



Student-athletes expected varsity sports Instead, some say they landed on a hidden team

By Gavin Petrone
Editor-elect

Alyssa Stridiron considered playing basketball for two or three other schools before she finally decided on Point Park.

Stridiron had driven six hours from Jersey City and booked a hotel room to tour campus, where she met with women's head coach David Scarborough to have a look around and watch the team play at CCAC.

Stridiron, a point guard and fresh initiate into the elusive thousand-point club, said Scarborough led her to believe she had a shot at varsity playtime.

"I didn't think I was going to have a million minutes," she said, "but I thought I was [going to] come in and be able to play with varsity."

And Stridiron wasn't alone, which complicated matters when rumors of a developmental (DV) team began to circulate from other recruits.

A developmental team is akin to a junior-varsity team, where players don't get official playtime and play smaller-scale games. They are fairly standard in



Chris Denver | For The Globe
Point Park women's basketball huddles before play vs. NCAA Division I University of Maryland in an exhibition match on Oct. 30 in College Park, Md.

collegiate sports, and are often a means of extending athletes' eligibility to play their sport, a process called "redshirting."

One of Stridiron's teammates, who plays point guard but preferred to remain anonymous out of fear of retribution, decided to redshirt this season. The player said this was not a desirable choice, though, and that the coaching staff's recruiting efforts were "feeding into [her] head."

"They said they 'had a

lot of seniors leaving," she said, adding that Scarborough wasn't involved in her recruitment.

"[That] 'there's a lot of playtime' for me. They 'didn't have a true point guard,' so there were a lot of minutes for me. They made it seem like it was only one team," she said.

All three players interviewed by The Globe said they were not informed about any DV team while they were being recruited. They all said they learned

about the DV team through collective rumor, and were not informed of it officially until a few days before the window to transfer closed.

"It was just going around," the anonymous point guard said. "And I'm hearing this from other players; I hadn't heard it from Coach [Scarborough]."

Another player, Taniyah Davis, a first-year center, went as far as transferring back to her home state of Texas to Grayson College when she heard the rumors.

Davis, who said she averaged a double-double in high school, echoed the sentiment of the other two players. Davis left on the first day of classes — the last day athletes can transfer schools — after she said Scarborough refused to meet with her to discuss the DV team.

Davis said Scarborough claimed meeting with her would violate NCAA rules, but she said her knowledge of a group chat between him and varsity players led her to believe that was a lie.

After athletes commit to a school, there is no NCAA regulation limiting their correspondence with coaches.

"I felt neglected," Davis said, "... I'm coming from all the way across the country. And I can't even talk to the coach I'm supposed to be playing for because of 'NCAA rules,' which is a lie.

"So now you're constantly lying to me. I feel scammed, [and] I don't even feel comfortable staying here."

In an emailed statement to The Globe, Scarborough said DV teams are standard

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Lawrence Hall to get A/C by fall '26

By Gavin Petrone
Editor-elect

It's official: Lawrence Hall is finally getting A/C, according to university President Chris Brussalis.

Brussalis said officials plan on implementing air-conditioning to cool off the entire building by the end of summer.

Chris Hill, vice president of operations at Physical Plant, will oversee the central cooling upgrade.

Hill previously floated a variety of strategies to cool Lawrence Hall, like repiping the entire building. Another was to install electrical grids on each floor to power window units.

That option is still on the table, Hill said, but he clarified Physical Plant is "investigating the viability of that plan."

For about as long as Lawrence Hall has been in the university's possession, officials have written off air-conditioning as impossible.

They often cited that, because it was built nearly 100 years ago in 1928, Lawrence Hall's grid can't handle powering enough units to keep the building cool.

The building's roof was also commonly cited as a concern, with the SGA section on Point Park's website still noting that adding a cooling system would put Lawrence Hall in "structural danger."



Carson Folio | The Globe

The exterior of Lawrence Hall at night.

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Thomas Speranza | The Globe

The front exterior of 305 Wood Street, or the old YWCA building. Point Park University plans to develop the property into housing, a student union and retail space.

University officially plans purchase of old YWCA building

By Carson Folio
Editor-in-Chief

What has long been an empty, grey eyesore sitting on Wood Street for over two years — and was at one point promised to become one of several new flagship residential developments Downtown — is on track to become university property.

Point Park University announced it signed a letter of intent to acquire the former YWCA building on Nov. 18. Plans for the new space include student housing built on top of the original structure, retail spaces, a student union and gym space.

And Point Park officials said they hope to have construction on the former YWCA finished as soon as the fall 2029 semester.

According to university President Chris Brussalis, signing the letter of intent is one of the first steps in acquiring the building. The university purchased the note of the property, taking over the mortgage from Detroit-based City Club Apartments (CCA).

Brussalis said the university had been keeping tabs on the development ever since CCA announced it in 2021.

Brussalis noted that he and Ted Black, head of institutional planning and strategy, had the old YWCA on their radar ever since Mandarin's final last tenant, closed in 2023.

Additionally, Brussalis said the plans for the building will somewhat mirror what CCA had envisioned,

which includes residential housing being built on top of the existing structure and the current roof of the building becoming a large patio space, along with the gymnasium space underground being renovated and reused.

The former YWCA does have a pool much like the Student Center, which was once a YMCA until the late 2000s. That pool is now the Professional Career Readiness Center.

Brussalis said the space in the old YWCA would be reused, but likely would not be a pool.

"We probably wouldn't put a pool in, but we'd probably utilize that space for something that comes out of the architectural work,"

see **YWCA**, page 2



University officials hope for student input on future YWCA upgrades

from YWCA, page 1

Brussalis said. “Maybe it would be nice theater space, [or] stage space for events.”

As for the planned retail spaces on the first floor of the building, Brussalis said he is open to ideas on what it can be used for, such as a bookstore or a restaurant run by students and others interested in the space, though he said he’d rather give the business space to someone in the campus community.

Mandarin Gourmet, which closed in Sept. 2023 and was the last tenant to leave the building, has been mourned by students, staff and faculty ever since its closure. Brussalis couldn’t comment on specifics, but he did say he would be open to another Chinese restaurant opening in the space.

“I do miss Mandarin Gourmet,” Brussalis said.

With the first step of acquiring the property complete, the university is in the process of getting the former YWCA inspected and assessed in what Brussalis called a “due diligence period.”

The due diligence period lasts 90 days to check the condition of the building and any engineering needs. After this, the university will finish acquiring the property via foreclosure and then can call the former YWCA their’s, according to Brussalis.

Then, the university plans to hire an architect to check the feasibility of what is planned for the building, with feedback from the campus community.

Lou Corsaro, head of public relations at Point Park, said the university community will play a substantial role in deciding how the building will be used and what may go into the new space.

“It’s fun to speculate what will be in the building, but there will be an input process,” Corsaro said. “There’s going to be a thoughtful way of going about this to figure out what’s best in the space.”

Considering the former YWCA is slated to become partially student housing, Brussalis said the retail



Thomas Speranza | The Globe

The front window of the old YWCA building, which still prominently features a Mandarin Gourmet decal. The restaurant closed in Sept. 2023.

spaces will be heavily monitored and the residential part will utilize ID scanners like every other housing option does.

He said it’s too early to call if turnstiles will be used for security in the building like they are in the Student Center, Lawrence Hall and West Penn Hall.

Brussalis said his visions for the space, such as a student union, were created with the help of him going to several other universities and seeing what each one had in its respective student union space.

“They’ll have three to five food vendors, little smaller countertop type of things,” Brussalis said. “Something like that would serve the university community, and also the community at large, because now there’s no quick service, fast food in Downtown Pittsburgh.”

While plans for the building are still ultimately in the air and up to what an architect deems feasible, Brussalis envisions a three-story atrium, an additional dining hall on

the second floor, student activities on the third floor and conference as well as event space on the fourth floor, which he noted as something the university does not currently have.

Brussalis couldn’t comment on specifics as to who the student housing part of the building would cater to, though he did suggest it may be suited for upperclassmen.

“As you move up, you have opportunities for better housing, right?” Brussalis said. “We would probably want to fill Lawrence Hall and Thayer [Hall] with freshmen, and then this would provide infrastructure for upperclassmen.”

“But who’s to say? We just need to talk to the community.”

The Globe previously reported on the university applying for \$5.5 million in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funding to help rehab the former YWCA, which Brussalis said is just one layer of building a stack of capital to acquire, build on and operate the building.

State funding for the project is supposed to cover the entire cost of renovation, such as ADA-complaint upgrades and demolition.

Brussalis touted the new development as the university’s top-priority project and will work as another piece in the puzzle of Point Park being the catalyst of Downtown’s revitalization.

“We’re not just saying words, we’re following through on the actions,” Brussalis said. “And that’s why we’re getting interest from other stakeholders in town, interest from the state [and] interest from foundations.”

Though the 2029 completion date is not set in stone at all, Brussalis said he’s motivated to see the building complete and useful again, noting the university needs the extra space.

CCA, which lost the old YWCA after defaulting on its loan on the building — to the tune of a \$3.8 million lawsuit from insurance agency Union Labor Life Co. — is in hot water nationally. Several properties the firm owns in Ohio are all slowly being sold and bought from the company.

Additionally, both of CCA’s phone numbers are disconnected and its website was disabled due to non-payment, according to website host Spherexx.

Reporting from Detroit business outlet Crain’s Detroit Business suggests that CCA is defunct, and creditors are after the business and its properties.

While the university announced plans to acquire the former YWCA building, administrators could not comment on the status or plans for the former Mellon Bank at 500 Smithfield St., another building Point Park requested RACP funding for.

The university requested \$5 million in state funds to modernize core functions and build out flex classroom space, performance and rehearsal studios.

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Delays persist in Pioneer Ambassador checks

Cilia Catello
News Editor

Eight of the 18 Pioneer Ambassadors (PA) did not receive compensation by Nov. 21 — the date assured by the university — according to all sources involved.

Instead, the university mailed the eight PAs missing compensation a check on Nov. 21, which most students received in the following days.

As previously reported by The Globe, none of the PAs were compensated by the dates outlined in the contract issued by Point Park.

Keith Paylo, vice president of student affairs, said that a graduate assistant’s resignation was one of the reasons why the payments were delayed for months. The assistant, Allison Plassio, worked under Paylo in student affairs.

“As a graduate student, you’re responsible for all paperwork,” Paylo said. He added that it is also student affairs’ executive assistant Charlene

Cusick’s responsibility to process paperwork.

Cusick declined to comment.

In an email sent by Paylo to Gianna Sites, a junior accounting major and PA, Paylo said it’s a “standard practice of the university” that first-time university employees receive a check rather than a direct deposit.

But Sites said this isn’t her first time being paid by the university.

Sites is a second-year PA, and said she was paid by Point Park for the first time last year through a check for her participation in the program.

But this year, Sites said she selected the direct deposit option when reapplying for the program.

“I’ve been in the program for two years now,” Sites said. “So there’s no reason why I would not be paid properly.”

Despite her status as a second-year PA and an on-campus resident, Sites said the check arrived in her parent’s mailbox on Nov. 23.



Jordan Kullen | For The Globe

Pioneer Ambassadors, among them Gianna Sites (furthest left), cheer for families during move-in in August.

“They had already violated the contract,” Sites said. “Then the date they said we would be paid comes around and they violate that.”

According to Sites, most of the information PAs received about their missing payments was delivered by Pioneer Ambassador Coordinator (PAC) and chair of the program, Savannah Ikach.

“I don’t think there was one issue that specifically caused any of it,” Ikach said. “I think a lot of things confounded together.”

Ikach said she is the person who bridges the gap between PAs and student affairs. When PAs have questions she can not answer, Ikach refers them to either Cusick or Paylo. Sites said after not receiving direct communication from the university, she visited Cusick in her office where they got engaged in a verbal altercation.

“She couldn’t give me a straight answer,” Sites said. “She kept saying she didn’t know [what happened].”

Will Bevens, a sophomore acting major and first-year PA, said he selected the direct deposit option

when applying for the program and was unaware he would be paid through check regardless.

As of Nov. 30, Bevens said he had not received a check.

According to Sites and Bevens, no notice was given by the university that they would be receiving an alternate form of payment — and that it would not arrive to them on Nov. 21.

“We have not gotten any explanation as to why this happened,” Bevens said.

“I just wanted to be paid properly and I wanted communication throughout it,” Sites said.

Paylo said he doesn’t know why second year students who selected direct deposit were paid by way of check.

He said he prefers students speak to him directly about any issues they may have with their pay.

“My door is open anytime that students have questions about any of these types of issues,” Paylo said.

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Point Park University | Courtesy

Pioneer Ambassadors, in a university portrait, pose and cheer for incoming students moving in. Eight of 18 PAs said their payment was received late.

Thayer revamp misses deadline

Carson Folio
Editor-in-Chief

Despite university officials' plans to have construction on the second floor of Thayer Hall complete on Nov. 21, the project is still incomplete and the hallway between Academic Hall and the Thayer Hall computer lab is still closed.

According to the October leadership report, construction work on what will be the future home of the Welcome Center spans from the first and second floors of Thayer Hall.

The first floor's construction is complete, while the space where the Center for Narrative Technologies (CENT) was once located and the JVH auditorium still cannot be accessed.

Chris Hill, vice president of operations, was unable to comment by press time.

The Welcome Center space, which includes a lounge meant for completion by Nov. 4, a "circulation area" and admissions office meant to be finished by Nov. 14, according to Physical Plant, is not accessible to

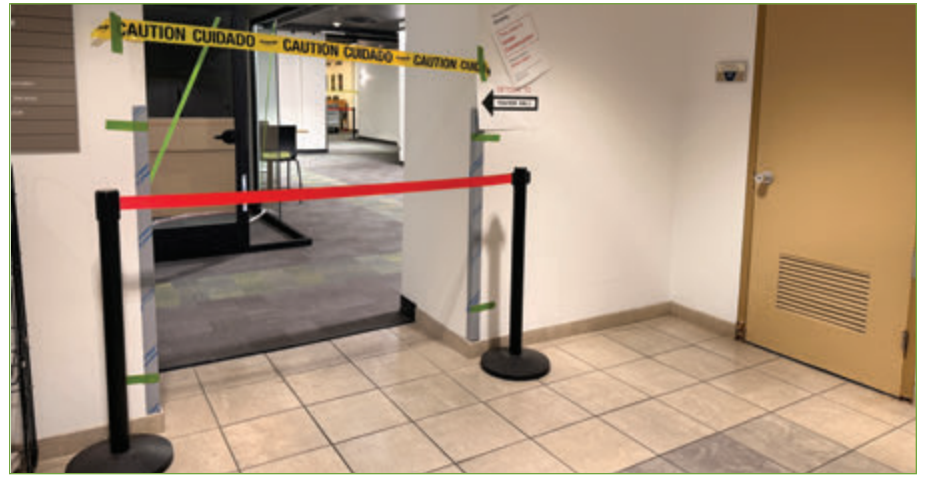
anybody except maintenance staff. Those walking between Academic Hall and Thayer Hall must still walk past through the elevator waiting area in Thayer Hall to get to the other side.

Much of the work left to do appears to be final touches, such as installing glass panes outside the admissions office space and storing away wiring in the JVH auditorium, which is slated to become the "Welcome Theater."

Originally, the new Welcome Center was going to be at 101 Wood Street, also known as the Green Building. However, the cost to renovate all four floors of the building was too much, according to Hill.

Additionally, President Chris Brussalis said moving the Welcome Center to the second floor of Thayer Hall is a temporary measure, with the eventual goal to move it to the Green Building in a few years. No specific timeline for when this would happen was given.

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(top and bottom photos) Carson Folio | The Globe
The welcome center was still taped off and under construction on Nov. 29.

Students in Wyndham must be out by Dec. 14

Cilia Catello
News Editor

Point Park University students living in the Wyndham Grand hotel are required to move out by Dec. 14 and return to campus housing after winter break – according to all sources involved.

As previously reported by The Globe, roughly 80 first year students were notified their housing placement was in an off-campus hotel two weeks before classes started.

The university's lease agreement with the hotel only extended through the fall semester, leaving administration unsure of where the students would be moved come the spring term.

According to Keith Paylo, vice president of student affairs, specific building and room assignments have not been made yet but students will be moving to campus housing.

"All students will be moved back to campus for the spring 26' semester," Paylo said.

Lindsay Simmons, a junior special education major and Resident Educator (RE) at the Wyndham Hotel, said students can start moving out as early as Dec 3.

She said students' belongings will be stored on the seventh floor of the Student Center, which will remain locked through winter break. Students are also encouraged to keep a comprehensive list of every item being stored in the Student Center.

"If it's not on the list then it's not the school's responsibility," Simmons said.

Simmons said that she will have to give up her RE position because the students moving out of the hotel will be moved into any space that is available, leaving them spread out throughout campus.

"I was supposed to be an RE for another semester, but given the circumstances, it's just not possible," Simmons said.

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Jordan Kullen | For The Globe
The Wyndham Grand Hotel, as seen from Commonwealth Place, in August.

The Globe's CRIME REPORT



Carson Folio | The Globe
A Point Park police cruiser sits behind West Penn Hall.

Galvin Petrone
Editor-elect

Assault:

Point Park police gave two men a verbal warning for fighting on Third Avenue on Nov. 21 at 9:38 p.m, Chief of Police Jeff Besong said.

University police were the first to arrive on scene and split the two up, Besong said, adding they were wrestling and fighting over "dope money." Pittsburgh police arrived shortly after.

No arrests were made, and both people involved did not want to press charges.

Theft:

A man stole a student's backpack from outside the Student Center along First Avenue on Nov. 22 at 9:30 a.m., according to Besong.

Besong said that Point Park police were able to track the man using university cameras, where they saw him throwing items from the backpack away in city trash cans. University police recovered those disposed-of items, one of which was the student's Point Park ID.

Police apprehended him about

two hours later. The man admitted he stole the backpack and was sent a citation in the mail.

Drug Violation:

Point Park police arrested an individual for possessing and selling crack cocaine on Third Avenue on Nov. 22 at 11:08 p.m. The individual was later sent a citation by mail.

Besong said many of the drug arrests university police have made as of late are tied less to patrols and more to officials watching campus security cameras.

"We're monitoring our camera systems a lot," he said.

Drug Violation #2:

Police arrested a man on Third Avenue for possessing crack cocaine on Nov. 28 at 11:08 a.m.

Drug Paraphernalia:

Police arrested a man on Third Avenue for possession of a crack pipe and a used "blood flash" needle on Dec. 1 at 12:07 p.m.

Besong described the blood flash as a syringe "used without proper medical training" and sometimes reused multiple times.

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SGA reflect on town hall, future initiatives

Makenna Cable
Staff Writer

Students lined Lawrence Hall's ballroom Tuesday, Nov. 18, in hopes of discussing what they believe to be the university's most pressing issues during a town hall hosted by SGA, as discussed during the weekly meeting on Dec. 1.

According to Communications Director Tatum Lucero, whose committee orchestrated the event, student testimonies filled up and even surpassed the hour-and-a-half timeslot allotted for the meeting.

SGA hosted the town hall hoping to hear directly from the Point Park student body about the thoughts and problems they had in mind concerning the university.

Lucero said first-year students primarily requested for more resources regarding campus contacts — who to call for certain situations and when to call them.

Communication between students and administration also

seems to have raised concern among Point Park students.

Lucero described one particular instance students brought up: the dilemma of security being taken away with little to no explanation to students about why.

Another major topic discussed at the town hall was relating to CulinArt, the company which deals with the food for the school. Students principally advocated for more food quality and variety — and longer dining hours.

CulinArt's food services have been a concern of the student legislature since at least 2023.

Questions about meal swipes were persistent during the meeting, such as "why can one only use a meal swipe at Bison Bites & Brews after 11 a.m.? Why is a meal swipe equivalent to \$8 in the dining hall, \$10 at Bison Bites, and \$12 at Point Café?"

Students also voiced concern over the quality and upkeep of dorms, better pay for student

workers and the availability of classes which are required for students to graduate.

SGA has pulled from both students' and internally-voiced issues to put together a roster of initiatives to be taken on during the spring semester.

Each senator chose two initiatives they felt most drawn to which they would work on personally, which will be determined at the next SGA meeting.

These initiatives are: CulinArt food issues and hour; an initiative concerning maintenance workers, unexpected arrivals and long wait times; the sorting of archiving and rules; any dilemmas regarding clubs; the planning and implementation of Pioneer Community Week; the Multicultural Festival; the Communications Committee Town Hall; and volunteering.

As the semester comes to a close, SGA is finalizing planning and funding for the upcoming spring semester.

Winter funding requests are freshly opened, to be voted on during the legislature's meeting on Dec. 8.

Next semester, students can expect the arrival of the Pioneer Community event, which has evolved from being just a day to a whole week of community events.

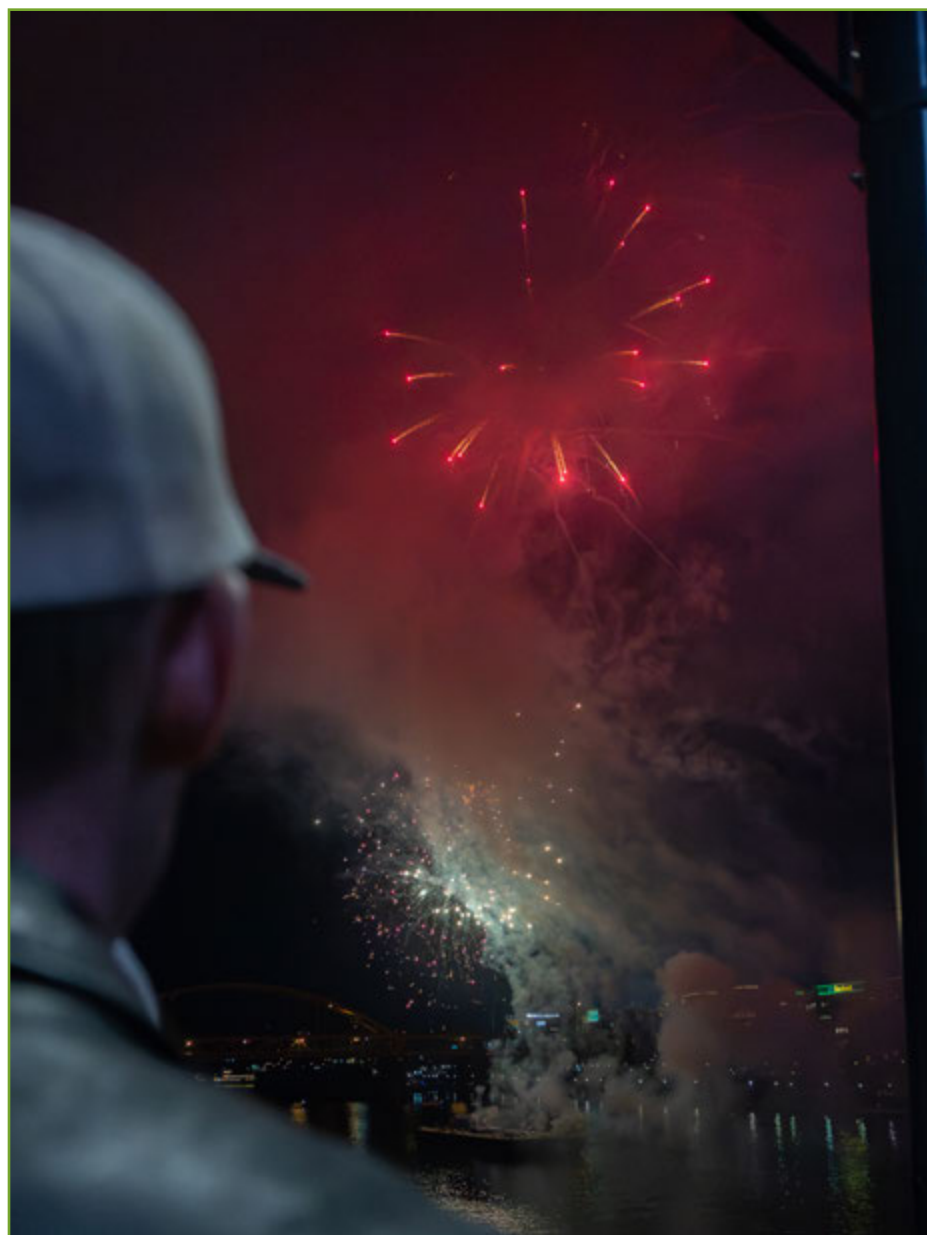
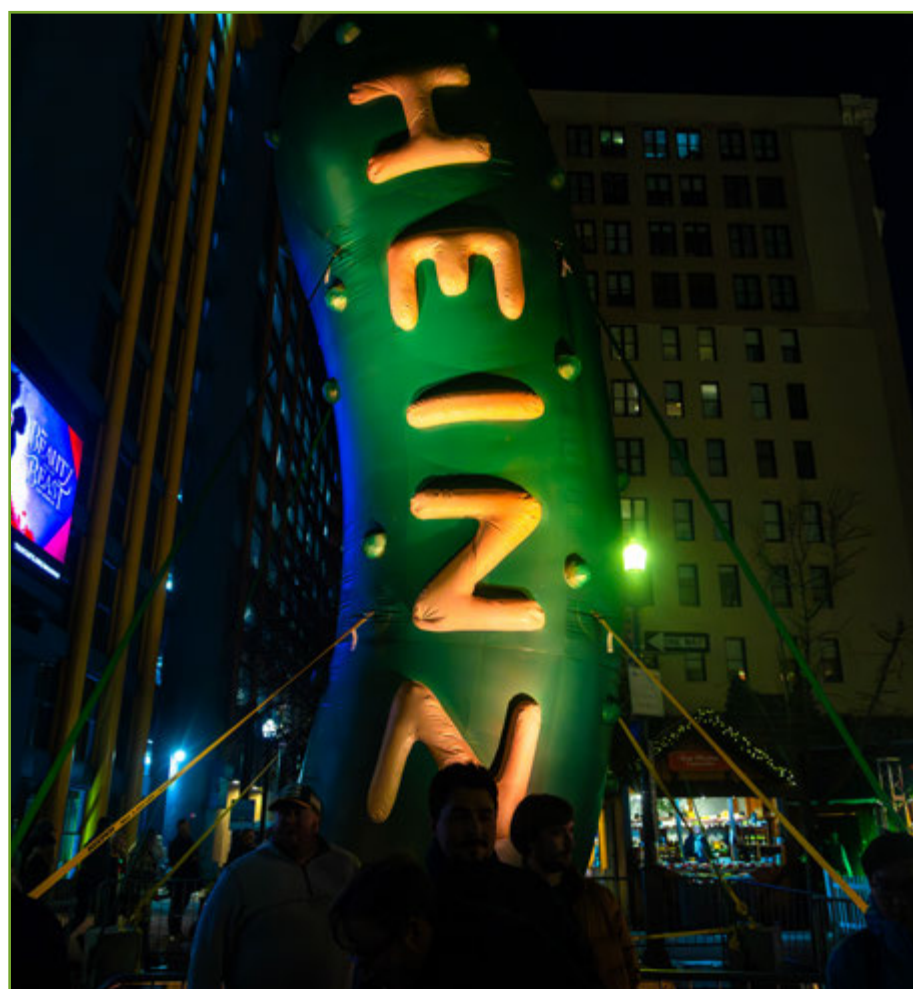
"We are going to be working together with the Center for Community Engagement and trying to get some different external partners for our meeting," Chief of Staff Elliot Geary said.

According to Geary, next semester students can also expect to see a new director of downtown engagement starting, who is to be hired before the beginning of winter break.

The next SGA meeting will be held on Dec. 8 at 3:15 p.m. in Lawrence Hall 200.

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Light Up Night keeps things festive



Since 1960, “Light Up Night” has brought holiday-themed festivities to Downtown to mark the unofficial start of the Christmas season. The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership continued that tradition with the 64th annual Light Up Night celebration on Nov. 22. Downtown was bright with Christmas trees, fireworks in the sky and buildings lit up more than usual into the night.

Photos by Thomas Speranza

‘Wicked: For Good’ takes everything from the first film and does it better

Andrew Burgman
Staff Writer

Part One of *Wicked* was all setup and no magic, a nicely made prelude that barely felt like a fantasy movie. It was a prologue wearing a movie’s budget. For *Good* is the payoff. This is where the world wakes up.

From the opening scene, Oz looks unreal. Every surface polished, every building framed like an architectural render, every citizen smiling like they’re being graded on it. The Emerald City doesn’t feel lived in; it feels curated.

And that ends up being the entire point. Oz has never been a comforting fantasy; it’s a dream someone is trying to sell you. A world built like a storefront display: colorful, inviting, and one bump away from collapse.

This part finally taps into the same unsettling energy that made the 1939 film linger in pop culture consciousness. Sure, it was whimsical, but doesn’t everyone remember being slightly afraid too?

The Wicked Witch, the flying monkeys, the Wizard booming from behind the curtain... Oz is supposed to be a place where the magic feels off somehow. A manufactured paradise where the

wrong step turns the dream into a threat.

That surreal tension finally returns here. For *Good* doesn’t go all out with it, but the looming collapse of a government is enough to put you on the edge of your seat.

The political instability of the world becomes a character of its own. The government is a joke, a PR stunt held together by whoever is winning the popularity war that day. No one has real authority; they just have better branding. People switch sides constantly. Incredibly unfair laws are passed within seconds. Every alliance feels temporary. There is no clear path to victory because no one actually knows what they’re doing, but they have the power to do whatever they want.

It feels disturbingly real. Like Oz hired a marketing firm to run a nation.

Ariana Grande’s Glinda is a massive part of why this works. She plays a woman who learned very, very young that one of her greatest tools, and maybe her only protection, is her smile. People love her for her shine. They trust it. They follow it. And then the world twisted that smile into something it could use for its own power games and propaganda. There’s a very intentional and sharp arc here about what hap-

pens when you are raised to be palatable, charming, and quiet... and then expected to stay that way while the world burns behind you.

What’s incredible about Ariana’s performance is that she taps into something that only the great actors do. A kind of emotional communication that happens almost entirely behind the eyes. Marlon Brando was famous for that: the ability to make a whole scene shift by barely moving his face. Ariana does a very similar thing here. Glinda has to look perfect at all times... smiling, poised, adored. But Ariana lets the audience see every fracture of doubt just behind that smile.

She doesn’t announce her fear or insecurity. She carries it.

Quietly. In her eyes.

It’s a performance built on the tension between what the world demands from her and what she actually feels. And that tiny war happening on her face, the one Oz pretends doesn’t exist, ends up becoming one of the film’s most human details.

On the complete opposite end of the tonal spectrum is the drama. Both the cinematic and the TMZ brand of it. The audience absolutely knew what was up with Ariana and Ethan Slater, and you could feel the room tighten anytime

the movie leaned into that love-geometry subplot. Call it messy, but it made everything more alive. It reminded people that power, romance, and betrayal aren’t just fantasy elements. They’re human disasters. The crowd reactions themselves became their own layer of entertainment.

But where this movie truly says something important is in the storyline about the animals. The ones silenced. The ones stripped of their voices. The ones deemed “less than” the second they couldn’t speak up for themselves.

That is real-world allegory done right, and it’s one even the kids can pick up on. No neon sign pointing at the message. Just a frighteningly clear metaphor: oppression begins with deciding whose voices matter and whose should be ignored. The emotional urgency of rebellion, the moral obligation to stop pretending to be comfortable, all stems from that silence. It raises the stakes not just for Oz, but for every character forced to finally choose a side.

Visually, the film doubles down on its style. And yeah, the scarecrow looks bad. But everything else blends into one cohesive aesthetic: a corporate green gloss that hides rot underneath.

The music works better

here too. Still not the kind of soundtrack I’m rushing to add to my playlist but no longer dragging the pacing down. When a song arrives, it means something.

So yes, this is a massive, studio-engineered blockbuster, scrubbed cleaner than is probably healthy. But the subtle genius is that the artificiality is the text. It’s what Oz is. A weaponized illusion. A place where people cling to the sparkle because the truth would blind them. Believe it or not, big money studios know that they’re doing, and this is a solid representing of the original *Wicked* novel.

When the sparkle finally cracks, it is glorious.

Wicked: For Good gives Oz its teeth back. The fantasy feels dangerous again. The relationships feel messy. The politics feel like a performance that can’t keep pretending it’s in control. It’s a world where no one is safe behind a smile.

This movie is everything Part One was desperately missing: magic, chaos, identity, betrayal, illusion, purpose. It feels like reading an *A Court of Thorns and Roses* book.

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In search of meaning, ‘Train Dreams’ takes its time on beautiful monotony

Elle Murphy
Staff Writer

“Train Dreams” is the new movie written by Clint Bentley and Greg Kwedar, the duo behind last year’s Oscar-nominated screenplay for “Sing Sing.”

Bentley is also the director. The film follows a logger named Robert Grainier (Joel Edgerton) as he searches for meaning in his life and work during the early 1900s.

A standout element of “Train Dreams,” that is immediately evident within seconds of the film starting, is Adolpho Veloso’s viscerally breathtaking cinematography.

Humanity’s tie to nature is one of the themes this movie is most interested in exploring, so it was important for the landscapes the characters pass through to be captured vividly and beautifully, and this film is one of the most visually stunning depictions of nature I have ever seen.

This film uses its lighting as a storytelling device of its own, brilliantly capturing the beauty of certain moments and the dullness of others. It will be a crime if Veloso isn’t at least nominated for an Oscar for his work in this film.

The visual storytelling of “Train Dreams” is also effectively achieved through Bentley’s direction.

Grainier works a job of destruction, further ruining the natural beauty of the world with every tree he cuts down and every job he takes.

This destruction is ever-present in this movie’s filmmaking, as Bentley con-

sistently chooses shot compositions that emphasize the empty spaces where nature once thrived, never letting the viewer, or Grainier, forget the destruction he has caused.

Bentley and Kwedar deliver one of the year’s best screenplays, providing a fascinating character study of a man looking for a purpose in a world he feels helpless in.

Grainier works a job that he feels deep regret in, despite still actively taking part in it. He doesn’t know what else to do with his life. Very early on in the film Grainier sees his coworkers tragically throw a Chinese man off a bridge purely because of his race, himself entirely helpless to stop it.

Grainier feels like he has so little control in his life, and the deep sadness that comes with that is expertly represented throughout the screenplay.

One of the biggest strengths of “Train Dreams” is how much emotion it is able to pull out of the viewer.

Despite Grainier being a rather stoic person, it’s still easy to feel for him the entire film. His emotions were still masterfully conveyed through the writing.

The screenplay does an amazing job of making you deeply understand and sympathize with Grainier’s character and his motivations.

As time passes in the film, and you see how the world around Grainier affects him, it truly feels like you are going on a journey alongside him.

The way we follow Grainier throughout his life almost makes watching the

movie feel like you are experiencing a piece of classic literature: simple and quiet, but unforgettably profound.

One of the reasons the viewer is able to get so emotionally invested in Grainier as a character is how brilliantly he is brought to life by Joel Edgerton.

Grainier goes through a range of emotions in this film — a lot of ups and downs. Every stage of Grainier’s adult life is embodied flawlessly by Edgerton.

It is a performance that adds so much depth to the character. Edgerton portrays the depths of Grainier’s emotions through the way he speaks and carries himself. I was completely unfamiliar with Joel Edgerton’s work going into this movie, but I was truly blown away by him here.

Outside of Edgerton, no other cast members receive a ton of screentime, but several of them still succeed in making an impact despite that. Felicity Jones portrays Grainier’s love interest with a lovely amount of warmth and kindness that really sells the viewer on their relationship and the love they feel for each other.

With only two scenes, Kerry Condon shines as well, bringing all the depth and emotion of a lived-in person to a character we see so briefly.

The standout supporting performance of “Train Dreams” is William H. Macy, who plays Arn Peeples, a coworker of Grainier.

He is given a character full of both pain and beauty, which is wonderfully reflected in the performance.



Carson Folio | The Globe Archives
Patrons wait to watch a movie at the Manor Theater.

The charm and personality that Macy brings to the role is why Arn Peeples is one of the film’s most memorable characters, despite him only appearing in a handful of scenes.

This film includes a narration by William Patton, who brings the perfect energy to his vocal performance, further adding to the soulful tone of the film.

The credits feature an original song from Nick Cave that is named after the movie.

It is a fantastic song with beautiful lyrics that perfectly represent the themes and emotion of the film, as well as just being a lovely song to listen to. I haven’t stopped listening

to this song since watching “Train Dreams,” and it was definitely a worthwhile addition to the film overall.

“Train Dreams” is a slow, understated meditation on humanity’s never-ending search for meaning, but the film culminates in the most emotionally overwhelming conclusion possible.

It doesn’t answer the questions it presents on meaning and purpose, but it does make a fascinating statement on how we are somehow able to move forward even when it all feels meaningless.

Elle Murphy
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BISON BOOK REVIEW

Est.

2025



Lauren Roberts’ ‘Powerless’ novellas give series much-needed insights

Peyton Martin
Features and A&E Editor

This review contains spoilers for the “Powerless” series.

“Powerful” and “Fearful” by Lauren Roberts are both novellas from Roberts’ “Powerless” series. They add new and unique perspectives to the original trilogy, which I recently covered in my last review.

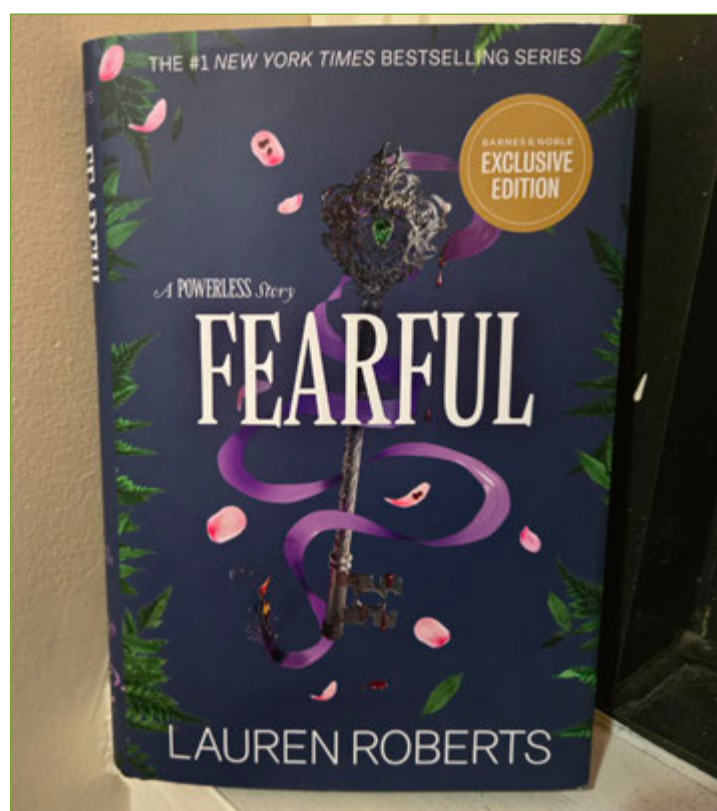
“Powerful” is the first novella in the series and was released April 11, 2024. The events of the novella happen at the same time as the events in “Powerless.”

It focuses on Adena, who is the best friend of Paedyn Gray, the main character of “Powerless.”

Adena’s novella tells the story of her struggle as she learns to survive after her best friend is forced to leave their home and compete in trials at the palace.

However, Adena is not the only focus, because this book has switching points of view between Adena and a new character named Makoto, or Mak.

The new character is part of what makes this book so shocking, despite knowing how it is going to end because of “Powerless.”



Peyton Martin | The Globe

The cover of Lauren Roberts’ “Fearful.”

Mak has a way of adding another layer to Adena’s story through the relationship that they form. It allows for another perspective on Adena that is outside of her own and her best friend’s.

Their relationship and interactions truly capture the reader’s attention and keep them in the moment, which makes the ending even more tragic than it

was in “Powerless.” This is because of the anguish and suffering Mak endures watching the events unfold.

Additionally, Mak makes appearances in other books in the series, and this novella provides incredible insight into who he is and what his motivations are in the rest of the series.

“Powerful” isn’t the only novella that provides more

insights on characters.

“Fearful” is the second novella for the “Powerless” series that takes place during the events of “Fearless.” This novella is from the perspectives of Kitt, Kai’s brother and new king, and Mara, who is death incarnate.

Going into “Fearful,” I truly did not expect to love it nearly as much as I have loved the rest of the series because of the focus being on Kitt, but I was quickly proven wrong.

Similar to “Powerful,” this book had a tragic ending because of the ending of “Fearless.”

However, the end felt a lot less tragic in “Fearful” than it did in “Fearless” because the novella delves into a new aspect of the series, the Mors.

The Mors is the place where humans go when they die in the “Powerless” universe, so knowing that Kitt’s end isn’t actually the end of his story is comforting in a way.

The end of “Fearful” was surprising for more reasons than the addition of the afterlife.

It took a different turn than most of the other books in the series do, be-

cause in “Fearful” the love is one sided, and one of the characters ends up scorned. This was slightly unexpected due to the trend of romance and relationships in the other books such as Kai and Paedyn as well as Adena and Mak.

While on the topic of unexpected, Mara provides so many unexpected elements to the story.

Chapters in her perspective range from her observing Kitt, observing the growing relationship between Blair and Lenny, two characters who grew strangely close during the original trilogy, and navigating the task that come with being death itself.

Her chapters were always interesting and provided insight that was surprisingly vital to the series, and she is easily the best character in the series because of her being so unique in comparison to the other characters.

Overall, “Powerful” and “Fearful” provide much needed insight that simply couldn’t be included in the original series in an entertaining way.

Peyton Martin
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THE GLOBE'S

We're serious about student media. Are you?

Much of this semester's work at The Globe is meant to show that we are a real news organization. It doesn't matter that we are student journalists, and it doesn't matter that some of us are first-year students.

We do this work because we care. There are stories that need to be told, and sometimes, that looks like holding power to account. Doing this requires a wide variety of student voices and experiences.

Now, we realize The Globe might look a bit different this year. This is intentional. Every article in our paper, online and on the Instagram page is something that the writer and the editorial board can be proud of.

Has this not always been the case with this newspaper? Sure. But in years past, not every article was something the writer could say with confidence they were proud to have published.

Some of these were purely filler articles meant to fill space. But some articles written last minute can still be good; after all, some of The Globe's best pieces were written a day before deadline.

However, we think it was clear when articles were made last minute just to have enough content to send to the printing press. This is not the example we want to set, and we don't want to be known as a news organization that prints "slop," for lack of a better term.

Why? Because that's not who we are anymore. This year's editorial staff are working hard to make this not only the best version of The Globe in recent history, but the best media organization on campus and the best student newspaper in Pittsburgh.

Are these lofty goals? The last one might be, but otherwise, no. The goal is ultimately to

bring back readers' trust for what should be the number one source for news on Point Park's campus.

To be better requires the participation of everyone here.

We do not exist to be the School of Communication's poster child and to only uplift the people in it — quite the opposite. Instead, we exist as something everyone here can participate in.

Whether you're a dancer, education student or in computer science, our staff will work to cover what's important to your major and will always welcome new participants no matter what their major is.

And with this fall semester acting as a Globe "re-do," we are once again inviting new people to join our organization in the spring. You've seen what we're capable of and that we're serious, so there is a place for you here.

Write for us, take pictures for us — almost anything you'd want to do, we're willing to listen.

It's easy for us to say that we've proven ourselves this semester, but we want to keep this momentum going next semester and every semester onward. That can only happen with your involvement.

You've seen what we can do. Now it's your turn.

Feeling a renewed sense of inspiration? Want to join The Globe? Email globe@pointpark.edu for more information, and let your voice be heard.

The Globe
globe@pointpark.edu



Hot Tea with Z

Tackling romantic troubles

Zarrick Plizga
Staff Writer

How do I navigate starting a relationship? What are the biggest things to look out for when starting a relationship? How do I express my needs without sounding demanding? Is it wrong to return to a relationship after being hurt? How do I rebuild trust after it's been destroyed?

Great questions; I enjoy talking about relationships. Relationships are one of the biggest parts of our lives, and they can shape the path we follow.

Navigating relationships is always complicated — you can never really know what is going on in someone else's mind. When entering any kind of relationship, you should always be curious. The more you learn about someone, the better you can understand them, and with all that knowledge you will be able to communicate better.

When starting a relationship, it is important to keep an eye out for behaviors that could hint at more negative characteristics. Although it is a good thing to look out for toxic characteristics, you cannot let yourself dig too deep to find the intention behind every action, or else you might create problems when they do not exist. Self-sabotage is a big blockade to forming a long-lasting relationship. We often stand in our own way because of our fears.

I want to make it clear that expressing your needs in a relationship is not a demanding thing. Being honest about what you need

is the best way to see if you will be able to make a relationship work. If you and the other person are not able to give each other what you both require, then the relationship will not be able to survive. As long as you start a relationship with an open dialogue about your needs and expectations, then both parties will be able to evaluate the situation to see if it feels right.

When it comes to returning to relationships, there are so many factors that can make it the right or wrong decision. I do not know everyone's situation, but I do know that someone hurting you is not okay. The biggest thing is making sure this person did not hurt you on purpose. If there was any intention in the pain they caused, then it is definitely a bad choice. If it was an accident, then talking about things and figuring out a healthy way to move forward is okay.

Trust is a hard thing to rebuild, but it is not impossible. A lot of people believe that you have to earn trust, but I personally believe that trust has to be given. It's kind of like giving a child responsibility to see if they can handle it. The only way to give someone a chance is by giving them some trust and seeing how they handle it.

Do you need some advice? Are people in your life too indecisive? Do you need a new point of view? Just email me at zdplizg@pointpark.edu.

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zdplizg@pointpark.edu

COPA CORNER

Embrace that your dreams are different

Melissa Garlock
Staff Writer

As COPA students return to school from Thanksgiving break, there is an immediate turnaround into finals week. Ideally, students would be well-rested and ready to take on any exams or presentations. Though, some might be exhausted from answering pestering questions regarding their major or career path at holiday dinners.

Even for students who are fortunate enough to receive unwavering support from their loved ones, it's inevitable that questions may arise. Feeling uncomfortable or frustrated with these

concerns is valid.

When people ask, "What are you going to do with a degree in dance?" or maybe "How are your singing classes?" it invalidates all of the hard work you put into your education.

It's important to recognize that this comes from a place of genuine care in many cases. Especially in older generations, it's common to worry that a stable job is unrealistic in the arts.

The reality of the situation is that it is difficult to find a job that might offer the typical insurance and healthcare benefits, a unionized contract and reasonable pay. The term "starving artist" exists for a

reason, after all.

Well, on paper, this sounds harsh, but it has never stopped us before. COPA students understand the means of the industry, even at a college level.

So why do we continue to pursue such an "impractical" career? Passion.

The same passion that pushed us through countless rounds of college auditions, rejections and vulnerable educational pursuits.

COPA students are resilient. A common misconception is that being in the conservatory is an easy cheat to earning a degree. Truthfully, COPA degrees require brilliance. Comprehending and

planning a career path in the arts requires deep thought and planning. It requires constant adaptation to new challenges while remaining flexible to all opportunities.

While it may be upsetting that most are unaware of the effort that performers put into pursuing the arts, these doubtful comments will never end.

When facing judgment, it's vital that you stay true to who you are and what you love.

Embrace the uniqueness of your dreams, even if they don't follow the traditional path others expect. Success in the arts comes from authenticity and persistence. By honoring your own vision and

committing fully to your goals, you cultivate the creativity that sets you apart.

The next time someone questions your worth based on your major, remember to stay proud anyway. The more you state your purpose and dedication, the more confidence you build in yourself. And then, more will come to respect your commitment.

COPA students have their own issues that deserve to be acknowledged and highlighted. Email me at mjgarlo@pointpark.edu with yours.

Melissa Garlock
mjgarlo@pointpark.edu

THE GLOBE

SINCE 1967

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The Globe
201 Wood Street, Box 23
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Editor-in-Chief: Carson Folio
Editor-elect: Gavin Petrone
Faculty Adviser: Christopher Rolinson
Administrative Adviser: Keith Paylo
Printing: PrintSource via Trib Total

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How I live life with an invisible illness

Hayden Waschak
For The Globe

“You don’t look disabled.”

It’s a simple phrase, but a hurtful one nonetheless. It’s a dismissal of the painful life that I have to live. It invalidates my suffering, and yet it’s a comment that gets thrown at me every time I tell my story.

I was diagnosed with fibromyalgia over this past summer. It’s a condition I’ve lived with my entire life, but it took over a decade to receive a proper assessment. It is a brutal and relentless chronic illness, with no miracle cure and few treatment options.

I had been suffering from chronic pain ever since a young age. It worsened as I aged, starting with my shoulders before spreading everywhere else. I’ve also faced chronic fatigue since childhood, too. I spend my life in pure agony and permanent exhaustion.

Doctors never really knew what to do with me because to them, I looked fine. I was always a little chubby, but otherwise I was always fairly healthy. They would tell me, “You just need to lose some weight. Stay active, eat well, and you’ll feel better.” I would never end up feeling better.

In fact, my condition kept getting worse, but no one bothered to look at it any further. My pain was never taken seriously, because I was young and I looked fine.

When I entered adulthood, it was time to start looking for a job so I could move out of my parents’ house. I was dreading it because I knew it wouldn’t be easy for someone like me, but I had no other option.

From 2020 up until this past summer, I tried to hold down a job, but I failed every time. I was fired many times, and each time it was for the same reason: I am disabled.

Some employers were more subtle than others when it came to letting me go, but some were more blatant in retrospect. Back in August, I was fired from a food service position for allegedly stealing their products.

Most other companies have to be more careful in how they fire a worker with disabilities.

I worked for a health insurance company after I had finished an associate’s degree in medical billing and coding. I

thought it would get me a nice office job or a work-from-home setup just doing data entry, and it did, but I developed carpal tunnel syndrome about four months in.

I already am prone to wrist inflammation, but I didn’t think a typing job would give me an injury I’d eventually have to get surgery for.

Yet no time was given to treat my injury. Instead, the blame was shifted on me for having a poor work performance. My boss said to me, “I just don’t think you’re trying hard enough.” I was eventually fired.

I lost all my jobs because of my health, regardless of what is written on paper. The same cycle was on repeat for five years: start a job, face health issues because of that job, lose that job.

I tried to apply for disability benefits, but due to the lack of documented medical treatment, I was rejected every time because I wasn’t being taken seriously enough by my doctors.

I felt like no one was listening. I felt like I was screaming into a void with no one to hear me. Luckily, I would find just one primary care doctor who would finally kickstart my case.

In 2023, I finally stood up for myself and demanded proper care. Living in a new area meant I had to get a new doctor anyway, and I told him everything up front.

I had to learn to advocate for myself and get doctors to advocate for me, because at that point no one else was going to do it. I was referred to several specialists during the process and was finally receiving all the tests and imaging that no one thought to do many years ago.

Nothing showed up. My blood is healthy, my bones are strong, and my muscles look fine. Finally, a rheumatologist told me, “I’m going to screen you for fibromyalgia.”

There is no actual test for fibromyalgia, actually, it’s just a matter of ruling out other disorders. I was initially told it could be lupus, but the blood tests indicated that I don’t have an autoimmune disorder.

For fibromyalgia, the doctor does a physical exam of several key tender points that hurt to touch. All of my points were indeed tender and very painful.



Thomas Speranza | For The Globe

A portrait of the author, Hayden Waschak.

Fibromyalgia isn’t the only lifelong disorder I am going to struggle with, though. I also unfortunately suffer from complex PTSD, which is a form that is caused by long-term and repeated events of trauma.

I was also diagnosed with major depressive disorder with psychotic features, borderline personality disorder and a dissociative disorder. I am also on track to be receiving an autism diagnosis as well, but my social worker has expressed a fear of it due to our current presidential administration’s stance on the topic of autism.

I have only been struggling with employment because I am disabled and unable to work, but I have to emphasize what I wrote earlier. It is my only option.

Unfortunately, if I am unable to hold down a job and am being rejected from the only system in place to assist those who are unable to work, there is no other way that I can afford to live.

I can’t afford housing. I was able to have an apartment back in 2022 when I was working, with rent somewhat more affordable than it is now. I then became increasingly unable to work as my conditions kept getting worse because of said work and the

strain it puts on my body and mind.

I then had to move back in with my parents, and unfortunately, my living situation became traumatic. I now have fresh trauma, on top of my childhood trauma, from witnessing domestic abuse for so long. I still live in that house, and my health continues to deteriorate because of it.

All of this could’ve been prevented if resources existed for those with disabilities — and the poor.

Even if it were easier to receive disability benefits, it is still designed to keep us in deep poverty. I am aware that, even if a miracle happens and I am approved, the monthly pay barely reaches \$2,000.

Disabled people on benefits are also not allowed to have a certain amount in total assets, making it impossible to set aside or save money.

I am also on nearly every public housing and income-restricted apartment waiting list in Allegheny County. I am trapped. I can’t work enough to make enough money to have a place to live. I can barely handle my work-study right now, and it’s only eight hours a week.

Society’s perception of those with disabilities also plays a role in our discrimination at large.

Every day I see comments and posts on social media about how people see us as lazy, entitled, useless and unworthy of life.

Ableism is deeply rooted in our everyday lives, and people who aren’t disabled don’t realize this.

I have to accept that I live in a country that wants people like me dead and gone. I rely on SNAP, as well, in order to stay fed, which is under attack and always at risk. I have been made to feel that I don’t deserve to live because I have an illness that prevents me from working.

I’ve been told that I need to stop asking for handouts. I’ve been told that I’m a waste of taxpayer money. I’ve been told that I’m not really disabled in the first place because I don’t “look disabled,” but what does it mean to “look disabled,” anyway?

My existence is a political debate, one that ultimately ends with a grim conclusion.

I don’t know what the future holds for someone like me. I can only hope that one day, I will have a peaceful little apartment and enough food to eat so that I can finally work on healing my soul from all these years of traumatic pain.

I may not look disabled, but I am. I am disabled, poor, and I face a battle just to exist every single day. I live a life in survival mode. I do not remember the last time I felt that I could relax, rest and recover.

One day, I hope to live in a world that sees disabled people as valuable. I want to be seen as human.

I’m tired of fighting for the right to exist, and not only that but the right to thrive as well. I shouldn’t be restricted to the bare minimum needed to survive.

I deserve to live comfortably, and I deserve the same rights that everyone else has. I’m tired of being held down in poverty with no chance to escape — all because I was born with an illness that no one else can see.

But I’m ready to be seen now. I want my story known, and most importantly, I want people to know that they are not alone.

Hayden Waschak
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We must stop global over-policing

Jaylen Bazemore
For The Globe

Growing up in Washington, D.C., violence has always been a part of the environment around me.

There are neighborhoods where gun violence, killings and gang activity are so common that people adjust their daily lives just to stay safe.

It reminds me of the way some Palestinian communities talk about living under intense Israeli surveillance and strict security measures, where the presence of the state is felt in everyday movements.

In both the U.S. and Palestine, people learn to navigate not just the dangers around them, but the systems that are supposed to protect them.

Since Donald Trump was elected president, he has treated our communities like war zones by sending in the National Guard and imposing curfews on certain neighborhoods instead of addressing the root causes of violence and crime.

Over the summer, my friend Rob was pulled over and searched by the National Guard, seemingly only because



Jaylen Bazemore | Courtesy

A portrait of the author, Jaylen Bazemore.

there were multiple Black people in the car.

Members of the Guard told them to pull over and get out of the car so they could search to see if there was anything illegal in the car, all without providing a warrant.

My friend complied, nothing was found in the search, and they were allowed to leave.

This situation was mind blowing, because Rob didn’t do anything wrong that warranted him being pulled over and searched. Neither did

anyone else in the car.

I can’t think of any other reason for this to happen beyond the color of his and my other friends’ skin.

The Trump administration tried to make it seem like D.C. was completely out of control, even worse than it already was, because it gave them an excuse to flex their power and show force.

And even after a federal judge ruled their deployment illegal, White House officials still doubled down on their unlawful deployments.

“President Trump is well within his lawful authority to deploy the National Guard in Washington, D.C., to protect federal assets and assist law enforcement with specific tasks,” White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson told AP.

“This lawsuit is nothing more than another attempt — at the detriment of DC residents — to undermine the President’s highly successful operations to stop violent crime in DC.”

But the issue of policing D.C. goes way beyond the issue of the deployment of the National Guard.

Over the years of my living in D.C., both gun violence and over-policing have made even going outside to be with my friends an uncertainty.

If we hang out in groups, D.C. police will stop and search us for drugs and guns, regardless of our respective records and without warrants to do so.

Sometimes we even get scared and run from them because it’s easier than risking a bad encounter with the police.

There is a lot of overlap with the tactics used by the National Guard during their

deployment and the efforts of D.C.’s police.

And those same tactics are often used by Israel, a strong foreign ally of the U.S., in their treatment of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel.

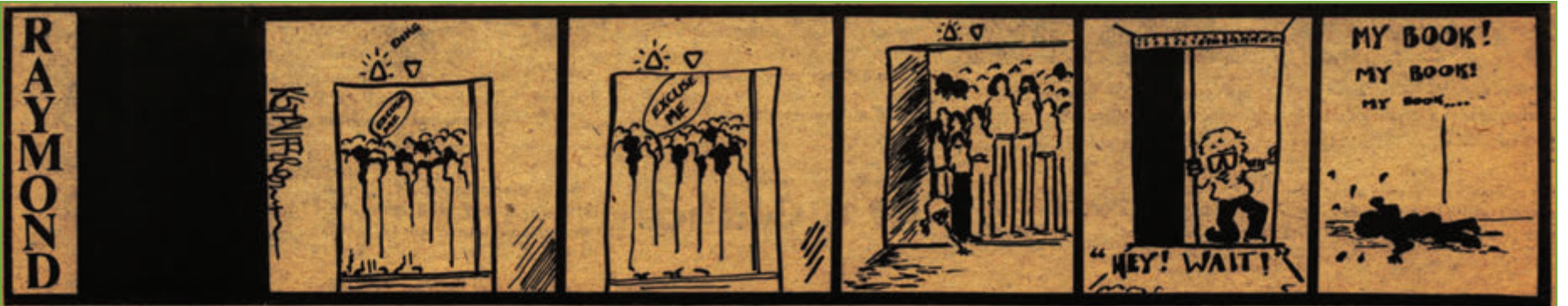
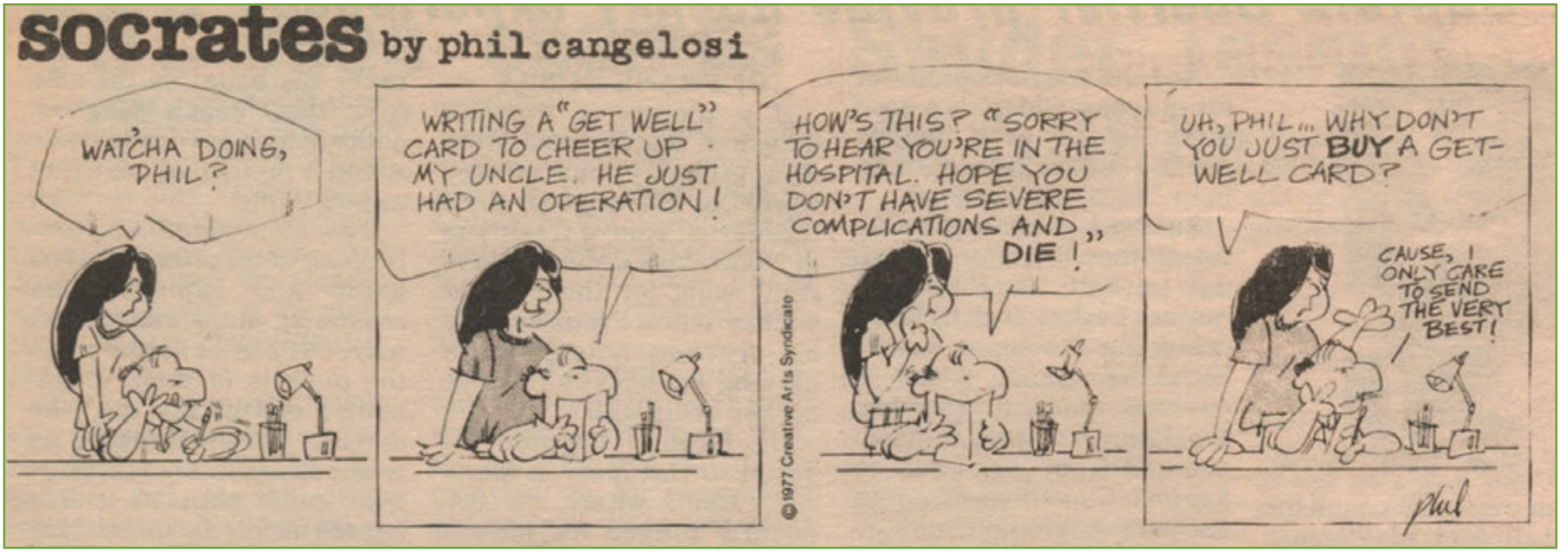
Israeli leaders constantly point to security threats, real or exaggerated, and use them to justify extreme military force: bombing neighborhoods, destroying homes and policing entire populations.

The situations aren’t identical, but the logic is: Exaggerate the danger, then use that fear to excuse overreach.

Living in D.C. taught me what it feels like when leaders use fear to justify force. Watching Palestine shows what happens when a government pushes that logic to an extreme level, with far more deadly consequences.

I want people to recognize how fear-based policing and government overreach harm communities both in D.C. and abroad. I want people to take action and challenge these systems rather than accept them as normal.

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Janna Ditzler | Dec. 2, 1993
Point Park joined the spirit of the holiday season in this 1993 photo.

From the archives: ‘System shut down, plans to be updated’

Internet problems may not be high on the list of student complaints this year, but it was once a contentious topic. Unreliable internet is bad enough, but imagine losing it and not knowing when the internet will return. Such is the reality highlighted in this Dec. 7, 1995 article.

Cathy Staszewski
1995 Contributing Writer

The Point Park College computer Internet has been down since Thanksgiving because of high operation costs and to update the computer system itself.

The last monthly telephone bill was \$911.24 and “maybe half of that is in the budget,” said systems administrator Barry Ference.

The high bill is due to the fact that the processing site, which students call every time they log onto the Internet, is in Turtle Creek, a toll call from the college. The school is in the process of changing to a closer site in Green Tree, which will eliminate toll call costs.

Another problem is the amount of time spent on the Internet by students. “Students

log on for hours to play games and we [the Computer Science Department] can’t support it [financially],” Ference said.

Many students agree with Ference about abuse. “You see the same people in the computer lab hour after hour,” said accounting major Amy Thompson. “Instead of having just a time limit, they should have a personal limit with your ID number,” said the sophomore commuter.

Before the Internet can be set up again, a new Unix system will be installed. With the implementation of the Unix system, the lab will offer more computers with access to the Internet at about half the system’s previous cost.

The new system, which is still in the planning stages, will possibly allow students to have access to their own personal account for E-mail, rather than the public account in which “every one could read everyone else’s mail,” said Ference.

There are still unresolved issues in the computer, primarily involving cost. The Unix system itself costs approximately \$75,000, plus “we have to release what we already have and pay for more

memory, paper and basic operation costs,” said Ference.

Since students from all majors use the lab and may want E-mail accounts, a lab fee might be implemented. “We as a department cannot pay the bills of the whole school,” said Ference.

Despite the temporary closing of the Internet in the computer lab, the college is not totally without entry. In the library, there are two public workstations with access to the Internet. They can be used “only for library assignments ... because the library budget is bearing the cost,” said librarian Joan Hamby.

In addition, the library offers Netscape, in which students can sample the Internet, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Some students expressed dismay over the temporary loss of the Internet in the computer lab. “I think that it’s the school’s fault for not researching the costs of the Internet,” said sophomore Will Wood. “We all pay a lot of tuition, and I don’t think they should take it out on us,” said the journalism and communications major.

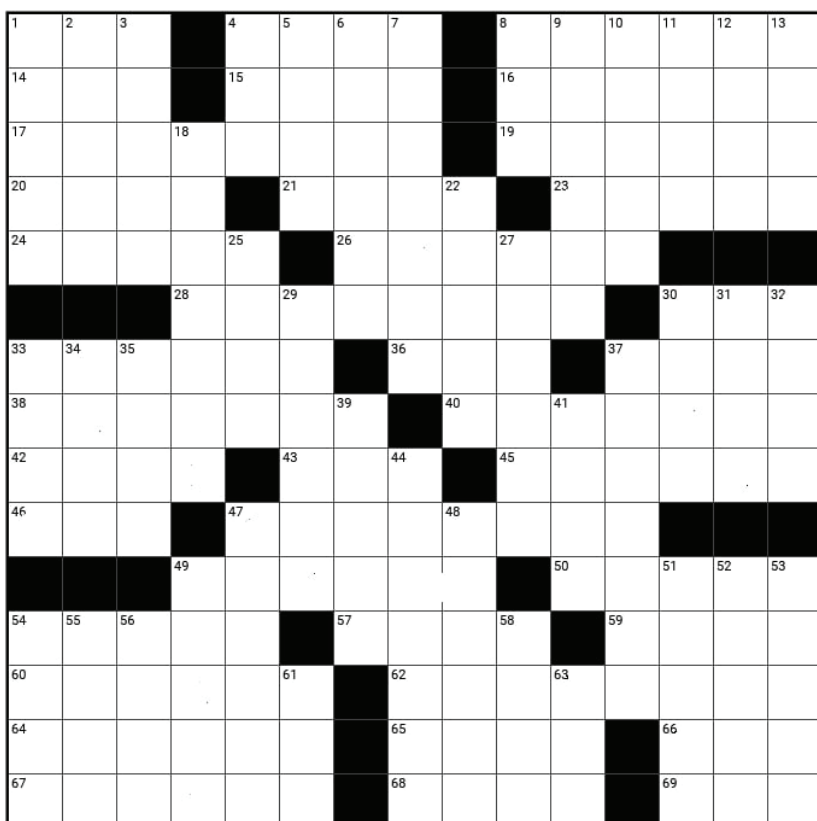
Throughout the years: Dec. 2-8

- 1967: Tuition increased to \$1,350 a year for full-time students
- 1976: Men’s basketball plays against Temple University in Philadelphia and loses 78-61.
- 1977: Former recreational center in Lawrence Hall, including bowling alley, put up for sale
- 1978: Women’s basketball team “takes off” for first time
- 1979: Security guards injured after an irate student throws something through a glass barrier protecting the guards.
- 1980: Theater arts student Bill Mott praised for saving someone from a fire at the Saybrook Apartments in Oakland.
- 1982: Phone fundraiser raises over \$10k for the university.
- 1983: Men’s basketball wins 80-65 over Edinboro.
- 1984: Three elevators in Lawrence Hall break down.
- 1985: Women’s basketball win season opener.
- 1986: Black students revive formerly dormant BASICS club.

Point Puzzle: ‘The home stretch’

Across

- 1. Film, in Variety
- 4. Absolute shock
- 8. Neighbor of Orlando
- 14. Call ____ night
- 15. What un lago holds
- 16. Card game for two
- 17. Like some memoirs
- 19. Bad news from a credit card company
- 20. Patron saint of goldsmiths
- 21. The lead
- 23. Green fuzzy stuff on rocks
- 24. Wind-borne deposits
- 26. “_____ the Last Airbender”
- 28. Pressured
- 30. You listen with this
- 33. High nests
- 36. “____ bozo”
- 37. Goya’s “Duchess of _____”
- 38. Porter classic
- 40. Close cousins
- 42. You probably shouldn’t forget this in a play
- 43. Queue after Q
- 45. Andy Warhol had one of these
- 46. “____ there governor”
- 47. Humors
- 49. Jesuit university
- 50. Like some physical tests
- 54. Makes the sound munch, crunch
- 57. ____ up rage
- 59. You smell with this



- 60. Academic stresser
- 62. Abandon
- 64. Handsome youth
- 65. Architect Saarinen
- 66. Pre-owned
- 67. 1973 Peace Nobel
- 68. ____ it

- 69. Computer speedrun

Down

- 1. Computer screen bit
- 2. _____-Greek
- 3. Name of a street in Pittsburgh which is also a type of boat
- 4. Korean hat
- 5. Wrinkles, perhaps
- 6. Ottoman _____
- 7. Talking it up
- 8. Checked, as a box
- 9. Delivery person who might get quite cold at the end of their shift
- 10. Movie theater in Squirrel Hill
- 11. Hospital testing techniques
- 12. Expected arrival times
- 13. Hard to hold
- 18. Can’t stand
- 22. Plant root
- 25. “Did you ____ bus pass by?”
- 27. Themes
- 29. Lead _____
- 30. Lodge group
- 31. Rose’s love, on Broadway
- 32. On their soapbox
- 33. Vital car component near wheels
- 34. Pianist Gilels

- 35. “____ 911”
- 37. Dragging on the shore
- 39. Bar at the bar
- 41. “That’s ____ good idea”
- 44. Sent before email
- 47. Sheep gatherer
- 48. Fan favorite Ford truck
- 49. Chinese weight unit
- 51. “We, are the ____s”
- 52. Refugees
- 53. Yorkshire city
- 54. Tunisian port once a stronghold for Barbary pirates
- 55. Spiders’ nests
- 56. Sneaky, perhaps
- 58. Maker of leaf blowers and other yard care tools
- 61. Lith., once
- 63. “And I ____”

Want to contribute to The Globe’s “fun page?” Email cafolio@pointpark.edu. Comics and crosswords welcome!

Scan this for the answers!



Athletic recruitment drives university's enrollment boosts

From **ATHLETES** page 1

in the athletic department's policy.

"In our program, playing time is never guaranteed — it's earned," Scarborough said of the women's basketball team. "Our priority is to field the most competitive team possible, and athletes who embrace that challenge and commit to competing every day typically experience meaningful growth and success within our program."

Scarborough added that his recruiting selects for "student-athletes who demonstrate commitment, coachability, academic responsibility and a strong competitive drive."

He provided no further comment, and a spokesperson for the athletics department said no other women's basketball coaches were available for comment.

After the transfer deadline passed, the DV team had a scrimmage against current varsity players. DV lost, and both Stridiron and her teammate who spoke with The Globe said that Scarborough called for a meeting.

The point guard said Scarborough "flaked." She said he blamed university administration for the DV mix-up and claimed he had no idea there would be a DV team at all, contradicting his official statement that the developmental team is standard policy.

"It wasn't even a meeting; it was just a huddle," the player said, "so it kind of [felt] like he wasn't taking the situation seriously. Why aren't we sitting down and having a meeting somewhere?"

Keith Paylo, Point Park's vice president of student affairs, said DV teams have been standard at the university, at least in men and women's basketball, for a long time.

Paylo added that he thinks DV teams offer athletes a good chance at upping their game.

"You've got an opportunity there where you can engage [players] that might not be ready yet," Paylo said, "but yet you could still get them a lot of good opportunities."

Scott Swain, vice president of athletics, echoed that DV teams have been a longstanding arrangement at Point Park.

"We've had a developmental team," Swain said. "We will have a developmental team. It wasn't ever in question."

Stridiron said since the meeting, she just plays for the sake of playing. Stridiron said she plans on making an effort to earn a spot on the varsity team, but aims on transferring if she doesn't do so by



Julia Hill | For The Globe

The baseball team celebrates its first Division II conference title after defeating Fairmont State in the 2025 MEC Championship game on May 11 in Charleston, W. Va. Coach Loren Torres is pictured on the right.

next year.

"I'm giving them the benefit of the doubt because I'm a freshman," Stridiron said.

Davis said she was happy with her decision to transfer. She added that her coach at Grayson claimed that Point Park coaches got a cut of the tuition of each athlete recruited.

An anonymous source familiar with the matter also said that was the case, but university administrators and officials in the athletics department have vehemently denied those rumors.

NCAA regulation forbids any sort of commission arrangement between universities and their coaching staff, and recruiting finder's fees at universities are illegal under federal law.

"We don't have any financial incentives for our coaches," Swain said. "[Recruitment is] just an expectation of their job."

President Chris Brussalis seconded Swain, denying any sort of underlying compensation structure for recruiting with any university faculty or staff, even beyond athletics.

But Brussalis didn't rule out offering coaches pay raises for good recruitment and said he believes in "meritocracy." Coaches are paid wages and stipends benchmarked by a "national firm," he added.

"If someone's a superstar and they perform, we want to keep them," Brussalis said. "They're going to be compensated well in a marketplace . . . but we don't give commissions."

Athletic recruiting generally has driven boosts in enrollment since Brussalis enshrined that effort in his strategic vision, Pioneer Vi-

sion 2030, last year.

This academic year's freshman class was the largest in recent memory, with about 10% more students enrolled this fall than last.

And officials have touted athletics as a key driver of that. An early September press release said this year's class of athletes was the largest on campus and that the program is seeing "historic growth."

Swain isn't shy about the university's sports programs being an "enrollment driver" for Point Park.

He said athletes can get anywhere from \$1,000 to \$5,000 in scholarship aid just from athletics, and that there are not many instances of student-athletes receiving full-tuition scholarships.

Davis and the other point guard said they paid — or would have paid — around \$15,000 annually in tuition; Stridiron was closer to \$25,000.

Neither of those estimates include contributions from FAFSA, which would be paid to the school on top of each student athlete's own tuition payment.

Coaches do not factor in how much potential student athletes might pay in tuition, though, according to baseball head coach Loren Torres.

"At this level, there are no incentives like that," Torres said, echoing that neither he, nor his assistant coaches, are paid any sort of commission for recruiting. "There's no image and likeness. There's no big contractors . . . It's [more] like a professor or a staff member."

Coaches do have a recruiting quota, but Torres said it is based on how many

seniors on the team graduate. He clarified that there is no financial incentive — for either the coaches or the baseball program at large — to hit that quota.

Torres and his coaching staff recruit both nationally and internationally, with contacts as far away as South America and, domestically, as far west as California. Still, Torres estimated that over a third of his players hail from western Pennsylvania.

"We really cast a wide net; turn every stone and make sure that when the bell rings, we have the substance."

Loren Torres
Baseball coach

That strategy seems to be working, as the men's baseball team went all the way to win the MEC conference championship last season.

Torres is a full-time staff member, while most of his assistant coaches are paid "small" stipends for their efforts. Torres commended his assistant coaches, adding that many of them only coach on the side and have full-time jobs outside of their work for Point Park.

Torres said while recruiting, coaches don't usually strongly consider a player's stats, and getting a student athlete onto the varsity team is a universal goal.

"We'll give [them] an opportunity to come try," he

said, "and we won't cut anyone."

Swain echoed this sentiment, and said athletes are recruited based on their ability to play their sport.

"We're recruiting athletes to boost enrollment," Swain said. "You can't recruit all superstars."

"You recruit a fair number of athletes to it. And also you're recruiting athletes that are — let's be blunt — willing to come to Point Park."

Many players that end up on DV, like Jalen Dunn, are dedicated enough to give the varsity jump a shot.

Dunn, a graduate student and guard, has played for the men's DV basketball team since he first arrived at Point Park in the fall 2020 season.

Determined to play basketball at the collegiate level, Dunn said he "cried like a baby" when he was invited to play for the men's basketball team on a scholarship. He added that coaches were clear he'd be on the DV squad.

"I was truly blessed," Dunn said, "because coming out of high school, Point Park gave me the best chances — academically and athletically."

His never-give-up attitude has driven him to continue to strive to get moved up on the team.

Despite COVID shutdowns, a torn ACL, and playing under three different coaches, Dunn said he still hopes to have a shot at varsity.

"Basketball's a game of runs," Dunn said. "You gotta be ready for what life throws at you."

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Chris Denver | For The Globe

Point Park women's basketball takes on Maryland on Oct. 30.



Chris Denver | For The Globe

Coach David Scarborough applauds Point Park women's basketball vs. Maryland.

Veteran player posts a career game in tight loss on the road

Brynn Rees
Sports Editor

Despite a career-high Pioneer performance, Point Park men's basketball fell on the road to Tiffin, 84-77, on Sunday at the Gillmor Student Center in Tiffin, Oh.

Senior captain Aidan Anderson led all scorers with a career-high 28 points, recording seven in the first half and tallying an impressive 21 in the second.

"Really dialing in on film – studying what the defense is running and also understanding the sets they like to run [and] what actions they're looking for – is what really helped me," Anderson said. "My teammates played a big part in being able to find me and set up open shots."

The teams came to a tie with 18:16 remaining in the game, only for the Dragons to score six-straight points in the paint for a steady single-digit lead through the remainder of regulation.

While Anderson's standout performance kept Point Park within striking distance, Tiffin's dominance in the paint and frequent trips to the free-throw line secured the Dragons' victory.

The Pioneers combined for 25 fouls, sending Tiffin to the line 19 times to score a pivotal 28 points.

"We were much more aggressive defensively, but I still thought we were just not quite as smart as we could have been, and that we got a little too close," coach Ryan Grandits said.

On the other end of the court, the Pioneers showcased a determined offense after halftime, scoring 45 points and shooting an improved 61% from the field. The Dragons



Brynn Rees | The Globe

Aidan Anderson shoots a mid-range jumper vs. Tiffin on Sunday in Tiffin, Oh.

recorded 47 points in the second half with 52% success from the field.

"That was the hardest we played all year," Grandits said. "So it's definitely something we've been getting better at."

Top Point Park scorers include sophomore Grant Welch and senior Jaylen Stewart, contributing 15 and 10 points, respectively.

This season marks a new era for Point Park basketball under first-year head coach Grandits, who arrived after eight seasons as lead assistant coach at Daemen University, one of the nation's highest-ranked Division II men's

basketball teams. Grandits is joined by an entirely new staff, including long-time colleague Joe Long as an assistant coach.

"I trust [Grandits'] game plan every time I step on the floor, and [I'm] always looking for leadership or what to do when certain situations occur, and he delivers," Anderson said.

To add to the new coaching staff, Point Park welcomes 14 newcomers to the team to join four returning teammates in Anderson, junior captain Kaden Warner, senior Rob Keys and graduate student Brendan Williams.

"I feel like we are progressing as a team as the games go on," Anderson said. "We are still freshly a new team, with only 4 returners, we're still trying to build that chemistry as much as possible."

The team voted Anderson, Warner and senior transfer Greg Williams as team captains.

"[Anderson's] very steady," Grandits said. "You kind of know what you're getting with Aiden every single day. And he's more of a lead-by-example kind of guy."

No players remain from the 2023-24 campaign

that led to a River States Conference title in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), before the university transitioned to NCAA Division II athletics in the Mountain East Conference in 2024-25.

The Pioneers concluded their inaugural MEC season with an overall record of 11-19 and a conference record of 4-16, advancing to the MEC Quarterfinals. Warner led the team in scoring last season with 398 points, averaging 14.2 points per game.

"Having a full year of experience against conference opponents will be a huge advantage," Anderson said. "We now understand the pace, physicality, and styles of play that different teams bring, which allows us to prepare more."

The team opens this season 0-3 after three consecutive losses against non-conference Division II opponents.

"We've been really trying to figure out how to put the pieces together, kind of on the fly," Grandits said. "So we've definitely been focusing more on just playing with more intensity, playing harder, especially defensively."

The MEC Preseason Poll projected Point Park in the 10th-place spot out of 11 teams, voted by the conference's 11 head coaches.

Point Park kicks off MEC play this evening versus Wheeling on the road. The team's home opener is on Saturday, Dec. 13, against Davis and Elkins at 4 p.m. in the CCAC-Allegheeny Gym.

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Brynn Rees | The Globe

Coach Ryan Grandits watches the game unfold versus Tiffin on Sunday, Nov. 30.



Brynn Rees | The Globe

Anderson awaits a free throw at the Gillmore Center in Tiffin, Oh.



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Aidan Anderson shoots a free throw in the second half.



Brynn Rees | The Globe

Transfer Emeka Anwah cheers on the Pioneers from the bench vs. Tiffin on Sunday.