



## Turning Point USA's Village Park visit spurs controversy

Gavin Petrone  
Editor-elect

For the second time this academic year, a table sponsored by Turning Point USA appeared on Point Park's campus.

While the last table received little fanfare, this second appearance prompted a crowd of about 25 students to heckle, debate — and encourage — its organizer.

Video later circulated from a Turning Point affiliated Instagram account, which called the scene "chaotic" and featured numerous transphobic and homophobic comments about Point Park students.

Point Park was contacted by Turning Point prior to their tabling but did not approve of the table, according to Michael Gieseke, dean of Student Life, in a meeting with SGA this week.

Gieseke said that because the table was technically on public property, university police could not intervene.

"The only thing that we as a university [can do], specifically through our police, is monitor whether or not they are impeding people from being able to move to and from



Spencer Parks, a sophomore, points at and records Colin Dowd, who was also recording with his phone and organized for Turning Point USA near Village Park.

where they need to go," Gieseke said. "They're not blocking any sidewalks...As long as they are not doing that, then they have a legal right to be there."

The university is investigating the situation further, Gieseke said. He advised that if students see Turning Point

on campus again, they should call public safety.

Early into the tabling, Colin Dowd, an organizer with Turning Point from Kittanning, said that a student stole one of the signs adorning his table.

The aforementioned vid-

eo, which was recorded by Dowd, shows a student who declined to provide their name running with the sign from Dowd as he threatens to call the police.

The student is being charged with theft and disorderly conduct, according to

university police Chief Jeffery Besong.

"This is the most hostile place I've been to," Dowd told The Globe. He kept his table up for around an hour before leaving campus.

Many students rallied in opposition to Turning Point, like Daniel Rice, a junior animation major, who played a saxophone over the noise of arguments surrounding the table.

"The only thing that these people are going to respond to is just being loudly disrupted," Rice said. "You can't engage in good faith with these arguments because...there's no ounce of good faith in what they're presenting."

Dowd argued he was merely a proponent of free speech, and that he felt he had fruitful discussions with some students about marriage, religion and economics. Dowd added that he did not feel that anything he discussed at his table would be considered harmful rhetoric.

But Turning Point founder Charlie Kirk, who was assassinated in September last year, was notoriously transphobic

see TPUSA, page 2



The area in Market Square where two suspects were seen fleeing in a dark-colored SUV toward Delray Street headed down Fourth Avenue. Neither suspect has been identified.

## Man found stabbed several times in Market Square

Carson Folio  
Editor-in-Chief

A man was found stabbed in his head and neck in the middle of Market Square early Sunday morning.

Point Park Police sent out a PointALERT warning the campus community about the stabbing at 1:04 a.m. Pittsburgh Police were on scene and took care of the call, meaning Point Park Police were not on scene when the stabbing occurred nor were they present afterward.

Jeffrey Besong, chief of Point Park Police, said he will send out PointALERT notifications regarding events that happen off-campus if they are in areas students may be at, based on proximity. Market

Square is only 0.2 miles away from campus.

Pittsburgh police described the stabbing victim as a Black man wearing grey sweatpants and a black hoodie. They were unable to say if the man was stabbed in Market Square or elsewhere and then collapsed in Market Square, but an officer on scene said there was a puddle of blood next to the man.

Police described the suspects as two people wearing dark clothing, with one wearing light-colored shoes. Police said the two got into a dark-colored SUV parked by the Dunkin' Donuts in Market Square and were seen fleeing down Delray Street toward Fourth Avenue.

As of writing, the victim

is hospitalized in stable condition.

Cara Cruz, Pittsburgh Police's public information officer, was unavailable for comment.

The incident was the first crime of the semester to warrant a PointALERT. The system was also used to announce the return to regular class instruction during January's winter storm.

While this is the first reported incident of the year in Market Square, the last one did not happen long ago. One person was shot in the area on Dec. 27 during winter break.

The case is ongoing.

Gavin Petrone  
gmpetro@pointpark.edu

## Riley Mahon elected SGA president pro-tempore unopposed

Gavin Petrone  
Editor-elect

In a unanimous vote, Riley Mahon was elected president pro-tempore (PPT) of SGA during its legislative body meeting on Monday.

Mahon, a junior political science major, was the only member of the legislature to apply for the position. This year marks his third as an active senator.

The main responsibility of the PPT is heading the Student Innovations Committee, which concerns student-focused improvements to campus life.

"My really biggest priority is to make sure that this [Student Innovations] Committee survives," Mahon said, "and is able to be productive."

Three resolutions to the legislature were deliberated over prior to Mahon's election.

A resolution banning students graduating in the fall semester from running for president or vice president was introduced. It later passed by a close vote of 4-2.

One of the resolution's detractors, Senator Samantha Laureys, said she thought its goal was extreme.

"You don't have to actually put it on paper to strongly disapprove of someone doing it," Laureys said.

Senator Jay Biagini sup-

ported the resolution, arguing it prevented an issue which could derail SGA for a full semester.

"Having a president or vice president that's only [serving] a semester-long [term], you'd have to have two different elections," Biagini said. "And I just think it can be a little messy."

Another, equally controversial resolution did not make it through the legislature. This one meant to further clarify SGA's election process by requiring a run-off if two presidential candidates have a difference of 10 or less votes.

Because the legislature doesn't yet have a defined process for conducting a run-off election — and because PPT Mahon proposed ranked-choice voting in a different, future resolution — SGA unanimously voted to kill it.

The final resolution passed this week bars anyone removed from SGA from being elected president or vice president.

Parliamentarian Sienna Wraith, who introduced the resolution, said it was meant as a measure of pre-emptive damage control.

"If you got removed, it shows that you weren't doing your job," Wraith said. "If there was something else going on, you should probably not be allowed to hold the two highest positions in

see SGA, page 2



# Table was not ‘sanctioned’

from TPUSA, page 1

and homophobic: He referred to a transgender swimmer as an “abomination,” and called homosexuality a mental “error” congruent with addiction, according to Gay Times.

The divisive past statements of Turning Point seemed to be the main driver of resentment behind those in opposition to the table.

“I was disgusted,” Spencer Parks, a sophomore film major, said of first seeing the Turning Point table on campus. Parks can be seen chastising Dowd toward the end of the video he posted on Instagram.

“I want to make sure these people aren’t trying to prove a harmful rhetoric against people who are queer,” Parks said, “are trans, or any sort of minority, trying to make us seem like these evil people.”



Thomas Speranza | The Globe

Colin Dowd, who set up the Turning Point USA table in Village Park, uses his phone to record the reactions of students to his presence.



Thomas Speranza | The Globe

Sgt. Bill Wagner of the Point Park Police observes the crowd.

Turning Point and Point Park have had a contentious relationship in the past.

In 2019, an SGA senator – then known as USG – was impeached for forging the signatures necessary to form an official Turning Point chapter. The Turning Point chapter’s constitution had also been voted down prior to the impeachment.

Turning Point, if it were to resume the effort to become an official club on campus, would be facing the same uphill battle.

The legislature, which must

approve of every official student club on campus, seemed unanimously opposed to approving a Turning Point chapter at Point Park in a meeting on Monday this week.

“I feel like we don’t owe them anything,” Vice President Madigan Balfe said during the meeting, “and it’s better for us to be like, ‘that’s just not here,’ and to not give them the attention that they’re so clearly seeking.”

Gavin Petrone

gmpetro@pointpark.edu

## Directory signs on campus inaccurate

Carson Folio  
Editor-in-Chief

If someone wants to get somewhere on campus and doesn’t know where to go, an obvious wayfinding point might sound like the several directory signs on campus.

However, using these directory signs might prove difficult, as flyers telling people to scan a QR code for current versions of the campus directory cover up the signs.

Several locations listed on wayfinding signs throughout campus are not accurate and have not been accurate since at least January 2026.

For instance, the sign on Lawrence Hall’s second floor lists the Pioneer Pantry’s location as the second floor. The pantry has been located on the first floor of Thayer Hall since the fall 2024 semester.

Additionally, all directory signs still refer to the Center for Inclusive Excellence (CIE) on the second floor of Lawrence Hall, which was replaced by the Teaching Lab and no longer exists in the same form it once did.

On some floors of Lawrence Hall, The Globe’s office is listed as

the seventh floor of Lawrence Hall. This has not been true since at least 2018.

Anyone who scans the QR code pasted on directory signs across campus leads to the department directory on Point Park’s website. The online directory includes many spaces in campus buildings and relevant phone numbers.

However, all the phone numbers are listed as just the extension, which was typical for calling departments or offices from campus phones. The campus phones no longer work, requiring students to add the area code and exchange number, 412-392, to every listed extension in the directory.

It is unclear when the directory signs were last updated or replaced. Each sign has Point Park’s old logo, which was phased out in 2012 and only present on directory signs and Academic Hall’s Boulevard of the Allies side.

Chris Hill, vice president of operations, was unavailable for comment by press time.

Carson Folio

cafolio@pointpark.edu



Carson Folio | The Globe

## The Globe’s CRIME REPORT

### One person charged in sign stealing incident

Carson Folio  
Editor-in-Chief

In response to a student stealing a sign belonging to organizers with Turning Point USA and running with it, Point Park Police charged the student with theft and disorderly conduct.

According to chief of police Jeffrey Besong, the student will receive citations in the mail and was charged on Feb. 12.

The student charged declined to reveal their name or comment.

Carson Folio

cafolio@pointpark.edu

## SGA grants emergency funding, discusses on-going internet issues

from SGA, page 1

[SGA].”

The resolution was unanimously approved.

Emergency funding was also on the agenda for this week. The PRSSA and staff at The Fix magazine requested additional funding, which was granted in part.

PRSSA got about \$50 extra for meeting supplies, and The Fix got \$110 for a trip to New York City.

It was noted early in this week’s meeting that a debate between candidates for president and vice president will be held next Monday from 7 to 8 p.m. Applications for president and vice presidential candidates close this Friday.

At the onset of this week’s meeting, university CFO Tracy Claybaugh, who was brought on to the president’s cabinet in December, addressed the legislature.

She offered to hear any of the senator and executive’s grievances with departments she oversees, namely IT and Physical Plant.

Senators discussed having issues of poor communication with Physical Plant, which Claybaugh

said she would bring up in her upcoming meeting with the department’s head, Chris Hill. Senators also discussed ongoing issues with the internet connection, which Claybaugh was also sympathetic to.

Internet coverage has been spotty across campus for several days. Head of IT Tim Wilson said the issue was caused by a hardware problem on the university’s internet service provider’s end.

Point Park shares its internet connection with Carnegie Mellon, which explains why IP addresses tied to Point Park will show a location in Oakland.

The connection issues persisted once “backup lines” were put in place temporarily. Eventually, the university’s phone system also went down.

The IT Help Desk called the problem solved by Feb. 13. However, students continuing to have unreliable and unstable connections was a point of discussion at the SGA meeting.

Gavin Petrone

gmpetro@pointpark.edu

# New environmental club inspired by Clairton Coke Works explosion

Cilia Catello  
News Editor

“The environment was here before any of us. We came and took what we thought was ours,” Ryan Doherty, president of Point Park’s newest club, the Pioneer Green Collective, said.

Since its inception, the club has picked three parks around the city clean of litter. According to Doherty, the West End Overlook, Mount Washington Park and Emerald View Park have all been tidied up.

The club is waiting for the last of the season’s snow to melt before returning to operations as usual.

“When we complete [cleaning a park] it’s a really fulfilling feeling to see the change we did in such a short amount of time,” Doherty said. “It takes minimal effort to no effort at all.”

Doherty, a junior SAEM major, transferred to Point Park from Penn State Greater Allegheny last year to pursue his love of basketball and fashion.

While he said his first year at the university was consumed by his passion for the sport, Doherty was moved to action last semester when the seed was planted during his community engagement class. There, he and his classmates came

together to start a club called the Environmental Action Club.

According to Doherty, the club dispersed because of delays officiating the club through student government. He has since revived the concept to be the Pioneer Green Collective.

Doherty attributes his upbringing in Milford, a small Pennsylvania town located just outside of Scranton, to his interest in environmentalism.

“Nature has always been a part of me,” he said. “[Milford] is filled with nature. No pollution or littering.”

The Delaware River runs through his hometown like the three rivers run through Pittsburgh.

“I see Pittsburgh as a city in the middle of a forest,” Doherty said. “It is up to us as human beings to take care of what was here before it.”

Doherty acknowledged Pittsburgh’s steel mill past, and the Clairton factory explosion of the present, but is hopeful the city is moving in an environmentally friendly direction.

“As a collective, we are all waking up to the fact that we need to have a firm mindset on how to take care of where we live and not take it for granted,” he said.



Ryan Doherty | For The Globe

Trash in a park before the Pioneer Green Collective removed it all.

Not taking the environment for granted is what Doherty said inspired the club’s park clean up initiative.

“The whole point of the parks is to connect humans back to nature,” he said, “So when you see trash and litter on the ground it’s a big ‘FU’ to the purpose of the parks.”

According to Doherty, most of the litter he collects consists of chip bags and other snack

wrappers, items that are not biodegradable.

He said the club is working up to cleaning one park a week.

Doherty said he plans to put a Google Form in the club’s Instagram bio so anyone interested in volunteering can sign up.

Cilia Catello  
crcatel@pointpark.edu



Ryan Doherty | For The Globe

The same park as above after trash was removed by the Green Collective.



Ryan Doherty | For The Globe

Another park area as seen after the Green Collective cleaned it up.

# Photography and fine art magazine ‘The Fix’ debuts upcoming edition

Andrew Burgman  
Staff Writer

A student-run art publication at Point Park University will debut its newest edition next month, combining an exhibition and printed catalog designed to showcase student and alumni artwork in a professional format.

“The Fix,” produced through the university’s photography community, now functions as both a publication and an exhibition catalog, with organizers emphasizing its focus on visual work rather than traditional editorial content.

“I think ours is definitely more fine art-based and less editorial,” Camryn Drabenstadt, head of the photography lab, said. “The focus is more on the work that’s being produced and shown in it.”

This year’s edition centers on a single theme: “hallucinations.” Organizers said the theme was developed first, with artists invited to submit work responding to the concept.

Drabenstadt stated that the theme was developed first before submissions were opened.

“We approached it by conceptualizing a theme first,” the organizer said. “So, the theme we went with this year was hallucinations.”

Submissions include work from both current students and alumni,

many of whom incorporate their professional experiences into their pieces.

“We have one that owns an aquatic animal rescue, one that works in eye photography at UPMC... a lot of their work kind of nods to their current professions and interests now,” Drabenstadt said.

The publication is printed annually through a professional vendor and is designed to function as both a book and a record of the exhibition.

Organizers described the project as labor-intensive, requiring a longer production timeline due to the amount of artwork involved.

“This is going to be a once-a-year thing,” Drabenstadt said. “It’s a book. There’s a lot of stuff that goes into it, so we’ve been working under a slower timeline.”

The project is produced by a collaborative team of roughly 15 to 20 students working across multiple campus groups, including the photography collective and graphic design club.

“We’re a mix of the Photo Collective, ‘The Fix’ and some of the graphic design club...” said Alex Olszewski, a student organizer and treasurer of the photography collective. “It’s kind of like a big collaboration.”

Funding for the publication comes from the School of



Shayna Mendez | The Globe Archives

Previous editions of ‘The Fix,’ the photography program’s yearly magazine.

Communication and the photography department.

“Club funding is tight for anyone anymore,” Olszewski said. “That’s generally why we try to mix the groups together. The more we work together, the more we get done.”

Drabenstadt said the magazine is intended to provide students with a professional platform to showcase their work and build portfolios, while also contributing to the broader art community.

“I think there’s been a need for

it,” Drabenstadt said. “Art books are becoming very important in contemporary art, and this gives students a chance to show their work professionally.”

The exhibition opening and magazine release are scheduled for March 19 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Artist Image Resource on Pittsburgh’s North Side.

Andrew Burgman  
ajburgm@pointpark.edu

# BISON BOOK REVIEW

Est.

2025



## The next book in the ‘Nightweaver’ series adds even more to an already great storyline

Peyton Martin  
Features and A&E Editor

This review includes spoilers for “Nightweaver” and “Starchaser” by R. M. Gray.

“Starchaser” by R.M. Gray is the sequel to “Nightweaver,” and it packs even more of a punch than the first book. This book follows Aster Oberon, who is a pirate. In “Nightweaver,” she was forced to serve a family of Nightweavers with the rest of her pirate family. However, as she immerses herself into the world of Nightweavers, she begins to unravel many secrets.

In “Starchaser,” Aster must work with Will and Titus to break the curses that are plaguing her and Will. However, the only way to break the curses leads them to Castle Grim. “Starchaser” overall adds so much to the series from where “Nightweaver” left off.

One of the things that makes “Starchaser” great is the addition of new charac-



Peyton Martin | The Globe  
The cover of “Starchaser” by R.M. Gray.

ters. The best new character has to be Leo, who is a princess and engaged to Titus.

Leo is such a fun and unique character who was nothing like how I imagined she’d

be.

Additionally, Leo’s relationship with Aster is simply great. It was nice to see Aster experience true female friendship with someone she was not related to, since previously Aster mainly interacted with her family or men. Their relationship truly is one of the best things to come out of this book.

Another great aspect of this book is all the plot twists Gray weaved throughout the book. Many of the plot twists left both Aster and myself utterly shocked. For example, when a certain character is discovered to not actually be dead, it was incredibly unexpected in the best way.

However, there was an aspect that was not the best. The aspect I am referring to is the love triangle that is made abundantly clear in “Starchaser.” It wasn’t done poorly by any means, but as someone who isn’t a fan of love triangles, it left me a little irritated when it became present in the story.

Still, Gray did a great job with the love triangle as a whole. In many love triangles in books, it is typically clear who will be chosen even in the beginning. For example, in the book series “Twilight,” it is pretty clear from the start that Bella was always going to choose Edward. Instead, Gray leaves the reader guessing.

Gray’s love triangle with Aster, Will, and Titus reminds me a lot of the love triangle in the “Lightlark” series by Alex Aster because Aster kept many of the readers guessing up until the big reveal.

Overall, R. M. Gray did a great job at continuing this series with “Starchaser” by adding the new characters and intense plot twists. I am looking forward to when book three, “Cursebreaker,” comes out in September.

Peyton Martin  
psmarti@pointpark.edu

## The ‘Wuthering Heights’ movie lacks romance and enough similarities to its book counterpart

Makenna Cable  
Staff Writer

Ever since the early release of director Emerald Fennell’s “Wuthering Heights” on Feb. 12, the adaptation has been bashed with countless scathing reviews across all platforms, from Tiktok to Rotten Tomatoes.

Red flags went up for enthusiasts of novelist Emily Brontë’s “Wuthering Heights” — the source material of the movie — as soon as advertising began in November 2025. When it was announced that Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi would be starring as Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, many Wuthering Heights fans immediately took issue with the piece.

In the novel, a core part of Heathcliff’s character and the racist abuse he endures is his “dark skin” and “black hair.” Characters in the novel refer to him with slurs and treat him as an outsider because of it, which clearly establishes that he is, in fact, a person of color.

This is a primary barrier that exists between Catherine and Heathcliff in the novel, even stronger than class differences. Some have deduced that Heathcliff may be of Romani or South Asian descent because of these descriptions, but his exact ethnicity does not matter

so much as the fact that the character is not white.

Jacob Elordi, although he did a fantastic job as Heathcliff with the content given to him, does not really fit the script for this one.

Some discourse has gone around online about Jacob Elordi and Margot Robbie as the starring roles for “Wuthering Heights,” with countless users describing it as feeling like watching the two most popular kids in high school doing a dramatic reading. It’s difficult to truly view it as art in this sense.

Another red flag raised during marketing for “Wuthering Heights” was how it is being labelled as a love story, when really, the source material is a tragic tale of psychological warfare, unjust social barriers to love, and revenge.

It felt a lot like the marketing for “It Ends With Us,” a movie about generational abuse which was advertised as a fun love story to watch in your florals for a girls night out.

All of this aside, if you view the movie as an entirely separate entity from Brontë’s “Wuthering Heights,” the movie was tolerable and at some parts encapsulating. The dynamics demonstrated between Catherine and Heathcliff are to some extent intriguing, but as it exists independently within the film, almost not romantic at all. This is especially disconcert-

ing since the movie is marketed as a romance.

Even if you are to view the movie as an extremely (emphasis on extremely) loose adaptation of “Wuthering Heights,” it still does not live up to what it claims to be. You go in expecting to feel the chemistry between the two main characters, but there’s not much there. Somehow, their interactions feel impersonal and void of any love, even as they repeatedly tell each other “I love you.”

Fennell explained in an interview with the Guardian that this adaptation of Wuthering Heights is largely based on her adolescent experience of the novel, amplifying it under a “sex-charged” lens. This is painfully apparent in the nature of Catherine and Heathcliff’s relationship as portrayed in the “Wuthering Heights” movie.

A majority of the movie emphasizes what Fennell describes as the “sado-masochistic” essence of “Wuthering Heights.” This concept could’ve been interesting to explore if it wasn’t done in such a one-dimensional manner — especially for what is supposed to be a romance movie.

No matter which way you slice it, this facet of the movie was not done well, even though it could have been powerful and authentically a gothic romance.

As a “Wuthering Heights” adaptation, the movie feels like a literary mockery. It seems like Fennell directed the movie with Catherine as a self-insert of her 14-year-old self (which to some extent, she admitted to being the truth). It feels shallow, somehow dodging and emitting some of the most crucial parts of the novel. Effectively, Fennell has stripped Wuthering Heights of its true meaning, stripping it down to a “romantic” story. Again, Brontë’s “Wuthering Heights” is not a romance.

As a romance movie which is merely inspired by “Wuthering Heights,” it is hardly romantic at all. “Wuthering Heights” is clearly made so the audience is to focus on how attractive Margo Robbie and Jacob Elordi are and how well they look together, rather than any real chemistry.

The societal and familial reasons why Catherine and Heathcliff cannot be together are hardly touched on, making their painful separation feel pointless. Many of the scenes where Catherine and Heathcliff are together feels the same as the 30-second bridges of a four minute song clearly only meant for Tiktok edits. As a romantic relationship in the movie alone, Catherine and Heathcliff’s lacks depth.

Art is made to be interpreted and remade through

generations. This movie was allowed to not be an exact retelling of the source material, however so many things were altered and twisted that it’s almost as if this is a completely different story with different characters.

This is not to say the movie was not entertaining. The movie’s strongest asset was its beautiful cinematography — from the gloomy shots of the moors to the despair of Wuthering Heights itself. The visual storytelling was beautiful and fitting. Each frame was like a painting to look upon.

The problem comes with the delusive methods of marketing and the implications of making this movie and calling it “Wuthering Heights.” The movie cover is being put on Emily Brontë’s novel. This act is extremely misleading and disrespectful to the original story.

Yet still, the movie was interesting and can hold one’s attention easily. The movie is quite worth seeing if you want to be entertained, as long as you go in aware that it is hardly a romance and it is certainly not Brontë’s “Wuthering Heights.”

Makenna Cable  
makenna.cable@pointpark.edu

JOIN THE GLOBE

WE NEED:

PHOTOGRAPHERS & WRITERS  
ANY MAJOR! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

# THE GLOBE'S

## Telling stories beyond just Point Park

With the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's (PG) potential closure looming in less than three months and Pittsburgh City Paper already having closed, The Globe has found itself in an interesting predicament.

As of now, we are the only newspaper left in Downtown Pittsburgh. We are the only outlet covering stories almost exclusively here, which will only become more true once the PG shutters.

With this, questions have been raised about what The Globe's role should be Downtown. We are acutely aware of the opportunity which has been given to us to fulfill a potential news void in the area.

And we believe it should happen. Downtown is an important area, whether you live here, commute to campus or spend time beyond classes exploring the golden triangle. Not having any news dedicated to covering the place we are centered in seems unwise at best and short-sighted at worst.

But what will this look like? Will we expand our coverage area? Try to add more staff to make our newspaper as big as it once was at around 16 pages?

We can't guarantee any of that. In fact, The Globe met with staff from U-View and WPPJ on Friday to discuss what our roles should look like with this opportunity in a discussion started by the Center for Civic & Community Engagement.

In this discussion, much of the talk centered around potentially starting a new, fourth media outlet to focus on stories in Downtown and to treat it as something higher level than student media. The Globe fundamentally disagrees with the creation of another Point Park media outlet.

Student media is not low-level even while it is a learning lab. This is where contributors make mistakes and learn from them, but this is also where high quality, award-winning work is published. To say that student media as a whole should be something to graduate from and then move onto a university-sponsored outlet is an insult to our work.

Point Park's media landscape is already fragmented as it is. We need to think of student media as a place for collaboration and not something to split up further. Additionally, with our workloads, creating a fourth media outlet or creating something which oversees all student media almost like a head editing team is not what's necessary or needed.

If the university were to say it could take the role of head editors, this would erode all editorial independence in student media. We should not and will not be reduced to PR fluff.

But in light of this, we've instead taken the opportunity to start our own city section instead of creating a new, unnecessary outlet and also negated the need for an outside group overseeing student media.

For example, The Daily Tar Heel, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill's student newspaper (and one of the better examples of student news done right) has separate sections for news relating to happenings on-campus and off-campus throughout the rest of the city. Chances are, we may try something similar.

Let's make one thing as clear as

possible, though: we will not impede on our mission to be Point Park's newspaper first and Downtown's newspaper second. The Globe does not exist to report on the same things the Tribune-Review does —who would want to read something they can likely read somewhere else? The Globe's content generally can't be found elsewhere.

And this is how it should be. If there is any notion that The Globe will ease its watchful eye on the university to shift coverage to Downtown and Pittsburgh-focused stories, put it to rest, because that's not happening.

If all goes to plan, we will just have even more content than before.

To make this plan work, we need our readers' support now more than ever. If you've ever thought about writing for us and want to help with a potential City news section, consider joining The Globe or contributing articles when you can. To consider expanding our coverage area, we need more people than we have now

**“We need to think of student media as a place for collaboration and not something to split up further.”**

*The Globe Editorial Staff, 2025-2026*

to make this happen successfully.

If you've always wanted to write news, features or entertainment pieces which don't necessarily involve Point Park, the chance is now. City content doesn't need the "Point Park hook" other content requires, but our readers still need a reason to care.

This could be history in the making. Opportunities are rising for student journalists here and, despite what some in the journalism industry like to say, print isn't dying. It was just never given a chance for Gen-Z to thrive with it and experience it like past generations.

Perhaps expanding our coverage area can reward a chance for new writers to experience it? It's not like people of student-age don't care — the staff of Deja Magazine in Oakland created a new print outlet to fill the gap in fashion and entertainment coverage, some of which is starting to show promise.

It's about time we close another media gap. For new writers, this could be a chance to shine.

The Globe  
globe@pointpark.edu



# Hot Tea with Z

## Respecting different beliefs

*Zarrick Plizga  
Staff Writer*

How do I know what to believe in? How do I respect someone else's beliefs without practicing them? Is it wrong to feel like others' beliefs are wrong? Is there a way to share my beliefs without making people feel like I am forcing it on them? How can I repent for my sins? Why are people so uncomfortable around the topic of religion?

Great questions. Religion is always a complicated topic to cover, for there are so many different religions and ways of believing in the same faith that it can be hard to know exactly what someone believes.

The only real way to know what you believe is to do research. Educate yourself on the different belief systems and try to understand the creation of the belief systems. In understanding history, you will also understand the meaning behind every rule or belief. Once you have gained enough knowledge you should be able to figure out what you believe in, or even figure out you do not believe anything. No matter the answer, your beliefs are valid.

Respecting others' beliefs is very simple: let other people believe what they want and keep your opinions to yourself. Having a discussion about the thoughts behind your beliefs is different from telling someone about your religion without listening to that other person discuss their own. It's ok to not agree about their beliefs, but it is not ok to make them feel bad about it. Everyone is allowed their own beliefs.

There is always a way to share one's beliefs, just be mindful that

some people may not want to listen. The best way to talk about your beliefs is to just ask if a person is willing to have the conversation. If they say no, then accept it and walk away. Once people start to see more religious people allowing the conversation to happen more naturally, they will understand it is more of an optional topic than a required one.

Religion is a really uncomfortable conversation to have because some people have it forced upon them at a young age, making it hard for them to have the conversation. The best way for religion to become a more comfortable topic is to let people come to religion on their own instead of attempting to help forge a connection for them. Religion can be very important to some people, but others may not view it that way. It's best to keep in mind that, if someone is to believe in something, they have to come to it on their own.

If you truly desire people to share the same belief system as you, then you should find people who do, instead of looking for it in people who don't. I personally have had the best conversations about religion with people who have different beliefs from me — it is always important to stay open to new information.

*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](mailto:zdplizg@pointpark.edu)*

Zarrick Plizga  
zdplizg@pointpark.edu

HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

Submit to....



PULSE

Point Park's literature and arts mag!

Submit your literature and visual art: plays, poems, prose, photos, you name it!

Submit here



# THE GLOBE

SINCE 1967

The Globe's editorial board consists of Carson Folio, Gavin Petrone and fellow editors. Opinion articles, letters to the editor, columns and cartoons do not necessarily reflect the position of the newspaper or editorial board. The Globe reserves the right to refuse advertising and edit all submitted articles, photos and letters to the editor. Contact to the editor must be signed and include author's contact information.

The Globe's office is located at the corner of Wood Street and Fort Pitt Boulevard. Letters should be addressed to:

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

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

Submit advertising related inquiries to globe@pointpark.edu  
All advertisements must be approved by the university to be published. Check [ppuglobe.com/advertising](http://ppuglobe.com/advertising) for details. The deadline for ads is Friday at 5 p.m.

Content Adviser: Andrew Goldstein

Layout Adviser: Helen Fallon

News Editor: Cilia Catello

Features/Arts and Entertainment Editor: Peyton Martin

Sports Editor: Brynn Rees

Graphic Designer: Khalil Johnson

Social Media Manager: Camani Campbell

Copy Editor: Vincent Smykal

Photo Editor: Thoams Speranza

Staff Writers: Andrew Burgman, Makenna Cable, Elle Murphy, Lilliana Fonzo, Melissa Garlock, Edmee Idalis, Zarrick Plizga, Makenna Smith, Hayden Waschak

Staff Photographers: Kyla Pothier, Luka Strickland

Comic Artists: Abby Calub, X'Aire Huger

Story Ideas:

If you have a scoop or think there's something we need to write about, tell us by emailing [globe@pointpark.edu](mailto:globe@pointpark.edu).

Or, contact our Editor-in-Chief on Signal at [cafolio.03](mailto:cafolio.03) and our Editor-Elect at [gm-petro.27](mailto:gm-petro.27). Anonymous tips welcome. Meetings: Mondays at 2:40 p.m. in the CMI, West Penn Hall



# The people united will never be defeated

Hayden Waschak  
Staff Writer

It's easy to feel uneasy right now. You don't have to be a daily consumer of the news to know this. There's been an undeniable vibe shift lately. Your peers, friends, family, colleagues and anyone you come across in your daily life are all affected by it.

You will be too. I started writing this while observing the city of Minneapolis and the community response to the tragic killings of Renée Good and Alex Pretti. We all know what happened, and the footage doesn't lie. They were brutally murdered in front of us by ICE agents. Good and Pretti aren't the only ones, though. Keith Porter, a 43-year-old Black father of two from Los Angeles, was also murdered by an off duty ICE agent on December 31, 2025. We have to remember that law enforcement entities have been committing violence against our own citizens forever, and in response to this, there has always been community pushback.

I want to dive specifically into the community aspect in times of fear, violence and

to put it more bluntly, fascist takeover. Regardless of where you stand politically, I think it's fair to say that none of us enjoy oppression. Oppression is everywhere, for all people. If you do everything you can and still can't afford basic needs, food, housing or daily living, then you are being oppressed. You're being oppressed by a government that only cares about the richest elite — therest of us are all below and will be treated as such. All of this sucks, so the question then becomes, "What do I do about this?"

What we need to be looking at instead is, "What do we do about this?"

There is no one person who is going to fix any of this. There is no one who is going to swoop in and save us because, even if we were somehow magically able to elect someone who can, there are still deeply rooted systemic problems that will not be undone with one person. There are things that we all have to work on within ourselves.

Turning inward toward the self means confronting things about ourselves that we might not like. I want us to really ask ourselves whether

we truly care and are doing enough for our communities in order to move forward in the fight against fascism. I think social media and a growing dependency on the internet over time has led us to become more withdrawn and pulled away from society. We liked to think that we're connected, but there's a huge difference between socializing online and in person. We've all created bubbles for ourselves online, so we only see and care about what's going on in our tiny bubble. In doing so, we've become detached from everyone that we can't see. I will say, however, that online spaces are a great way to build community, but I want to also emphasize that it has to go beyond that.

I myself am heavily online, and most of my socializing is done there. But that made joining back into the real world even harder. I struggle to socialize at school because I forgot what it was like to talk face-to-face with someone I don't know. I was very isolated growing up and didn't make much effort to change that until adulthood.

When we are alone, isolated and facing horror in

the world, we will become fearful.

We'll feel powerless, we'll spiral because we don't know what we can do to possibly help make this world better. When the rich elite hold so much power over us, how are we supposed to even begin to fight back? You start with the community. Start small with local groups. Find a cause that you want to fight for and start looking for people who also fight for that cause. For me personally, as someone who is queer, trans and disabled, I started going to local events that feature those things. Go to these events just to go, observe conversations if you're not ready to talk yet. The healing will come with that sense of solidarity you feel just by being among people who feel the same way you do.

The only way to combat that feeling of helplessness is by contributing in any small way, and that contribution can mean anything. As long as you are making an effort to support communities and causes you care about, it will help you feel better in the long run. We do have power when we join together. Staying withdrawn and avoiding our

own neighbors is not how we're going to fight fascism. We have to become less selfish, now more than ever. This isn't

about politics or petty discourse, this is about human lives. Whether you support ICE or not, there is a death toll that is attributed to them. The only way we can survive is by helping each other. We can't abandon each other, and we can't abandon ourselves either just because we're scared. Standing on our principles and protecting our neighbors and communities is what we need right now. We have to continue to speak out against injustice no matter how dangerous it might be, for everyone's sake.

I know it seems like we can't do anything, but we can do something. Expand your network. Start talking to activist groups and community leaders. Find out how to get involved, because even I, as a disabled person, found a way to do it. If nothing else, just make your voice loud and make your feelings known. It's okay to be scared and confused, but don't panic.

Organize!

Hayden Waschak  
hayden.waschak@pointpark.edu



Carson Folio | The Globe

The Greer Cabaret Theater in the Cultural District.

## A romp with a purpose

Augustín Rodríguez  
For The Globe

If you've ever wanted to watch loosely adapted Shakespeare set in the 1980s act as a hard hitting commentary on neoliberalism and race riots that show you not only humans can sing really high, but zombies too, look no further than Romero + Juliet at the Greer Cabaret Theatre.

Set in a strange and unusual world, the government is corrupt and the characters sing about it.

This new musical fuses the filmmaking world of George Romero, famous for "Night of the Living Dead," with William Shakespeare's timeless tragedy.

Written by Scott Logsdon and Aaron Gandy, they take the audience through a world in which a zombie outbreak has created a race of second class citizens that must stand up to the powers that be. One problem, the zombies can't speak! This was a concern at first, but the writers were too clever, as the zombies can sing their feelings in clean and clear English. Problem solved!

This show challenges its audience to think critically. What if you were a zombie, and people treated you different because of it? Romero + Juliet is a romp with a purpose. Featuring some great talents from Point Park's musical theatre program, Makayla Wynn plays the heroine + Juliet with comedic chops that made the undead grunts and groans seem like an Oscar Wilde play. A true powerhouse vocalist, she made even a

matinee audience enjoy themselves like it was 11 p.m. on a Saturday.

Along with the lead, some great highlights of the show came during the breaks in the action which featured a Madonna-esque singer/activist named Notre Dame, played by Ruth Waiwai, who was backed up by Kendal Williams and Ben Allen Carter.

They filled out the world of the musical, playing many supporting roles and adding some much needed comedic relief as well. Williams played a news anchor with hard-hitting questions, and Carter, during the act one finale, played a marvelous corpse. The stand-out performance by these two stood up the rest of the show.

Concept-wise, the show is a little all over the place and sometimes hard to follow, but that's expected of any new musical. With some work, "Romeo + Juliet" is cult classic material.

Its themes and philosophy do connect it to present day struggles with the far-right governmental overreach, although it handles it in a matter that comes off a little tone-deaf. Especially when comparing the struggle of under-represented groups to a bunch of mindless zombies. There's an idea worth exploring in this piece, but I think the writers must search harder to find it, and I hope they do. We need more original works like this in the theatre world.

Augustín Rodríguez  
labilel@pointpark.edu

## Letter to the Editor: Fact-checking needed on pro-Gaza piece

David Rullo  
Letter to the Editor

I read with some interest the opinion piece crafted by Grace Cross. It was a nice story, written without context that vilified the state of Israel with almost no mention of the country, but to repeat two pieces of propaganda she clearly learned from the benefactors of her trip, Sabeel and their American counterpart Friends of Sabeel.

Cross dedicated much of the ink in her column to the "genocide" of the Palestinian people and use of the performative catch word "colonial." While I understand that her column is an opinion piece, my issue with the words genocide and colonial, and the pejorative implications baked into their usage, is the same as a previous letter I wrote to the Globe: a lack of journalistic integrity.

An editor should have fact checked Cross' column and required her to explain how Israel's defense of its citizens constitutes a genocide. An editor should also have asked Cross to define colonialism and why she feels a migrant tribe of people who entered a land after it had been established as a Jewish homeland is not the colonizers. An editor might also have pushed the question of whether there was ever an independent Palestinian state administered by Palestinians before 1948 (spoiler alert, there wasn't).

I realize The Globe is a student-run newspaper but that shouldn't free it from its journalistic responsibilities.

I am also curious as to where the other voices supporting Israel might be found between The Globe's pages.

And while one could argue that The Globe isn't required to include a point/counter point on each issue it covers, I wonder what the editors' response would have been if a columnist wrote in support of ICE or Turning Point USA or against Bad Bunny's Super Bowl performance. I have a feeling that the pages of the newspaper would have been filled with rebuttals.

Missing from Cross' piece was any mention of the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attack on the state of Israel during the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah. The 1,219 individuals killed, the nearly 250 kidnapped and the sexual violence perpetrated by the internationally recognized terror group didn't warrant an inch of column space in Cross' piece, which would have given needed context to Israel's reaction.

Missing also was any discussion of the brutality of Hamas. It's treatment of the LGBTQ+ community, murder of dissenting political figures in Gaza, the group's theft of funding provided by the international community to uplift the citizens it governs—using it instead to buy arms from Iran and build tunnels meant to aid in attacks on Israel.

And while Cross presented a picture of a struggling group of people just trying to live their lives, she made no mention of the swastikas carved into doors at the al-Am'ari Refugee Camp I saw when I visited the West Bank in 2022 or the blackened guard posts where Palestinians had thrown lit tires at IDF soldiers.

Cross seems to have missed the disparity, created by the Palestinian National Authority, between the poor in the refugee camps who continue to be radicalized by their "leaders" and the mansions PA leaders live in surrounded by armed guards—meant not to keep out the IDF but those who might question how politicians can live in such luxury. Nor did she question the United Nations, which is supposed to be administering funds and supporting those in its camps.

Instead, Cross' entire piece was curated by Sabeel and its American counterpart the Friends of Sabeel, a driving force behind BDS attempts here in the states.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, "Sabeel's efforts to demonize Israel and Israelis have also featured charges of deicide against Jews; they have compared Palestinians to a modern-day

Jesus and accused Israel of engaging in a 'crucifixion' of these Palestinians."

The ADL notes that while Sabeel and FOS claim to reject Palestinian terrorism, "they also seek to lay blame for this phenomenon on Israel, noting on their Web site that the terrorism is 'rooted in this oppressive situation of occupation' and 'fomented' by repression."

The point is that any point of view presented by Sabeel or FOS needs to be taken with more than a grain of salt.

Locally, FOS has been a destabilizing force in relationships between the Jewish community and others in the region. One must look no further than Chad Collins, a local pastor connected to the organizations. One of Collins daughters has been radicalized to the point where she is facing federal charges for her connection to an individual that has been charged, not only with vandalizing Chabad of Squirrel Hill and the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, but with building bombs with the intent of harming the Jewish community. Another daughter was arrested for her behavior at encampments at the University of Pittsburgh.

While Cross has presented a nice story it is a tale replete with bias and a one-sided point of view that should have been tempered by The Globe's editors. In the future, I urge both the paper's editors and advisors to provide a more complete picture of complex issues that deserve more than Cross' curated vision of what one saw on a brief trip to the Middle East.

David Rullo  
Senior Staff Writer,  
Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle  
and former Point Park College student

**[Editor's Note: The Globe welcomes all opinion pieces regardless of viewpoint and the current editorial team does not write rebuttals against any piece.]**

David Rullo  
drullo@thejewishchronicle.net



Dan Gray | Feb. 20, 1979

Terry Peavy out-manuevers an Ashland opponent.

## Throughout the years: Feb. 16-22

- 1971: Salvation Army partners with journalism program to give students internships.
- 1972: Branch campus in Switzerland introduced.
- 1973: Financial crisis causes 17% of full-time faculty to be laid off.
- 1977: Planned photo lab on the seventh floor of Lawrence Hall delayed due to financial issues.
- 1978: Dr. Katz-Garris visits Point Park to point out accommodations not being met for disabled students.
- 1979: Equipment changes causes WPPJ to have bad reception in Thayer Hall but great reception in Lawrence Hall.
- 1980: Admissions being lower than expected to blame for financial woes and 14% tuition hike.
- 1981: Student Government locked in stalemate over issue regarding granting funding loans to clubs.
- 1982: Business scholarship named after Westinghouse Electric chairman Robert Kirby because he solved a Rubik's Cube faster than other executives.
- 1983: Lunch eliminated from student meal plans.
- 1984: Middle States team visits university for accreditation.
- 1985: University Judaical Board opens hearings to the public.
- 1986: The search begins for items to put in a time capsule to celebrate Point Park's then-25th anniversary.
- 1987: Photo shoots begin for 1988 Point Park calendar.
- 1988: About eight students attend town hall to voice their various complaints and opinions.
- 1989: Journalism professor condemns Duquesne University's decision to close its student newspaper by order of SGA.

## From the archives: 'Swiss villa will provide unique student opportunities'

*A branch campus in Switzerland?*

*Right before Point Park's first financial crisis, the then-college decided to expand its presence beyond the U.S. Unfortunately for students at the villa, this branch campus was extremely short-lived. Read the first story about it in this February 21, 1972 article.*

Donald Carey  
1972 Staff Writer

Eighteen weeks in Europe, anyone?

A new program to be initiated by the school would provide for a full term spent in Europe, with accredited study. The program is to be operated and administered entirely by Point Park.

The location recently chosen is in Lugano, Switzerland. Lugano is described by President Arthur Blum as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Located on Lake Lugano, it is often referred to as the "Riviera" of Switzerland. Noted for its mild climate and tropical greenery, Lugano has long been a European resort area.

Lugano is located in the Italian-speaking "Ticino" section, a few miles from Italy. Snowy-peaked Alps surround the area, offering a variety of activities.

The cross-bred culture of the area has provided Europe with some of its most noted artists and architects. The Royal Palace in Naples, much of St. John Lateran and the Vatican in Rome are products of the hometown boys.

Lake Lugano itself is the third in a series of lakes gouged out by glaciers

from the Alps. Small steamers and fishing boats plough its waters in trade and commerce.

Directly across the palm surrounded lake lies an independent Italian principality, the Campioni di Italia. Campione has one of the largest and plushiest gambling casinos in central Europe.

The school has leased the Villa Negroni for the physical plant facilities. The second floor, which will house 30 to 100 people will be used for the living area. The modernized villa boasts private or semi-private baths, central heating, electric lights and its own pool. The double and triple rooms have parquet or tiled floors. Surrounding buildings and the villa will be used for classroom study. The artistically decorated building also houses a spacious library as well as dining facilities for the occupants. The American School, a private prep-school for Americans living in Europe will handle the non-educational chores. The Villa is located only minutes from the railroad station and a short walk from the electric tram. Transportation across the lake is provided by regular scheduled ferry.

Any second semester freshman, sophomore, junior or first semester senior is eligible to attend any of the five terms offered: fall, winter (the month of January), spring and summer sessions I and II.

Tuition for the fall and spring terms will be \$1,500, the winter \$550 and each summer session is \$750. This includes tuition, room and board as well as transportation. The selection of students is to be based on a first-come, first-serve basis. The administration is

attempting to maintain a balance between men and women attending for any one term. Unfortunately each student will only be able to attend for one term. This however will allow for a larger student turnover.

The scheduling of classes is to be handled in a rather unique method. The fall and spring term will consist of 12 required credits consisting of three areas of study in the Arts and Sciences. An optional three credit sequence in Modern Language may be used to satisfy the language requirements. Classes are to be conducted mornings, Monday through Thursday. This will leave the afternoons and three-day weekends free for independent or group excursions. The theory behind the program is that the broadened educational benefits experienced by traveling will be an education in themselves.

Faculty members are to be chosen by their ability to offer information pertaining to the area and courses to be taught. Each teacher must submit a syllabus as to what he intends to present. From these, the best will be chosen.

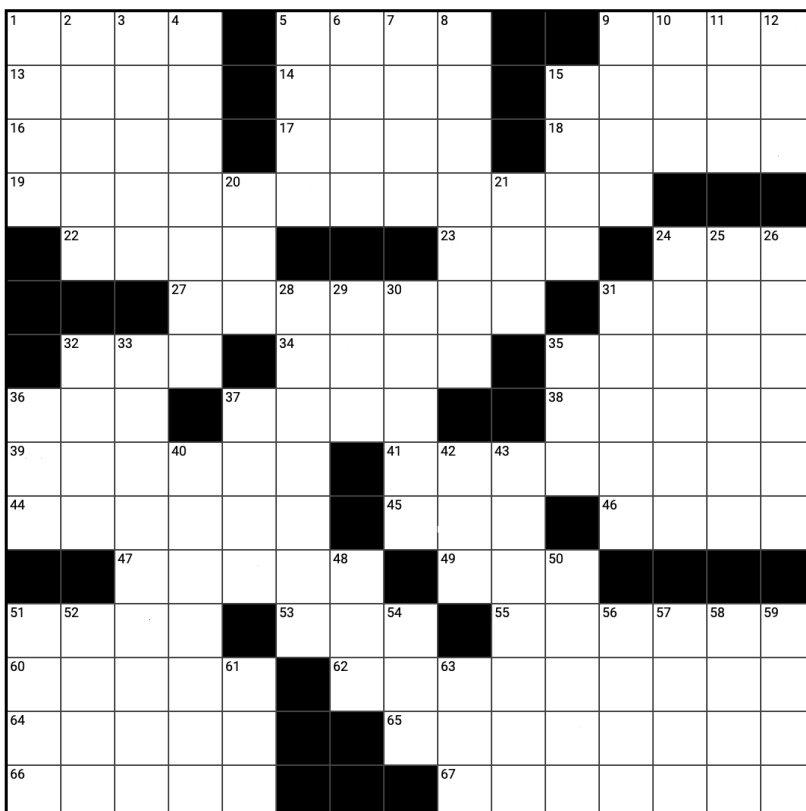
The northern Italian city of Milan is located within an hour of Lugano. LaScala, one of the world's most acoustically perfect opera houses is located there. Imagine having dinner, then trucking down to Milan for a night at the opera, topped off with a few drinks in one of Lugano's many night clubs on the way back. Definitely a change from going to the snack bar with their Phase II prices!

The tentative date for the first overseas term is Fall 1972.

## Point Puzzle: 'Learn from it'

### Across

- 1. Hot dog holders
- 5. Illegitimate
- 9. Behind schedule
- 13. China's continent
- 14. \_\_\_ heart
- 15. Something to "fly under," perhaps
- 16. Tech-focused class here (abbr.)
- 17. "\_\_\_ Link"
- 18. First day of Kwanzaa
- 19. Second day of Kwanzaa
- 22. El \_\_\_, Texas
- 23. Sprinted
- 24. 2005 Hyundai Sonata
- 27. Palmed off
- 31. Lion's hair
- 32. Singer Andra who portrayed Billie Holiday
- 34. Country west of Sudan
- 35. Popular Britpop band
- 36. A professor writing with a red one probably isn't a good thing
- 37. To place a sticky note on something, you first most do what
- 38. Thid day of Kwanzaa
- 39. Fourth day of Kwanzaa
- 41. An assignment fitting this description likely won't get done
- 44. Walk back and forth
- 45. Fifth day of Kwanzaa
- 46. Be a good \_\_\_ model
- 47. Water weasel
- 49. "Thx" counterpart
- 51. Terse response to an invite



- 53. "Just a \_\_\_!"
- 55. Sixth day of Kwanzaa
- 60. Senior
- 62. Faked records
- 64. Seventh day of Kwanzaa
- 65. Fastened like a dress shirt
- 66. Rodeo rope

67. Talking trash

### Down

- 1. "I've got your \_\_\_"
- 2. Deplete
- 3. "\_\_\_ style!"
- 4. Content with
- 5. Sea bass
- 6. Surface in a shape
- 7. Donkey \_\_\_
- 8. Withstood
- 9. Dalai \_\_\_
- 10. Much \_\_\_
- 11. \_\_\_ Mahal
- 12. The "E" in BCE
- 15. Mess up beyond repair
- 20. Cheep, cheep, caw, caw...
- 21. Young chap
- 24. Place on the North Shore starting with "Rivers" to lose money
- 25. Word after "party" or "pack"
- 26. Buy on the cheap and upsell
- 28. Reduced global temperatures
- 29. \_\_\_/her
- 30. Sharp part of a hawk and name of a car made by Eagle
- 31. College concentration
- 32. \_\_\_ Magazine in Oakland

- 33. Huge snakes
- 35. French word whose opposite is "non"
- 36. Striker's publication here (abbr.)
- 37. Breathe heavily
- 40. Winter handwear
- 42. \_\_\_ squeak
- 43. Chats with
- 48. Calls a foul in sports
- 50. Two or three-piece outfits
- 51. Slinky's shape
- 52. \_\_\_ mater
- 54. "Better catch you a \_\_\_"
- 56. Always recorded with the worst cameras possible (not bigfoot)
- 57. Tiny
- 58. Omnidirectional sound sometimes heard walking past the Boulevard Apartments' entrance
- 59. Computes a sum
- 61. Brazilian city, for short
- 63. Carry with difficulty

Want to contribute to The Globe's "fun page?" Email [cafolio@pointpark.edu](mailto:cafolio@pointpark.edu).

## Scan this for the answers!



# Women's wrestling program builds foundation in historic debut season

Makenna Smith  
Staff Writer

The first season in program history for Point Park's women's wrestling team was defined by milestones, growth and early signs of promise as the freshman-led squad established its identity on the mat.

The Pioneers finished 2-9 overall, a record that underscored the challenge of launching a brand-new program with an entirely first-year roster. The season featured several highlights, including three top-four finishes at the John Carroll Open and a third-place team finish at the Alfred State Pioneer Invite, where the Pioneers scored 72.5 points.

A defining moment came in December when Point Park earned the first two dual-meet victories in program history at the Berg Holiday Duals hosted by Heidelberg University.

For Amanda Prince, competing immediately at the collegiate level accelerated her development.

"It was exciting," Prince said. "Not many freshmen get to be in the starting lineup their first year, so to go up against experienced wrestlers helped a lot with improving my technique and confidence. We also got to set the foundation and standards for future women who will join Point Park, and

that's an honor."

Despite the losing record, Prince said the season never felt discouraging.

"For us to even go 2-9 is insane as a first-year program of all freshmen," she said. "Other teams had years of experience while we were still defining ourselves. It never felt like we were losing, only growing."

Freshman Cailyn Casto, who placed first at the Spartan Mat Classic, described the year as a steep learning curve, particularly as she transitioned into freestyle wrestling.

"It was pretty hard being on an all-freshman roster because we're inexperienced compared to most teams," Casto said. "But this season really showed me what I need to work on. It was my first year wrestling freestyle, and I had a blast with my teammates despite the wins and losses."

Casto said an early defeat helped shape her mindset.

"After my first match, I lost, but I wasn't upset; I was excited to work on my mistakes," she said. "That gave me confidence in my mindset and ability to overcome challenges."

Freshman Payton Moyer pointed to the team's chemistry as a key takeaway. Moyer earned a runner-up finish at the John Carroll Open, one of the program's early competitive breakthroughs.



Kyla Pothier | The Globe

Payton Moyer defeats a Mount Union wrestler by fall at the John Carroll Open on Feb. 1.

"This season was a roller coaster," Moyer said. "There was a lot of blood, sweat and tears, but it built me mentally and physically. We celebrated together, and it showed we were more of a family than anything."

Her standout personal moment came during competition at Indiana Tech.

"My biggest moment was being the first female wrestler from our school to score a five-point move there," she said. "That was huge for me."

Across the roster, patience and technical growth became recurring lessons.

"This season taught me my weaknesses early," Prince

said. "Excuses weren't going to win matches, growth would."

Casto added that mastering fundamentals takes time.

"Technique matters so much, and I learned I have to be patient," she said. "You can't fix everything overnight."

Looking ahead, the wrestlers expect their early struggles to translate into future success. With a year of experience behind them, the team believes it is better prepared to compete at a higher level.

"People should expect a big standard from us," Moyer said. "We bring BPU (Beat

People Up) to tournaments, and it's something that will continue."

Casto said the team will enter the year more mentally and physically prepared, while Prince emphasized elevated expectations.

"Next season we're zeroing in on the podium," Prince said. "We'll compete at a higher standard."

For a program in its infancy, the season marked the beginning of a long-term build, one shaped by resilience, rapid development and a shared commitment to growth.

Makenna Smith  
mrsmith@pointpark.edu

## Pioneers face tight loss in debut lacrosse game

Edmee Idalis  
Staff Writer

Saturday marked a historic day for Point Park sports. Men's lacrosse played for the first time in school history at home at Highmark Stadium against D'Youville, falling 12-11.

"I truthfully felt very confident in our team going into this game," junior Tigran Ceesay said. "We had a very hard week of practice thanks to the coaches pushing us so hard and setting the standard to get ready for the speed of college lacrosse."

That speed caught the Pioneers in the first quarter, as the Saints scored the first goal of the game around the ten-minute mark. Their lead was short-lived when freshman Grant Huber scored an unassisted goal for Point Park not even two minutes later.

"Once the game started and D'Youville scored the first goal, we didn't worry too much; we just came together and figured it out quickly and made the adjustments," Ceesay said. "We trusted coach Golon, Ciotti, and Erwin, and most importantly, we trust each other as a unit."

The Pioneers went into the second half on an even playing field, 5-5.

"We made the adjustments, we fought hard and took a lead, but once D'Youville took the lead back, we found ourselves trying to figure it out again in the fourth quarter," Ceesay said.

As the Pioneers went into the fourth quarter, the score was 7-7.

Early on in the fourth quarter, the Saints took the lead of the quarter with five goals to Point Park's one.

The Pioneers made a valiant effort to close the



Ayden Miller | For The Globe

Ian George celebrates a goal on Feb. 14 vs. D'Youville.

gap, scoring three goals in the latter half of the quarter. The Pioneers fell short by one point as D'Youville took the win 12-11.

"Being a team of mostly freshmen, it is tough to battle back from being down four goals with a few minutes left, but we kept our energy high and positive, and battled back," freshman Ian George said. "It didn't end how we wanted, but we can still take a lot from that moment into next week."

The team's feelings regarding Saturday's performance mostly related to how new the team is, and how new most of the players were to college-level play.

"I felt that being pretty much an all-freshman team, we lacked a bit of experience," freshman Nolan Heikamp said. "But I thought we did a really good job of staying composed the whole game."

Looking ahead, the Pioneers hope to work on team communication, according to the players.

"I hope to work on our chemistry together as a team," freshman Parker Bowersox said. "Since most of us are all freshmen and from all different places, we need to work on our chemistry to clean up our game."

Amongst the freshmen are transfer students like Ceesay, who expressed a different perspective on how it's been on the team.

"Personally, I just want to work on my communication with the offense and the team," Ceesay said. "Being a mid-year transfer, it can be overwhelming to figure out our 40-man roster. We have a lot of different personalities and a lot of really good lacrosse players from all over the continent."

Coach Cody Golon arrived at Point Park in June 2024 to kickstart the men's lacrosse program. He had a full academic year to recruit a team, then official practices began in the 2025-26 year.

"The team is solely focused on doing their specific job. Playing as a unit," Golon said. "[We hope to have] a really good week of prep in which we are getting better each day leading up to game day. We want to prove that we can learn from our mistakes and take another step forward this week as a team."

Point Park's next game will be at home, Friday, Feb. 20, against Malone at 6 p.m.

Edmee Idalis  
eimarti@pointpark.edu



Luka Strickland | The Globe

Camille Fultz shoots a free throw vs. Charleston on Feb. 14.

## Third-straight MEC loss brings women's basketball to standstill

Megan Lukitsch  
Staff Writer

Point Park women's basketball was defeated by Charleston on Saturday afternoon by a final score of 68-49. Point Park now holds a conference record of 3-14.

The Pioneers kept pace with the Golden Eagles in the early stages of the game. Point Park gained a slim 18-17 lead in the second quarter before Charleston went on an 11-0 run to close out the first half.

"Charleston did a great job disrupting our offensive flow switching between a man to man and zone defense throughout the second quarter," coach Dave Scarborough said. "We tend to get complacent when a team plays us in zone and that was very evident in that quarter. We had great looks but also several rushed possessions that led to easy transition points for Charleston."

Charleston senior guard Ksenija Mitric led the game in scoring with 19 points, shooting 6-20 from the floor and 2-2 from the free-throw line.

Point Park senior Alexis Giles shot 3-10 from the floor and 6-9 from the free-throw line, leading the Pioneers in scoring with 15 points.

Senior Camille Fultz was also among the Pioneers leading in this game, putting up 14 points and shooting 6-14 from the field.

"Camille and Alexis have been consistent leaders and scorers for us this season," Scarborough said. "Both have had to take on a heavier workload due to Lexi Adams and Emma Pavelek sustaining season ending injuries prior to the start of the season."

Overall, Point Park shot 27.3% from the field, 26.1% from behind the three-point line, and 61.9% from the free-throw line.

The Pioneers have four games remaining on their season, three of which are against Mountain East Conference opponents.

"Our program is excited for the remaining games and competing for a higher conference tournament seed," Scarborough said. "We talk daily about playing our best basketball at the end of February. It's now or never."

The Pioneers will return home this evening to take on Fairmont State. Point Park previously lost to Fairmont 80-56 on Jan. 14. Tip-off is set for 5:30pm at CCAC Allegheny Gym.

Megan Lukitsch  
melukit@pointpark.edu