [stay connected],” another wrote, “[but] the only requests I’ve been sent are just like, ‘Will you donate to us?’ and not engagement.”

Collingwood noted existing alumni outreach programs but said he is open to finding additional ways that alumni can “be involved in working with and mentoring our

current students.”

While Burson’s findings were initially reported in a virtual seminar on Wednesday, Sept. 17, another will be held in person. It will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 24 in Lawrence Hall 200.

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Liquor law violations one of few incidents staying consistent statistically per year

From **CLERY ACT** page 1

ethnicity, national origin, or disability,” according to Point Park’s annual safety report.

Every college or university’s safety report describes hate crime reporting and how it is listed in the data. Point Park has not had any reported hate crimes since at least 2022. The same is true for Chatham, Car-

low and Duquesne, which had one reported hate crime in 2021.

Pitt, on the other hand, directly lists motivations for hate crimes which occurred on campus. In 2023, one case of vandalism on campus was reportedly due to religious bias. Two cases of on-campus vandalism were due to sexual orientation bias with one occurring in a

dorm hall. One case of ethnic intimidation happened on public property and one ethnic intimidation case occurred off campus. In 2024, Pitt reported one case of vandalism on campus based on national origin bias and two cases of ethnic intimidation on campus.

Every university is required to release Clery Act data to the

public by Oct. 1. Duquesne, Carlow and Chatham are yet to post data for 2024. Data for 2025 will be posted in 2026.

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Crime Report: Week Four

Gavin Petrone
Editor-elect

Disorderly Conduct #1:

A man on First Avenue was yelling and screaming profane language at around 1 p.m. on Sept. 16, according to Jeff Besong, Point Park’s chief of police. That incident occurred off campus, and the man was given a verbal warning.

Drug Violation #1:

Three men were arrested after Point Park police say they were caught selling crack along Third Ave be-

tween Wood and Smithfield Street at 11 a.m. on Sept. 18. They were charged with simple possession, destruction of evidence and evading arrest.

Drug Violation #2:

A man who police say was selling crack from his car along Third Avenue was arrested on Sept. 18 at 4:30 p.m. No formal charges against the man have been announced yet.

Drug Violation #3:

A man was arrested for possession of a hand pipe, which Besong said in an

emailed statement was “consistent with what is used to smoke crack cocaine.” The man was arrested along Fourth Avenue at 10 p.m. on Sept. 19, and has not yet been formally charged.

Disorderly Conduct #2:

A man was arrested on Third Avenue for throwing an unidentified liquid onto several people standing along the street. He was arrested on Sept. 19 at 10:45 a.m., and has not yet been formally charged.

Drug Violation #4:

A man was selling what Besong described in an email as narcotics from a bicycle on the corner of Wood Street and Fourth Avenue. He was arrested on Sept. 20 at around 2:15 p.m. and has not yet been formally charged.

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EVENT CALENDAR NOTHING TO DO?

<p>WED @7PM BACK TO SCHOOL OPEN MIC BISON BITES AND BREWS</p>	<p>SAT @ 11AM MEN AND WOMEN'S SOCCER HIGHMARK STADIUM</p>
<p>THUR @ 5:30PM WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY LH 200</p>	<p>SAT @ 6PM DECADES IN THE DUGOUT PLAYHOUSE</p>
<p>THUR @ 6PM OUR LAST SUMMER DANCE SC 2ND FLOOR</p>	<p>TUES @ 8AM FLU VACCINE CLINIC STUDENT HEALTH CENTER</p>
<p>FRI @ 5PM HOMECOMING HAPPY HOUR BISON BITES AND BREWS</p>	

FOR MORE EVENTS: CHECK YOUR EMAIL EVERY MONDAY FOR THE SOCIAL SCOOP

9/24-9/30

‘The end is the beginning’

Dr. Brent Robbins on dealing with terminal cancer

Cilia Catello
News Editor

Lawrence Hall was packed on Wednesday, Sept. 17. The room was so full, students and faculty began moving extra chairs in. On the refreshment table, only a few discarded chunks of honeydew remained. Point Park University Professor of Psychology, Dr. Brent Robbins, stood at the front of the room behind a podium, beaming.

On October 21, 2024, Robbins was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Notorious for being aggressive and unforgiving, only 12% of people diagnosed will live 5 years after their diagnosis.

Robbins’ doctor ordered a CT scan and advised him to go to the ER for it, since many insurance plans don’t cover the procedure otherwise.

The young, resident doctor at the ER who delivered Robbin’s the news went on to share that his mother had just died of pancreatic cancer.

“All of the sudden, the therapist in me came out. I was empathizing with him, which was nice because I forgot for a minute that was going on with me,” Robbins said.

Despite the bleakness of his situation, Robbins remains devoted to what he has done at the university since 1998: teaching students to see the message of hope embedded within the existential philosophy through which he views the world.

“I want to prepare for the worst,” Robbins said. “And I want to hope.”

Although the subject of the lecture was heavy, Robbins effortlessly wove in jokes and lighthearted comments, leaving everyone in attendance laughing through their tears.

Robbins was born in Dormont, PA, to two avoid readers. His mother studied sociology, and his father was an English major. He remembers his father reading Carl Jung and Joseph Campbell, academics who he would grow to revere.

“I lost my father in 2017,” Robbins said. “He was my best friend. He was the only person who would listen to what I had to say without waiting to talk. He was my biggest fan.”

After the death of his father, Robbins realized he wasn’t afraid of death anymore.

“If he can do it, I can do it,” Rob-



Dr. Brent Robbins giving his presentation about living with Stage IV pancreatic cancer in Lawrence Hall 200 on Sept. 17, 2025.

bins said.

Along with Jung, Robbins referenced the philosophies of Jean-Paul Sartre, Martin Heidegger, and Maurice Merleau-Ponty.

“Their perspectives emphasize the interplay of temporality, embodiment and freedom in shaping human existence by viewing death and suffering as integral to the cyclical nature of life,” Robbins said.

Robbins began his academic journey at Point Park as a film student, but a single psychology course sparked a passion that would shape the rest of his career. He went on to earn a psychology degree from Webster University in St. Louis before returning to Pittsburgh to pursue a Ph. D. at Duquesne University. There, he refined his focus, embracing the practice of humanistic, existential and phenomenological psychology.

Through this lens, Robbins developed the doctoral program in Clinical Psychology currently offered at

Point Park.

“I love it here,” Robbins said in an email. “I have so many wonderful colleagues. I love our students. They are intellectual, curious and willing to explore challenging concepts.”

Along with his career, Robbins finds incredible joy in family life.

He and his wife have been married for 29 years. They have two sons together, Dean and Dominic. Dean is a graduate of Point Park’s psychology program.

“The best part of life with my family is dinners together,” Robbins said in an email. “We have a lot of high-level intellectual conversations about life, philosophy, religion, art, film, you name it. We laugh a lot together.”

It appears Robbins has the unknown figured out, but it wasn’t an easy journey.

“This takes work, psychological and spiritual, to work through this anticipatory grief,” Robbins said.

“Appreciate the possibilities we have. We can use what remains to nurture our relationships with others.”

With a stage four pancreatic cancer diagnosis, Robbins remains steadfast in his commitment to inspiring hope within the hearts and minds of students and faculty alike.

“I say this all under the ages of ‘this is how you help people who are dying of cancer, but it’s a little bit of a head fake, because it’s actually something you do to help anybody, because we’re all dying,’” Robbins said.

The room was silent, the audience hanging onto every word, captivated by the honesty, humor, and intellect he wove into such a devastating story.

Robbins closed his talk with a sentiment that embodies everything he stands for.

“I want to see you. Come visit me. I love you,” Robbins said.

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Twin brothers pursue complementary majors



Koryn Lamar
Staff Writer

They grew up sharing bunk beds, moving from military bases to suburbs, and zigzagging across the United States, most recently in Boston. Lincoln and Grant Cook have once again reunited as first-year Point Park students; and with a bunkbed to boot.

Along the way, the brothers have built together their own language, occasionally voiced in various characters such as Muscle Man from “Regular Show,” and consisting of jokes and inside references, especially movies.

That shared language has now carried them into a new chapter together at Point Park University, with Lincoln pursuing film and Grant pursuing acting.

According to them, this wasn’t always the plan. Lincoln initially thought his future was destined in business. He said business was considered stable; film wasn’t even in view — not even peripherally — as an option. He always considered the arts secondary to his future career goals.

Grant echoed the same sentiment. He attended trade school, where he learned to work on cars, a practical skill that gave him what

he calls a “safety net.” But he didn’t find that appetizing.

One night, while watching “True Detective” in what the brothers only described as “cinematic fashion,” Grant had a discovery.

“I want to be an actor,” Grant said.

This was stunning to his brother. “He never voiced that before,” Lincoln said.

This discovery shifted the trajectory of both their lives. Grant put it into perspective, saying he realized he was willing to take risks if it meant pursuing something meaningful.

His inner monologue asked him, “If money wasn’t the deciding factor, what would I actually really want to do?” After some thinking, he had an idea.

“I’ll at least try acting,” Grant said.

Grant’s openness uncovered a path Lincoln hadn’t considered. Movies had never felt accessible, more like a distant world meant for others.

But hearing his brother declare his passion made him realize it could be an option for him, too. “I never thought of movies in that realm,” Lincoln said. “It wasn’t exciting to settle for business.”

They always joked during the acceptance process that they could end up at the same school, a special, cosmic, star-aligning event. Point Park wasn’t initially on Grant’s radar, either, so he said it’s a near miracle Lincoln pushed him to audition.

Where Grant described himself as more introspective, determined, bold and decisive. Lincoln said he is more earnest, analytical, expressive and enthusiastic. The difference



Koryn Lamar | The Globe

Lincoln Cook, a first-year cinema major and Grant Cook, a first-year acting major, sit on their bunk bed in their Lawrence Hall dorm.

es between them are part of what makes the duo work. Together, they have thrown themselves into a new world, finding Point Park “so clutch,” the brothers said.

The twins also say their closeness leaves plenty of room for humor. When Lincoln reverberated and ad-libbed in every verbal way possible that the acting program had “knocked his socks off,” Grant couldn’t resist. “You really want that in the newspaper?” turning it into a performance, repeated, “Yes, I do. I’ll say it again—they knocked my socks off!”

They say that nothing feels off-limits. “We don’t have to worry about awkwardly farting,” Lincoln said. “Any problems we’d have, we’ve already had before.” They said this is an added bonus of room-

ing together.

Since the start of the semester, the brothers haven’t slowed down one bit. Whether it’s creating short films, analyzing movies or sharing their passions, they’ve built a partnership grounded in trust and humor. “Since then, we haven’t stopped working on what we want to do,” Lincoln said.

Lincoln’s socks might be gone, but his and Grant’s past is even further in the rearview mirror as they plan to take Point Park and all of Pittsburgh by storm.

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BISON BOOK REVIEW

Est.

2025



“King of Envy” holds series’ momentum

Peyton Martin
Features and A&E Editor

This review contains spoilers for the “King of Envy” by Ana Huang.

Ana Huang creates another sensational story with the fifth book in the “King of Sin” series. “King of Envy” is about supermodel Ayana Kidane and billionaire Vuk Markovic.

In the beginning of the book, Ayana is engaged to Jordan Ford, but their engagement isn’t what it appears to be. It is merely an arrangement that will ensure Jordan gets his family’s inheritance and Ayana will have enough money to be free of her crooked agency.

The arrangement was a no-brainer until Ayana realized Jordan’s best man doesn’t hate her like she initially thought. This leaves her stuck between following her heart or following her head.

Then there is Vuk. He has been obsessed with Aya-



Ana Huang’s “King of Envy” sits next to the rest of the “King of Sin” series on a table on Monday, Sept. 22.

na since he first laid eyes on her. But once his best friend, Jordan, becomes engaged to her, he backs off. However, when wedding planning keeps bringing Ayana and Vuk together, he learns that keeping his distance may be harder than he thought.

Ayana and Vuk’s emotions aren’t the only complication. With an evil organization known as the Brotherhood after Vuk, the wedding and Ayana both get dragged into Vuk’s mess

from his past.

Compared to the other books in the series, “King of Envy” is the most action packed. Some aspects of this book remind me of Ana Huang’s other book, “Twisted Love.” Particularly, the part where Ayana is kidnapped by the Brotherhood.

All of the action and tension led to this book being the best book in the series so far. This came as a surprise because the fourth book, “King of Sloth,” was

simply incredible, so “King of Envy” being better came as a shock. However, not only did “King of Envy” live up to the expectations set by “King of Sloth,” it completely exceeded them.

Another great feature of this book is all the characters who made an appearance in this book who were from past books. For example, Xavier and Sloane from “King of Sloth” made several appearances throughout the book.

Sloane was more of a major character in the book than Xavier since she was Ayana’s publicist, but they both were a part of the scenes with the bachelor and bachelorette parties. That is just one example of character cameos. Every time characters from the rest of the series were in “King of Envy,” it was exciting.

The excitement from the book didn’t just come from character cameos. It also came from the relationship between Vuk and Ayana. It

was incredibly addictive to watch unfold.

The constant forbidden pull to one another made it easy to be obsessed with this book from the very beginning. This is especially true when they do romantic things without even realizing it. For example, Ayana subconsciously made Vuk her safe person, so when things happened at work, the first person she ran to was him.

Another cute moment is when Vuk saved a kitten from off the street because it reminded him of Ayana. He even ended up keeping the kitten. That moment is something many would consider off-brand for Vuk, but it showed that he was thinking of her all of the time.

Overall, Ana Huang did a fantastic job when creating this book, and the next book in the series is being eagerly waited for.

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CONCERT REVIEW: All wishes come true at Conan Gray’s “Wishbone Pajama Show”

Makenna Cable
Staff Writer

“A wishbone never breaks even,” and an eye never left dry from Conan Gray’s “Wishbone” concert.

On Sept. 16, indie-pop singer Conan Gray performed his new heart-wrenching album, “Wishbone,” at Pittsburgh’s Petersen Events Center. With this performance being his second time ever performing in the city, ecstatic fans flocked to the show decked out in blue and white striped pajamas (as per the show’s pajama dress code) and sailor hats. They were ready to sing their hearts out.

Through branding, Conan Gray has established “Wishbone” as a dream-like love story with a tragic ending. Heartbreak, tragedy and passion are woven throughout the whole story, making the experience feel like the reverie of a lost love.

Following the narrative theme of the album, the show was broken into acts which go through each phase of a breakup. Introducing Act I, Gray opened with the catchy, upbeat song “My World.” He charmingly rode in on a rickety bicycle in a sailor outfit. This act was set in a dreamy field with a windmill, mailbox and tall grass.

Also in this act, Gray played three fan-favorites from “Found Heaven” and “Kid Krow,” two of his previous albums. He interacted often with excited fans, who could be heard throughout the venue belting every note.

For the second act, Gray slipped off his sailor’s coat and hopped right up into bed, debuting the sparkly blue and white striped pajamas many fans replicated for the concert.

The second act, emulating the mourning of a broken relationship and the emotional scars it left behind, began with another new song, “Class Clown.”



Conan Gray rocks the Peterson Events Center in Oakland during the “Wishbone Pajama Show” on Tuesday, Sept 16.

The set illuminated the stage with ambient red lighting and big fluffy clouds. This evoked the feeling of lying in your room alone at night, specifically at 11:11 p.m., as Gray sang his ethereal song “Eleven Eleven.” Superache hit “People Watching” also made an appearance at the setlist, which Gray sang wistfully from bed.

The performance of the song “The Cut That Always Bleeds” – which was a fan favorite during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic – had nostalgic fans screaming during the bridge.

After the tear-provoking performance of “Nauseous,” no cheek in the entire stadium was dry.

Act III luckily provided some upbeat relief with Gray’s new single, “This Song,” and the cheeky “Romeo.” The act opened with a beautiful new set on a shiny lake. Gray sang every lyric with his whole heart and Pittsburgh’s Coneheads reciprocated. Let’s just say that mic was on.

After this came arguably the most anticipated part of the whole show: a surprise song not featured on the setlist. The rules were as follows: presented would be two song choices. Gray would get off the stage with a wishbone in hand and

break it with a fan. Whoever received the larger half of the wishbone would get to pick the song (as discovered by watching other shows, Gray sweetly lets the fan pick the song whether he gets the larger half or not).

Two choices were presented on screen: “Alley Rose” or “Fight or Flight.” The lucky fan in Pittsburgh happened to be a fan’s grandmother, introducing herself as Sandy. She selected “Alley Rose,” the tragic song about a summer fling from “Found Heaven.”

Every heart in the venue melted when Gray sang “Oh, where’d you go, go, Sandy Rose?”

Fans were seemingly louder than Gray himself when it came to singing his most famous hit song, “Heather,” which included the secret lyrics. Mercilessly for everyone’s lungs and tear ducts, “Family Line” came directly after. The heartfelt lyrics about being constantly haunted by a broken family weighed heavily on every chest. As he closed the song, the impact and beautiful delivery was evident by how quiet the audience had become.

After closing the act with “Connell,” another new song, Gray broke into the final act.

Although heartbreak

still haunts the narrative, it seemed that this act reflected moving past the heavy grief, instead focusing on residual regret and lingering memories. During this act, he performed some discography favorites like “Maniac” and “Memories.”

The delivery of the long-awaited single, “Vodka Cranberry,” was absolutely phenomenal. Gray perfectly hit the highest note of the show in the closing of the song, where he sings, “I will, I will, I will,” with love and regret.

For the encore, Gray returned in a blindingly sparkly outfit to sing his third single, “Caramel.” This song worked as a perfect conclusion for the show. The lyrics reflect looking back at a relationship and wanting it back, even though it was toxic. Gray himself described the song as being about “romanticizing the past.”

“You can kind of trick yourself into thinking it was a little bit better than it actually was,” he said. “It’s about looking back at something and over time the memories have caramelized.”

The caramel-colored lights that lit the venue gave a bittersweet feeling, marking the painstaking end of the show.

There is no doubt that Conan Gray has a talent for storytelling, using not only emotional, heartfelt lyrics but also with creative sets and stage performances. He has a way of delivering lyrics like he’s spilling his heart to the audience as a close friend, which captivates fans in a way not many artists can replicate.

His costumes – done by stylist Katie Qian – are gorgeous and eye-catching, the set is captivating, and his lyrics are so easy to scream along to that you should probably expect to leave the “Wishbone Pajama Show” without a voice.

“Writing this whole album, I was actively rediscovering who I am...passions that I had forgotten,” Conan Gray said in an interview for Paper Magazine. “Writing these songs so diaristically and so honestly is this very thrilling, extremely validating experience, and that’s why the whole album ended up that way.”

Conan Gray poured his heart into this album and this show, and to say the least, it was thrillingly apparent.

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MOVIE REVIEW: 'HIM' is a boring, missed opportunity

Andrew Burgman
For The Globe

Justin Tipping's "HIM" is a totally unimpressive waste of time. It is one of the dullest horror films I've seen in years, and it marketed itself as a football-horror film with an "I sold my soul to the devil" type of plot. Being backed by Jordan Peele's Monkeypaw Productions, it looked like it had potential. But while sitting through it, I was constantly checking my watch.

For nearly an hour, absolutely nothing relevant happens, and when the movie finally does throw something at us, it is shrugged off as an average occurrence. The characters move on and act like nothing happens until the next random event occurs. Something at some point has to matter, but it just never does.

The skeleton of a plot centers on Cam Cade (Tyrian Withers), a young athlete recovering from a blink-and-you-miss-it assault, who comes under the wing of hailed superstar quarterback Isaiah White (Marlon Wayans).

Immediately we are hit with our first look at the painfully obvious "devil worshipping" imagery as Cade is driven past a group of White's "fans" camped outside of his home. This reveals the film's main premise of a football cult. The issue is that, though this theme was spoiled through the marketing, it was still stretched across the entire runtime until a supposed climax happens.

What this becomes is a 96-minute slog of heavy-handed symbolism and awkward dialogue. The religious "allegories" are so on-the-nose that you can't even call them allegories. It is just repetitive religious references with no subtlety and no real payoff. It's symbolism for the sake of symbolism; a parody of a Jordan Peele film.

It never builds into anything larger, and the cast doesn't sell it either.



The script writes them into such stilted situations, and it looks like they genuinely never know how to react. None of it ever feels believable. At the screening I attended, multiple people laughed at the film during these scenes. This film lost the crowd fast and never gained them back.

Stylistically, "HIM" undercuts itself at every turn. The splatter-gore blood effects look cheap, the CGI is barely existent and the soundtrack is filled to the brim with hypebeast trap songs, several of which play back-to-back in short bursts.

Most of the rappers on the soundtrack have also done work for Madden, which makes the comparison more apt. The film feels like "Madden: The Movie" but with a forced horror twist, which is funnier considering that the only en-

joyable parts of the film are when they're doing something football-related.

The scenes of training, coaching and even playing catch better suit the theme. When there are moments of actual football, they're quickly abandoned for random bursts of violence and vague moments of shock that lead nowhere.

By the end, I was left asking who this movie is even for. Horror fans won't find much beyond cheap gore, sports fans won't recognize their world, and anyone looking for a psychological thriller will be left with a muddled mess. Ambition alone can't save a movie this misguided. "HIM" wants to be shocking, but the only shocking thing is how boring it is.

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Zarrick Plizga
Staff Writer

Hot Tea with Z

Why is communication so complicated? What are the best ways to communicate my needs to ensure they are met? How do I communicate with people who are not very mature? How can I handle difficult conversations when others refuse to listen to me? What is the best way of handling a situation where someone oversteps my boundaries?

These are phenomenal questions. I personally know a lot of people who struggle with conflict, and anytime boundaries are broken, there tends to be a lot of conflict. I do want to say first I'm sorry someone broke your boundaries, and I hope you are doing OK.

When it comes to communication, being honest is the best thing you can do. Honesty is a big part of communication. Some people are believed to be bad at communication, but I like to believe that it is just due to a tendency to lie. Whether it is because they are lying to others or to themselves, it creates a large number of problems in communication.

When you are not clear about what you need from people, they will not be able to instinctively meet your needs. So when you are setting your boundaries, you will need to be clear about what you exactly need. One way of clarifying your boundaries is through a sit-down discussion, where you speak with the people you care about and express your needs. There is a strong difference between speaking with someone and speaking to someone. When you speak with someone, you are both talking and listening,

creating a more open atmosphere. When you speak to someone, it can come off as aggressive or assertive, creating a more tense atmosphere. Another way of expressing your boundaries is by doing so periodically. When things come up, you can express whether you are comfortable or not. Unfortunately, there is no way to go about it without talking.

Maturity does play a major role in respecting other people's boundaries. When it comes to communication with people who are less mature, it's best to keep the interactions more light-hearted instead of expecting them to match your maturity. It's always best not to expect something from people who may not be able to achieve it. People who do not listen to you tend not to value your input or respect your needs. As much as I believe you should give people multiple chances, I do not believe that disrespectful people deserve to be in your life.

I was recently in this situation myself with a person I care deeply about, and we both overstepped each other's boundaries. The best thing you can do is the same thing we did: talk it out. Talking situations out is the best way to move forward, though just because you talk things out does not mean that things will work out the way you want. My friend and I decided that the best thing for us was to no longer continue our friendship for now. We both needed to do what was best for us, and through communicating, we determined that while we still wish the best for each other, we know we need some space to find ourselves.

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COPA CORNER

Be human first, artist second

Melissa Garlock
Staff Writer

Between classes, rehearsals and performances, students in the Point Park University Conservatory of Performing Arts can easily feel like their identity belongs to their art.

Even worse, many students are taught to bind themselves only to their craft, otherwise they may feel undeserving of the opportunities they earned.

While some may see this as being dedicated or passionate, the reality is that not knowing who you are outside of your art is extremely problematic. This mindset is damaging for various reasons.

When pursuing a career in the arts after college, persistence in the face of adversity is key to finding work.

Rejection, critiques and other setbacks can be difficult to recover from if you take them personally and associate your own self too closely with what you create. This will diminish

your confidence in everything you do.

Even as students who are not yet in the professional field, it's crucial to be more than what you are graded on.

By letting how others perceive your art define who you are as a human, you stunt your growth as a functioning individual in society. You will be left feeling unfulfilled and confused after social interactions that have nothing to do with your major.

So, how can one prioritize their humanity?

Picking up hobbies and researching personal interests is a great place to start. It can be frustrating at first, but the time you spend experimenting with new things is valid.

A dancer can love to hike, and the time they spend hiking instead of dancing does not undermine their talent.

By having other interests, you will learn to further love your art and appreciate the time spent doing it more.

If you diversify your schedule with new activities, the time spent in class will be more meaningful. Naturally you will begin to work harder and value your craft.

This may even expedite personal improvement.

Being a human first and an artist second will not just protect you from the harsh realities of the industry, but also open new doors for you.

Knowing who you are and what you love makes you more personable and enjoyable to be around.

This is appealing to future collaborators.

Going forward I encourage every artist to protect their humanity, because it is the foundation that allows their art to grow.

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PITCH

Monday at 2:40 in the CMI

Have an idea for a story?
Come and tell us! Any ideas welcome

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THE GLOBE'S

Pay attention: Student news is getting social

As other newspapers have adjusted to the requirements of the modern media age, The Globe has finally followed suit. Point Park news having a presence on social media is not a new concept, as The Globe has been on Instagram for over 10 years and both Facebook and X, formerly known as Twitter, for 14 years.

While we've been on major platforms for a long time, we decided it was time to focus on one platform and utilize it the most. We've realized that our audience is not on X, formerly known as Twitter, and most of our readers are likely not on Facebook either.

Instead, we decided to focus our attention on The Globe's Instagram page. As some of you may have noticed, regular posts per issue have returned. Additionally, we have been posting articles we feel are the most impactful per issue in an easy-to-read manner. This will continue, with each editor picking articles for our Instagram page.

Why are we able to do this now? Much of this is because we have a social media manager again. The more people who participate in The Globe, the better it can be, and the better it can serve our audience.

In today's media landscape, simply just putting articles in a newspaper isn't good enough anymore and it hasn't been ever since social media took hold.

People are not going to go out of their way to go to a different website beyond their usual social media pages. Making potential new readers aware of our existence is one monumental task and so is keeping them interested with content besides nothing but text.

This is true for any news organization – multimedia is the requirement. We're just fulfilling that requirement again, and it's working.

What's the role of you, the reader, in this? Pay attention to what we're doing

on Instagram from now on. The content we put on the Instagram page is just as good as what we work tirelessly to put in print and on our website, ppuglobe.com. Alums, current students, parents and more continue to interact on this platform that we previously underutilized because of a lack of time and people willing to put in the work.

We are grateful for Camani Campbell, our social media manager, who works with our graphic designer to make our posts beautiful and engaging. We want to maintain our momentum on social media. They are the reason engagement on the page is as high as it is.

And why does this engagement matter? Because the ultimate purpose of The Globe beyond just reporting the facts is to create discussion about what's going on at Point Park and around Downtown, tying big stories to our audience.

This purpose extends to those who are reaching for the first time in years – especially alums – because knowing information about one's alma mater is still worthwhile, especially when this can include what's happening beyond Point Park's campus.

Our hope is the saying "did you pick up The Globe today" will never go away because of this goal. We want to be as present as we can be for our readers and this can only be fully realized when our social media presence is built up like it is now.

Why does it matter? We cannot just rely on our newspaper alone to create discussion and get necessary stories out to our audience. Social media has the convenience of easy shareability, immediate commenting and concision. Granted, we will still print as long as possible.

Pay attention. This is only the beginning.

The Globe
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Point Park is not ADA compliant, accessible

Marcus Betts
For The Globe

You've seen me around Point Park's campus in my power wheelchair, with my aide who happens to be my aunt. I'm Marcus Betts, a junior sports communications major at Point Park with cerebral palsy.

The odds have been stacked against me since birth, but that hasn't stopped me yet.

After a treacherous tour of Point Park's campus, I was ready to complete my application to Edinboro University. It was clear Point Park had not figured out how to accommodate a student with disabilities.

But it was a conversation with Bernie Ankney, the dean of the School of Communications, that changed my mind. He sold me on the potential of internships with local sports teams, masters degree programs, and broadcasting opportunities Point Park had to offer.

But I felt like the school partially went back on their promise, because there are still ever-present challenges with accessibility on campus.

Point Park has tried to make sure students with disabilities are involved within the academic programs, but that is where the effort stops.

I have quadriplegic spastic cerebral palsy – the most severe form. It is characterized by high muscle tone affecting all four limbs, the trunk and sometimes the face. Thank God it spared my face; I am still good looking.

To cater to my disability, I have always had an IEP and customized accommodations.

On move-in day, my room was switched three different times before they finally found one that could accommodate my needs, despite knowing ahead of time what accommodations I would need.

In my dorm, I required additions such as an adjustable shower-

head and toilet handrails. Although ADA compliant dorms exist on Point Park's campus, I wasn't given access to them.

And I am not the only student with a disability at Point Park.

While living in the dorms I met Grace Cross, a COPA student. Cross also requires a wheelchair to navigate campus.

“Point Park has tried to make sure students with disabilities are involved within the academic programs, but that is where the effort stops.”

Marcus Betts
For The Globe

While watching Cross's performance "Slowdown" – an experimental dance piece exploring disability and human relationships – I finally saw my own struggles reflected. Her performance laid bare the constant fear of inadequacy, the hidden self-doubt and the belief that others are disappointed because your body doesn't work the way theirs does.

In one striking scene, Cross grappled with putting on a simple t-shirt, flipping it repeatedly before admitting they couldn't see well enough to align it correctly.

I related instantly. I wear my shirt backwards at least three times a week, whether because of rushing, visual impairment or the fabric catching around my neck.

These small, daily battles are rarely seen, let alone showcased. I

admire Cross's courage in bringing them to the stage.

Point Park is a difficult school to navigate for disabled students because of its vertical design. The inaccessibility of the campus is revealed in jammed doors, cramped elevators, and narrow halls. Not to mention the uneven sidewalks that surround the campus. Street trees, too, make it even harder to navigate around campus.

Every student with a disability should be afforded the same opportunities as their able-bodied peers.

Edinboro University, the school I nearly committed to, displays exemplary inclusivity toward students with disabilities.

Its on-call physical aids are readily available to help students with disabilities, and its campus is designed to be easily navigable for students with disabilities.

Besides that, Edinboro has gone the extra mile for disability inclusion by creating a wheelchair basketball team. Adding similar programs and accessibility features to Point Park would give students like me the opportunity to participate in more than just the academic side of college life.

While Point Park prioritizes helping students with mental disabilities, students with physical disabilities deserve a piece of the pie, too.

It is important to show students and families that they are valued within a university community.

It takes more than proper funding to solve problems like these; it takes an agreement from all sides involved – an agreement that a student's trust will not be violated and their opinions will be respected and valued.

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Graffiti artists need designated spaces Downtown

Michael Klug
Opinions/Website Editor

How often have you walked through a street in Downtown and seen a wall of messy graffiti on a random building?

The chances are high if you're always venturing around the area. But this shouldn't be a bad thing.

For years, graffiti artists have ideologically opposed citizens, the law and even other graffiti artists. On one hand, it might be hard not to find some people who say graffiti is "ugly" and "ruins a city."

Likewise, the law places graffiti as an illegal activity, claiming that it is destruction of personal property, vandalism and an act committed with a lack of permission to do so. However, graffiti artists claim that their work is art and that they should have a right to show their art in public spaces.

But who's right? Well, I think graffiti laws should

be more lenient.

According to Chapter 620 in Pittsburgh's Law and Ordinance Code, "graffiti is criminal vandalism defacing public and private property without the permission of the owner, costing citizens, businesses and the City hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to repair."

The same chapter also states that graffiti is a "visual symbol of disorder."

However, in my four years of living in and around Pittsburgh, I never saw any disorderly graffiti. That's not to say that graffiti doesn't exist. It might just not be as bad as people think.

How can the city fix this? Well, the answer is simple, really. Build designated graffiti spaces around Downtown so graffiti artists don't have to deface public property.

Pittsburgh has the budget to build several concrete walls for graffiti. As of 2025, Pittsburgh's

“Build designated graffiti spaces around Downtown so graffiti artists don't have to deface public property”

Michael Klug
Opinions/Website Editor

approximate city budget is 785 million dollars, with 1.15 million going to the Department of Parks and Recreation in Pittsburgh, according to Pittsburgh's 2025 Operating Budget.

If the city were to build concrete walls for graffiti artists, it would hardly dent the budget. For example, according to Home Guide, poured concrete walls cost \$20-

\$45 per square footage of a wall. If the city were to build one 30-by-18 foot wall, that would be 540 square feet, which would cost between \$10,800 and \$24,300.

Using this, the city could afford to build at least five to ten walls for graffiti artists to display their art on.

However, one more problem comes out of this. How does the city keep the walls safe from profane or obscene works?

There could be a solution in which the city contracts painters to paint over any harmful graffiti on the wall, which is similar to what happens on Bloomfield's graffiti wall.

Another solution can consist of police officers who are already patrolling the area to take a brief look at the wall and report if there is anything obscene.

Regardless, graffiti artists should have some space available to them to scratch the itch of

displaying their art. A lot of the graffiti around the area is actually fun to look at and read, and it can improve a lot of people's days.

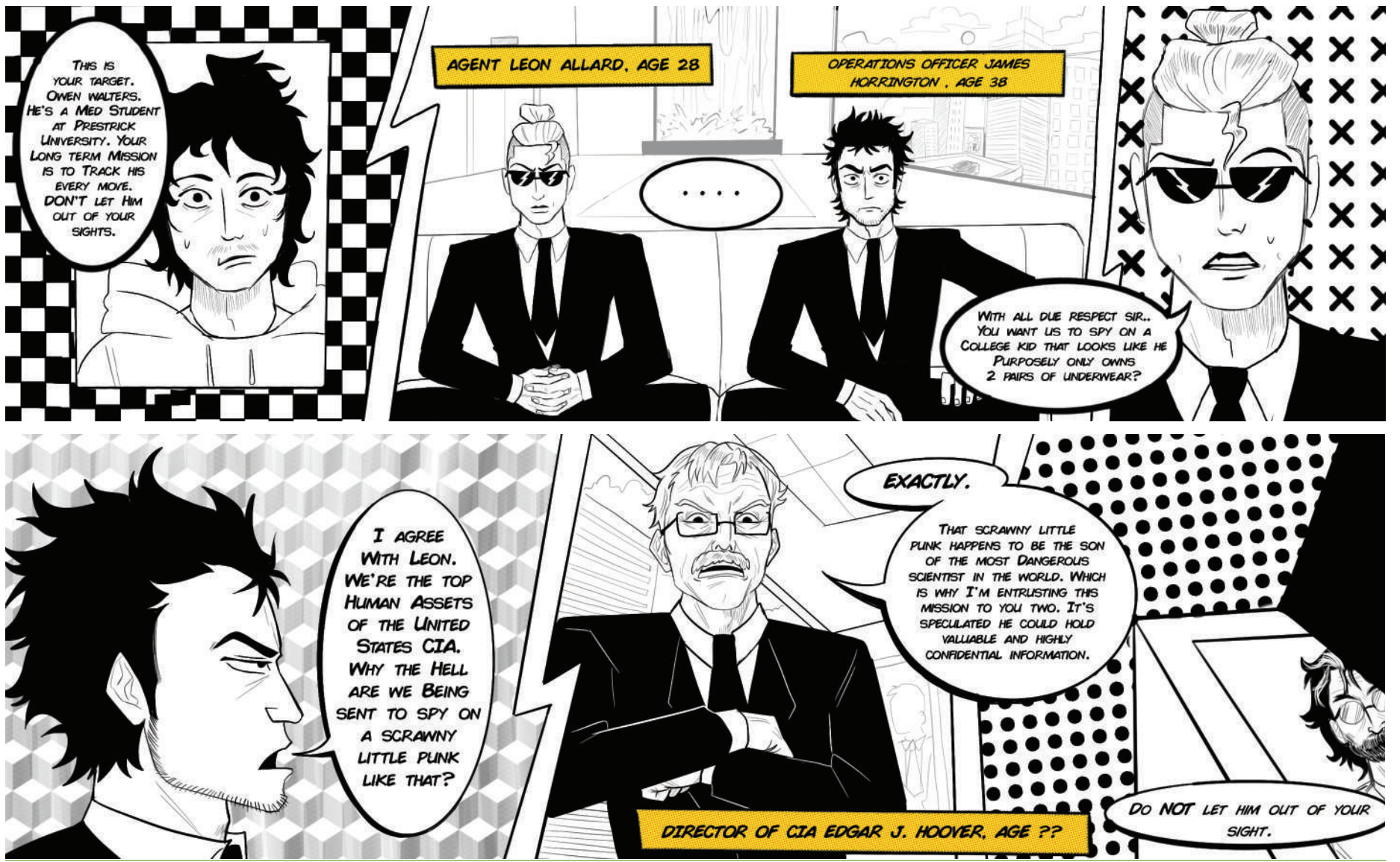
Graffiti artists also seem to be pretty respectful about the spaces they tag.

If you walk on the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, the wall is covered with graffiti until it gets to the murals that were painted with permission from the city. The graffiti stops right there, which shows that graffiti artists do respect art.

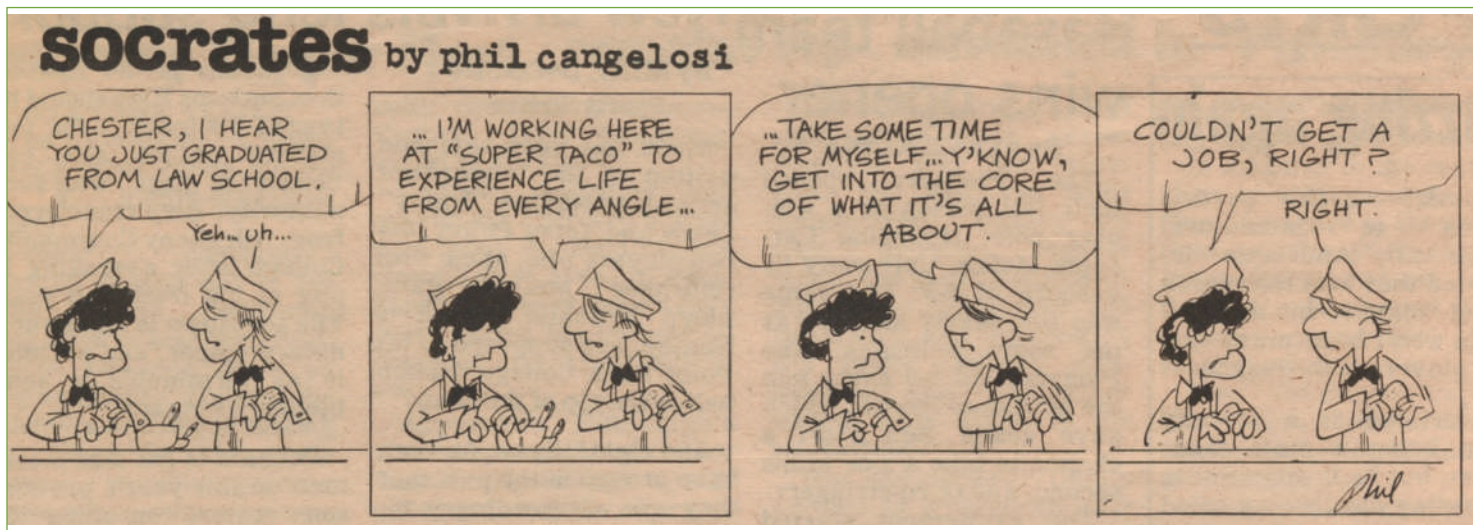
I am in no means encouraging the defacing of public property. Rather, I am saying there should be a legal outlet for graffiti artists to display their work around the city without worrying about fines or imprisonment.

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'The CIA introduction' by Jaliah Johnson



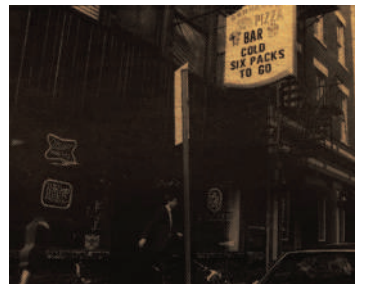
University Almanac: Sept. 19-24



The eternal struggle of not being able to find a job, as illustrated by Phil Cangelosi in the Sept. 26, 1978 edition of The Globe.

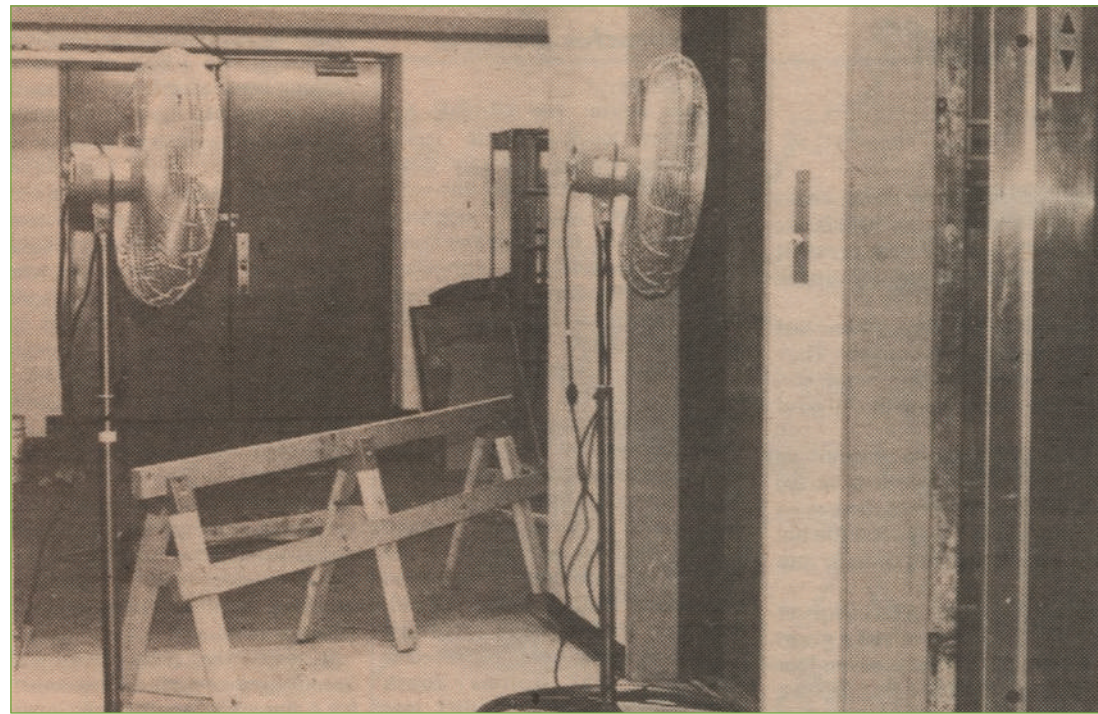


WPPJ had a brief name change in 1981.



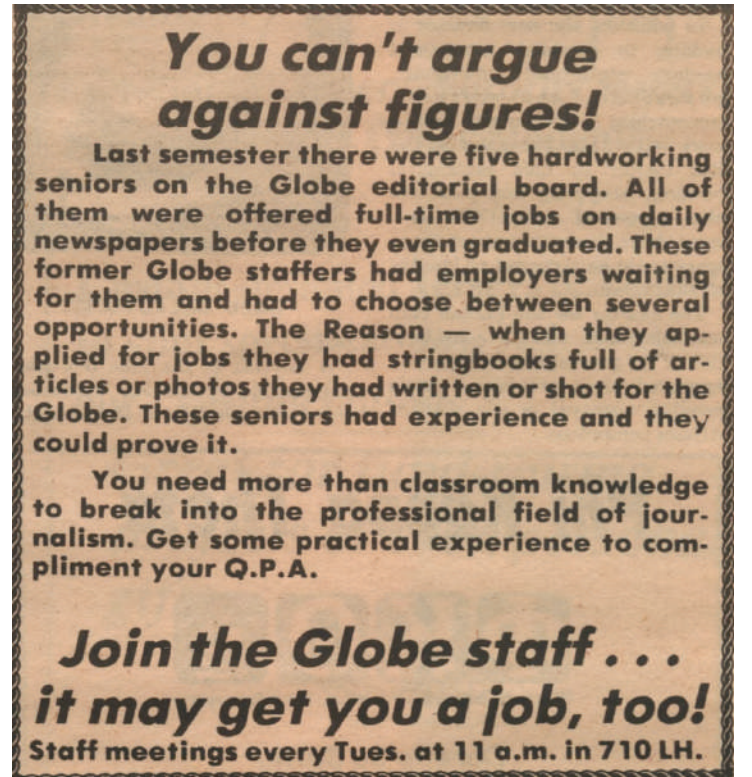
Before there was Genoa Pizza, there was Sanremo's Pizza in the same spot.

- 1972: Class limits set for all professors; anyone teaching less than 11 students would see a pay cut.
- 1977: Secretaries vote 16-9 to join SEIU Local 585.
- 1978: Baseball team wins 9-6 against Carnegie Mellon University.
- 1979: Elevator maintenance cost revealed to be \$1200 a month, mostly because of maintenance needs.
- 1981: WPPJ's call sign was briefly changed to WRKR and changed from general listening to specials.



Neal Voron | The Globe Archives

Fans dry out elevators in Lawrence Hall after a dorm room flooded the elevator shaft, breaking several electric components.

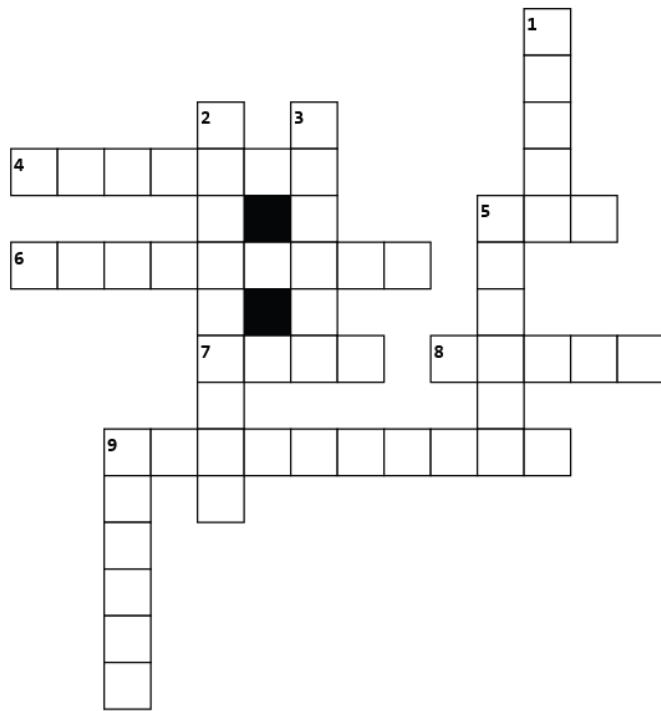


This ad from the Sept. 23, 1980 edition of The Globe still rings true to this day.

Point Puzzle: 'It's not hip to be square'

Across

- 4. Last name of the 16th U.S. president
- 5. Tends to be used with the term "slayed"
- 6. Social media platform where The Globe is active
- 7. Graffiti tag for Pittsburgh muralist Max Gonzales
- 8. Name of legal act which requires universities to post crime data yearly
- 9. What university in West Virginia played against the men's soccer team on Sept. 21?



Down

- 1. A building with a beacon flashing "PITTSBURGH" in morse code is on this street, along with a breakfast spot.
- 2. Music artist who performed at "The Pete" on Sept. 16.
- 3. Last name of the women's lacrosse team's coach.
- 5. Some missions to space, such as moon landings, are named after this Greek god.
- 9. Group of friends or club that is unwelcoming to newcomers.



Scan the QR code for this week's crossword answers!

Coach and student-athletes place the groundworks for women's lacrosse

From LACROSSE page 1

upcoming season.”
Masters and Desko are both transfers that brought their experience from outside Point Park. Spears was the only player Ingram had on the team last year and was said to have been a key part in the level of players brought in.

“I feel blessed to have the opportunity to help lead them on and off the field. I absolutely love all the girls on the team, they are truly one of a kind,” Spears said. “They work hard and always put 100%, having this team finally at Point Park with me is a dream come true.”

While this group of women have confidence in their team and capabilities, there are still hurdles that need to be jumped as they work toward a successful spring season.

“The most difficult things will be creating cohesiveness and team chemistry, as well as building a culture within the team,” Ingram said. “Being that they are all newcomers, there is no current culture or systems of play for them to meld into, so it’s all new.”

The captains repeated this sentiment, stressing the importance of connection and chemistry for team culture.

“We have a talented group of players with a strong skill level, so the next step for us is building those on-field connections,” Desko said. “Since we’re still learning about each



Andrew Hartung | For The Globe

Coach Erik Ingram speaks to his team at its first practice on Sept. 12.



Andrew Hartung | For The Globe

Captain Taylor Desko practices at Highmark Stadium in September.

other’s style of play, it’s about figuring out how we can best support our teammates and put them in positions to succeed.”

The captains expressed their support for the coaches as well, as all three praised the coaching staff for the significant role they have played in their progress as a team.

“Our coach is a huge part of this as

well, his way of coaching has changed so many things for me personally and I know other girls on the team as well,” Spears said. “So, I think between our compassion and our coach’s style, we are off to a great start.”

The strive to make a great team was a shared passion among Ingram and all of these women.

“Our flow on the field is some-

thing to be worked on, but that will come with time. We have already improved dramatically in the last four weeks and I truly can’t wait to see where things go in the future,” Spears said. “I have high hopes for an amazing first season.”

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Kyla Pothier | The Globe

The men's soccer team circles for a pep talk between play versus West Virginia Wesleyan on September 17 at Highmark Stadium.

Conference opponent seals shutout over men's soccer

Makenna Smith
Staff Writer

The Pioneers’ men’s soccer team fell 3-0 to the University of Charleston in Mountain East Conference play on Sunday afternoon at the Welch Athletic Complex, dropping it to 2-3 overall and 2-2 in MEC play.

Charleston, one of the top-ranked programs in the nation, struck first in the 43rd minute when Denys Verbinskyi scored just before halftime. The Golden Eagles extended their lead with two more goals in the second half, sealing their second victory over Point Park this season.

Graduate defender Tomle Donig said the game highlighted where the Pioneers still need to improve.

“Key takeaways from the game were that our team is not where we want to be in terms of speed of play and maturing when approaching strong opponents,” Donig said. “Obviously, when facing one of the best teams in the nation, you cannot go into the game expecting an easy win.”

The Golden Eagles controlled possession throughout the match, outshooting Point Park 23-5 and holding a decisive 15-1 edge in corner kicks. Still, the Pioneers had opportunities, with Lorenzo Grispello, Rocco Domenighini and Fridolin Gerfrorer each recording a shot on goal.

Captain Gerfrorer said the team found highlights in the loss to learn from.

“The loss was unfortunate but not undeserved, we made some individual mistakes that we have to clean



Kyla Pothier | The Globe

Graduate student Tomle Donig defends the backfield vs. West Virginia Wesleyan on Sept. 17.

up to be able to beat teams as good as Charleston.” Gerfrorer said. “There were glimpses of what we can do to beat good opponents, so we have to try to build on that.”

Goalkeeper Gregorio Capponi played the full 90 minutes for the Pioneers, recording three saves. Capponi now holds a 2-3 record in net to start his first season with Point Park.

Despite the setback, Donig said he is encouraged by the way the roster has come together with so many new faces this year.

“Surprisingly, our team’s chemistry has developed very well so far, which is not common since a lot of cultures are coming together at the same time,” Donig said. “Every team has ups and downs since players get into arguments when not sharing the

same opinion on certain situations in the game. Gladly, our team was able to overcome those challenges early in the season.”

The Pioneers will look to regroup quickly as they prepare for today’s road matchup against West Liberty. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Gerfrorer said the team expects to bounce back, “Being at 2-2 is an acceptable situation to be in, regarding the teams we have played. We have a huge opportunity to beat West Liberty and climb the standings,” he said. “It is important for us to be 100% focused and prepared to beat them. I expect it to be a hard-fought game, but a game we have to win.”

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New men's basketball coach brings fresh take to the team

Austin Cairns
For The Globe

Ryan Grandits was named the new head coach of the men’s basketball program in April, ushering in a new era for the Pioneers.

Grandits, a native of Buffalo, New York, comes to Point Park after several successful seasons on the coaching staff at Daemen University, where he helped guide the program to consistent conference success. His coaching emphasizes culture and cohesion, something he hopes to bring to Point Park right away.

“Bringing our guys together early and getting to know them personally is what brings true team chemistry,” Grandits said.

“Unity is the foundation of any winning program, and that starts with relationships.”

Ryan Grandits
Men’s basketball coach

Grandits inherits a Point Park squad eager to make its way back to the Mountain East Conference tournament.

Known for his player development and ability to connect with his players on a personal level, he plans to focus on establishing trust and a strong team identity from day one.

The Pioneers ended last season on a 10-game losing streak before a shocking turnaround that took them to the Quarterfinals of the MEC tournament.

As preseason workouts begin, Grandits is setting the tone for what he hopes will be a new chapter of competitiveness for the Pioneers.

“This is a special opportunity,” Grandits said. “I’m honored to lead this program and can’t wait to get to work with our guys.”

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Women's soccer dominates on the road in third-straight win

Megan Lukitsch
Staff Writer

Women's soccer won its third consecutive game on Sunday as the Pioneers defeated the West Liberty Hilltoppers on the road with a 5-1 victory. The team's three-straight victories come after starting the season off with a tie and a loss.

"I think it's not about what's changed since the beginning of the season, but more about what we've been able to build on," team captain Gillianne Stewardson said. "We've been using each game, whether it's a win or a loss, to learn and grow. We're gaining more confidence and learning how to work together."

The Pioneers dominated right from the start of the game, with Rebecca Pihlgren scoring 10 seconds into the game to put the Pioneers up 1-0.

"The first goal came really quickly, as we were ready to go," Pihlgren said. "We won the ball high and we went to goal and I just took the shot and scored."

Maria Gomez would extend Point Park's lead to 2-0 with her second goal of the season about seven and a half minutes into the first half.

The Pioneers continued to build on their lead with a goal from Martina Cardemill, and would carry a 3-0 lead into the locker room at halftime.

About six minutes into the second half, Pihlgren scored her second



Graduate student and goalkeeper Frederieke Rijlaarsdam takes a goal kick versus Wheeling on September 13 at home.

Kyla Pothier | The Globe

goal of the game to make it a 4-0 lead for the Pioneers.

"My second goal was a good play from the team, and then Paula served me a fantastic ball, so I only had to tap it in," Pihlgren said. "I put in hard

work the last few weeks and with the confidence I got from the team and coaching staff."

After not scoring in the first three games of the season, Pihlgren has now recorded back-to-back two-goal games. She previously scored two goals in Point Park's 10-0 win against Division II independent Salem University on September 17.

"I have adjusted more into the team by playing games and started feeling more comfortable with my teammates, and the goals wouldn't be scored without the teammates," Pihlgren said. "We're all starting to work great as a collective. But also from all the support and advice from the coaching staff."

Maya Figueroa continued Point Park's domination, scoring an unassisted goal 10 minutes later to give the Pioneers a 5-0 lead.

The Hilltoppers would finally show some life with about three minutes remaining in the game, ending the shutout bid for Point Park goalkeeper Frederieke Rijlaarsdam.

Rijlaarsdam, who had three saves against West Liberty, has backstopped the Pioneers for the entirety of their three-game winning streak, only giving up one goal in each of those wins.

"I think that we have a lot more

confidence in ourselves this year," Rijlaarsdam said about the Pioneer's defensive effort. "This confidence was built during our Spring Season and continued in the Fall as we have a healthy competitive environment now. We want to build on this even more and keep our winning streak going."

Point Park had a total of 16 shots against West Liberty, with seven of them being on-goal. The Hilltoppers had seven shots, with four of them on-goal.

In just the last two games, the Pioneers put up a total of 15 goals, and have outscored their opponents 17-1 during this winning streak.

"The Salem and West Liberty games allowed us to prove to ourselves that we can score goals," Stewardson said. "I'm excited to see how we can use this confidence against Fairmont and Frostburg."

The Pioneers will finish off their three-game road stint at Fairmont State today at 7 p.m., before returning home for Homecoming weekend on Saturday morning.

All Point Park home games are free for students with a Pioneer ID.

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Kyla Pothier | The Globe

Freshman Rebecca Pihlgren looks down the field in a game against Wheeling on Sept. 13.

Esports teams compete in fall openers

Brynn Rees
Sports Editor

Point Park's Valorant Gold and Rocket League Gold teams held their fall season openers this week, with one team ending triumphant and the other falling in the final seconds.

Point Park esports houses four teams: Rocket League Gold, League of Legends Gold, Valorant Gold and Valorant Green.

The Valorant Gold team opened its season with a sweep on Friday, September 19, against Old Dominion University's JV team in a 2-0 series.

The squad includes Ryan "Creep" Milazzo, Ahri "AhriCasts" Riso, Skylar "Exxtra" Madera, Finn "FearTheFinn" O'Hara, and Amin "MrAminSavage" Alipourkashki.

The first map played was Haven, where the Pioneers controlled the tempo, winning 13-2.

AhriCasts headlined the map with 23 kills, and every player finished positive on kills/deaths.

The second match was Sunset. Both teams stood 5-5 until the Pioneers took eight straight rounds to secure the sweep 13-5.

Exxtra led the map with 21 kills followed by AhriCasts with 18 kills.

Valorant Gold is 1-0 in divisional play.

The Rocket League team opened play on Wednesday, September 16, suffering a loss against divisional

opponent Virginia Wesleyan.

Point Park beat Virginia Wesleyan in the finals last year to become National Association of Collegiate Esports Divisional Champions for Rocket League in April. Teammates shared that this series was considered a high-stakes rematch.

The Pioneers lost last week in a best-of-five competition, taking the series to the fifth game after three straight wins.

The team includes captain Caleb "ClashThatCaleb" Knox, Saif "Saif Danger" Greco and Ian "Snoozyn" Beain.

The fifth and final game showcased an intense rivalry, with a tied score in the final minute. With 22 seconds left, Virginia Wesleyan found the go-ahead goal to take game 2-1 and win the entire series 3-2.

The Pioneers opened the series with two losses.

With their backs against the wall, ClashThatCaleb and Saif Danger responded in game three with two goals within the first few minutes to eventually win 2-1.

Point Park similarly opened game four with two immediate goals from Snoozyn. He later extended the lead to 3-1, scoring all three goals to force an all-or-nothing game five.

Game five showcased a close battle, but Virginia Wesleyan scored in the final seconds to secure the series over Point Park.



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Point Park's Valorant players compete in a series, while the broadcast crew records them.

ClashThatCaleb ended with three goals, three assists and 12 saves. Saif Danger recorded two goals and four saves, and Snoozyn led in scoring with four goals, four assists and 12 saves.

Rocket League Gold is 0-1 in divisional play.

Both Rocket League Gold and

Valorant Gold compete in weekly competitions versus divisional opponents.

Point Park esports matches are streamed for free on the program's Twitch account, PointPark_Esports.

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