



'I don't want to be here' 21 students displaced in Lawrence Hall flood

Carson Folio
Editor-in-Chief

A water tank failing is to blame for Saturday's flooding in Lawrence Hall which impacted several dorms, displacing at least 21 students and destroying rooms according to multiple sources.

Chris Hill, vice president of operations at Physical Plant, referred comment to Lou Corsaro, a university spokesperson.

Corsaro said efforts are being made to repair damaged dorms and get the building back in working order as quickly as possible.

Water damage from the tank failure spanned from the 13th floor to the 20th floor, with rooms on floors 18 through 20 sustaining the most damage.

Corsaro said any student who had items damaged or ruined by flooding will be reimbursed by Point Park's insurance company.

Keith Paylo, dean of student affairs, confirmed that reimbursement is not restricted to any one kind of item and will apply for anything damaged by the flood.

"We're still assessing all

the damages and everything," Paylo said, "and we're going to work with each one of those students and go through that process." He also denied rumors alleging only electronics would be replaced.

All displaced students are staying at the Joinery Hotel on the Boulevard of the Allies, according to Paylo.

According to several people involved with evacuating displaced students, Resident Educators (REs) were ultimately responsible for getting students out of affected rooms. Nobody from Student Life was available for comment by press time.

However, every person staying on affected floors were told to move items away from steam pipes as a precaution, according to several students staying on floors 13 through 20.

Paylo called the incident a rare occurrence, saying Physical Plant does what it can to prevent such floods.

"This is a once in a very long time kind of thing," Paylo said. "Unfortunately, it does happen, but when it does, we have to react and do everything we can to get back to normal."



Courtesy of Point Park Community Story

A water tank reservoir failure spilled gallons of water into this triple room on Lawrence Hall's 18th floor on Saturday.

He also praised university staff for responding as quickly as they could to the disaster, despite when the flood started. Paylo and Dean of Student

Life Michael Gieseke also confirmed that Point Park hired outside contractors to assist Physical Plant with clean-up efforts.

"None of these things ever happen at two o'clock in the afternoon, it's always one o'clock in the morning," Paylo said. "Even despite that, we reacted quickly and got to things as fast as we [could]."

Student Life sent an email to each student in Lawrence Hall explaining next steps, such as cleaning operations by maintenance staff and asking affected students to take pictures of room damage.

Additionally, those with damaged rooms still have access to their dorm even if they are staying off campus.

Liz McKinney, a first-year theatre production student staying on the 17th floor, said she found out about the flood when her roommate texted them about it while she was off campus.

"Once I made it to campus, I saw REs scrambling to try and come up with the quickest ways to help their residents in a situation they were not trained for," McKinney said. "I went up to my floor to see the conditions of my dorm — thankfully very minimal damage. However, the carpet was extremely soaked throughout

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Evan Levine | For The Globe

Protestors opposing ICE marched down Grant Street during a general strike on Friday.

ICE protests continue Students question university's policy

Cilia Catello
News Editor

Hundreds of Pittsburghers gathered at the City-County building and marched through Downtown on Friday for a protest against ICE.

Anti-ICE protests have erupted across the country as a result of ICE's presence in Minneapolis and a third fatal ICE shooting in the last six weeks. Minneapolis nurse Alex Pretti was shot multiple times after filming ICE operations. And Renee Good and Keith Porter preceded him, also killed by ICE agents.

In recent weeks, ICE activity has increased in and around Pittsburgh. Late last week, an Oakmont resident was detained before he could drive his

daughter to school.

Point Park doubled down on its commitment to cooperate with ICE, as long as they present a judicial warrant, after first making their stance clear to The Globe in March 2025.

Lou Corsaro, a university spokesperson, said in an email: "Point Park University will cooperate with all local, state and federal authorities with regard to any law enforcement action on campus."

"To access private areas of campus," he said, "ICE officers would have to present a judicial warrant."

Private areas of campus refer to all academic buildings, Bison Bites and Brew, Village Park, dorms and campus apartments.

"We would encourage students, faculty and staff

to immediately notify Point Park police if they see any federal law enforcement on university property so that police and administration officials can appropriately respond," Corsaro said.

Point Park police said previously they will not aid in ICE operations and will not grant ICE access to private university property without a judicial warrant.

Corsaro did not comment on if the university would aid in or impede ICE activity on public property.

"The school has a very large international student community," said SGA Parliamentarian Sienna Wraith. "I think there is more the school could be doing to support their international student body."

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SGA discuss flooding, plan future initiatives

Lilliana Fonzo
Staff Writer

Down in the Professional Career Readiness Center (PCRC), SGA hosted its first meeting of the second semester to discuss new ideas and significant events that have happened over the course of January.

President Christian Rangel opened the meeting by discussing his meeting with the University Counseling Center regarding collaboration on QPR training.

QPR stands for Question, Prevention, and Response and is an hour-long training for responding to mental health crises and suicide prevention. Rangel announced the first training will be held on Monday, Feb. 9, at 4:30 p.m., and is open to all students and staff.

The UCC is also working on what they call a "stall seat journal." According to Rangel, the journals will be printed and placed on bathroom stall seats, discussing mental health and seeking to be more involved with the student body in

any way they can.

"I'd like to see us involved with the UCC in any way," Rangel said.

Treasurer Sam Fehl then discussed the fall funding article published this week. SGA approved \$10,000 for the first phase of fall funding, and \$7,000 for the second. Proposed budgets voting will be voted on this Monday.

During the open-floor discussion, Parliamentarian Sienna Wraith raised the recent flooding at Lawrence Hall, which displaced more than 20 students and damaged some rooms on the 18th floor.

They discussed the compensation the university is providing for the three-person room that was primarily affected by the flooding, including not only electronics but also anything that could be replaced, Michael Gieseke, the dean of Student Life, said.

"If it's an individual room, we absorb it as a university," Gieseke said. "But

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STUDENT GOV.

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No timeline on students' return from Joinery Hotel

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the rest of the floor and water was pooling due to the amount of it.”

McKinney also saw pictures of damage to a triple room on the floor, which they said was devastating. Several students interviewed said the triple rooms on affected floors sustained the most damage, especially on the 18th floor.

Hannah Cudzil, a sophomore psychology student, lives on the 18th floor and was in her dorm room when the flooding started at midnight Saturday. She's one of the 21 students who were moved to the Joinery Hotel due to ongoing room repairs.

“I heard shouting in the hallway and then knocks on the door and then one of the REs saying ‘evacuate, everyone evacuate,’” Cudzil said. “I was like ‘OK, something’s going on.’ I didn’t think it was flooding until students were shouting that it’s flooding that I got up from bed and opened the door.”

Cudzil said she was told to grab items out of her dorm, but wasn’t told how much to take, so she only took a blanket, a pillow and her computer. REs then said to go to Lawrence Hall’s lobby.

Eventually, Cudzil said she was told by Student Life to go back to the 18th floor, which had a completely flooded hallway at that point. Cudzil said she and other residents were at a loss for what to do, with most not going back to their dorms because of the water and some deciding to walk through it anyway.

Some residents went to the lobby again only to be told to go back to the 18th floor a second time to check on their belongings, according to Cudzil. At that point, she went into her dorm to find the floor covered in water.

“I was like, ‘I can’t sleep in this,’ I don’t want to sleep in this, half my floor is soaking wet,” Cudzil said. “I just turned around and I started crying and I looked at other people, because all 18th floor residents on the side that was flooded were all opening their doors and seeing what’s going on.”

According to Cudzil, Point Park Police also went to affected floors to assess damage. Maintenance crews did not show up until about 4 or 5 a.m., which is when she was already moved to the hotel.

Cudzil said the choice to move

her and other students living in single rooms and double rooms was not well communicated. She said it took until REs surveyed rooms for Student Life to decide to move all affected residents into the Joinery Hotel.

“I thought that was suspicious because I’m like, does that mean you were going to keep us in the dorm?” Cudzil said.

She said what she describes as poor communication has not stopped after successfully being placed in a hotel, either. Cudzil said every time she asks an RE a question, they say they do not know the answer or have no information to give.

According to several Student Life staff who were not permitted to speak to the media, they have been told to refer all questions to Maria Ochoa, director of residence life. Ochoa was not available for comment.

“The best way to put it would be like left in the dark,” Cudzil said. “It’s kind of a scary, sick feeling.”

Cudzil said most of her belongings are still in her dorm room packed away in contractor bags thrown onto her bed, mixed with items she previously had in a separate corner of the dorm room which were still dry.

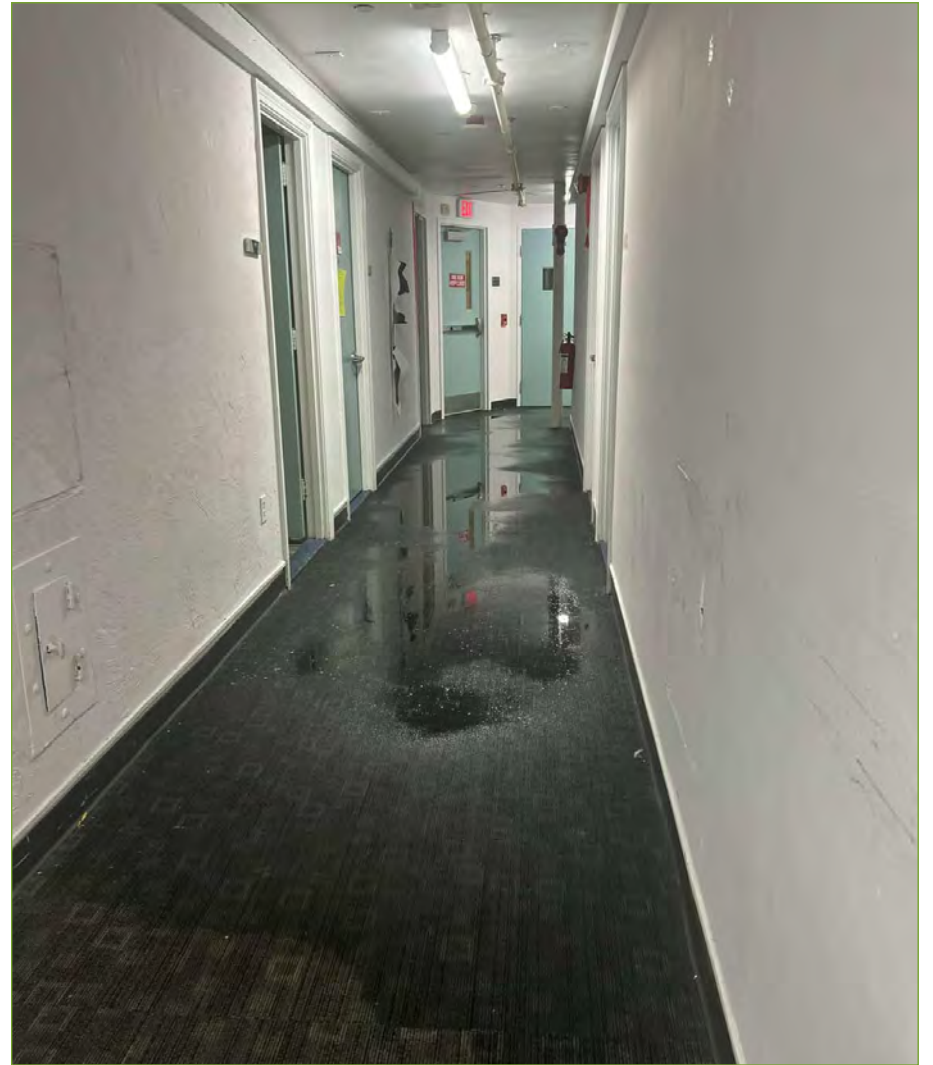
Affected residents were invited to a meeting with Gieseke on Monday to discuss what’s next after the flood, such as reimbursement for damaged items. The Globe was not permitted to attend the meeting because it was private, but Cudzil was there.

“[Gieseke said] ‘if you want compensation, you have to talk to us,’ which is fine,” Cudzil said. “I understand that, but how much are we actually going to be compensated for?”

During Monday’s SGA meeting, Gieseke was present and spoke about the logistics of deciding what to do right after the flood occurred.

“We need the first 36 hours to find out how big of a deal it was,” Gieseke said. “First thing was stopping the water, second thing was getting all the water up, and the third thing is, now what does that mean? That’s where we’re at right now.”

Gieseke said the university will work with every student to figure out what was damaged, what can be salvaged and what needs replaced. He called the floods unfortunate and reiterated it was nobody’s



Liz McKinney | For The Globe

Lawrence Hall’s 17th floor sits flooded after the building’s boiler failed.

fault, calling the flood a university situation.

Additionally, Gieseke said reimbursement and replacement may take longer than repairing the rooms.

“Some of you have a million things in your room, some of you have ten,” Gieseke said. “Every room is a little bit different.”

Still, Cudzil said communication throughout the university needs to improve so her and other affected students are seen and heard. For instance, Cudzil said she and other affected students have been met with scrutiny for using Lawrence Hall’s laundry facilities to wash lots of clothes, saying people have been judgmental despite them using the laundromat to prevent mold growth on their clothes.

Another student, who did not want to be named, said they saw two students blocking the entrance to Lawrence Hall’s laundry facilities and did not understand why until they found out about the flood.

Even if her dorm and others are repaired, Cudzil said staying in Lawrence Hall will give her an uneasy feeling from here on out.

“Knowing that I’m going back to a room that was absolutely flooded and we have the potential of the ceilings to fall, it just does not feel good,” Cudzil said. “The fact I can’t even live here without worries that I’m going to lose half or all my stuff – I don’t want to be here.”

She said the only reason she stays in Lawrence Hall is the lower price compared to other campus housing and off campus options but tries to be flexible with what she can afford.

Still, Cudzil said she’s spending a lot on college and should not worry about building malfunctions such as a major flood.

“Is it really worth it?” No,” Cudzil said. “Where’s the money going if these buildings are falling apart by the wayside?”

Paylo said there’s no timeline for when repairs can be complete, but he said he hopes to get students back to their normal housing situation as quickly as possible.

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Locals explain proper ICE identification

from **ICE**, page 1

Wraith said they think the school should clarify if they will recognize administrative warrants, which ICE agents have been presenting in place of judicial warrants.

Vice President Madigan Balfe echoed this sentiment, and expressed interest in refining the school’s policy around ICE.

“ICE should not be anywhere near this campus,” Balfe said. “Because they are terrorists.”

While there are no credible reports of ICE on campus, some students have expressed concern after seeing Industrial Commercial Elevator vans downtown. The elevator company has been servicing the Pittsburgh area for three generations, and said they have no plans to rebrand.

“If you read the logo you should definitely make the assumption that it is an elevator company and nothing besides an elevator company,” Steve Gielarowski, a long time Industrial Commercial Elevator employee, said.

Frontline Dignity, a volunteer-run nonprofit, is a rapid response initiative that trains volunteers how to witness, document, accompany and respond safely to ICE activity. They have a hotline phone number available on their website that can be called at any time.

“We work to build capacity to respond lawfully and effectively to immigration enforcement



Evan Levine | For The Globe

Anti-ICE protestors gathered outside of the City-County building on Friday.

operations that brutalize immigrant communities,” Jamie Martinez, founder and executive director at Frontline Dignity, told The Globe.

Martinez said, during an ICE encounter, volunteers are trained to record the situation and obtain as much information about the detainee as possible so they can be located after being taken into ICE custody.

According to Martinez, ICE are often present at the courthouse Downtown. Martinez said agents can appear with or without face coverings, in plain clothes or camo, and a vest or badge that says police, federal agent, ICE, HSI, DEA, ATF or FBI. Additionally, they may or

may not be armed.

Martinez said they travel in black, grey, silver and white SUVs, pick-up trucks and sedans, often domestic brands such as Ford, Dodge and Jeep.

“Watching injustice unfold in front of you is heartbreaking and tragic,” Martinez said. “We have a responsibility to let all of our neighbors know that this is happening in our communities.”

Frontline Dignity signs could be seen peppering the crowd at the protest on Friday. Amongst them were many signs displaying anti-ICE sentiments such as “ICE out” and “no one is illegal on stolen land.”

Maragold Cameron, a member of the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, was one of the speakers at the protest and helped hold a banner during the march.

“I am speaking to the unity of all of these different struggles that people are fighting for right now,” Cameron said. “What we need is to all come together and recognize our common enemy, the monopoly capitalist class, and build a strategic alliance in order to overthrow their rotten system.”

Another speaker at the protest and member of Unite Armstrong, an initiative that has brought people of different political ideologies in Armstrong, Cambria, Butler, Indiana and Westmorland counties together, Sally Simpson, said she works closely with Frontline Dignity and has been taking Spanish lessons through them.

The march started on Grant Street and quickly progressed down Smithfield, where many people stood on the sidewalk and cheered.

Cameron Bell said he stopped in the middle of waiting on a customer when he saw the march go by.

“All people are my people,” Bell said. “And I truly believe in all solidarity to anybody that believes in a message even similar.”

The march circled back to the City Council building and dispersed shortly after.

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SGA's executive cabinet discuss spring initiatives

Gavin Petrone
Editor-elect

There are 95 days left until SGA's current executive cabinet is reformed at the end of the semester, with graduation imminent for most members.

But that short time — plus an early snow day cancelling their first meeting — hasn't stopped their ambition.

A revised election timeline, 50th anniversary celebration, additional town halls and partnership with several university agencies, among many other things, are all on the agenda for the group.

President Christian Rangel:

Rangel, a senior computer science major and creative writing minor, is now in his second semester as head of the student legislature.

Elections, which are to be moved up to ensure more transition time, are a "big priority" for Rangel, he said.

But beyond that, a trip to D.C., the annual "Out of Darkness" suicide-awareness walk and the Multicultural Festival are all on Rangel's agenda.

Those more traditional events will be more of the same as years' past, Rangel said.

"Obviously, we're going to look to continually improve upon last year's experience," Rangel said. "But for the most part, you can expect at least on-par."

Vice President Madigan Balfe:

A senior business management major, Balfe as vice president is responsible for the day-to-day operations of SGA.

Her main priority, she said, is keeping senators and the executive cabinet on task and focused on their respective initiatives.

"I've been really trying to work with the senators to catch them up to speed on what's happened in the past," Balfe said. "What they actually have the capability of doing, how to set meetings, how to do initiatives and all that kind of stuff."

One of those initiatives, Balfe said, is focused on improving campus dining. While they haven't seen much progress beyond expanding operating hours, Balfe said the senators are not deterred.

Balfe is focused on keeping a dining subcommittee operational "to make sure that it continues



Thomas Speranza | The Globe

SGA's executive cabinet discuss future initiatives on Monday, Feb. 2.

into this semester, and they're continuing to make meetings and continuing to work with the dining hall to make improvements towards what the students would like to see," she said.

She added that she also plans on overhauling the Center for Civic and Community Engagement's (CCE) community garden behind West Penn.

Tatum Lucero, Communications Director:

Student-athlete and senior biology major Tatum Lucero heads the legislature's communications. She also led a town hall hearing student concerns last semester that she said "surpassed our expectations."

For this spring semester, Lucero hopes to ramp up SGA's town hall effort, holding two in total. One will occur prior to elections and another will occur after.

"That's going to serve to get some feedback for what the students really want to see this semester,"

Lucero said of the first town hall. "And towards the end of the semester — whenever we've gotten our new elected executive cab, president, [and] vice president — we're going to look to hold another one to give the students a voice for what they want to see moving forward next semester from th[is] cabinet."

Orchestrating the discussions is far from simple, Lucero added.

"Ordering catering, meeting with people to get the layout of what we want to do, if we want to stay the same," Lucero said. "It's more so the

marketing plan; the framework is there."

Devin Frank, Director of Downtown Engagement:

Frank, a first-year film production major and former senator at-large, is a first to both the executive cabinet and the director of Downtown engagement (DDE) role.

The new DDE position was formed by the legislative body last semester to bridge the gap between Point Park's student community and the wider community of Downtown Pittsburgh.

Frank has aligned himself with the CCE, hoping to reduce what he calls an "invisible line" between the Cultural District and Point Park's respective sections of Downtown.

"If you move above that line [toward the Cultural District], there's lots of excitement to be found," Frank said in an emailed statement. "Conversely, if you move below that line [toward campus], there isn't as great of a draw to the public."

To increase this draw, Frank said he will begin by advocating for new greenery above the arches of Village Park, which will be cared for in warmer months and "provide a piece of concrete work for future DDEs to expand upon and reference back to."

Elliott Geary, Chief of Staff:

SGA's Chief of Staff typically focuses on keeping other members of the cabinet on task, meeting with them regularly to discuss their respective progress and priorities.

A cabinet member since last year, Geary, who is pursuing a

master's in organization leadership, as chief of staff said they are mostly focused on the legislature's fast-approaching elections.

"I'm prioritizing elections at the moment," Geary said in an emailed statement. "Not only because they're the soonest in my list of tasks, but also to ensure that we have an efficient and smooth transition process."

After elections are over on March 6, Geary said their focus will turn to the legislature's annual Pioneer Community Week, another partnership with the CCE.

The week, formerly a single-day event, will be a volunteering effort meant to encourage university students to get out and help Pittsburgh's community, Geary said.

"My hope is that by spreading some of our larger-scale volunteerism opportunities out over the week, we'll be able to accommodate more students than we have in the past," Geary said.

Past projects included making care packages for Pittsburgh Action Against Rape and legal name change packets for Hugh Lane, an LGBTQ wellness foundation.

Sienna Wraith, Parliamentarian:

SGA's parliamentarian is charged with maintaining the governing body's archives and reviewing proposed constitutions.

With SGA's 50th anniversary fast approaching, Wraith, a sophomore history and political science major, said they've sifted through archives to prepare a presentation for the legislature's end-of-year banquet.

"That's my big job right now," Wraith said.

Aside from their review of the archives, Wraith is also planning a review of all active campus clubs in partnership with SAIL. Clubs that plan on continuing into next semester must elect new officers and express interest to both SGA and SAIL.

"That's kind of what the parliamentarian is," Wraith said, "more backdoor work."

SGA meets every Monday this semester at 3:15 p.m. in the Professional Career Readiness Center. They welcome anyone who'd like to attend.

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Rangel lauds RE flood response

from SGA, page 1

if it's this many people, insurance has to be involved."

Student Life has been working with students individually to ensure their belongings are replaced and their rooms are returned to good condition.

According to Gieseke, a boiler exploded on the 21st floor and leaked onto the 18th floor, the primary floor that flooded. He also noted that the REs are being told to direct students with questions about the flood to Student Life, as they don't have all the answers yet and don't want to spread misinformation about the event.



Thomas Speranza | The Globe

Michael Gieseke, dean of Student Life, answers questions from SGA.

A recent GoFundMe set up for those affected in the three-person room was also raised, with senators questioning where the funds were going. Many students have noted that the university is replacing more than just electronics.

A common concern among SGA members was communication between students and the university during significant events. On the night it happened, emails were sent to all Lawrence Hall students. Many committee members discussed alternative communication channels, such as a point system for larger emergencies like this. Vice President Madigan Balfe suggested a "Breaking News" segment with the Globe to get as much information out as quickly as possible.

President Christian Rangel noted how well the REs handled the situation, given the unusual circumstances and the limited information available. He suggested that the REs receive training on primary conditions, such as floods and other events that displace large numbers of students. Gieseke was open to those suggestions.

The next SGA meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 9 in the PCRC at 3:15 p.m.

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Carson Folio | The Globe

The Globe's CRIME REPORT

Gavin Petrone
Editor-elect

Suspicious Person:

An unnamed person called Point Park police to report a suspicious individual on Liberty Avenue, whose behavior was making them uneasy, on Jan. 28 around 7 p.m.

University police Sgt. Matthew Mays said no crime was committed. Point Park police "conducted increased patrols" and notified Pittsburgh police in response.

Threats, Harassment:

Police released a warrant for the arrest of an individual that harassed a staff member along Third Avenue on Jan. 31 at around 7 a.m.

Theft:

Police said someone affiliated with the university had their personal belongings stolen from Lawrence Hall on Feb. 1. The case remains open.

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Students launch new literary magazine

Makenna Cable
Staff Writer

Students at Point Park have been finding new, innovative ways to share their art and their love of art for years. From dance forums to galleries for students to display their artwork, there has always been a place for almost every student to have their art celebrated and publicized.

This year, student writers and multimedia artists have a chance to showcase their work in PULSE, a new student-run upcoming literary and arts magazine. The magazine is meant to give students an outlet to share their voice and written pieces they've created which are dear to them.

The editorial staff of Pulse consists entirely of students who are super passionate and excited about the opportunity to start their own magazine

As described by Editor-in-Chief, Divine Eyth, "Pulse is a student-led literary and arts magazine housed in the Literature, Culture, and Society Department at Point Park University. It exists to showcase the range of creative work being produced by students across campus."

Charlie Hosek, associate editor and marketing lead of Pulse, said that the magazine is "a space for Point Park students to get their feet wet in

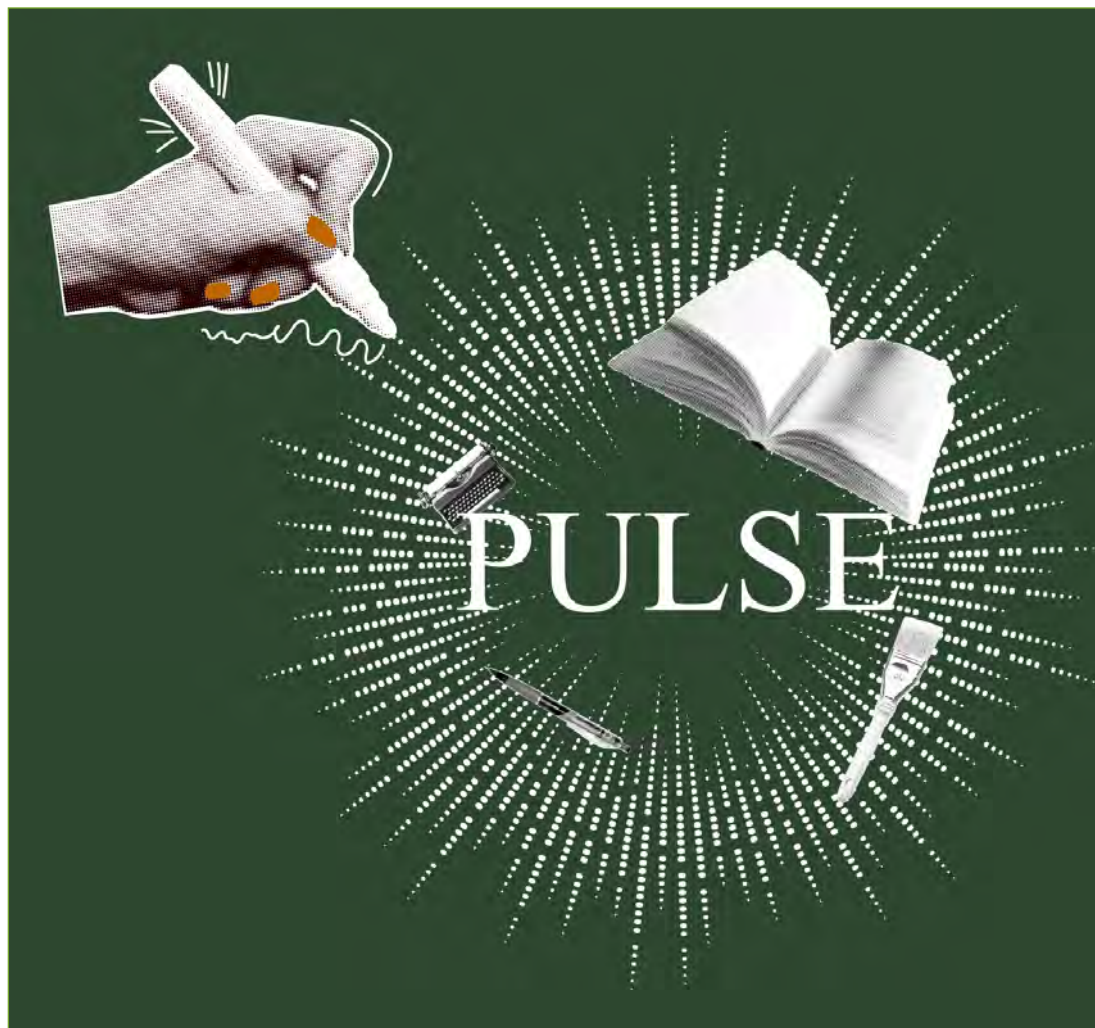
the world of undergraduate publication." Hosek went on to explain the importance of the creation of this magazine, which has been in the works for several years, adding, "We really believe students from all disciplines, not just English or creative writing students, can find a place in the magazine."

Hosek was clear about the intention and audience for the upcoming publication. Pulse is not only open to accepting students from all majors, but the nature of submissions that the staff is prepared to accept is extremely diverse and open.

"Students can submit written work, such as academic essays, short stories, scripts, poetry or genre-blending pieces, along with visual art, including painting, drawing, photography, collage and more. We're intentionally leaving room for the submissions themselves to help shape the magazine, rather than restricting contributors to a narrow idea of what 'belongs,'" Hosek said.

Members of Pulse staff say they are excited to see students' submissions.

"Submitting to Pulse connects you with a passionate editorial team that's excited to support students through the revision process and answer questions along the way," Eyth said. "It's a



Courtesy of PULSE magazine

low-stakes way to share your work, gain experience, and support a student-led initiative on campus."

Pulse exists now as a new method to bring students from all majors together to share their diverse forms of creating art.

"I want to help reestablish Point Park as a place for

creatives — across fine arts, performance, writing, and photography, etc. The magazine feels like a natural way for multiple departments to collaborate and create something tangible that can be shared with future students, alumni, and outside supporters," Eyth said.

The submissions for

Pulse Literary and Arts magazine are now open through Feb. 28. If you are interested, you may learn more about the magazine by checking out their Instagram handle, @pulse.ppu.

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Black Student Union JAMBoree kicks off Black History Month celebrations



The Black Student Union (BSU) hosted its annual Black History Month JAMBoree, creating a space for students to come together and celebrate Black culture and community. The event invited students to enjoy card games, bingo, and a variety of other activities while listening to music and enjoying food and drink provided by BSU. The JAMBoree kicked off with student check-in at 4 p.m., followed by bingo at 5 p.m. in the Lawrence Hall 200 Fishbowl. Throughout the evening, the event encouraged connection, relaxation, and celebration, making it a highlight of Black History Month on campus

Photos by Thomas Speranza

REVIEW: Graham Reborn, 100 years later

Sky Wolff
For The Globe

Hundreds of Pittsburgh locals trekked through snow last Wednesday to witness the oldest dance company celebrate its 100-year anniversary of continuing the legacy of one of the most influential modern dance pioneers ever, Martha Graham.

Just three days prior in Chicago, The Martha Graham Dance Company kicked off its centennial national tour, showcasing a 95-year-long capstone to Martha's movement, manifestations and legacy.

For one night at the Byham Theater, these strong artists and visionaries put on a sensation of a show: a century-long celebration of Graham's creativity tinged by the pangs and calamity of social-political turmoil and the power of communal acceptance. The program consisted of several iconic works by Graham herself as well as reimagined pieces orchestrated by the entrusted choreographic voices of today's dance world.

Point Park's dance school obtained the rare opportunity to perform an original Graham piece in the program. Watching this performance felt as though I'd stepped into the psyche of Martha Graham's hopes and dreams; a world of peace and solidarity through the forum of raw movement expression.

As a formal introduction to the show, Janet Eliber, artistic director and renowned former dancer of the company, came out onto stage expressing gratitude on behalf of the company for being able to perform in Downtown Pittsburgh, the

birthplace of Graham herself. She set the tone and storyline for the audience members, explaining the significance of every piece in the order, maintaining a theme of social justice and power through both individuality and community.

The concert comprised a total of five dances. The opening piece was a solo created by Martha in 1937 in reaction to the atrocities of the Spanish Civil War, entitled "Immediate Tragedy." The piece was now reimagined through Janet Eliber's choreographic eye.

Our very own cast of 35 from Point Park University performed the second piece, "Panorama." The piece was a 33 ensemble dance created in 1935, whose message evoked the power people have to make change.

Third in line was a 2025 commissioned work entitled "En Masse." Hope Boykin choreographed the piece, focusing on the struggle to break self imposed limitations to experience true freedom.

Fourth following this work was the revival of one of Graham's most memorable and impactful solos ever created, "Lamentation." The piece was a solemn dance of grief and lamentation that premiered in 1930.

Finally the show concluded with the 2023 ensemble work, "We The People," choreographed by Jamar Roberts. The piece left a lasting idea of how fierce and resilient the human race can be as individuals as well as a united front.

Janet exited the stage, the house lights slowly faded to blackout, and the cur-

tains rose revealing Anne Souder commanding the stage in a slow-staggering walk, marking the beginning of the show.

The musical score, created by Christopher Rountree, consisted of piercing, almost haunting single piano notes. This created a dramatic soundscape which amplified Anne's movement.

That same drama was emphasized by Annes' arching upper body, grounded-stomping feet and expansive shifts from one movement to the next. There was a sense of pride in how she carried herself across the stage — a divine and poised stature with a chest lifted to the sky showing resilience.

This beauty amidst the tragedy made me think of Graham's own words in the program, explaining the inspiration of this piece: "Whether the desperation lies in Spain or in a memory in our own hearts, it is the same. I felt in that dance I was dedicating myself anew to space, that in spite of violation I was upright and I was going to stay upright at all costs."

Even from reading her words on the page, words written many years ago to serve as inspiration for Henry Cowell's composition of the music, I felt the soul those words carried through the vessel of Anne's own dancing body. It was crystal clear: her commitment to Graham's artistry and her portrayal of resilience onstage made the story so much more alive and real to my eyes.

Next in line, "Panorama," which was performed with the experimental orchestration of Norman

Lloyd, featured militaristic brass-percussion juxtaposed by a spring-like string and woodwind section.

This piece was performed at the Pittsburgh Playhouse back in October for Point Park's annual Fall Dance Concert. It was staged by the Graham Dance Company legend, Elizabeth Auclair, and placed under rehearsal direction by fellow Graham legend Jesse Factor, Point Park's director of modern dance.

Fast forward almost four months later, and the Point Park ensemble is gracing the Byham stage in the company performance. As a Point Park student and understudy of this dance, I felt so privileged to see my dear friends and colleagues take up space on one of the most prestigious stages in the city. They not only represented the strength and tenacity of the dance school, but the future generation of young artists, carrying on the legacy of Martha's vision and movement.

"En Masse" began with seven dancers onstage, one soloing whilst six danced slowly in a circle joined by blue ribbons on each of their arms. The use of the prop became more relevant whilst reading choreographer Hope Boykin's notation about the concept: "Together we try, we fall, we restart, and grow. Together we make change, learn, and build. Alone, however, our failures scream and endurance is tested."

The start of "Lamentation" marked a shift in the audiences' mood. As the lights rose up on Xin Ying wrapped in the emblematic

purple jersey tube-like costume, the audience audibly reacted with "Oooohs" and even gasps of excitement. Chills shuddered down my shoulders and spine as Xin began the dancing. This seated solo comprised of tension, agony and an ominous score by Zoltán Kodály. Finally witnessing the dance live onstage felt so surreal — a dream that any modern dancer would wish to live.

Finally, the show closed with the whole touring cast performing "We The People," a folk-inspired soundscape created by Rhianon Giddens that featured powerful feats of strength in movement and themes of rejoice and coming together. For me, this dance felt like a spark of hope and possibility. It felt like a love letter to Martha Graham from all those she's impacted with her art. I could feel the love and spirit of every single company member onstage all the way from my balcony seat.

I walked out of that auditorium feeling like I'd witnessed and experienced Martha's own artistic discoveries. I felt her desire for connection and community. She strived to create a better world. I could sense her resistance from a place of turmoil and damnation. Her creative tribulations and triumphs were alive on that stage, carried out through artists who care and understand who she was and strive to continue the Utopian dream she wished to see.

Sky Wolff
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Local bands pay tribute to Daniel Johnston

Evan Levine
For the Globe

On a frigid Friday night, with the biggest snowstorm of the last decade looming over the horizon, an audience of all ages packed Mr. Smalls Funhouse in Millvale to pay tribute to one of the most misunderstood individuals in music history, Daniel Johnston.

Beach Boise, ID, supported by fellow local bands Westinghouse Atom Smasher and Scrum Force, performed its interpretation of Johnston's unfinished album "Hi, How Are You."

With proceeds from ticket sales benefiting the Hi, How Are You Project, the show honored Johnston's art while also supporting a cause closely intertwined with his story: mental health.

"The Hi, How Are You Project is focused on giving youth the tools to prevent mental atrophy, recognize moments of mental crisis, and connect with resources that can help keep them safe," said Graham Albright, who supplies vocals and guitar for Beach Boise, ID's expansive ensemble.

"I've wanted to do this show for like five years," Albright said. "I've wanted to take this on as a project, charitably, that we can use to resource people with good messaging. But when taking it on from a compositional point of view, I realized that the tunes that felt simple were a lot more complex than I had initially imagined."

He added that Beach

Boise, ID had been waiting a long time to add its own "stank" to Johnston's work.

That "stank," Albright said, was present throughout the night.

Westinghouse Atom Smasher got the ball rolling with a dreamy, post-country reinterpretation of Johnston's music.

"They are very patient with the way that they approach music," said Aaron Shedy of Swissvale, who has seen the band perform a number of times. "I feel like the sparse sounds they give are a nice palette for Daniel Johnston's music. Their slowcore vibe is really nice for his style."

After Westinghouse Atom Smasher's performance of "True Love Will Find You in the End," it was Scrum Force's turn. As the band began their set, lead singer Rodd Weatherford — wearing a black wig and a tutu around his neck — declared Scrum Force to be "the biggest brain rot core band this side of the Allegheny."

Scrum Force's energy-filled, chaotic performance included a mix of original songs and interpretations of Johnston's work. The band has a conventional lineup of drums, bass, lead and rhythm guitars and vocals, but that is where the conventionality ends.

Weatherford delivered a powerful performance, pretending to read lyrics from a copy of Webster's Dictionary and occasionally leaving the stage altogether to dance with the audience.



Evan Levine | The Globe

Westinghouse Atom Smasher performs at Mr. Smalls Funhouse last Friday, Jan. 30.

Scrum Force closed its set with a creative, almost post-punk rendition of Johnston's "Walking the Cow," before Beach Boise, ID took the stage.

Beach Boise, ID's interpretation of "Hi, How Are You" was full of surprises. For some songs, a trio of violinists joined the band; at other moments, the group seamlessly transitioned from Johnston's work into a rendition of the Beatles' "In My Life."

A highlight of the night was a surprise harmonica performance from singer-songwriter, poet and in-

strumentalist Wammo.

Wammo first encountered Johnston's work while living in Austin, Texas.

"He [Johnston] would just walk up to anyone saying, 'Hi, how are you? Here's my tape. Please listen. Okay thanks. Okay bye,'" Wammo said. "He was super awkward and nervous. But all you had to do was listen to the songs. It's like — oh my God. Oh my God. Here is this huge soul."

By the end of the night, the Funhouse felt less like a concert venue and more

like a shared space — part tribute, part celebration. As Beach Boise, ID closed out the album, strangers danced together beneath the low ceiling, carried by songs that exist outside the need for perfection. In that moment, Johnston's music felt exactly as it always has: strange, fragile and unmistakably alive.

As Wammo said excitedly, "Daniel would have loved this."

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BISON BOOK REVIEW



Est.

2025

‘Crowntide’ shows character development despite the lack of world building

Peyton Martin
Features and A&E Editor

The fourth installment in the “Lightlark” series, “Crowntide” by Alex Aster, stands out greatly among the rest of the series for many reasons.

The “Lightlark” series follows as Isla Crown, who was thought to be powerless, fights to break the deadly curses that are impacting the land of Lightlark. As the series progresses, she learns there are worse things she’ll have to fight than curses. With a prophecy now hanging over her head, Isla will be forced to make an impossible decision.

“Crowntide” is the first book in the main series to have multiple perspectives besides Isla’s. This doesn’t stop Aster from including crazy and unpredictable plot twists, some of which are even more intense than the plot twists in the rest of the series.

Aster kept the reader guessing. She kept Isla’s decision regarding the series’ love triangle entirely unclear until it was time for the big reveal.

“It truly is hard to imagine that Aster managed to top herself with the release of “Crowntide,” but having multiple points of view adds the perfect additional element.”

Peyton Martin
Features / A&E Editor

With the multiple points of view, you are able to see what is happening in Lightlark through the perspectives of Oro and Grim, the main love interests. You are also still able to know what is happening in Skyshade with Isla.

The new perspectives also show a ton of character development for Grim and Oro. The two of them start the book by hating the idea of working together to save

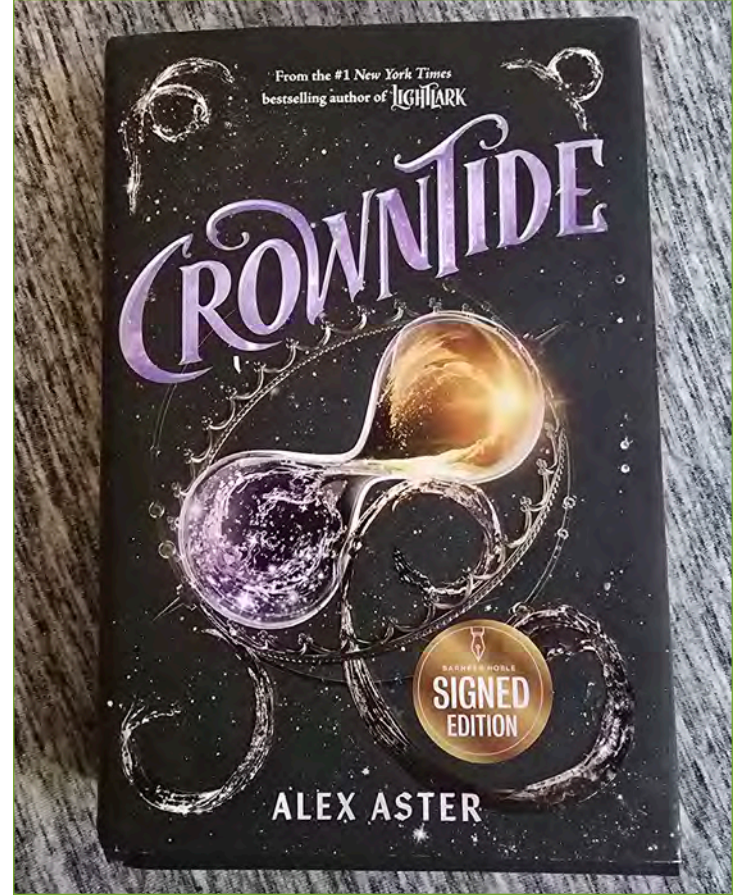
Isla, but by the end, the two start to fall into the rhythm they had before their falling out.

It truly shows how much they have grown because, at the beginning of this series, the mere concept of the two working together was entirely out of the question. They weren’t the only ones who had character development either.

Isla’s character development was amazingly done as well. During multiple scenes, Isla is forced to face the past that caused her to label herself as a monster. As the book progresses, she begins to face her trauma and begins to heal.

Along her healing journey, she becomes an incredibly powerful character who is tired of letting fate decide what happens to her. She embraces her power and becomes proactive in her destiny. That is so unlike how Isla from the previous books acted.

Aster did many great things with “Crowntide.” However, there was very little world building for this new world that Isla fell into. There are some bits of the world of Skyshade that are



Peyton Martin | The Globe

The cover of “Crowntide” by Alex Aster.

interesting, like the portals, but for the most part this world is basically a mystery. It simply would have been nice to get just a bit more world building for Skyshade.

Overall, Aster did a terrific job with this book and

continuing this series, and I will certainly be reading the final book in this series when it comes out in the future.

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DiME Network paves the way for disability representation in media

Evan Levine
For the Globe

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“The *Hi, How Are You* Project is focused on giving youth the tools to prevent mental atrophy, recognize moments of mental crisis, and connect with resources that can help keep them safe,” said Graham Albright, who supplies vocals and guitar for Beach Boise, Idaho’s expansive ensemble.

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Courtesy of Jennifer Price

Jennifer Price is the CEO and founder of DiME network.

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THE GLOBE'S

Arresting journalists is no accident

Don Lemon and Georgia Fort should have never been arrested.

This is not the first time journalists have been imprisoned because they were doing an activity protected by the First Amendment. In case you aren't aware, one of the Amendment's clauses directly states Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of the press.

By observing government operations in a non-interfering way, are journalists breaking the law? The answer should be super easy: no. Because it is a Constitutionally-protected right.

Those protections are the same reason anybody can record police, federal agents or any official. Restricting the right to document events puts a chokehold on the function of the press and the free flow of information, which is essential to hold onto.

Make no mistake, these are lawless times we are in right now. When federal agents can embark on a town or city more than 100 miles away from their jurisdiction, when they can try to disappear people or force their way through homes without warrants, this is not law and order.

This is an invasion on the people of the United States, legal immigrants or illegal. Agencies such as ICE are targeting people on a whim. Those who cannot see it this way are either misinformed, not paying attention to anything happening or living in an alternate universe.

Yet the current administration's argument is always about people not complying or somehow obstructing a federal activity. How is simply observing what is going on — not interrupting or interfering with an operation, just observing and reporting — an obstruction? It isn't. But these are still lawless times we're in now.

The argument for Lemon's ar-

rest hinges on the arrest not being about journalism but instead about freedom of religion.

Now, it is reasonable to possibly expect the owner of private property to try to get protesters off their property. But this still doesn't mean it can be used as an excuse to arrest a journalist simply doing their job, even if they're present when illegal activity is taking place.

Imagine walking Downtown and witnessing a fight that leads up the stairs to an apartment building. You're close enough to see the fight, you might be standing on a step or two, and maybe you make the decision to record what you see. And then suddenly, you're being arrested.

What happened with Fort and Lemon was almost just as absurd. When one identifies themselves as press and has made it clear they have not caused any problems, they should be let go. Watching an event unfold with your eyes should not be a crime.

But if anything, this should be a motivator for all journalists. The government may think they have the upper hand by arresting people to send a message, but the message failed to deliver.

The idea of news reporting, keeping communities informed and reporting facts to as many as will listen is not a new concept or a strange one. We are a fundamental piece of democracy and are not going away no matter how often the current administration demonizes us.

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

Handling control in relationships

Zarrick Plizga
Staff Writer

Before diving into the questions for this week, I want to make it clear that my link to ask questions is intended solely for that purpose. Now, if someone does not believe that my advice holds any merit, then feel free to pass over my column. Disrespecting someone and attempting to bring them down with anonymous words will get you nowhere.

I do have to say that when you submit questions now, you will have to provide an email address. Unfortunately, this removes anonymity for my safety, but I want it made clear to those who do submit questions for actual advice. I promise that your email will not be shared, and I will protect the privacy of your questions.

How do I let go of my fixation on control? How do I handle a controlling relationship? When is something considered crossing the line? In arguments, is one person right and the other person wrong?

The first thing I suggest is to take a step back and look at the situation from both points of view. Because no one is ever fully wrong or right, we need to be able to take things into account without being biased.

Talking about control in relationships can be a controversial topic; some people believe that one person has a right to certain control. We all deserve equal rights over our own lives. Relationships are more based on effort; the best relationships are formed not just on equal effort but on balanced effort. "Equal" implies that both people are giving the same amount at all times, whereas "balanced" means that if one person is unable to give their full amount, the oth-

er can pull the weight, and vice versa.

One way of thinking about it is the saying "relationships are 50/50." This is a nice thought, but some days not everyone is able to pull their full weight.

Well, when one person is unable to pull their 50%, then you look to see where you can help them. This keeps the relationship at 100%. If neither of you can put in the full 50 or cover the other person's missing percentage, then you should sit down and figure out a way to handle that day without harming the relationship. If one person takes advantage of your effort and does not help to keep the relationship healthy, then you know the relationship is not worth the strain on your being.

Lastly, crossing a line is very obvious. When starting a relationship, it's best to create boundaries. If those boundaries are ignored, then that would be crossing a line. Sometimes people do not fully disclose things, and you can do something that makes them uncomfortable. However, without things being directly stated, it is impossible for you to know. If you do something that they are uncomfortable with and they tell you afterwards, it is important to remember that you did not cross a line; you just lacked the knowledge of the line. The best way to avoid all concerns of crossing lines is to just always ask for consent.

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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COPA CORNER

Auditions are opportunities to share art

Melissa Garlock
Staff Writer

As each semester begins, conservatory students spend days auditioning for dance concerts and theater productions. These performances serve as the primary way students apply their training beyond the classroom. Collectively, we all want to be cast or considered so badly, training relentlessly for even the possibility of being involved in a production.

In its entirety, audition week is emotionally exhausting. The sheer time-commitment of attending a full day of classes followed by hours of auditions is extremely stress-

ful. In addition, the posting of cast lists, revealing what your semester will entail, is difficult to process. Whether you are now juggling rehearsals, handling disappointments or finding ways to be a supportive friend, it's okay to be physically and mentally overwhelmed right now.

Still, these demanding auditions are what define the Point Park experience, offering students real-world training that goes far beyond the classroom. Life post-graduation is full of endless auditions, facing 100 "no's" for one "yes." Ultimately, auditioning is a skill that COPA students have the incredible opportunity of practicing in real time.

So how do we optimize our audition learning experiences? Fortunately, the art being performed in each audition room is what students hone during class every day. Over my three semesters at Point Park, the improvements I have seen in my dancing is exponential. One of the only times I see my improvement is in audition rooms. The trust I have built in my abilities is one of the pillars to mastering auditioning success.

Regardless of this improvement, I still have my bad auditions. This is when mentality is key. It is critical to expect nothing and appreciate everything. Truthfully, how you perform or are seen in an

audition room can be a gamble. Over time, I have found that the only way to quiet any fear is to stop treating auditions like verdicts and start treating them like chances to perform.

As artists, we create for both ourselves and others. Auditions are simply an opportunity to share this art. When the focus shifts from being chosen to simply being seen, the pressure begins to lift. Sharing work becomes an act of communication rather than competition.

By committing to your work in an audition, the space will become inviting. Naturally, your brain will not prioritize getting cast, rather having

fun. Letting go of the outcome does not mean caring less; it means trusting that the work itself is enough.

When you leave the room knowing you shared your best work, not being cast becomes less a reflection of your ability and more a missed opportunity for those who did not choose it.

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

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THE GLOBE 
SINCE 1967

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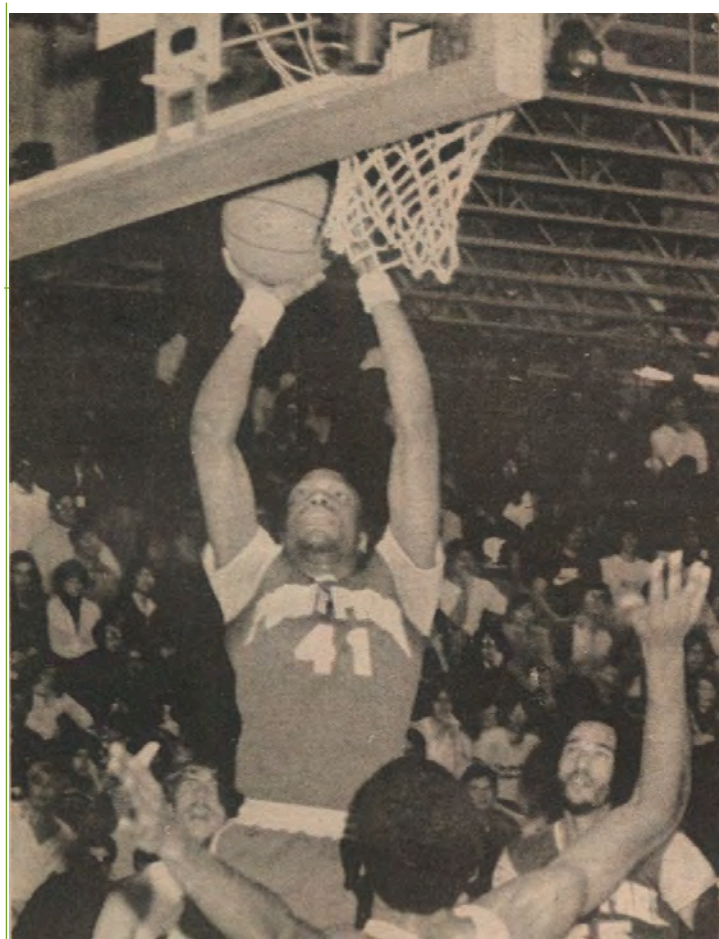
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'Khem & Fayce' by X'Aire Huger



The Globe Archives | Feb. 5, 1980
Point Park men's basketball forward Terry Parham fakes his opponent for two points. The Pioneers were playing against the Behrend Cubs in the old Mellon Arena.

Throughout the years: Feb. 3-8

- 1970: Men's basketball team wins 65-46 against Waynesburg
- 1971: Laundry machines were removed from Thayer Hall and Lawrence Hall's had coinboxes installed.
- 1977: Natural gas crisis causes Point Park to ask students to conserve energy and turn down their thermostats.
- 1978: John Guare's "The House of Blue Leaves" performed at the Pittsburgh Playhouse.
- 1979: Assistant director of admissions fired for "disloyalty."
- 1980: Dining hall renovated for the first time since 1969.
- 1981: Men's basketball loses 78-96 to Clairon State.
- 1982: Two photography majors make list of finalists for national Photographer's Forum photo contest.
- 1983: Student caught defrauding Bell telephone company.

From the archives: 'Has Regan lost her marbles?'

Profiles of students have always found a place in The Globe and always will. But this profile on Sue Regan, a class of 1983 journalism and communications major, might be one of the more interesting examples archived.

Uncredited Writer
1980 Staff Writer

If anyone were to approach sophomore journalism and communications major Sue Regan with the spur of the moment quip, "Have you lost your marbles?" she would more than likely smile proudly and reply, "No, they're at home in my top dresser drawer."

Why the absurd retort? Because she might at the time be associating the "marbles" mentioned with the ones used in her younger years to claim national and world titles.

Regan proved her marble-shooting superiority in June 1974 when at 13, she won a \$500 college scholarship in the Girl's National Marble Championship in Wildwood, NJ. Taught and coached by Walter Lease, director of the Allegheny County marble program at Leslie Park, Lawrenceville, she defeated a field of 33 contestants to win the

national title.

But that was only the beginning. In 1975 and 1976, Regan than became one of the six U.S. team members that took the World marble shooting championship title in the Sussex, England competition. The British tournament has taken place every Good Friday for the past 200 years.

"They shoot different in England," Regan began. "The British play on a six-foot circle with a sand-covered surface. There, 49 marbles are clustered in the middle and the object is to get 25 out of the ring to win. In the United States, the game is played on concrete with only 13 marbles arranged in an 'X' pattern in a 12-foot circle. Here, the object is to get seven out of the ring."

Interestingly, Regan encountered a bit of resentment from the British players, as she was the only female competitor. "They wouldn't let me shoot when we got there. They were pig-headed about it," she said.

But that didn't stop the champ from helping her team (ages ranging 14 to 20) for two consecutive years beat the British Toucan Terribles, (ages ranging 29 to 64) who previously boasted of their world championship status.

Yet, according to Regan, who also is minoring

in cinematography, winning titles and trophies was only one aspect of her "tournament education." Traveling with her coach, teammates and chaperone, while her parents remained at home, was a valuable learning experience in itself.

"I'm glad I did it," she affirmed. "At that age, being alone and independent, I learned to take care of myself."

Regan, an avid music lover and bass guitarist, is also one of PPC's female basketball stars.

Enthusiastically, she commented on her confidence in the team's future success. "The basketball program is in its infancy, but it's going places. For the third year, the girls' team is doing fairly well . . . We're going to take off."

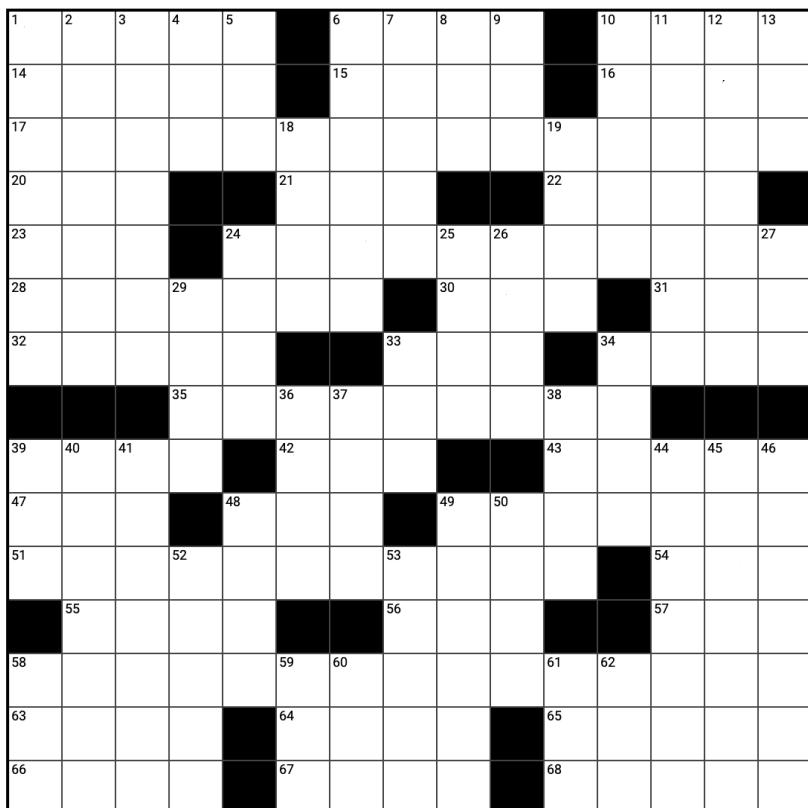
And if Regan has, in the slightest bit, as much skill with the air-filled balls as she does with the "little glass" ones, the team is sure to be a winner this season.

[Editor's note: "PPC" refers to Point Park College, as Point Park did not become a university until the 2000s. Stories are not modified to reflect this change to keep the writing as unchanged and authentic as possible.]

Point Puzzle: 'Moving up the ranks'

Across

- 1. Hand protectors in the kitchen
- 6. Bridge length
- 10. _____ Major
- 14. Kitchen tear-jerker
- 15. "Swan Lake" attire
- 16. Comedian Rogen
- 17. Master of none
- 20. Variety
- 21. Surgery sites, in brief
- 22. Mozart's "_____ kleine Nachtmusi"
- 23. Until, informally
- 24. Typical kindergartner
- 28. 63,360 inches
- 30. "You're out!" yell
- 31. In view
- 32. Hyundai Sonata, for one
- 33. _____ and a leg
- 34. Frutiger _____
- 35. "Erm, actually"
- 39. Actor Jared of "Morbis"
- 42. Robust energy
- 43. Choose to receive email and text alerts, say
- 47. 2016 was ten years _____
- 48. Mos _____
- 49. Jaw-dropping
- 51. Naomi vis-a-vis Ruth
- 54. One of these almost got stolen from a Sheetz in Cheswick in Dec. 2025
- 55. Former Swedish carmaker
- 56. Charged particle
- 57. "Thar _____ blows!"
- 58. One with many talents



- 63. "Get this man a _____ (not a sword)"
- 64. Salt-N-_____
- 65. Cheri formerly of "SNL"
- 66. Bay Area law enforcement
- 67. Makes a statement out loud
- 68. Truths on the inverse, perhaps

Down

- 1. Cuban cocktails garnished with mint leaves
- 2. Queued up waiting
- 3. _____ your fancy
- 4. Tik-_____
- 5. The Globe's website software
- 6. If you don't eat, this will happen
- 7. Upcoming literary magazine
- 8. The Falcons, on sports tickers
- 9. Planters, perhaps
- 10. Airline which the Pittsburgh Airport was mostly designed for
- 11. Rudolph was bullied for this
- 12. Pittsburgh NFL player
- 13. "Dirty Dice," to some
- 18. Ruin plans
- 19. You _____ what you sow
- 24. "Adventures of Huckleberry _____"
- 25. Round tent-like dwelling
- 26. Two-time Oscar-winning Stone
- 27. "Gloria in excelsis _____"
- 29. A really fast shark
- 33. Former online messaging app
- 34. Swiss peaks

- 36. "It's so _____"
- 37. Point Park's was slow for years
- 38. Co-founder of MGM Marcus
- 39. Rare muscle disease
- 40. Googling yourself, perhaps
- 41. Add together
- 44. Cooking appliance which Mario determined there were too many of
- 45. "Count me in!"
- 46. Arch _____
- 48. Goodfellas actor Mazar
- 49. Hellos in Hawaii, perhaps
- 50. Decrease
- 52. Rated zero out of 10, maybe
- 53. Super cold out
- 58. San Diego public transit
- 59. Horrible Product, to some
- 60. Vote in support
- 61. Nonverbal approval
- 62. One day _____ time

Want to contribute to The Globe's "fun page?" Email cafolio@pointpark.edu.

Scan this for the answers!



Dutch student-athlete paves her own path, shines across multiple events

Makenna Smith
Staff Writer

Sophomore Dunya Van den Tooren wasted no time making her mark at Point Park, emerging as one of the Mountain East Conference's most versatile and consistent athletes. From breaking school records to climbing conference rankings across multiple events, the Gouda, Netherlands, native continues to show that her early collegiate success is only the beginning.

Van den Tooren's sophomore season has been defined by breakthrough performances. She set a new school record in the long jump (5.75 meters) and earned two NCAA provisional marks at a Youngstown State meet, clearing 1.70 meters in the high jump while matching her long jump mark. Those results placed her among the top competitors in the conference and put her on the national radar.

Her momentum carried into late January at the Scorcher/Columbia Challenge in Bronx, N.Y., where Van den Tooren captured first place in the triple jump, an event she only recently added to her competitive lineup.

She now ranks first in the MEC in both the triple jump and high jump, while sitting second in the long jump, showcasing her versatility.

Track and field coach Tim Creamer believes that adaptability has been key to Van den Tooren's rapid development.

"For an underclassman like Dunya to make this kind of impact early on, it really sets her up for the next steps in her collegiate career," Creamer said. "She's a student of the sport and wants to be the best in every event she enters."

Van den Tooren's rise began during a strong freshman campaign. She earned USTFCCCA All-Atlantic Region honors, qualified for the ECAC/IC4A Championships in both the long jump and high jump and placed fifth in the high jump (1.68 meters). She also earned NCAA Division II USTFCCCA All-Academic honors, balancing elite performance with success in the classroom.

Despite those accomplishments, Van den Tooren said her first year left her hungry for more.

"I did a lot of good things, but I didn't win. That really helps motivate me."

Dunya Van den Tooren
Track & Field athlete

Her willingness to compete in multiple events, including the pentathlon, has also fueled her growth. While physically demanding, Van den Tooren said the mental benefits outweigh the challenges.

"If you have a bad day



Luka Strickland | The Globe

Dunya Van den Tooren competes in the triple jump at the YSU Icebreaker on Dec. 5.

in one event, you can still do something great in another," she said. "It takes a lot of pressure off."

That mindset has paid off as she experiments with new events. The triple jump, now one of her top conference rankings, was something she had barely tried before this season.

"Winning on my second attempt was surprising," she said. "It made me really excited for the future."

A two-time MEC Athlete

of the Week, Van den Tooren remains focused on improvement rather than accolades.

"Dunya doesn't get too high or too low," Creamer said. "She uses every meet as a learning experience."

As an international student-athlete, Van den Tooren has embraced the team-centered structure of U.S. collegiate athletics.

"Here, track is a huge part of your life," Van den Tooren said. "I really love the team environment."

Looking ahead, Van den Tooren's goals are simple: stay healthy, continue improving, and help Point Park compete for a conference championship.

"I want to win, but more than that, I want our team to win," she said. "We have such a strong group, and I just want to keep growing, having fun and doing my part to help us succeed."

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First-year players put up career games amidst loss vs. West Virginia Wesleyan

Adam Komo
For The Globe

Point Park women's basketball lost to West Virginia Wesleyan on Friday afternoon, 65-46, ending the Pioneers' two-game winning streak. With this loss, Point Park drops to 2-10 in conference play and 5-12 overall.

Senior veteran Camille Fultz led the Pioneers in scoring with 12 points. She was followed by freshman Kamryn Pieper, who had 10 points for her season high and one of

her best games of the season.

Another freshman, Kiyana Larocque, provided great defense and hustling plays, grabbing a team-high three offensive rebounds and seven rebounds total.

Point Park led by one after the first quarter as Fultz scored six points in opposition to a big momentum block by West Virginia Wesleyan's Emma Witt, the Mountain East Conference's leading scorer.

The Pioneers saw big contributions in the second quar-

ter from Pieper and senior Lucia Hervia, who combined for 11 points and three assists.

A key factor early on for the Pioneers was the defensive performance from Fultz and Pieper on Witt, who was held to only six points and 3-9 field-goal success in the first half, an uncharacteristic stat line for the top scorer in the MEC.

At halftime, coach Dave Scarborough spoke highly of Pieper's standout performance.

"[Pieper has] always been

a great defender with her length and her natural ability to recover with her length," Scarborough said. "I am just really impressed with some of her takes against a veteran team, stronger team as a freshman, so [I'm] very happy for her."

Point Park led 35-34 at halftime. The Pioneers pulled this off without star center Elizabeth Boyd, who sat out in the second quarter because of foul troubles in the opening frame.

Point Park struggled to

score in the second half. The Pioneers only scored six points in the third quarter, while the opposition Bobcats went on to extend the lead to 14 going into the fourth quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the Pioneers struggled with turnovers and fell at the hands of the Bobcats 65-46, ending Point Park's two-game winning streak and leaving them with 10 losses in conference play.

"They came out just way more aggressive," Pieper said. "Our mistakes led to their points."

Despite the loss, Pieper had an impressive game. She ended with a career-high 10 points, along with four rebounds, two assists and a block.

"My three's were starting to hit, thanks to [assistant] coach [Kaitlyn] Carr," Pieper said. "She's been in the gym with me working on my footwork and just being more confident in it, [getting] more reps [and] just getting better."

After the loss, the Pioneers went on to defeat Davis & Elkins in Elkins, W. Va., on Monday 86-66 for the season sweep. Entering the game, Senior Alexis Giles was only three points away from moving to 16th place for all-time scoring in the Point Park history books. She scored an impressive 20 points, earning her way into that 16th-place spot.

Point Park returns home to face Glenville State today at 5:30 p.m.

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Ben Schaffer | For The Globe

Kiyana Larocque tips off versus West Virginia Wesleyan.



Ben Schaffer | For The Globe

The Pioneers exit a huddle before play on Jan. 30 at home.

Men's wrestling makes the most of its first-ever MEC Championship

Brynn Rees
Sports Editor

Point Park men's wrestling earned three placements after competing in its first-ever conference championship on Saturday in Glensville, W. Va.

The Mountain East Conference Wrestling Championship featured five Point Park wrestlers, all of whom are true freshmen.

Freshman Preston Chandler led the way with a fourth-place finish in the 133-pound division. He went 2-2 on the day.

"Preston is one of the hardest working guys on the team," coach Zach Mizer said. "It's not easy being an 18/19-year-old wrestling 22/23-year-olds on a regular basis at every tournament."

The recruit from Caldwell, Oh. made waves in his first collegiate conference championship, beating out the four and six seeds as a seven seed in his bracket.

"I was a little nervous going into it," Chandler said. "However we have been to tough tournaments all year to prepare us, so we weren't treating this one any differently."

Chandler faced a first-round loss by fall before making a run in the wrestlebacks.

"You have to have short-term memory when it comes to wrestling tournaments, so I tried to forget about it and focus on winning the next one," Chandler said.

Chandler turned around to capture a dynamic win by takedown versus Salem's Fabian Rivera, succeeded by a medical forfeit in the following round. Chandler fell in the third-place match.

"The highlight of my weekend was watching him pin the Salem kid," Mizer said. "He puts in so much work and effort, it's awesome to see when it starts to pay off."

Liam Hein and Charles Perkins placed sixth in the 149-pound and 174-pound divisions, respectively. Perkins earned an impressive second-round win, 13-5.

Aiden Burford did not place in the 141 bracket after going winless in two matches. Jake Kandis did not place either, going 0-2.

Coach Mizer led his team through Point Park's first conference championship in wrestling.

"There are a lot of growing pains in a brand new program in their first year of competition, but I'm grateful for the opportunity to lead these young men, and I'm hoping the experience will light a fire under them that will continue for the remainder of the season," Mizer said.

Mizer was hired in May 2024 to spearhead the program's inaugural season. He had a full academic year to recruit and develop a team before its first season of competition during the 2025-26 season.

He recruited a 10-man roster of true freshmen entering the season.

"Coach Mizer has us focus a lot on fixing the small details, which makes all the difference at the collegiate level," Chandler said.

Mizer previously served as head coach at Lyon College, a former NAIA institution in Arkansas. Saturday's competition was his first MEC championship as well.



Kyla Pothier | The Globe

Preston Chandler competes in a Fairmont State dual on Dec. 5 in West Virginia.

"It was definitely a great experience," Mizer said. "The [MEC] is absolutely loaded with amazing competition and the fact that our guys, all true freshmen, went out there and competed hard the entire tournament is something that I was especially proud of."

West Liberty combined for 150 points to win the championship, as the team recorded five first-place finishes and had 10 wrestlers finish in the top three spots in their brackets.

"I think, or hope, [Point Park's team] learned that anything could happen at a conference championship," Mizer said. "We saw the

No. 1-ranked wrestler in the country lose this weekend. That's how deep our conference is, and I hope it's going to give them that belief moving forward that 'if they can do it, why can't I?'"

As a team, the Pioneers placed seventh in the conference, tying Davis & Elkins for the final spot with 22.5 points.

The Pioneers will travel to West Virginia to face Davis & Elkins in a dual meet on Friday.

"Just seeing how good some of these teams are shows that there is still a lot of work to be done, but we competed and have guys that can have a lot of success in

the MEC," Mizer said.

The season concludes on March 14 with the NCWA Mid-east championship. Beyond that, Mizer will move into his first offseason with a full team behind him.

"With the season winding down, I'm just hoping to see the continued effort in the practice room," Mizer said. "I hope this weekend and experience will help to motivate them over the offseason to continue to put in work and improve so that next season we will have more placers and more success."

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Anderson's fourth double-double of the season leads Pioneers to victory

Megan Lukitsch
Staff Writer

Senior guard Aidan Anderson recorded his fourth double-double of the season on Friday night as the men's basketball team defeated the West Virginia Wesleyan Bobcats 83-67.

"I'm feeling amazing. I wouldn't have done it without such a great group of guys," Anderson said postgame, giving a lot of credit to his teammates. "We just stay together, and we get along with each other as well. I think that helps out a lot, it translates onto the court as

well. I wouldn't have done it without them."

Anderson also tied his career high for points in a single game with 33. This was the third time this season and second straight game Anderson recorded 30 or more points in a game.

"Aidan's done a really good job," coach Ryan Grandits said. "He's had to play out of position all year, which forces him to really battle defensively. But the tradeoff is he's usually a matchup nightmare for opposing teams because they must guard him with a bigger body... His teammates also

do a really good job finding him, we have great assist numbers as a team so a lot of credit goes to them as well."

The Pioneers never trailed in the game, shooting 42% from the field and 86.7% from the free-throw line.

Point Park also had strong performances from guards Kaden Warner and Grant Welch. Warner shot a season-high 71.4% from the three-point line and posted 15 points on the evening.

Welch shot 62.5% from the field and put up 14 points.

"We just keep getting better every day and game by game," Grandits said. "Our

defense is improving every game and giving us a better chance to win. We've always been a pretty good offensive team, even when we weren't winning early on, and that hasn't changed."

"But now we're finally stopping teams, and it's leading to wins."

Ryan Grandits
Men's basketball coach

The Pioneers are 3-9 against conference opponents and 5-12 overall on the season as a result of Friday's victory.

Point Park faced Davis & Elkins on Monday, earning a 91-77 win. The game was set to take place on Jan. 28 but was postponed due to the closure of Davis & Elkins that day due to snow and ice conditions.

The Pioneers are back in action at home tonight against Glensville State at the CCAC-Allegheny Gym.

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Thomas Speranza | The Globe

Aidan Anderson drives past a Bobcat defender on Jan. 30.



Thomas Speranza | The Globe

Coach Ryan Grandits illustrates a play during a timeout vs. West Virginia Wesleyan.