



Lawrence Hall repairs continue Reimbursement checks in the works, Paylo says

Carson Folio
Editor-in-Chief

Construction is ongoing nearly a month after 21 students were displaced and several floors of Lawrence Hall were flooded due to a water reservoir tank failing.

Every student who was staying at the Joinery Hotel has been moved back into on-campus housing, according to several students interviewed. Some are staying in their original dorms, while others have been moved into other rooms in Lawrence Hall or other on-campus housing options such as the Boulevard Apartments.

While construction continues, there has been no indication as to when reimbursements may start. Dean of Student Life Michael Gieseke said in an SGA meeting that payouts may take longer than construction efforts to fix the dorms.

Liz McKinney, a first-year theatre production student who lives on the 17th floor, said she has seen students moving back into their dorms and people moving furniture into triple rooms on her floor. Additionally, she said she hasn't heard any additional



Hannah Cudzil | Courtesy

The 18th floor of Lawrence Hall had its floor torn out and covered up after a water reservoir failure flooded the floor.

construction going on at any time of the day.

Several dorm floors, including the 18th floor and the 20th floor, had the carpets covered with material or were

removed after flooding caused water to puddle in the hallway.

Every student interviewed said communication from Residence Life has ranged from little to non-existent. Maria

Ochoa, director of Residence Life, did not respond to a request for comment. Nobody else from Residence Life was available for comment.

Hannah Cudzil, a sophomore psychology student on the 18th floor who was temporarily displaced, said she continues to be left in the dark by Residence Life.

"I've contacted everyone I could," Cudzil said. "I sent out hundreds of emails and as far as Student Life, that is one of the departments that has not gotten back to me."

Cudzil said other departments beyond Residence Life have been helpful, such as the academic coaching staff, the University Advising Center (UAC) and Director of Student Success Natty Good assisting her with crafting an email listing all the goods damaged in her room and asking about when reimbursement might happen.

Dean of Student Affairs Keith Paylo said he doesn't have a definite timeline for reimbursement yet but reassured that the process is ongoing and the university is working with each individual student to find out what's needed and to work as quickly as possible.

But despite the professional help with writing the email and acting as an outlet for Cudzil to voice her concerns, it was not enough to get Residence Life to respond. Cudzil said this was a surprise to the UAC.

One point of concern for Cudzil was getting her medicine reimbursed. She is immunocompromised and had to throw away emergency medicine based on the advice of Campus Nurse Rebecca Harper, as it was submerged during the flood. Cudzil had to pay for additional medicine out of pocket, which she said was "very expensive."

Beyond doing work on the hallway floor of the 18th floor, Cudzil said she hasn't seen any additional construction happen and noticed the triple room on her floor, which was destroyed by the flood, still has caution tape around the door to the dorm. Beyond this, it's unclear how many other students have been unable to return to their original Lawrence Hall dorm rooms.

As far as Cudzil's room, she said maintenance put big fans in her dorm room to dry up the wet carpet and sprayed

see **REPAIR**, page 2



Thomas Speranza | The Globe

Turnout was sparse for an anti-ICE rally in Schenley Plaza last Friday, Feb. 19.

Oakland students walk-out against DHS recruiting ad, CMU Palantir partnership

Cilia Catello
News Editor

A group of about 20 University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University students gathered in Schenley Plaza this Friday to protest U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Virtual Career Expo events posted to Pitt's Career Central event calendar.

The protest followed a student walkout demonstration at Pitt earlier in the day, and another protest at Carnegie Mellon opposed to the university's decision to host Palantir Technologies, a data analytics and AI conglomerate giant.

Pitt has since removed the posts advertising the events and clarified they were posted by CBP to Handshake, a

third-party career network and job search platform not directly affiliated with the university.

Despite the protests, Carnegie Mellon doubled down on their choice, hosting Palantir Friday.

"Palantir is trying to recruit students," Ilyas Khan, a Carnegie Mellon student said. "Palantir is a company that uses AI surveillance in order to thought-crime migrants and people of color in order to put them in detention camps."

Khan said the protest aims to call on both university presidents, Farnam Jahanian of CMU and Joan Gabel of Pitt, to end ICE threats to their campuses and take proactive steps to protect immigrant students.

"They've sort of skirted around it," Khan said. "We want real, concrete action from the university administrations to prevent ICE raids and potential CBP actions."

Khan said he predicts ICE activity will increase in the city in coming weeks, citing recent ICE arrests as close to Oakland as Wilkingsburg.

Pitt student protester Mo Rivera said the modest turnout can be attributed to the protest being announced with short notice, but said it's still emblematic of a growing country-wide consensus on ICE.

"The whole nation seems to be taking to decentralized organization, which I think speaks to the power of the

see **WALK-OUT**, page 2

SGA talks rising cyberbullying, club name changes

Lilliana Fonzo
Staff Writer

SGA's weekly meeting looked a bit different as it met in the new community outreach office in the Green Building, which holds the Center for Civic Engagement and the Center for Experiential Narrative Technology.

The first major item discussed was the finalization of the election board. Chief of Staff Elliott Geary said the elections for the board are being tallied by three student leaders, who work outside SGA to ensure fairness. The board voted to finalize.

Parliamentarian Sienna Wraith brought up the name change for Future Educators of America. Its parent organization is being re-named to the Pennsylvania State Educators, so Point

Park's chapter also has to change its name to align with the name change. The change was approved without discussion.

Vice President Madigan Balfe brought up the topic of cyberbullying, citing events such as Turning Point USA being on campus and "PPU Haters Anonymous."

Director of Downtown Engagement Devin Frank said students can post their opinions about someone or something to an extent. But he also said the comments have gone too far, especially with the Turning Point USA X account, where there are thousands of hate comments, mainly from adults targeting students.

Frank also talked about "PPU Haters Anonymous," where students can give unsubstantiated claims about

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Ayden Miller | The Globe

SGA's executive cabinet discusses this week's business.

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Oakland students say ICE is a ‘huge risk’



Students from Oakland universities gather to protest ICE during a walk-out on Friday, Feb. 19. *Thomas Speranza | The Globe*

from WALK-OUT, page 1

sentiment and the power behind the movement,” Rivera said. “We don’t need a leader if everyone feels the same.”

In May last year, the New York Times reported President Donald Trump partnered with Palantir, giving \$113 million in federal government spending to track data of people in the U.S., including their bank account numbers, figures on student debt, medical claims and disability status.

According to the American Immigration Council website, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has partnered with Palantir “to use artificial intelligence and data mining to identify, track, and deport suspected noncitizens.”

Khan said he worries Pitt and Carnegie Mellon will be targets.

As of the 2023-24 academic year, Pitt reported 3,200 international students, and Carnegie Mellon reported nearly 10,000.

“We have so many folks of color here at these universities that [ICE activity near campus] is a huge risk for them,” Khan said. “It’s terrifying but that’s the reality for a lot of us and we don’t want to have to live that way.”

Khan said that despite being a natural-born citizen, he still carries his passport everywhere he goes.

Cilia Catello
crcatel@pointpark.edu

Senators discuss D.C. trip, multicultural fest

from SGA, page 1

others, because submissions and the account ownership are anonymous.

Graphic Design Coordinator Liv Curti said social media apps like Instagram have largely contributed to cyberbullying, since most of it isn’t coming from Yik Yak anymore, which is also anonymous. Curti also encouraged students not to let people take private issues to social media, as they create more problems for themselves and others.

The “PPU Haters Anonymous” account was taken down once, brought back, then taken down again at least twice. The submission links to add comments associated with it were deleted as well.

Senators discussed the fact that the school hasn’t responded yet to these cyberbullying issues. Still, since Turning Point USA was technically on public property, the university can do nothing about issues occurring outside campus property.

Senators discussed starting a project with the Counseling Center to gather mental health resources helpful for students who are being targeted by cyberbullying.

Before the meeting ended, SGA discussed the upcoming Washington D.C. trip, during which SGA members and any students who want to go can visit D.C. for a day.

Students can make a \$10 down payment to reserve their seat and get on a rented bus. The trip is on March 20, and the bus will leave at 6:15 a.m.

The last item was the Multicultural Festival, happening on Feb. 27 at Lawrence Hall 200. There will be many activities including crafts, Mexican bingo, soul food, Chinese food and more. It is free and open to any student.

The next SGA meeting will be held on March 2 at 3:15 p.m. in the PCRC.

Lilliana Fonzo
lilliana.fonzo@pointpark.edu



Hannah Cudzil | Courtesy

Cudzil’s prescription medication sits ruined from last month’s flood.

Student: ‘I don’t think I’m ever going to live here again’

from REPAIR, page 1

an unknown substance in containers that looked like weed killer bottles into the air while she was staying at the Joinery Hotel. She said she suspects it’s for mold remediation, but could not confirm this.

After these remediation efforts, Cudzil and other students were moved back into their dorms.

But Cudzil said she has concerns about the spray used in her dorm room, mostly due to her pre-existing conditions which make her lungs sensitive.

Additionally, she still questions whether the water that flooded dorms was safe despite assertions that it was, since Cudzil said students in Lawrence Hall are told to bring Brita filters when moving in.

This recommendation is not in the housing contract, which Cudzil acknowledged. But she said it’s still suspicious that the water is considered fine while these recommendations are being made.

“Why would I use [the water] for a humidifier?” Cudzil said. “I’m wondering what is actually safe and not because my health has taken a toll and I need to get better. I don’t know what’s right for me

and what’s wrong.”

Because of the communication problems, worries of flooding and various room issues, Cudzil said she’s tired of it and wishes her college experience was better.

“I don’t think I’m ever going to live here again,” Cudzil said. “I can’t do this. At least an apology, put a band-aid on my mental health.”

Student Life apologized for the flooding situation in the email sent to students in the building right after it happened. But Cudzil still decries the continued lack of communication, especially since she said other students were not aware of the flooding until word spread on campus.

Despite these problems, Cudzil said she’s still grateful for those at the university who have helped her, including those at the University Counseling Center helping her through her concerns.

The Globe is waiting to hear back from Chris Hill, vice president of operations. This article will be updated online to reflect his comment once provided.

Carson Folio
cafolio@pointpark.edu



Carson Folio | The Globe

The Globe’s CRIME REPORT

No crimes reported throughout the week

Carson Folio
Editor-in-Chief

Despite warmer weather, Chief of Police Jeffrey Besong said there were no new crimes to report for the week of Feb. 17 to Feb. 23.

In past meetings, Besong said colder weather typically leads to less reported crime on campus.

The number of calls for service, such as lockouts, was not reported. If you need help, public safety’s phone number is 412-392-3960.

Carson Folio
cafolio@pointpark.edu

CORRECTIONS:

The Globe printed a couple of errors in last week’s issue. “The Globe’s Point: Telling stories beyond just Point Park,” included the previously week’s column’s first paragraph at its beginning, which was left in error.

Additionally, the story “Man found stabbed several times in Market Square” was wrongly attributed to Gavin Petrone in its credit line. The story was written by Carson Folio.

The Globe deeply regrets these and previous errors this semester. We’ve updated online versions of each respective article, and hope readers will find no issues in this week’s issue.

‘oneBURGH’ aims to make news more digestible with new TV show

Gavin Petrone
Editor-elect

It’s well known that, thanks to streaming, traditional broadcast TV is on the decline.

Cable and broadcast TV each take up a little over 20% of television viewing respectively, with the majority 49% going to streaming, according to Nielsen, an audience analytics firm.

But that’s not stopping oneBURGH.

Pittsburgh’s self-proclaimed “largest social media network,” owned and operated by Brian Carothers of Moon Township, launched “oneBURGH Tonight” a couple of weeks ago. It airs every Saturday at 11 p.m. on 22 The Point.

Carothers, a class of 2002 Point Park alum, said his aim with launching the new late-night effort was both to build oneBURGH’s brand and to keep it “dynamic.”

“Television still matters, in theory,” Carothers said. “... Everyone has a podcast, but we wanted to make the jump to say this is a legitimate TV show; it airs on television.”

And it’s far from the first new oneBURGH initiative to be borne from Carother’s mind.

He bought oneBURGH off of a friend in 2022 with the idea of morphing it into Pittsburgh’s own sort of “Drudge Report,” resharing local stories and statements to the page’s then-over 150,000 followers.

When that didn’t see much initial success, Carothers said he got more personal with his uploads.

“It wasn’t until I started digging in to try to make an original voice for it that I started seeing it double in numbers,” Carothers said.

That “original voice” is his own, which he says “oneBURGH members” — his audience of now over 450,000 — often say reads like a text message or coffee shop conversation.

And with the page churning out five to six uploads per day, on top of planning late night segments, oneBURGH involves a lot of writing.

“I like to write,” Carothers, the “Yinzer-in-Chief,” said, “And so the performance is fun, of course, but there’s something to me that is fascinating and interesting to try to find words that make sense and come together in a clever way.”

The page, which Carothers runs with the help of “funny Pittsburgh



oneBURGH | Courtesy



oneBURGH | Courtesy

Brian Carothers, oneBURGH’s “Yinzer-in-Chief,” on the page’s new late-night TV show last Saturday, Feb. 21.

people,” has coined famous local phrases such as “Code 57,” referring to a brand of ketchup that is not Heinz; “Drivin’ like a goof,” usually describing some sort of car crash, often a car crashed into a storefront; and “CO’OC,” a nickname for Mayor Corey O’Connor.

Carothers, who interned with David Letterman through Point Park and worked in late-night TV in his early career, says he means everything in good fun, and that he prefers to discuss current events both satirically and realistically.

“I just feel like a lot of things are spoon-fed,” Carothers said, “or not followed-up on that are celebrated somehow in Pittsburgh. And it’s like, wait a second, this is the exact opposite of something that should be celebrated.”

Last March, he and the gang at oneBurgh particularly took issue with Pittsburgh’s problem with potholes.

Dressed as an anthropomorphic teddy bear named “Beary,” Carothers and the group drove around the greater-Pittsburgh area measuring potholes with

Pittsburgh-ish things.

One pothole was “12x10” Turner’s Iced Tea cartons. Another fit four pots of “Grandma Beary’s haluski,” without being close to filled.

But while oneBURGH got flack for wasting food, and made a \$500 donation to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank as a result, some potholes also got filled.

Carothers credits that to his effort to make oneBURGH’s content something “everyone can digest.”

“It’s like, okay, there was a mascot bear, I got your attention, fine,” Carothers said, “But he filled it with 78 cartons of Turner’s Iced Tea. That’s also hilarious, and it’s also Pittsburgh, but that’s a big f—ing pothole that probably needs to be addressed.”

Many other problems, from the Pirates’ losing streak, to

local business closures, are also frequently addressed by oneBURGH. But the page, without any holier-than-thou sentiment, does so in a way that isn’t polarizing.

Carothers said oneBURGH is bipartisan “by design,” and tries to praise and criticize each side of any given disagreement equally.

“I think that people respond first to pleasure,” Carothers said. “And if you can make them laugh — or kind of like take down their wall of what they politically or culturally think of something — just by being absurd, it maybe opens up the conversation more.”

With two of the city’s flagship papers shutting down, Carothers said oneBURGH members often say they only get their news through oneBURGH; he called that “scary.”

Carothers said he isn’t completely sure if oneBURGH will be able to fill the reporting gap left behind by the Post-Gazette and City Paper.

But he does think, because all of oneBURGH’s content is offered completely free-of-charge, that the page contributed in some way to the Post-Gazette’s closure.

“No one wants to pay to know what’s going on,” Carothers said.

Regardless of its shifting multimedia content, oneBURGH doesn’t seem to be going anywhere anytime soon. And it’s not leaving the city either, of course.

“Everything oneBURGH does is an experiment,” Carothers said, “We’re not locked into anything... The only thing we’re locked in on is being Pittsburgh.”

Gavin Petrone
gmpetro@pointpark.edu



oneBURGH | Courtesy

“Beary H. Bonds,” oneBURGH’s signature mascot, pours his grandma’s haluski into a pothole in South Park in March 2025.



oneBURGH | Courtesy

“Beary” and his girlfriend “Livvy Bear,” a local gymnast, in May 2025.

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‘Nirvanna the Band the Show the Movie’ is a hilarious and touching ode to friendship

Elle Murphy
Staff Writer

Film Review

In 2007, longtime friends Matt Johnson and Jay McCarrol created and starred in a comedy web series called “Nirvanna the Band the Show.” This web series lasted until 2009. From 2017-2018, the series returned with two new seasons, this time airing on television through Viceland. Now after eight years, this series has returned — this time in movie form.

The original “Nirvanna the Band the Show” series followed a fictional band named Nirvanna the Band, with no relation to the legendary grunge band you may be thinking of. The band consists of Matt and Jay who, much like Matt Johnson and Jay McCarrol who play them, are longtime friends and creative partners. Every episode of the series focuses on a new hairbrained scheme by Matt and Jay to book a show at a real-life music venue called the Rivoli.

“Nirvanna the Band the Show the Movie,” written by Johnson and McCarrol and directed by Johnson, follows that same basic premise. The film starts at the beginning

of yet another elaborate plan by Matt and Jay, except this time the plan escalates into something even crazier than their plans ever have before: they accidentally time-travel back to 2008.

This movie’s name may come across as intimidating to those unfamiliar with the series, but the film is written in a way that no prior knowledge is required to enjoy it.

This film is primarily a comedy, and it succeeds in that regard with flying colors. Even though there were only 15 people in the theater, the crowd’s laughter matched what would be expected for at least twice as many people.

This movie has an absurdist sense of humor, with many comedic moments that take the viewer by surprise. Every joke feels so original and genuine. The jokes never feel like they’re pandering to what they think their audience’s sense of humor will be, like many modern comedies do. This truly is the embodiment of the sense of humor of Johnson and McCarrol.

This movie is also never scared of being dumb. It embraces the stupidity of its sense of humor, which is perfect because purposefully dumb jokes and absurd jokes go hand in hand.

This film’s stakes are much higher than they are

in the series it is based on, yet the movie still allows for random off-topic bits. For example, there is a scene in this film’s third act involving Matt singing that was absolutely hilarious, and the fact that the scene felt so disconnected from the rest of the movie added to its humor and charm, showing how the childlike nature of these characters persists through times of crisis.

Much of this movie’s filming was done in public, with the footage capturing real civilians reacting to Matt and Jay’s antics. With so much of the production being done in public settings, it really makes you wonder how they pulled off certain scenes and stunts, but that feeling of awe and wonder those moments create makes them so much funnier. You can tell the production was going to such great lengths for the silliest, dumbest jokes imaginable.

Johnson’s direction has a unique visual style indicative of the way the series was filmed. It is filmed in a handheld style, as if there is one guy with a camera following Matt and Jay around the entire time. Against all logic, this is shown to be the case within the universe of the film, making this movie a surreal type of mockumentary. This mysterious cameraman is played by the film’s

actual cinematographer, Jared Raab.

This film utilized a lot of interesting ideas when it came to the shooting process, as Johnson had to imagine how these scenes would have to be filmed in-universe to comply with its bizarre unexplained meta-aspect. It makes for some fascinating, delightful filmmaking.

This idea that there truly is a guy chasing these goofballs around, filming them in-universe as they engage in these insane hijinks, is another element of this movie that elevates its comedy.

Matt Johnson and Jay McCarrol both give powerhouse comedic performances. They bring such energy to these roles, injecting the already incredible comedic writing with even more humor, while also bringing a level of heart and sentimentality that suits these roles perfectly. Specifically, McCarrol’s performance was touching throughout. The acting is just another one of the film’s numerous moving parts that are finely crafted to work in tandem, elevating it from a funny movie to one of the funniest movies ever. Everything described here may just sound like total absurdist comedy, but there is a beautiful beating heart to this film — the friendship of Matt and Jay.

The real-life Matt and Jay go back a long time. They met back in high school and quickly began making stuff with each other. Much like their fictional counterparts portrayed in this movie, they have been making their art together in the same goofy ways they always have been, which is lovingly emphasized by the characters traveling back to a time when the original web series was in production.

With its parallels between the relationship of the real-life Matt and Jay and that of their fictional counterparts, this movie is a tribute to their long-term collaboration and friendship, which culminates in a tear-jerkingly beautiful finale.

This film is comparable to two friends clinking their glasses together and saying “A toast to our friendship.” It’s a celebration of the wacky, absurd, joyous creations that have sprouted from the friendship of Matt Johnson and Jay McCarrol. When a film has a thematic core so heartfelt and poignant alongside being absolutely hilarious, what more could you want out of a movie?

Elle Murphy
globe@pointpark.edu

BISON BOOK REVIEW

Est.

2025



‘Violet Thistlewaite Is Not a Villain Anymore’ offers cozy atmosphere, meaningful themes

Peyton Martin
Features and A&E Editor

“Violet Thistlewaite Is Not a Villain Anymore,” by Emily Krempholtz, is a cozy romance that focuses on healing and found family with a fantasy twist. The story follows Violet Thistlewaite as she attempts to leave the thorns of her past behind her, but learning to be good is especially hard for the girl once known as the infamous Thornwitch.

For someone who usually reads high stakes fantasy, this book was the perfect story that I didn’t know I needed. It had so many great attributes and themes.

To start off, the themes of healing and starting over were so wonderfully woven throughout the pages. Not only did the story follow Violet as she went on her own healing journey, but it also talked about many other characters that had gone through similar things.

Through the many characters, it truly shows how hard it can be to start over at any point in life, and how important it is to rely



Peyton Martin | The Globe

The cover of “Violet Thistlewaite Is Not a Villain Anymore” by Emily Krempholtz.

on the people around you. For example, at the start of the book Violet was really struggling with the idea of being good, but as she began to rely more on the

people around her, it slowly became like second nature for her.

The way the community accepted her from the beginning was also so important

to the story, especially Violet’s journey to being good. Due to many of the villagers being so kind to her early on, it truly kept Violet on her path to being good. For example, when one of the villagers found her having a panic attack, they supported her in the way she needed in the moment. The overall connections in the community were just amazing to see because they opened their home and hearts to an outsider without much of a second thought.

This story also heavily reminded me of “The Spellshop” by Sarah Beth Durst. Both of the books had such cozy fantasy vibes and were both heavily rooted in building found families and community. Additionally, the plants had vastly different personalities and abilities. For example, Caz from “The Spellshop” is a sentient spider plant that can talk and get around as if he were human, despite him being a plant.

Bartleby from “Violet

Thistlewaite Is Not a Villain Anymore” is a houseplant that was once a person. However, the only thing Bartleby can do is use his vines to steal things and attempt to murder people, leaving Violet to constantly disarm him.

Both characters add some comedic relief, but in their own ways. The books are similar, but there are also so many differences that make both of them amazing. For example, both books have different magic systems. In “The Spellshop,” most magic is reliant on the use of spellbooks, while in “Violet Thistlewaite Is Not a Villain Anymore,” magic comes from within the characters themselves.

They both are totally worth the read if you are looking for a cozy romance. “Violet Thistlewaite Is Not a Villain Anymore,” is truly an amazing story with cozy vibes and important themes.

Peyton Martin
psmarti@pointpark.edu

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Campus community does exist – you proved it

It is super easy to say that Point Park's students are not united.

People of different majors might not interact much without conscious effort; some believe that COPA students don't have the same experience as students in other majors; and there's an ever-present worry of people forming cliques that have no permission of entry.

These are problems that are true at almost any college or university, especially one the size of ours. But it is inaccurate to try and imply that the people in this campus community do not have each other's backs and want to constantly argue.

Our student body proved that toward the end of last week.

Someone with more free time than morals decided it was a good idea to create an Instagram account solely dedicated to posting hate comments about individuals, groups, clubs and more. This account, "ppuhatersanonymous," would post unverified submissions anybody could submit onto a Google form and upload them for anybody on the platform to see.

There is no reason to have an account like this. Simply saying you do not like someone is a lot different than accusing them of heinous things, subsequently handing them a slam-dunk libel suit.

And yet, the Point Park community persisted. Instead of welcoming this account with open arms and participating in harassment of various individuals for no reason, the backlash against this account was swift by the second post. At first, the account seemed cheesy at worst, but the tone changed by then. So too did the campus community's response.

Those who commented on behalf of others denying various unverified serious allegations and reported the Instagram account and its companion Google form did the right thing. Watching students in various graduating classes call the person running the account out for attempting to justify its existence after already being banned twice was a

sight to behold.

Does it matter who ran the account? Not really. At the end of the day, they are likely a young person who will grow to regret giving hateful people a platform, see the error in their ways and do better in life to make up for it. Even if they don't, that's on them.

The Globe is not asking for this person to be unmasked. Opening yet another person to harassment does not solve the problem they caused and would take away from this well-handled moment.

"There is no reason to have an account like [Haters Anonymous]."

The Globe Editorial Staff, 2025-2026

Despite what they and some would post on the account's submission link, this campus is united and was not brought down by one anonymous Instagram account with a questionable purpose. The swift backlash, people banding together to take the page down, and two student-run Point Park-centric accounts, "PPU VENOM" and "ppumissedconnections" both condemning the account proves such.

If there's any lesson to be learned, it's that harassing people for no reason and even just reposting false claims creates real harm, even if you think it's necessary to "air things out." If people have problems with each other, it's best to work them out or talk things through like the grown adults we all are.

The Globe
globe@pointpark.edu



Hot Tea with Z

Handling criticism

Zarrick Plizga
Staff Writer

How do I handle criticism? What is the difference between constructive and nonconstructive criticism? How can someone create something rooted in hate? How can I deal with rumors being spread about me? How do I handle someone harassing me? How do I handle fear? Is it possible to help someone from an uncontrollable situation?

Good questions. It is sad that this week's questions stem from a place of hate, but the world has been full of a lot of hate lately. I personally have faced hate myself from someone who I don't know in my submission form. I know the messages can be hurtful, but you can not take the opinions of others to heart. Often, people who do not really know you are the ones to drag your name through the mud. However, those who hurt others often hurt themselves, and I may not know what I did to hurt this anonymous person. Nevertheless, I am sorry my actions led to someone's pain.

Handling criticism can be hard, but in an arts school it is important to remember most of the valid, constructive criticism on your work is meant to push you harder to do the best you can. If you do not feel challenged, then you are not going to improve. Differentiating between both is pretty simple: If something is being said about something you can change or grow in, then it's constructive. But if it is talking about things you cannot change, then it's not constructive.

A person who says something hateful is often a person who is affected by hate themselves. I know it

is hard to deal with hateful things being put into the world about you, but the most important thing is to know that the people you love know the truth. Unfortunately, no matter who you are, people will spread lies about you, and it's important to focus on the truth. If you waste too much energy trying to debunk an obvious lie, the more people may end up believing the lie.

Harassment can be bad. Sometimes it is meaningless, but at other times it can be beyond dangerous. I have dealt with and am dealing with harassment and each time I have handled it differently. One thing I have always made sure to do is to inform someone in a position of power; it's best not to deal with things alone.

Fear is something innate in the human body. It's a way of helping keep us safe. The only thing I know about fear is that sometimes you have to face it and prove you are stronger than it.

Helping the people you love is one of the most common desires, but in a situation where you have no control it can be extremely hard. You cannot let the pain they are feeling take too much of a toll on you, otherwise you will not be able to help. In times like these, one of the best things you can do for someone is to be there for them. Just be an ear to listen to and a hand to hold. Sometimes, all people need is empathy.

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

Zarrick Plizga
zdplizg@pointpark.edu

COPA CORNER

Everything Olympian Alysa Liu has taught artists

Melissa Garlock
Staff Writer

Whether you've been keeping up with the 2026 Winter Olympics or not, chances are the standout figure skaters have already glided across your feed. A standout performer is Team USA's Alysa Liu. At 20 years old, she is the 2026 Winter Olympic champion in both women's singles and in the team event.

Aside from being the first American woman in 24 years to win a women's singles Olympic title, Liu has gone ultra-viral for numerous reasons. She attracts audiences due to her authenticity and inspirational story.

After becoming the youngest U.S. women's national champion at 13 years old, Alysa Liu retired following the 2022 Winter Olympics at 16 years old, explaining that she felt ready for a life beyond the strict regimens of elite skating. Liu did not have any freedom and lost her love for skating.

Now, after time away from the spotlight, Liu has returned with renewed joy and perspective, proving that stepping back doesn't mean the story is over: sometimes, it's simply an intermission.

Liu has undergone a noticeable transformation from the last Winter Olympics to now. In terms of appearance, she is unapologetically herself

— a rare quality in large-scale competitions. Her hair is dyed with patterns, her teeth are pierced, and she dresses in a style true to her, both on and off the ice.

In interviews, Liu casually and unintentionally offers lines that read inspirationally. She said she won gold because she "connects with everything but is not attached to anything." She also said winning is "just an outcome — it's about the input and the journey," and, "I love struggling, it makes me feel alive."

In just the past few weeks, Liu has gained millions of followers. Fans can't get enough of watching her thrive, hanging on to every word she says.

So, what can artists learn from Alysa Liu's journey?

Performers of all kinds are told that the second we pause, someone else is getting ahead and that, by taking a break, we are giving up. It often feels like we live on a timer, constantly running out of time to fulfill our goals. Meanwhile, this gold medalist decided to step away the moment her craft no longer brought her joy. She gave herself the space for it to return organically, and when it did, she found love for it on her own terms. Now, she is one of the most successful figure skaters in the world.

Success is found when you follow your heart and allow yourself to experience joy. Her

success came not from pressure but from loving what she does and letting that passion lead the way.

From Alysa Liu's journey, we are reminded that stepping away isn't failure and that taking a break is a strategy for success. She said, "Expectations shouldn't hold you back from your passions."

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

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Misinformation is a real issue on campus

Lilliana Fonzo
Staff Writer

In the last two months, there have been numerous major events on campus: the Lawrence Hall flood, Turning Point's return to campus and increased gossip in anonymous Yik Yak conversations. All of these have created confusion and fear among both staff and students, leading to another issue: misinformation.

As someone who has been on Yik Yak since I started here in August, I have begun to notice much more targeted gossip directed at a single person or a group. After Turning Point's appearance on campus, there was discourse on Yik Yak about a protester who was supposedly faking a disability for attention. Other commenters said that wasn't true and they had a disability where they weren't completely non-mobile.

Those comments have since been deleted from the Yik Yak post, but that specific example shows how quickly a false claim about someone can spread and potentially harm them.

Another recent example occurred during the night

of the Lawrence Hall floods on floors 13 through 20. There was a disconnect between students and staff regarding the incident and the subsequent steps taken after the flood, so students used YikYak to share their accounts of what they believed had happened. Some of these claims were so outlandish they were hard to believe, but the rumors still spread anyway. As a result, facts were conflated, and the actual events were exaggerated.

Students were in a panic, and staff were working to address the issue and dispel rumors about the flood. The rise of misinformation, especially when spread anonymously on Yik Yak, has been damaging to students and administrators.

There are two reasons why gossip and misinformation spread so quickly: not enough student-to-administrator contact and no one stopping rumors when they begin.

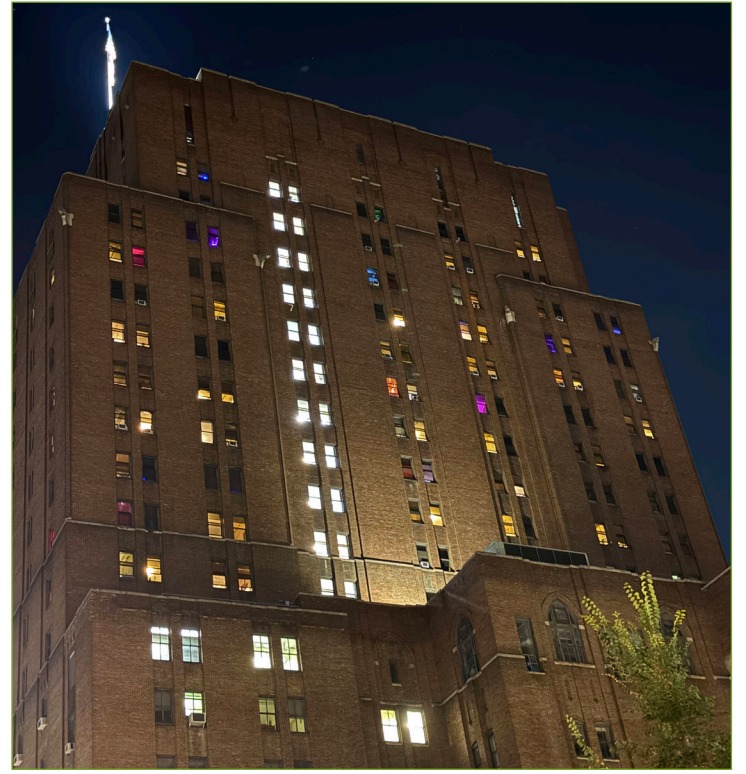
When students aren't hearing directly from staff and administrators, the flow of information gets cut off, leading to events being blown out of proportion and distorting what really

happened. As with the flood, emails were sent out to affected residents, but they were lost along the way and not shared to other students, leaving those not affected to figure out what happened on their own. As a result, the REs had to do twice as much work, trying to calm the students while also fixing the issue at hand. I don't think it's anyone's fault per se, especially in this case, but I do think communication and more frequent updates on issues to the campus community will let this level of panic not happen again.

Another issue I see, especially on Yik Yak, is people starting a rumor or saying something untrue about a person and no one stopping it. Because no one stops the rumor, it grows, and people think what is being said about that person is true.

Sometimes what is being shared is true while people might not want to believe it. But when something isn't true, real people are at the receiving end of lies, and that can hurt them academically and emotionally.

I think we all need to stop and think. Ask yourself: do you know the facts, or are you just



Carson Folio | The Globe

Lawrence Hall at night. Various false claims about last month's flooding made the rounds around campus.

following the crowd because they all say it's true? In events like the flood, if you don't know what's going on or no one is giving you information, don't take to Yik Yak pretending you know what's going on. Ask resident educators (RE) first. If they don't know, go higher: student life, housing

or any administrator in that field. If we stop the spread of misinformation and gossip when it happens, Point Park and its students will benefit greatly.

Lilliana Fonzo
lilliana.fonzo@pointpark.edu

Letter to the Editor: 'A trip to Palestine' provided needed insight into struggle

Kate Daher
Letter to the Editor

David Rullo's letter to The Globe took issue with the student, Grace Cross, who presented an eyewitness account of her trip to Gaza in the Feb. 11, 2026, issue. Rullo argued that her piece needs "fact-checking" and lacks "journalistic integrity." If anyone needs fact-checking or a lesson in journalistic integrity, it's Rullo, senior staff writer for the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, a paper noted for its deeply biased coverage against the Palestinian people.

Given his apparent difficulty accepting Christian sources such as Sabeel and Friends of Sabeel-North America, which sponsored Grace's trip, we can lend Mr. Rullo a hand by checking his "facts" against internationally reputable sources. For instance, Rullo questions Cross's assertion that Israel has committed a genocide against the Palestinian people. In fact, both B'Tselem, (the Israeli human rights organization) and Physicians



Kate Daher | Courtesy
A portrait of the author, Kate Daher.

for Human Rights – Israel, have characterized Israel's attack in Gaza as a genocide. Moreover, Human Rights Watch, Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and Human Security, Amnesty International, Boston University School of Law International Human Rights Clinic, Oxfam, the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry have all concluded

that Israel has committed a genocide in Gaza. Nearly every other international human rights organization has also declared that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

In other words, there is a consensus among reputable international human rights organizations and genocide scholars that Israel is guilty of genocide. Certainly, Rullo's "journalistic responsibilities" would have led him to report on these same conclusions. But alas.

When Grace mentioned that she has a disability and that Israel uses disabilities "as a tactic of oppression," I was reminded that, because of Israel's genocide, Gaza has the highest number of people with disabilities per capita anywhere on the planet. In August 2025, a UN report stated that "Over 83 per cent of people with disabilities in Gaza do not have the assistive devices they need, including wheelchairs, hearing aids and other tools. And for those who do, the batteries that power these devices are in very short supply." You can imagine

it is far worse now, many months later. Perhaps Mr. Rullo would consider citing this information in his next column.

Mr. Rullo's claim that the Palestinian people just happened to migrate to Israel after the UN's 1948 declaration is almost laughable. Not only does he deny Palestinians their history, but he also denies Israeli historians who acknowledge the 1948 ethnic cleansing of Palestinian land.

He and his readers might find it helpful to discuss Ilan Pappé's book, The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine, which details how around 750,000 Palestinians were displaced and 500 villages destroyed to establish the colonial settler project.

Mr. Rullo cites the Anti-Defamation League as a reliable source in its condemnation of Sabeel. But he doesn't explain how the ADL has been debunked as a reliable source because it is used as Israel's attack dog in the USA (Nation, January 31, 2024). And besides, if that weren't egregious enough,

students should consider the ADL's close relationship with ICE, which is used to terrorize immigrant communities in the USA today. The ADL is an organization with a long track record of Islamophobic, anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian, and anti-Jewish bigotry.

Most recently, the ADL defended Elon Musk's Nazi salute, arguing that we should give him «the benefit of the doubt.»

But when all else fails, and the facts don't quite match his snappy narrative, the journalist resorts to ad hominem attacks, such as those he leveled against the Collins family.

Ethical, fact-based journalism is exactly what Grace Cross produced in her piece for the Globe. Mr. Rullo could learn a thing or two from her.

Kate Daher is a founding member of the Pittsburgh Palestine Solidarity Committee.

Kate Daher
katedaher@gmail.com

Letter to the Editor: First hand accounts from a student don't need 'fact-checked'

Emma West Rasmus
Letter to the Editor

I was moved to read the opinion piece "Against all odds: A journey to Palestine" by Grace Cross you ran on Feb. 11, 2026.

Cross wrote elegantly yet precisely about a recent experience traveling to Gaza with a delegation of Christians, organized by the Palestinian Christian organization, Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center.

The piece was firmly --- and exclusively --- rooted in the author's own lived experience. Cross spoke clearly from their own identities and lived, material experiences: as a "Disabled person and wheelchair user," as a Christian and as someone from the U.S., the heart of the colonial project. Cross talked about things they witnessed with their own eyes, ears and heart: she herself was

needlessly held at an Israeli checkpoint; she spoke with Budour Hassan; a writer and researcher with Amnesty International and included direct quotes from that conversation; she witnessed tangible acts of grace and resilience in the generous spreads of food on tables and the charges from her tour guides and local partners to not forget where she had been and what she saw.

Regardless of one's views on the history of the Palestinian struggle or the creation of the state of Israel and all the history that has followed, it is impossible to contest a story shared from lived experience.

A letter to the editor published on Feb. 18, 2026, sought to do just that. Instead of engaging with specific, concrete details Cross had shared with vulnerability, the letter skewed off in abstract directions untethered to

anything Cross had written about. Their piece was a peek into their Christmastime trip to Gaza, meeting with the specific people and organizations they clearly named, through their embodied experience of being a Christian, from the U.S, and a person with disabilities in that specific place.

It borders on offensive to deride that specific, lived experience and claim that it is somehow "incorrect" and should have been "fact-checked."

But perhaps it is an illuminating pivot, a rhetorical technique that is also deployed against Palestinians who are telling their own stories, often live-streaming their own dispossession, only to have political leaders in Israel and the U.S. deny what we can observe on our own screens, asking for a "fact check" from the screaming mouths of those who are being ethnically cleansed.



Emma West Rasmus | Courtesy
A portrait of the author, Emma West Rasmus.

The Palestinian people have long been showing us with a humbling earnestness what they are seeing --- what violence is being done to their own bodies, their animals, their children, their homes and their land. And the colonial voices say to them: "We deny the reality that you are feeling and living and breathing."

Kudos to the author of for putting their faith into practice by opening her heart

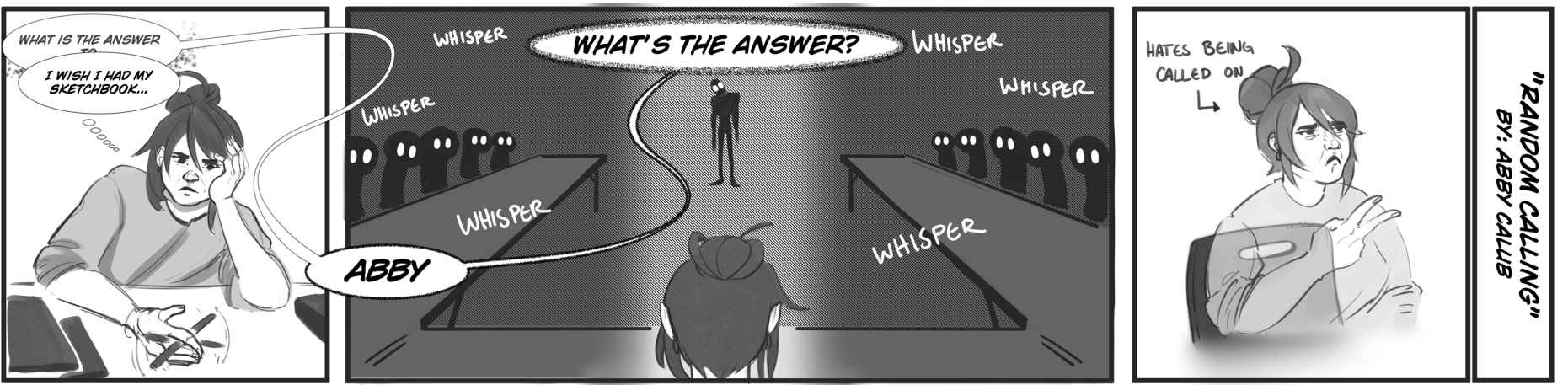
and eyes to the struggle of the Palestinian people. Despite an illogical and factually unsound attack that fails to make a coherent argument or reckon with the direct quotes, witness and lived experience Cross shares, I hope Cross and others continue to trust what they see with their own eyes, hear with their own ears and touch with their own hands.

As the apostles Peter and John replied when authorities ordered them to be silent in the face of injustice, "We cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20). And nor should we.

Emma West Rasmus is a member of the Palestine Justice Network of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and a former participant on a Sabeel delegation to Palestine in February 2024.

Emma West Rasmus
emma.westasmus@gmail.com

'Random Calling' by Abby Calub



Mark Stone | Feb. 28, 1978

Ben Urso moves in for a twisting drive against Robert Morris College at the Civic Arena.

Throughout the years: Feb. 23-28

- 1968: Only one student out of every 15 knew Point Park even had a cross country team at the time.
- 1972: Special Interest Group for Graphics computer science group visits Point Park.
- 1978: Flu infects at least 200 people on campus.
- 1979: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, a precursor to ICE, allegedly was investigating Point Park because of increased international enrollment while also investigating a scandal at Edinboro.
- 1980: Short-lived bowling league begins.
- 1981: Pinball machines in the Point Cafe become available 24 hours a day to play.
- 1982: Jimmy's Post Tavern, which is now Taco Town, voted best bar near campus by The Globe.
- 1985: Picking up packages in the mailroom required ID for the first time.
- 1986: Richard Lancaster, the hopeful candidate for university president, withdraws from the race.
- 1987: Point Park's founder, Dorothy C. Finkelhor, visits campus during her 85th birthday.
- 1988: Women's basketball player arrested for trying to use a stolen credit card at Kaufmann's, which she took from another student according to Pittsburgh police.
- 1989: Thefts in Thayer Hall rise, being blamed both on irresponsible students and people breaking into dorms.
- 1991: New computers installed in hopes of being used for a potential manufacturing studies degree.
- 1992: Student activity fee raised from \$21 to \$25 via vote.

From the archives: 'Rising dorm fees create interest in apartments'

Students wanting to leave on-campus options for their own place away from Point Park's cut of Downtown is not a new phenomenon. Read about where students were going in this February 26, 1980 article (hint: they weren't staying Downtown at all).

Mike McAndrew
1980 Editor-elect

Janet Kerlin
1980 Staff Writer

When Billy Joel crooned "If that's movin' up then I'm movin' out," he wasn't referring to Point Park's rising room and board fees. His words, however, aptly express the reactions of many students to the increased planned for next September.

Room and board fees will rise from \$780 to \$900 per semester for double and triple rooms and from \$880 to \$1000 for a single room. Rather than pay the new rates, many students are investigating alternative housing such as apartments.

According to Housing Director Janet Evans, a decrease in the number of residents next semester won't be a first; there has been a substantial decrease in recent years. In the fall of the 1978-79 academic year there were 373 PPC dormers and in the fall 1979-80 there were only 311. A loss of 62 residents in a year.

Evans sides with some students in the belief that

the dorm increase will have a deleterious affect.

"I think it (the increase) is too high considering the dorms are a mess," Evans said. "I could see paying that much if they were in good condition, but they're not."

"I think it will cause a decrease in dorm students," she added. "They will move out to apartments."

Two roommates, Jackie Strinkghill and Joy Macosta, are planning to do that before next semester rolls around. They plan to move to the Cricklewood Hill Apartments, near Duquesne University, with a third person in May.

Macosta, a sophomore medical technology major, professes to be looking forward to the roominess of an apartment as compared to her small Lawrence Hall room.

"Here, I'd be paying \$225 a month," she figured. "For the apartment I'll only pay \$156, not including food. But I only eat one meal a day anyway and half the time I don't like what I'm eating here."

The apartment Macosta and Strinkghill are interested in is on the fifth floor of Cricklewood. For three people, it will cost \$468 a month, including utilities. Apartments on higher floors of Cricklewood cost more, with 14th floor housing, for example, priced at \$534 a month.

While Cricklewood is very close to downtown Pittsburgh, Oakland and Shadyside apartments seem to be more popular with Point Park students.

Theater majors, especially, prefer the Oakland area because of its proximity to the Pittsburgh Playhouse.

According to Harryette Mullolly of Daniels Realty Co., a two-bedroom apartment for four, in Oakland, rents for \$348 a month including electricity. That divides into \$87 per person.

Of course, each situation varies. Some apartments only include electricity in the rent while others include no utilities at all. Food, phone bills, and transportation expenses are obstacles prospective apartment dwellers should allow space for in their budgeting.

Much of the negative reaction of students to the dorm increases stems from their disbelief the extra money will benefit them in the future. Amongst the reasons stated by Dr. John Hopkins, college president, for raising the tuition and dorm fees was planned renovations of the dormitory areas.

This failed to win the support of Rich Fisher, a resident of the 14th floor of Lawrence Hall. "Every year the tuition goes up and every year the school looks the same," he stated.

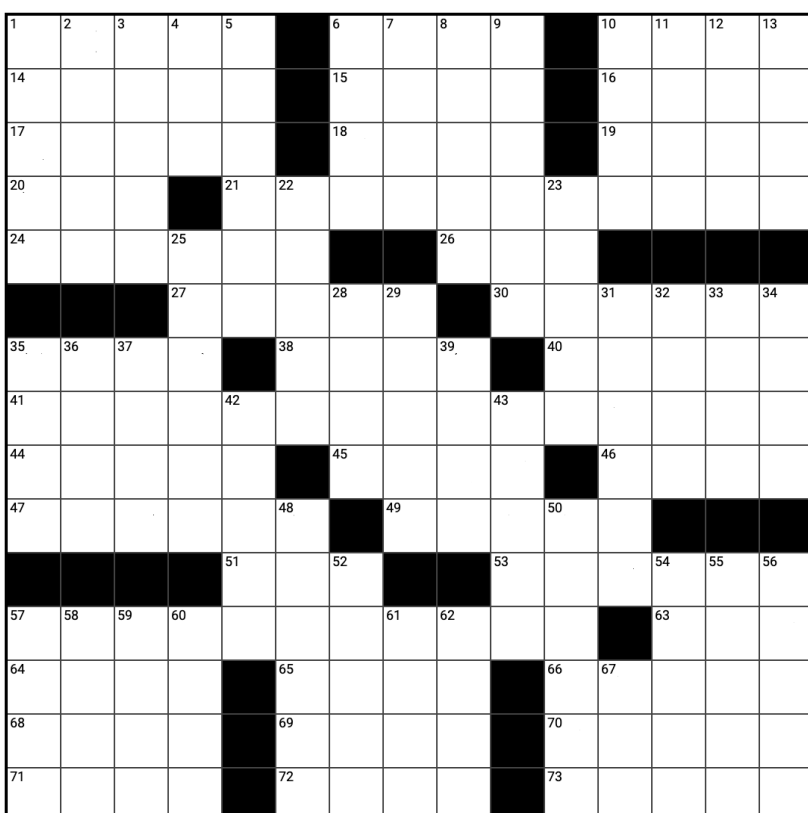
In agreement with Fisher, senior John Visnick commented, "It's outrageous. I could see it if they were going to something with the money, but . . .," he trailed off.

[Editor's Note: The Pittsburgh Playhouse was in Oakland at the time, which is why the area around Pitt's campus was a popular choice for theater majors to stay.]

Point Puzzle: 'Be responsible'

Across

- 1. Skating leaps
- 6. Box office flop
- 10. "Never tell me the _____"
- 14. Opposite of scam
- 15. Sydney Opera House solo
- 16. A house, or a _____
- 17. Feeling super mad
- 18. Perfect scores across the board
- 19. "At Last" singer James
- 20. What one might hear if they tip a cow
- 21. "... according to rumors, that is"
- 24. What happens to products during Christmas in July, according to retailers
- 26. Title in Congress (abbr.)
- 27. Nasty food, usually
- 30. Time in 10 years
- 35. Arizona's northern neighbor
- 38. He had an ark
- 40. A topic of interest could be "your _____ empire," perhaps
- 41. Take it all in
- 44. Smithfield News
- 45. Something to fall into
- 46. Old flames
- 47. The least cooked
- 49. _____ out (not participating)
- 51. Mesozoic or Jurassic
- 53. Breathtaking element?



- 57. Follow-up vaccine
- 63. "Insecure" HBO star Issa
- 64. Negate the effects of
- 65. "_____ Lisa"
- 66. Dry-_____ marker
- 68. Majors in demand
- 69. Not include

- 70. "Heard that!"
- 71. Sprinkler attachment
- 72. "Please _____ five stars if you liked this video"
- 73. Homeowners' documents

Down

- 1. Rental car agency
- 2. Gas used in many headlights
- 3. Popular frozen waffles
- 4. Stretch the truth too much
- 5. Casually walking around
- 6. Flying rats or Dracula's other form, depending on who's asked
- 7. Cookie with vanilla creme
- 8. The reward one gets at the end of eating at Olive Garden
- 9. Criticized severely
- 10. Andre the Giant Has a Posse
- 11. Dippin' _____
- 12. Numbers studied by statisticians
- 13. "Please don't go, please just _____"
- 22. Bridle straps
- 23. Spanish for "January"
- 25. On land
- 28. Insect in a meme that might be captioned "Got any lamps?"
- 29. Search engine which existed before Google and is still popular in Japan
- 31. Arcade _____ Theater

- 32. Visa competitor, for short
- 33. Great _____ (big dog)
- 34. Doctors that might treat hearing problems
- 35. "Do, we, have, a, problem?"
- 36. India's largest business conglomerate
- 37. Declare formally
- 39. Assistance required
- 42. Option to click when you forget your password
- 43. "Same here"
- 48. Involuntary movement
- 50. Make longer
- 52. Fresh orange scent, perhaps
- 54. Shredding cheese yourself
- 55. Made simpler
- 56. Opposite of wants
- 57. Part of a hedge
- 58. Not fooled by
- 59. Commemorative poems
- 60. "_____ Like It Hot"
- 61. Irritable mood
- 62. Usually referred to as a strong word to describe a feeling
- 67. Fish eggs

Scan this for the answers!



Upcoming film marks Pittsburgh's first activation before NFL Draft

Brynn Rees
Sports Editor

Pittsburgh isn't a football town, it's the football town.

This is a central theme of "The Football Town," a 52-minute documentary produced by NFL Films in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Visit Pittsburgh and U.S. Steel.

The film is the first activation leading up to the 2026 NFL Draft in Pittsburgh and will debut to the public on Saturday at the Kamin Science Center's Rangos Giant Cinema. Screenings will run for two months, through draft weekend on April 23-25.

"The Football Town" dives into Western Pennsylvania's deep rooted football heritage and how it connects to the blue-collar culture that Pittsburgh was built on.

Sports analyst and Pittsburgh native Pat McAfee narrates the film, sharing his own insight on the Steel City's legacy of grit and tradition, according to the film's producer.

"This is everything that Pat wanted to say about Pitts-

burgh and Western Pennsylvania, which is a place that he loves very much," NFL Films coordinating producer Neil Zender said.

Zender, a Washington state native, shared the uniqueness of Pittsburgh football culture during a press conference on Monday.

"Football is different here," Zender said. "It means more to people here."

"Football is different here. It means more to people here."

Neil Zender
NFL Films, producer

"The Football Town" marks NFL Films' first immersive format documentary and its first time using a Dolby Atmos sound mix in a film. The film features an original music score from David Robidoux, a nine-time Emmy Award-winning composer.

"One of the reasons the



Robert Fornataro | For The Globe

Dan Rooney III speaks during a press conference on Monday at the Kamin Science Center.

NFL selected Pittsburgh to host the 2026 NFL Draft was the region's deep roots in football," Dan Rooney III, the Steelers' vice president of business development and strategy, said.

The 2026 NFL Draft Football Legacy Committee, co-chaired by Rooney and former Steeler Charlie Batch, aims to honor Pittsburgh's rich football culture and the stars who built it, according to Rooney.

"Western Pa. has much to celebrate, from the ties to the very origins of the draft, which can be traced back to a 1935 NFL owners meeting over at the Fort Pitt Hotel," Rooney said. "...Beyond the Steelers, Western Pa. has

produced an extraordinary amount of football talent."

The film guides viewers through a fall weekend in Pittsburgh, from WPIAL football, to Pop Warner youth leagues, to Pitt football, to Steelers games.

"We just thought that it was really magical that it's a city of neighborhoods, and the neighborhoods compete against the neighborhoods," Zender said.

"The Football Town" explores the prominence of Pittsburgh's 90 neighborhoods through WPIAL football and Pop Warner football, solidifying the relevance of the official 2026 NFL Draft countdown clock in the North Shore, which displays the

city's neighborhoods and high school football teams on either side.

"We are able to use this [film] as a runway to what's going to take place in late April in Western Pennsylvania and in Pittsburgh..." Rooney said. "It's just going to be so special. This film captures what Pittsburgh's about, in my opinion."

"The Football Town" features well-known Steelers including Bill Cowher, Jerome Bettis, James Harrison, Chris Hoke and Joey Porter Sr.

The film will begin screening on Saturday, Feb. 28. Tickets are \$10.

Brynn Rees
berees@pointpark.edu



Brynn Rees | The Globe

The Kamin Science Center houses the Rangos Giant Cinema, where "The Football Town" screenings will take place.

Women's basketball falls short, despite promising performance

Megan Lukitsch
Staff Writer

Point Park women's basketball played a tight game against Frostburg State on Saturday afternoon by a final score of 60-51.

"We did a great job executing our game plan for the first three quarters," coach Dave Scarborough said. "We were getting good looks on offense and forcing Frostburg State to take difficult shots."

The game was back and forth from the start, with both teams trading leads throughout the first two quarters. The Pioneers had a slim 31-29 lead as the game hit halftime.

Point Park and Frostburg continued to trade points through the third quarter, with the Pioneers again holding the lead heading into the final frame.

"We had a height advantage in the paint and Frostburg State took advantage of our cold shooting in the fourth quarter by doubling our posts," Scarborough said.

A 14-0 run by the Bobcats quickly shifted the momentum in the game and ultimately led them to victory.

Junior guard Lucia Hervia led the offense for the Pioneers, posting a career-high 14 points and going 5-15 from the floor and 4-9 from the

three point line. Saturday's game marked the third time this season Hervia posted a career high for points in a single game.

"I think it really comes down to consistency and confidence," Hervia said. "I've been putting in extra work outside of practice, especially on my overall skill development and shooting. Also, as a team we've been moving the ball well and creating good scoring opportunities. Overall, I'm just trying to stay confident and keep working hard to help the team."

Alexis Giles was once again among the offensive leaders for the Pioneers, put-

ting up 10 points and going 5-6 from the free throw line.

Frostburg forward Julie Spinelli posted her fourth double-double of the season, leading the way for the Bobcats with 21 points and 10 rebounds.

Point Park will play its final home game of the season at CCAC-Allegheny Gym at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday against Wheeling. Prior to the game, the Pioneers will host Senior Night and honor their senior athletes.

"Senior Night will be an emotional one; the end of a chapter in this profession is my least favorite part of everyone's book," coach Scar-

borough said. "It's easy to judge this team, specifically the seniors, on their win/loss record; but what the seniors have endured this past season has given them the confidence to have a voice in the face of adversity."

Scarborough reflected on the impact the senior athletes had on him.

"I'm lucky to have been a small part of their lives, but looking forward to the years of success after they leave Point Park," Scarborough said. "Each of them have made me a better person."

Megan Lukitsch
melukit@pointpark.edu



Luka Strickland | The Globe

Lucia Hervia drives past a Fairmont St. defender on Feb. 18.



Luka Strickland | The Globe

The women's basketball team huddles during the "White Out" game on Feb. 18 at home.

Pioneers set records, earn honors at MEC Indoor Championships

Makenna Smith
Staff Writer

It was a record-setting weekend for Point Park at the 2026 Mountain East Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships, as both the men's and women's teams placed second while combining for 14 top-three finishes.

Akeem Mustapha and Dunya Van den Tooren led the way for the Pioneers, both earning MEC Championship MVP honors as well as being named MEC Men's and Women's Field Athletes of the Year.

Mustapha defended his MEC long jump title with a mark of 7.37 meters while also placing second in the high jump and third in the triple jump on Sunday.

Van den Tooren placed second in the pentathlon while resetting program records in both the pentathlon (3,533 points) and high jump (1.74 meters), before winning the MEC title in the high jump and placing second in the triple jump on Sunday.

On the track, junior Mya Greschner captured the MEC Championship in the women's 400-meter dash with a time of 58.47 seconds in her return from injury.

"Winning the MEC title in the 400 meant a lot to me, especially coming back from an injury," Greschner said. "Honestly, just making it through the weekend healthy was a goal of mine, so to be able to do that and come away with a conference title felt really reassuring."

Her performance came just a day after running



Luka Strickland | The Globe

Akeem Mustapha competes in the long jump for the MEC title.

in the preliminary round, finishing .61 seconds shy of her second-best time in program history.

"Being that close to my second-best time in program history gives me a lot of confidence in where my form is right now," Greschner said. "Moving forward, I really want to improve the beginning of my race, specifically the first 200 meters."

Sophomore Maxwell Eaton reset his own program record in the men's 400 meter with a time of 48.35 seconds, less than 24 hours after first breaking the mark in prelims.

"The one adjustment I made was focusing on

running a strong first 200 meters," Eaton said. "Earlier in the season, I relied on my kick too much, so I made an emphasis on getting out strong and it improved my time by over half a second."

Despite competing in four races the previous day, Eaton said the quick turnaround helped build confidence heading into the outdoor season.

"Dropping over half a second overnight shows that I am built to compete at a high level," he said. "I'm going into the outdoor season with much excitement, and you can expect even more school records to be broken."

Freshman Andrew Hartung also set a new



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Dunya Van den Tooren high jumps in the MEC Championship.

program record in the heptathlon with 4,037 points and cleared 3.97 meters in the pole vault, the third-best mark in program history.

"I got a new lifetime best in the 60 hurdles, and it really gave me a lot of confidence to finish out the events of day two," Hartung said. "The energy that the team brought was so helpful during the meet."

Greschner also emphasized how Point Park's team atmosphere played a crucial role in the Pioneers' success throughout the weekend.

"Our team's energy was high all weekend," she said. "We were constantly supporting and feeding off

each other's performances, which made the experience even more meaningful. It wasn't just about individual results; it was about showing up for each other."

With both teams finishing second in their second year in the MEC, the result provided motivation heading into the outdoor season.

"We're proud of the progress, but the goal is always a championship title," Greschner said. "This result shows how close we are, and it definitely made us hungrier heading into outdoor season."

Makenna Smith
mrsmith@pointpark.edu

Women's lacrosse demolishes opposing team in first game in program history

Edmee Idalis
Staff Writer

The Pioneers dominated against the Ursuline Arrows at Highmark Stadium on Saturday for Point Park's first-ever game in program history. Point Park demolished Ursuline in a game that ended with a score of 21-2.

"I was so excited after all of the hard work the team put into preparing for that first game," coach Erik Ingram said. "My expectations were high, and the players did not disappoint at all. It was an

"My expectations were high, and the players did not disappoint at all."

Erik Ingram

Women's lacrosse coach

amazing night for sure."

Ingram was hired in June 2024 to kickstart the women's lacrosse program. He had a full academic year to recruit before officially hosting practices and matches in 2025-26.

On Saturday, five players stood out in terms of scoring hat tricks. Tessa Hueber, one of four non-freshmen, led the team in goals and assists



Ayden Miller | For The Globe

Women's lacrosse concludes a huddle during a timeout on Feb. 21 at Highmark Stadium.

with four of each. Andrea Kingler, Emma Diaz, Kiley Leasure and Gracie Favella each scored three goals.

"To have our first game in program history was such an amazing thing to be a part of," freshman Emma Diaz said. "To see what we've been working for in the off-season is so rewarding."

The game started strong when, after about two minutes, Hueber scored the first goal of the afternoon, assisted by Leasure. The

momentum continued throughout the entire first half, with only one goal allowed, and the Pioneers led 13-1 entering halftime.

"Going into each quarter, no matter how far ahead we were, the team and I were always thinking about what we could be doing better," Hueber said. "It's important for us to use games like this to prepare for games later in the season, where a dropped pass could determine a win or a loss."

Point Park's defense kept the Arrows in check for the remainder of the game, with only one more goal given up. The Pioneers maintained their momentum to the end of the game to win 21-2.

"Having the first game in program history be such a success for the team was very encouraging for our young team," captain Taylor Desko said. "I know what this team is capable of, and I'm glad the girls were able to prove to themselves that we can play

at such a high level. This is a great confidence booster to start our season that I'm hoping will help us in conference play."

With their dominant win, the Pioneers are striving to capitalize on their strengths moving forward.

"As a team, we gave maximum effort all four quarters," Hueber said. "Even if the other team had the ball, we either caused a turnover before they had a chance to get to their offensive end or made it extremely difficult for them. This is something we want to carry through the rest of the season."

The Pioneers have a busy week ahead of them with three games, one away and two at home. Today, the team will travel to Canton, Oh., for a matchup against Malone. On Friday, Point Park will face Lake Erie at home. On Sunday, the Pioneers will take part in an exhibition game against Mount Aloysius at home.

"Sharpening up some technical aspects of our play is going to help our team go even further the rest of the season, and we are all ready to work hard every day at practice and on our own time to accomplish this," Hueber said.

Home matches take place at Highmark Stadium and are free for Point Park students.

Edmee Idalis
eimarti@pointpark.edu

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cafolio@pointpark.edu

gmpetro@pointpark.edu

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