

THE GLOBE

Covering the world of Point Park University news since 1967



Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Issue 2

Like our new look?

Let us know!

@pointparkglobe
The Globe
@ppuglobe

Pittsburghers march for 'The Dream'

By Matt Petras
For the Globe

Members of the predominantly-white student organization Student Solidarity Organization (SSO) admitted to privilege and engaged in an anti-racism march on Monday, Jan. 19.

"We're angry. The fact that we still have to be here is why we're here," said junior photojournalism major Lauren Finkel at the start of the event.

Mass March Against the Racist Wars at Home and Abroad was organized by We Change Pittsburgh, a political activist group that aims to rid of institutional racism in Pittsburgh, according to its official website.

The event was hosted by Julia Johnson, Tayfun Gol, Celeste Smith and Pete Shell, according to the event's Facebook page.

The march began around 6 p.m. between Forbes and Bigelow avenues, and ended Downtown at the City-Council Building around 9 p.m. Several students associated with SSO attended much or the entirety of the event, most meeting each other near a local restaurant before including themselves in the event.

At the start, members of SSO preoccupied themselves mainly with passing out fliers to attendees of the march. On the fliers were guides to the various songs and chants prepared before the event.

These fliers were made by We Change Pittsburgh with no direct connection to SSO, said SSO founder and senior global cultural studies major Samey Lee.

The event was bustling with signs and fliers, some simpler than others, some focused more on economic issues with a racial angle, some referencing high-profile United States events involving police and black men. One blue sign with gold text read, "Racism is a tool of war." Another was neon, with the letters "MLK" in thick black. Some posters criticized capitalism for being inherently racist.

Attendees passed out copies of a January edition of the Liberation: Newspaper of the Party for Socialism and Liberation. This edition focused on racial issues.

A multitude of specific issues, many with a local angle, were raised in speeches. These were given at the start and end of the event and a few times in between by the hosts along with other speakers, touching on topics from prison policy to unemployment.

"The police who kill blacks and Latinos with impunity are the real criminals," said speaker and host Gol, when addressing the claim that people of color are criminal at the start of the event.

There was a moment of silence for recent and prominent black deaths at the hands of police officers, such as Michael Brown and Eric Garner, whose names were read aloud in between silences.

While most of the content centered upon issues African-

MARCH page 2



photo by Sean Eaton

Gabe Kish of Pittsburgh was one of thousands to attend the Mass March Against Racist Wars at Home and Abroad on Monday, Jan. 19.

USG starts to plan panels, Pioneer Community Day

By Laura Byko
Co-Opinions Editor

USG

After the success of Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. Day luncheon and discussion, United Student Government (USG) President Julian Singleton wants to keep students talking.

"The discussion questions were really valuable, and students were insightful and had a lot to say," Singleton said at Monday's USG meeting.

USG is therefore planning to have a panel discussion on what it means to be a student Feb. 18 or 19. The date is not set yet to accommodate University President Paul Hennigan, who plans to attend.

USG hopes to make the panels a monthly event, said Vice President Andrew LeDonne.

The first discussion would be open only to targeted, invited students. Deans or members of USG would invite students who they know would bring a thoughtful perspective to the proceedings, such as members of the Student Solidarity Organization.

The event is currently in the planning stages.

The Pioneer Community Day (PCD) committee is also still in the planning stages, looking for members to assist in the coordination of one of USG's largest events. The annual day of service allows the University to give back to the city that offers its students so many opportunities. The PCD com-

USG page 3

Student leaders discuss civil disobedience

By Eddie Trizzino
Co-Online Editor

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Selma marches led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. On Monday, King and his lessons about civil disobedience were honored at the second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Leadership Luncheon in the Lawrence Hall ballroom.

"We want to make sure we support Martin Luther King Jr. Day, what he stood for, and what he meant to the civil rights movement," Brad Kovalcik, coordinator of Student Activities, Involvement and Leadership (SAIL), said in an interview before the luncheon.

The luncheon, which was an invitation only event, invited faculty members as well as student leaders from clubs and sports teams to participate in open discussions over lunch about topics relating to civil disobedience and racial equality in modern society.

"In today's society, we see many issues at hand but [they are] not talked about, so we wanted to get students talking," Kovalcik said. "It's important that the message of civil disobedience doesn't get lost, because it's a strong way to send a message without putting

people in danger, and we still see it today as a result."

Kovalcik also said he considers last year's luncheon a success, which had about 70-80 attendees. He hopes to invite more students to the future luncheons and also that it continues to inspire meaningful conversation.

Last year, the luncheon was followed by a screening of King's speech "Beyond Vietnam," but no plans were made for that this year.

The event started this year with a speech from Keith Paylo, Dean of Students and Vice President of Student Affairs.

"We're here to talk about a very important subject that we want to bring to the forefront," Paylo said in his opening speech. "We're talking about Selma and the march to Montgomery."

After Paylo's speech, a historical video was shown, highlighting some intense moments from the civil rights movement and a few of King's speeches.

After the video, a slideshow put together by Ken Middlemiss, assistant coordinator of SAIL, was shown also highlighting moments and facts from the civil rights movement.

"It was powerful, and most people

KING page 3

FOLLOW US ONLINE:



@pointparkglobe



The Globe



@ppuglobe

WEATHER FORECAST



Today:
Rain/ Snow
H 38, L 30

Thursday: Cloudy, H 35, L 26

Friday: Mostly Sunny, H 39, L 30

Saturday: Mostly Sunny, H 43, L 31

Sunday: Snow Showers, H 35, L 21

Monday: AM Snow Showers, H 29, L 18

Tuesday: Partly Cloudy, H 28, L 23



FIND THIS WEEK'S

CRIME REPORT

online at www.pointparkglobe.com



Students join protests to take back MLK day

from **MARCH** page 1

Americans face, other races were noted, such as the foreign recipients of U.S. military action overseas, according to the official website of We Change Pittsburgh.

This event was sponsored by numerous organizations, such as the LGBTQIA advocacy group Garden of Peace Project, according to its official Facebook page.

A full list of the exact demands of We Change Pittsburgh is available on the Local and National Demands section of the group's official website.

In the crowd of devoted protestors, members of SSO found their place. Finkel focused on snapping pictures and filming videos of the protest in between bouts of shouting with the chants and joining in on the singing. This material will be shared on the SSO Facebook page, according to Finkel.

Junior cinema production major Dane Hager spent a lot of time belting into a small, red megaphone. At one point, his previously strong voice cracked mid-chant, leaving his vocal cords weak for the rest of the protest. For Jay, the night was spent similarly.

One prominent aspect of the nuanced message of the march is the notion of "End White Silence," which is a phrase that promotes an end to silence from whites on injustice toward people of color. This notion was also exacerbated in the various speeches and posters, as well as emphatically supported by SSO.

"As a majority white club, we must recognize our privilege and

raise others' voices up," Lee said before the event.

There is a passion on issues of racial injustice to be found in the young members of this University club.

"Stuff like this is inspiring," Finkel said.

The crowd was diverse, across not just race but also things like age and sex, according to junior psychology/global cultural studies double major and SSO member Hana Valle.

Students of all demographics are strongly encouraged to join SSO to aid in the club's goal of giving voices to folks who are often denied one, Lee said.

SSO members at the event were quick to compliment the organizers and other protestors.

"As important as it is to hear from us," said junior cinema production major and SSO member Dane Hager, "it's more important to hear from [those organizers]."

Matthew Petras can be reached at mapetra@pointpark.edu.

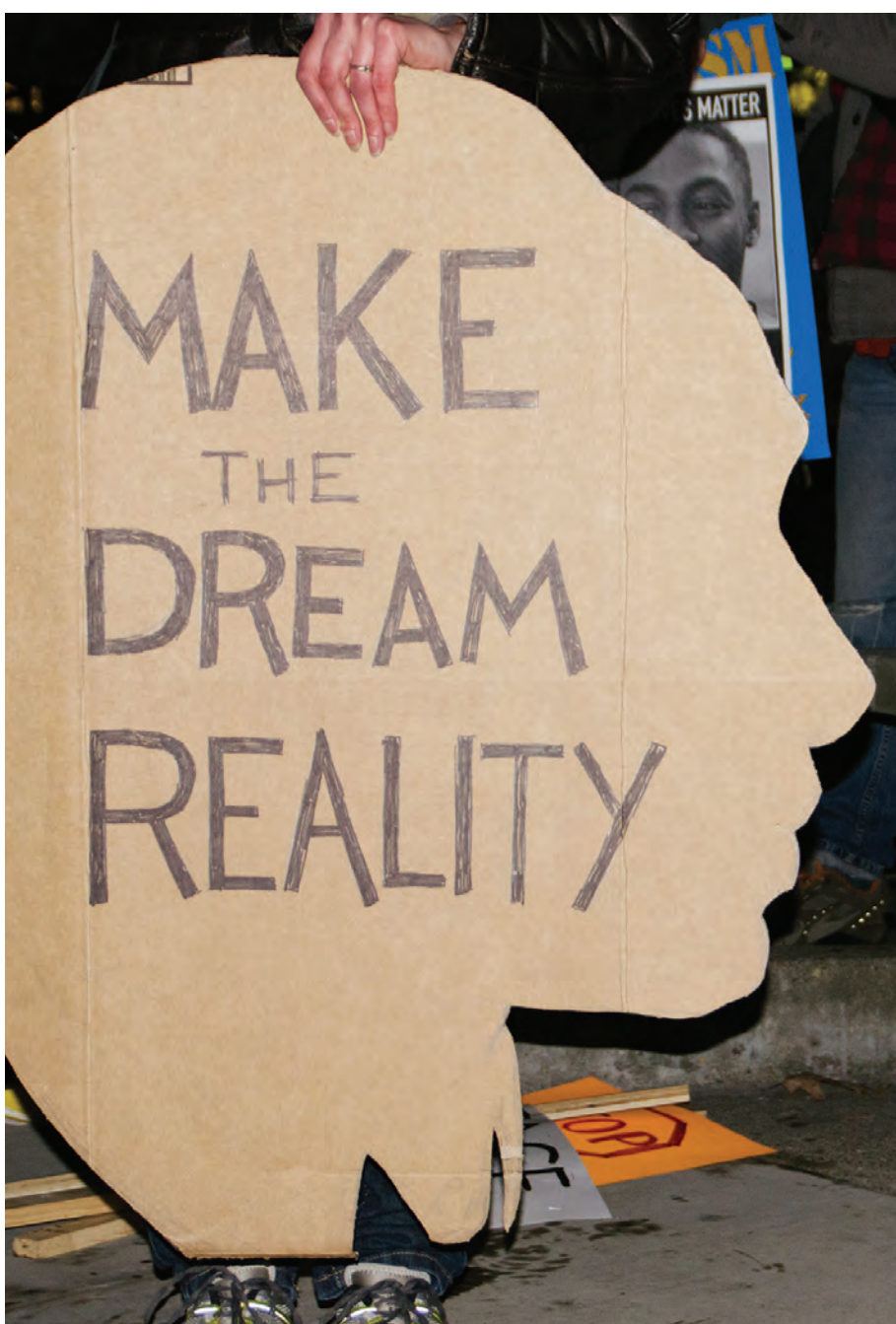


photo by Sean Eaton

Demonstrators marched for four miles, beginning in Oakland and ending Downtown on Monday, Jan. 19 for Mass March Against Racist Wars at Home and Abroad.

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Student leaders 'empowered' by MLK discussions

KING page 2

know about it, but to see it in on film and to hear the cries is very different," said United Student Government (USG) President Julian Singleton.

After the video, conversations were held at several tables about the images seen on the screen. Lunch was then served in the midst of conversation.

Each table was also set with topic papers asking questions about the role of civil disobedience in modern society. Conversation consisted of the opinions, personal experiences and inner-thoughts of each table's diners.

"A lot of people do see the end result, but not how we get there," Singleton said about his table's conversations on racial equality.

Singleton also said USG will be hosting a discussion event in mid-February centered around civic responsibility and engagement with more information to come.

"We were asked if we'd still march after seeing all the brutality, and most people including myself said yes, which surprised me," said freshman business management major and accounting minor Amber Mole, who is also treasurer for the Black Student Union. "When it's personal like that, you have more reason to do that."

"It was very thought-provoking and empowering," Shayna Mendez, a junior photojournalism major said about her table's discussion. Mendez is an international student from Jamaica and said although King is not a large figure in her home country, the words he said resonate with her.

Discussion continued at each table until Paylo said his closing words as the diners began to disperse.

"It was really nice seeing the different perspectives of everybody," Mole said. "I'm really

Eddie Trizzino
can be reached at
eatrizz@pointpark.edu.



photo by Eddie Trizzino

Dean of Students Keith Paylo speaks about the importance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 19 during a luncheon celebrating the life of the Civil Rights activist.

USG continues to encourage students to help plan Pioneer Community Day

from **USG** page 1

mittee plans to meet Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the USG office. Students do not have to be USG members to get involved with the committee.

"If you've experienced [PCD] before, you've seen how great it can be," Singleton said.

Also at Monday's meeting was Director of Alumni Relations Sarah Myskin. Representing the Alumni Board of Directors, she explained the role the Alumni Relations Department plays at Point Park.

The office assists past, present and future Point Park students, she said. It has hosted LinkedIn

Webinars for alumni, helping them with career development. It even sends information to admitted students, showing them the opportunities for networking and success that could await them at Point Park.

"We are committed to being as helpful as we can for the student body," said Myskin.

Laura Byko
can be reached at
lbyko@pointpark.edu.

THE MINISTRY OF POINT PARK PRESENTS

The Yule Ball

YOU'RE INVITED TO STAGE AE ON
ON JANUARY 22ND FROM 8:00 -11:00PM
FREE SHUTTLE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED
FREE ADMISSION WITH POINT PARK ID
\$5 FOR OUTSIDE STUDENTS

SAEM
SPORTS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MANAGEMENT
Club

CONNECT WITH US **CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD
AT POINT PARK UNIVERSITY** **@POINTPARKCAB
CAB@POINTPARK.EDU**

CAB APPROVED
THE NICEST EVENTS BUSINESSES

New and old talent join together in local theater casting Pittsburgh Public Theater to feature University student and alumni

By Alicia Green
Social Media Coordinator

When "My Fair Lady" debuts at the Pittsburgh Public Theater Thursday, audience members can expect to see a cast featuring many actors with ties to the Point Park community.

The classic musical by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe is set to include a current Point Park student, a voice teacher in the Conservatory of Performing Arts and four graduates.

"[My Fair Lady] is based off the play 'Pygmalion,'" said Ashton Guthrie, a junior acting major with a minor in musical theatre and an ensemble cast member. "It's about Henry Higgins who finds a flower girl and makes a bet with Colonel Pickering that he can turn her into a duchess or princess in six months time or less. They pluck Eliza [Doolittle] from the gutter and give her beautiful clothes and teach her how to speak beautifully."

Joining Guthrie in the ensemble is faculty member Robert Frankenberry and alumni J. Alex Noble, Caroline Nicolian, Garrett Storm and Andrew Swackhamer.

"It's fantastic because they're really good," Frankenberry said about working with past and current Point Park students. "Sometimes, it's nice to see them work as professionals outside of the ivory tower."

The ivory tower Frankenberry is referring to is Point Park, which is located in the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh and is often said to have revitalized the area.

And while the University is also well known for its dance program, it has also been recognized for the vast amount of talent that has come from its theatre department.

"[Point Park] has supplied a lot of talent," Storm said. "The staff and the students both. You pretty much go anywhere and see them in shows at the City Theatre, [the Pittsburgh CLO], the [Pittsburgh Public Theatre and] a lot of smaller places too."

Storm, Noble and Swackhamer said their training at Point Park helped them gain opportunities in their profession.

"I can't say that Point Park has technically ever opened a door for me," Noble said. "But, I will say that the training that I received there, and the connections that I made there with other performers and the teachers have led to opportunities. I can't say that having Point Park on my resume ever got me a job or got me in the room when it wouldn't [have] before. I can say that because I went to Point Park I know a lot more of the working professionals in town."

Unlike the alumni that have already completed their training at the University, Guthrie's training is still in progress, which makes his experience different from everyone else. He is also the youngest actor in the cast.

"It's been really wonderful," Guthrie said. "I came straight out of doing 'A Musical Christmas Carol' at CLO, which was really fast. We put it up in a week. So going to this show and just working on one of these classics and getting to actually rehearse it and [getting] to know the play and just know the characters...it's been a really rewarding experience. Also, getting to work with professionals has been

something that is in a way unteachable while you're here [at Point Park]. I'm really lucky I get to actually be out there, doing what I am training to do."

Guthrie is not the only one making his debut with the Pittsburgh Public Theater. "My Fair Lady" will also be Noble and Storm's first show with the company.

"I couldn't be happier," Noble said about his experience so far. "This has been as much fun as I've had in a very long time. I love the show. I think its one of the most complete pieces of theater from the music to the script to just the context, the language of it, the subject matter [and] the plot. It's just a complete musical. It's wonderful."

Guthrie, Frankenberry, Swackhamer and Storm expressed similar feelings as Noble about their experiences.

"I love working here so much," Swackhamer said. "The personalities, the jokes that happen with everybody...it's just a very relaxed atmosphere. Everyone comes in prepared, very off-book and very familiar with what work they have ahead of themselves. I look forward to working here every time. This is my third show with them."

Director Ted Pappas' "My Fair Lady" will run from Jan. 22 until Feb. 22 at the O'Reilly Theater. Regular admission is dependent on desired seats or ticket choices. Tickets for full-time students and those 26 and younger are discounted at \$15.75.



Provided by the Pittsburgh Public Theater
Ashton Guthrie, junior musical theater major, was cast by the Pittsburgh Public Theater as part of the ensemble in "My Fair Lady." He is the youngest actor in the show.

Alicia Green
can be reached at
angreen@pointpark.edu.



Provided by the Pittsburgh Public Theater
The cast of "My Fair Lady" features Point Park University alumni, Conservatory of Performing Arts' voice teacher and a current student. The production will run from Jan. 22 to Feb. 22 at the O'Reilly Theater.

Local rapper gets attention from main stream artists

By Emily Fava
For The Globe

Making beats came easy to Tairey Perez after his father gave him a laptop with the software Super Duper Music Looper, where he created basic instrumental rhythms.

This soon became a business when he entered high school and began writing his own music.

Nearly six years later, Perez, who goes by the stage name Tairey, released a seven-track EP that caught the attention of Rostrum Records, the record label which launched Wiz Khalifa and Mac Miller. He hopes this will get his music heard.

"I spent a year and a half on this album, retouching, editing and re-writing my lyrics to make it better; it's like my baby," Perez said in an interview last Monday.

At the age of 9, Perez moved from Worcester, Mass., to Pittsburgh's North Side with his parents and three younger sisters. When he wasn't outside riding his bike or skateboarding, he was admiring his father Juan Perez and his hip-hop group the M-Team. They were "the coolest guys on earth," according to Tairey Perez.

His mother Merida recalls constructing a makeshift stage using a few pieces of wood and linoleum as a fun

and creative activity for her young son.

"He used to walk around the house saying 'boom, boom, bap,' so I made him the stage, and before you knew it, he was up there showing his father and uncle dances and saying 'boom, boom' into the microphone," Merida Perez said in a phone interview last Thursday.

Having experience with beat making software was useful when Tairey Perez reached high school at Pittsburgh's Science and Technology Academy. Here, he met two other students who made music, Sam Conturo and Curtis Pope.

The three began producing beats and selling them to other artists in the area, but eventually, Tairey Perez began working on his own solo project. By 11th grade, he released "Aporia," his first project written and produced on his own. The spacey five-track EP features dreamy beats as well as sophisticated vocabulary. In the fall of 2013, Perez entered his first semester of college at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg where he majored in engineering and continued to work on his music.

Several small EPs and self-titled projects later, Tairey Perez found himself in the opening spot at the Odd Future group MellowHype's Pittsburgh show last fall. His music ranged from old school hip-hop beats to new age

spacey hip-hop/trip-hop. Almost simultaneously, Tairey Perez released one of his hottest tracks to date, "Zodiac." The local Thrival Music Festival included Tairey Perez in its lineup this past September alongside Portugal the Man, Motion City Soundtrack and Moby.

Last April, Tairey Perez removed all of his previous work from his SoundCloud account in preparation for his new EP "Celestial" that was released Nov. 22. With track hits well above 10,000 on SoundCloud, his music caught the attention of veteran Maybach Music Group artist Wale as well as Rostrum Records.

"One night in May, I got a tweet from [rapper] Wale and it was like, 'This is the best song I've heard all day' talking about my song 'Zodiac,' and I was floored," he said. "It felt nice to gain recognition."

Even though many listeners say Tairey Perez has a similar sound to The Weeknd and Kanye West, the 20-year-old says the biggest influence he has is the urban environment that surrounds him. Absorbing positive energy from those around him, as well as walking around the North Side, Strip District and Downtown, give him the inspiration he needs to create new work. With no given theme or one inspiration for this album, his songs go from

losing love in "The Signs" to a romantic daydream in "Synergy."

Hannah Tajuddin met Tairey Perez when they were in 9th grade. Their families soon became friends, sharing the Islamic faith. She can recall the creative ability Tairey Perez had after just a few times of meeting him and how much it evolved into his new music.

"He was always creative and wanting to try new things, so it's nice to see that he's really found his footing and has experimented with all the possibilities that there are with his music," Tajuddin said.

Soaking in the after-hype of "Celestial," Perez decided to take a semester off from Pitt-Greensburg to work at the local record store, The Exchange. He's recently filmed music videos for "Celestial" as well as his most popular track "Zodiac." Gaining attention by big names is exciting for the young artist, but he doesn't let it get to his head.

"I'm not really looking to get famous or to be a big name," he said "But it would be nice to get out there and learn more about the artistic process that I've been through while working on 'Celestial.'"

Emily Fava
can be reached at
erfava@pointpark.edu.

University smokers butt heads with on-campus restrictions

Campus police push students to puff cigarettes away from entrances

By Andrew Henderson
For The Globe

Everyone knows smoking isn't the healthiest of habits. It's been quite some time since cigarette ads claimed to be doctor recommended.

Yet, many people still choose to take up the habit. These people often find themselves put in awkward situations just to be able to enjoy a cigarette, with many locations requiring smokers to stand in a specific spot to smoke, if not banning the act altogether.

Point Park's campus is one of these locations. The school's student handbook specifies, "It is the policy of the University to provide a smoke-free environment in all campus facilities and vehicles in which University functions or services are carried out."

The handbook goes on to say that not only is smoking prohibited in these places, but it is also banned outside of campus buildings and anywhere campus-adjacent where smoke could "enter and affect the internal environment or unduly affect the environment of those entering or exiting the facility."

The University has one designated smoking area behind West Penn Hall. Smoking outside of this zone

could result in a \$100 fine, according to the handbook.

Sophomore creative writing major Jordan Bodenschatz feels this policy is too restrictive. She said she tries to follow the guidelines, but sometimes, following the rules just is not feasible.

"I try to go to West Penn as much as I can, but when I'm going to walk to class I just light up and walk," Bodenschatz said in a telephone interview on Dec. 6.

She said despite this, campus police have never confronted her.

Liz Fry, a sophomore psychology major, has been asked to move along by campus police when smoking outside of campus buildings.

"We were told that we could walk and smoke, but we couldn't stand and smoke," she said.

Bodenschatz and Fry said that Point Park's community is not always welcoming of smokers. Fry recalled an incident in which a man she did not know approached her to tell her that she was "too pretty to smoke."

"Last year, I was sitting outside of Thayer Hall, and Point Park employees would come by and kind of snarl at me," Bodenschatz said. "I was like, 'I don't know what they want me to do. I'm not going to walk a mile just

to smoke."

The restrictions, however, are not only the work of Point Park rule-makers; the city of Pittsburgh agrees. On Oct. 1, 2008, Pittsburgh's Smoke-Free Workplace Policy went into effect.

This policy banned smoking in public facilities, including schools, as well as within 20 feet of the entrance of those facilities. The policy is a reference to an earlier Pennsylvania law, The Clean Indoor Air Act, which was signed into law in June of 2008.

When asked about Point Park's current smoking restrictions, Director of Safety and Security Bernie Merrick replied that "the same policies are in place" as previous semesters.

Despite this, Fry still feels the University could do more to accommodate smoking students on its campus.

"I spend most of my time around Academic Hall and Patterson," she said. "If there was a designated smoking area there, I would be more likely to go to it rather than having a whatever attitude about it."

Andrew Henderson
can be reached at
awhende@pointpark.edu.

Quick facts about smoking



8.6 million people in the U.S. have **at least one illness** caused by smoking

Secondhand smoke can cause **disease and premature death** in non-smokers

There are about **460 colleges and universities** that are 100 percent tobacco-free

Secondhand smoke causes about **3,400 deaths** from lung cancer each year

Workers in a non-smoking environment are **more likely to quit** smoking

Data from American Lung Association
Design by Emily Yount

Housing selection poses question for convenience or cost

Students weigh their options between off-campus living for fall 2015

By Mallory McGuire
For The Globe

Point Park student Mike Popevec has paid between \$400 and \$500 a month to rent a house in South Oakland for the past three years and has no regrets.

Across the Birmingham Bridge, Eric Chesney spent his first year living off the University of Pittsburgh campus in South Side with four others in a five bedroom house. He said he has saved money and loves the freedom, but misses the close proximity to campus.

Before one group of student athletes accepted their housing in the Boulevard Apartments, they considered moving to Oakland. Junior baseball player Camden Kelly said they decided on the apartments for convenience, even if it costs more.

The winter months are when students should seek housing for the following school year.

"For the past ten years, I've rented 9 out of 12 of my properties to students," said landlord Mark Tish, who has properties in both North and South Oakland. "I think they enjoy the freedoms of having a place to call their own."

The bottom line is money. The range for South Oakland, according to Craigslist ads is \$450-\$500 a bedroom. For South Side it is roughly the same, but to live in a Point Park Boulevard Apartment it is \$8,000 a year, not including a meal plan.

Now in his senior year, Popevec has rented houses with four of his friends in Oakland since he was a sophomore. His rent has varied with each year and moving to a different house, but he said he has never paid more than \$500 for a bedroom.

"It seems like a lot because we pay rent every month, but when it's broken down into long term payments, I'm actually saving money," Popevec said.

Popevec paid \$450 a month for a room for two years, adding up to \$10,800. That's only a little more than a Boulevard Apartment. Now he's paying \$500 for his final year, making his Oakland housing arrangement cost \$16,800 total when it would have otherwise been closer to \$20,000 Downtown.

According to University of Pittsburgh's housing process, upperclassmen are not guaranteed on-campus housing, and are encouraged to look off starting their junior year.

Because Chesney pulled a low lottery number, he was able to keep him and his four friends in a nice, on-campus apartment complex called Bouquet Gardens. These apartments cost roughly \$4,200 a semester and follow a very similar layout to the Boulevard Apartments at Point Park. He is now renting a house in the South Side and paying \$550 per bedroom.

"I didn't want to find a new place to live," Chesney said. "We loved our apartment. The University made us move out. Now I am spending more money to live, but I get to experience life

more on my own. It's a win-lose kind of thing."

Baseball practice can start as early as 7:30 a.m. and run as late as 6:00 p.m. Kelly said when it was no longer possible to find a house for his junior year, he and fellow teammates decided to spend their junior year in the Boulevard Apartments, and it makes things a little easier.

"I never have to worry about being late or missing a shuttle because I am right here," Kelly said. "But we are planning to move off campus next year. It's time for a change."

With the spring semester on us, off campus houses are filling up quickly. Tish said he starts showing the first of the year, and the majority of his leases are signed by mid-March.

If students wish to move to Oakland or South Side, craigslist.org is a great place to look. However, no student should sign a lease without fully reading through all paperwork or looking up the landlord on the Pennsylvania Court Records to see if the landlord has any prior cases against them.

Mallory McGuire
can be reached at
mamcgui@pointpark.edu.

Tourists able to track Pittsburgh history with trolley tour

By Emily Fava
For The Globe

Mount Oliver native Steve Boehm received an eye-opening look at the city he's called home for 52 years on the new Molly's Trolleys tour.

Even though Nicole Slappo's 15-month-old daughter Mikiea can't relate to some attractions, the young girl enjoyed her first trolley ride.

Employee Jared Lathrup thinks the new tour benefits riders even when they decide to travel on foot around the city.

These 'tourists' have taken a ride on the vintage 1920s style Trolley all over the city from Downtown to the North Shore, Strip District, South Side and Oakland to catch a glimpse of Pittsburgh history and other relics on the "All About the Burgh, the Culture to Ketchup Tour."

"I remember how the city used to be when my parents would take us into town, so it was pretty cool to take my daughter on this tour and see how much things have changed over the years," said Slappo.

The tour departs from Station Square every Saturday at 12:45 p.m., where riders get insight on the conditions of the mills that industrialized Pittsburgh in the early 1900s, landmarks dedicated to the city's founding fathers that owned much of the mills, a look at the city's many universities and their campuses, as well as a behind-the-scenes tour of the Duquesne Incline.

Molly's Trolleys has been providing tours to local schools, offices, private events and the public since 1995. Operated out of the same building in Station Square, the Just Ducky Tours and Molly's Trolleys have recently begun to associate themselves with one another even though they still have separate owners. The Just Ducky Tours take riders on tours of Station Square, the Cultural District and a boat ride on the Allegheny River. Molly's Trolleys take riders on tours all year round, feature luxury seating and are handicap accessible. Reservations can be made at 412-391-7433 with adult tickets at \$25, children's tickets at \$15, infants tickets at \$5 and all children under 2 are free.

Donald Mendoza came to Pittsburgh when he was 17 from the Philippines and now takes riders on a tour of the formerly known "smoky city" when he drives for Molly's Trolleys. Out of all the areas on the tour, he claims that the demographic of Oakland is the most interesting for tourists.

"There's a big diversity of kids around all the universities and history that's been built around them like the Cathedral and the museums, so they get to learn about what young people are doing now and the history of the area," said Mendoza.

Lathrup is enrolled in Point Park's graduate journalism program and found the tours beneficial to his knowledge of Pittsburgh and how to get around the city.

"I'm from a small town called Franklin in West Virginia, and since working on the tours, I've

gained so much knowledge and really got to see what the city has to offer," Lathrup said. "I was given all the information on how to travel on foot or bus when I started working here and now am able to give that info to the riders on the tour."

Running both the Pittsburgh Marathon and the Boston Marathon in under a week in 1990 gave Boehm the chance to compare his hometown to how he described it as a "foreign land." Pittsburgh may not be what it was nearly 25 years ago but after taking the tour Boehm feels more in touch with the city than ever before after taking the "All About the Burgh Tour."

"It's real easy to forget how things used to be in town and in South Side, so it's nice to see that the tours keep bringing attention to how Pittsburgh built itself up to what it is today," Boehm said.

Emily Fava
can be reached at
erfava@pointpark.edu.

“Je suis Charlie” threatens speech

Honor MLK’s legacy

By Laura Byko
Co-Opinions Editor

On Monday, the nation celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day. (Well, Point Park didn’t, but that’s another article for another day.) That day, on the heels of a recent spate of highly-publicized killings of unarmed black men by police officers, people across the country took part in protests.

They protested racist wars, racist police officers, racism built into every structure of American life in a country historically designed to promote white prosperity. They took to the streets and demanded that their voices be heard. It’s something in character with the methods and ideals of Dr. King and an appropriate way to honor his legacy.

Some people disagree.

Some people think, oddly enough, that everyone is equal now, that Dr. King’s work is done. Over and over again on the Internet, in everything from think-pieces to tiny tweets, the ugly sentiment comes up: The black community is complaining. The American dream is available for everyone, if only you work hard.

What’s especially remarkable about this idea is the assumption it makes. It’s a vast one, spanning history and geography. It takes a certain amount of arrogance and a dash of solipsism.

It’s the assumption that the black community, and every member of it who describes how racism has impacted his or her life, is lying.

It takes an impressive lack of empathy and trust in the universality of your own experience to make that assumption, but time and time again, it crops up when discussion marginalized groups. Women are lying about their fear of men. Transgender folk are lying about their gender. Black people are lying about the opportunities available to them.

They’re not.

The University of Pittsburgh’s Center on Race and Social Problems released a report on Pittsburgh’s racial demographics and the disparities within them last week. It contains a wealth of data that shows the differences in education, employment and arrest rates between people who live in the city.

Often, we Northerners think we’re above the problem. Since we fought on the right side in the Civil War, we don’t have the race problems that our Southern counterparts historically have had to deal with.

The Pitt study shows that line of thinking to be a fallacy. “In Pittsburgh, both black juveniles and black adults were arrested at five times the rate of their white counterparts overall,” reported the Post-Gazette.

Additionally, “at some point in their lives, black males have a 32 percent chance of serving time in prison. White males have a 6 percent chance,” the report said.

It’s hard sometimes to step outside your own experiences. It can be challenging to accept that someone else has gone through something different than you and drawn different conclusions about the world.

But it is a vital part of being a human in this world. By granting people different from you their legitimacy and humanity, you restore your own.

There is a lot of work to be done. Honor Dr. King by shouldering some of it.

Laura Byko
can be reached at
lbyko@pointpark.edu.

The Globe’s Point

With Martin Luther King Jr. Day often comes the discussion of civil rights movements and inequality in America. Many recent protests have no doubt been connected to the work of Dr. King.

“Je suis Charlie,” is a free speech movement resulting from the tragic shooting at the satirical French magazine Charlie Hebdo following its depiction of the Islamic Prophet, Muhammad.

It’s easy to say “ok, free speech, sounds good” without looking deeper. Although the thought behind Je suis Charlie is a noble and necessary one, the people speaking up are not oppressed.

While it is unquestionable that the loss of life is a tragedy, it’s important to note that the people who are asking for support are largely white male cartoonists and journalists. The voice of French Muslims has largely been ignored. Muslims worldwide have been called

upon to apologize for the actions of a radical terror group, to defend being a member of their religion.

France banned the burka in 2010, denying many Muslim women the right to express their religion and culture. Anti-Muslim sentiment is casually expressed by many media outlets, including the now infamous Charlie Hebdo.

The right of free speech is one ensured by the government. It cannot be controlled by a minority group. The actions of the French government in banning Muslim movies and arresting comedians for hate speech are more threatening to free speech than the Hebdo attacks.

“Je suis Charlie” is solidarity with voices, which are not being silenced. This movement has unintentionally silenced the oppressed in France. The work of MLK helped make black people in America heard. We should take care to do the same for all oppressed people today.

The Globe
can be reached at
globe@pointpark.edu.

Leelah Alcorn a teenage tragedy, not a hero

By Devon Strayer
For The Globe

As a bisexual and gender fluid individual, I tend to follow what is happening in the LGBTQ community more closely than most people. Transgender issues interest me in particular, and when 17-year-old transgender Leelah Alcorn committed suicide in Ohio in Dec., it came to my attention pretty quickly.

Transgender activists instantly blew up the web, writing songs about Leelah, holding vigils, proposing anti-conversion therapy legislation and raising Leelah to celebrity status almost overnight.

Now before I go on, I want to make something clear: While I would absolutely support Leelah’s Law, the proposed legislation to end harmful (and usually religion-driven) conversion therapy, I do not agree that Leelah should be raised to celebrity status for jumping out in front of a truck.

Now, I understand that Leelah had issues - she was the child of conservative Christian parents who refused to recognize her gender identity and sent her to conversion therapy. While they’ve claimed in interviews to have loved their child “unconditionally,” it seems obvious when Leelah’s side of the story is reviewed that they had little, if any, respect for their child. When she came out as gay at school, they took away her computer and social media and took her out of public school, effectively isolating her for five months.

It doesn’t take a genius to see how this child came to the conclusion, as stated in her suicide note, that “People say ‘it gets better’ but that isn’t true in my case. It gets worse.”

And herein lies the actual problem.

Leelah’s suicide doesn’t help transgender kids at all - it doesn’t show them that it gets better. (Which it does, I assure you.) It shows them that if they can’t have their way, right this instant, then suicide is an easy out, and parents are easy to blame.

Leelah’s choice of action was both selfish and shortsighted. People everywhere are raising their flags in support of Leelah, but who is starting a fund for the truck driver that she jumped out in front of? That guy is probably going to need therapy for a while. Who is supporting him? Leelah made a choice - the wrong choice - because she couldn’t

see a future beyond the roadblocks her parents were throwing up in front of her.

Being a teenager is partially to blame for that - kids want everything now, and everything in the world is of equal importance, from the choice of what socks to wear in the morning all the way to whom to marry. But these days we also live in a society that traps people in a bizarre cycle of dependency that has somehow become acceptable and makes it easy for a young person to think they’ll never escape.

As a teenager, I remember wanting and wishing to be grown up and in charge of my own life. Looking back, perhaps that was amplified because of the dysfunction in my home: Watching my parents screw things up made me much more aware of how I would do things differently when I finally got to adulthood myself.

Regardless of my parents’ problems, there was one thing that my mother always told me that stuck with me: “When you turn eighteen, you’re out of this house.” I looked forward to that day with all my heart, and prepared for it.

You see, my mother understood - and passed along - a vital piece of information that somehow seems to have gotten lost in today’s society, by both children and parents. And that is that children are to be weaned. My mother’s point was that a parent’s job is not to raise children to be dependent on her forever, and a child’s goal shouldn’t be to milk her parents for the rest of their lives when she should be providing for herself.

Parents won’t be around forever, and it’s their responsibility to raise offspring that can function without them. It’s the offspring’s responsibility to rise to the challenge. You break away from your parents and begin functioning on your own. That’s what it’s all about.

When I was young, I couldn’t wait to be on my own and away from my parents. Even beyond my sexual orientation and gender issues, I understood that there were certain things I could never do under my parents’ roof. If my parents wouldn’t let me do something, I didn’t dwell on it, I merely got a little angrier and a lot more determined.

Leelah asked her parents for gender reassignment surgery at 16, knowing full well that they were going to say “no.” I can’t even figure out why she bothered to

ask, and I see this time and time again in chat rooms and groups on Facebook. I understand that kids want everything now, but that never outweighed common sense for me, and I can’t understand why young people seem to lack that common sense now.

Young people are consistently upset with their parents for not shouldering the burden and forking over dough for things they want. First off, even if they support your gender reassignment, that’s not your money. They earned it, not you. They have every right to say no to you, regardless of how you feel about it. And second, if you already know they don’t approve, don’t cause yourself the stress of asking and having to deal with the fallout of the answer.

You live your life and let them live theirs. If you’re over eighteen, your life is your responsibility now, and no one else’s. If you’re under eighteen and need help, there are resources for you. If you’re local, the Persad Center, Gay and Lesbian Community Center and FamilyLinks are good places to start.

Part of growing up is realizing that not everyone, not even your family, is always going to be in your corner. You let go of painful connections and you forge new ones. It hurts, and that’s life.

It gets better, but the nightmare doesn’t begin to end until the day you stop relying on everybody else and start taking responsibility for yourself, and not a day sooner. Incidentally, that goes for non-trans people, too. I moved out of my father’s home the day after I turned eighteen and never went back. Progress was slow, but it happened, and today I am proud of where I’ve landed.

Trans or not, Leelah Alcorn made the wrong decision and traumatized an innocent man for the rest of his life because she was too shortsighted to be patient enough to wait another year and a half so she could legally take control of her own life. Leelah is not a hero; she is a tragedy. She is not a cause; she is a person who made a mistake. She is not an example to follow.

Devon Strayer
can be reached at
drstray@pointpark.edu.

THE GLOBE

1967- The Globe board consists of Kristin Snapp, Mia Rupani and fellow editors.

2015 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 and letters to the editor. Letters to the editor must be signed and include the author’s contact information. Offices are located in rooms 710 and 711 Lawrence Hall. Writers should address letters to:

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

Kristin Snapp, Editor-in-Chief
Mia Rupani, Assistant to the Editor
Jane McAnallen, News Editor
Ashley Kolumban, Co-Features Editor
Christine Manganas, Co-Features Editor
Johanna Wharran, Co-Opinions Editor
Laura Byko, Co-Opinions Editor
Phillip Poupore, Sports Editor
Josh Croup, Sports Columnist
Sydney Schaefer, Sports Photo Editor
Ty Smith, News Photo Editor
Dominique Hildebrand, Features Photo Editor
Dana Bohince, Co-Online Editor
Eddie Trizzino, Co-Online Editor
Alicia Green, Social Media Coordinator
Alex Grubbs, Co-Copy Desk Chief
Jon Andreassi, Copy Editor

Kayla Novak, Copy Editor
Emily Yount, Graphic Designer
Kariann Mano, Business Manager
Dr. Aimee-Marie Dorsten, Adviser

Advertising

To place an ad, email
advertising@pointpark.edu.
All ads must be approved by the University.
The deadline for ads is Friday at 5 p.m.

Story Ideas

If you have a news, sports, opinions or feature story that you think The Globe can use, email globe@pointpark.edu.

Croup's Corner

By Josh Croup
Sports Columnist

The polls don't matter

The women's basketball team was disrespected in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Top 25 poll this past week, but head coach Tony Grenek won't tell his team that.

After a 2-0 week against conference opponents Indiana University Kokomo and Rio Grande, it was announced last Tuesday Point Park fell from No. 25 in the NAIA Division II Top 25 poll to the "others receiving votes" section in the rankings. Madonna jumped Point Park in the poll to enter last week at No. 24. Madonna lost at home to Point Park 74-55 earlier in the season.

Last week, Point Park went a perfect 2-0 again. After a 75-50 win over Penn State Fayette Monday, the team hosted Penn State Beaver Wednesday in its first game since the rankings were released and, in convincing fashion, rolled over a PSU-Beaver squad playing its first game since Dec. 12.

Point Park's defense forced 29 turnovers in the 105-59 victory. The last time they scored 100 points at home was Nov. 27, 2007 against Wilberforce in a 101-90 victory. The team seized the opportunity to prove voters wrong in its dominating week against two Penn State teams, but Grenek said he doesn't talk to his team about where the team is ranked.

"To be honest with you, it doesn't really matter," Grenek said.

"We've won a ton of games in previous years, and we fall out of the Top 25 or never seem to even crack the Top 20. I don't even bring that up to the girls whatsoever."

After the game, Grenek said that his goal was to work on the team's trap defense and play with an intensity that could propel them into conference play. He said the team's performance last year in the national tournament, a loss in the first round 83-52 to Morningside, is partially to blame for its placement in the polls.

"We got to play in almost a sadistic mode," Grenek said. "We've got to be mean all the time because obviously, in the polls, no one respects us. The way we performed last year at nationals, I don't blame people. We didn't really have a good performance out there."

If they are going to make another trip to the national tournament, they are going to have to do it themselves and not rely on the voters. Because to the voters, Point Park simply put, is just another team receiving votes.

For Point Park conference play begins this week. Expect Point Park to continue their "sadistic" style of defense. Expect them to force turnovers. But don't expect them to complain about their ranking.

Josh Croup
can be reached at
jdcroup@pointpark.edu.



photo by Christopher Squier

Senior Forward Alan Heter went up for a lay-up in Point Park's first game against Penn State Fayette on Nov. 12, 2014. Point Park defeated Penn State-Fayette 88-85.

BE A STAR!

Follow your dreams like Kean Quest stars
Jackie Evancho & Chris Jamison!

KEAN QUEST

VOCAL CONTEST

REGISTER NOW!

ADULT VOCAL COMPETITION
Begins February 6 (19 and Older)

YOUTH VOCAL COMPETITION
Begins February 15 (18 and Under)

WIN GREAT PRIZES
\$1,000 Cash for Adults
Recording Session
Professional Head Shots

**\$1,000
CASH
PRIZE!**



724-625-3770 • KeanQuest.com

5847 Meridian Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044

Proceeds benefit the St. Barnabas Free Care Fund



Penn State Fayette gets revenge against Point Park in rematch

By Christine Cestra
For The Globe

The Pioneers opened last week with a win, but came out flat in their second game, which started the semester.

Point Park first faced IU Kokomo last Saturday in a Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC) home game. The team entered the game ranked fifth in National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II, scoring 90.0 points per game.

The Pioneers had not reached their 90 points per game total in the last few games, until they went against Rio Grande, who they defeated 98 to 96. Point Park carried that momentum into the game with IU Kokomo.

The first half belonged to the Pioneers with a 21-point halftime lead, with their starters being pulled with five minutes remaining.

Point Guard Jerah'me Williams had 23 points and nine assists, forward Barry Smith finished with 22 points and a team-high nine rebounds, and senior forward Alan Heter contributed with 19 points.

A total of six players scored in double figures for Point Park, who shot 59 percent for the game and 63 percent in the second half.

"My mindset going into a game is first to win," said Williams. "Then get my team involved during the game and focus on taking [them] to the next level."

The Pioneers had a final score of 107-93.

The 107-point output marks the fifth time this year the Pioneers have gone over 100 points in a game.

Smith hoped the second time going against Penn State-Fayette would turn out like the first win. But, PSU-Fayette came out stronger this time with the win.

"I think they came out with something to prove, because we beat them last time," Smith said. "They play with intensity from the jump-ball. We, as a team, came out really slow and got ourselves into a hole and were playing catch up the whole time. We need to come out with intensity and a desire to win from now on."

The game ended in a shootout at 111-97. PSU-Fayette is ranked No. 4 in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) and led in the first half at 56-50.

Williams led the team with 26 points and four 3-pointers, Heter followed with 22 points and 17 rebounds and Smith added 10 points as well. The Pioneers are currently 10-7 overall and 2-2 in the KIAC.

Williams believes the team is ready for the rest of the season.

"The rest of the season will be great," he said. "We have been practicing very hard and have been learning new things every day!"

Christine Cestra
can be reached at
cbcestr@pointpark.edu.

THE GLOBE

Covering the world of Point Park University news since 1967

WE'RE HIRING!

Looking for newspaper experience, or just want to get involved?

The Globe is now hiring for the following positions:

- Assistant News Editor

- Co-Sports Editor

- Assistant Graphic Designer

Contact Kristin Snapp, Editor-in-Chief, at kmsnapp@pointpark.edu for more information.

SPORTS

PIONEER SPORTS DRILL

Who did the women's basketball team defeat by 46 points on Jan. 15?

see answer below

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Issue 2

Lady Pioneers dominate Penn State branch campuses: *Defense proves to be the key to success this season for Point Park*

By Michael Richter
For The Globe

Last week, the Point Park women's basketball team churned out two victories over Penn State Fayette and Penn State Beaver, which improved the Pioneers overall record to 16-2 and increased the team's winning streak to five games.

On Jan. 12, the Pioneers steamrolled Penn State Fayette on the road 75-50 – marking Point Park's second victory over Penn State Fayette in the 2014-15 season – they also beat the Roaring Lions 71-38 at home on Dec. 9.

Point Park maintained a significantly large lead throughout most of the game. The Pioneers led 41-20 after the first half, which led to the team's bench receiving significant playing time. The bench finished the game with 38 points – just edging out the starters, who totaled 37 points.

Moreover, a backup player led Point Park in scoring versus Penn State Fayette: freshman center Baylee Buleca's scored 12 points, which is the most points she has ever recorded in a game at the collegiate level.

Point Park generated another dominant performance on Jan. 14, as they beat Penn State Beaver at home 105-59. That victory marked the third game in which the Pioneers amassed 100-plus points this season – and it was the second game during which the Pioneers produced over 100 points in regulation time.

Point Park's defense played phenomenally. Astonishingly, Penn State Beaver turned the ball over 29 times against Point Park – 16 of those 29 turnovers were steals made by Pioneers defenders. Furthermore, the Point Park defense limited the Lady Lions offense to a lowly 34.2 field goal percentage.

"Mainly, we dominated because of our defense, and because we got so many turnovers," said starting guard Alexa Xenakis.

Starting point guard Kelly Johnson currently ranks

sixth in steals per game with 3.69 in National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II. Against Penn State Beaver, Johnson recorded two steals, just under her season average.

"The overall team effort to pressure the ball has made it easy for me to get steals," said Johnson.

On the Lady Lions' first offensive possession of the game, one of the team's starting guards Brittany Mineard attempted to pass the ball but was picked off by Point Park starting forward/guard Ja'Nia McPhatter,

“Mainly, we dominated because of our defense, and because we got so many turnovers.”

Alexa Xenakis
Junior Guard
Point Park Women's Basketball

which kicked off a myriad of mistakes that were made by the Lady Lions.

"We run a basic trapping defense, and we are able to use a lot of bodies, which wore them down," said head coach Tony Grenek.

He went onto add that the team's great defense can be attributed to its depth.

The Lady Lions' plethora of mishaps infuriated the team's head coach Tim Moore.

With under 8:56 left in the first half of the game and Point Park up 34-17, Moore called a timeout from the Penn State Beaver bench immediately after the

coach shouted, "We are shooting ourselves in the foot!"

The first half ended with the Pioneers on top 50-31.

In the second half of the game, Point Park effortlessly transported the ball throughout the court. In two separate instances, senior forward Natasha Moss grabbed a defensive rebound and dribbled the ball to the Lady Lions' side of the court with no pressure and made a layup.

"They started breaking down from us pressuring them so much, and it's hard to play defense when you're tired," Grenek said.

Penn State Beaver's exhausted defense allowed Point Park to record a 51.9 field goal percentage, which is the team's single-game best of this season, and they made 65.6 percent of their shots from the field in the second half – marking their highest percentage of any half this year.

"We weren't selfish, we passed the ball and took good open-look shots," Xenakis said.

Johnson accounted for 19 of Point Park's points – nine of which came from three-pointers, and she recorded three assists.

"I play with a high level of intensity," said Johnson.

McPhatter led the team in points with 23, and she led the team in rebounds with nine.

Point Park proved it is a much more sustainable than Penn State Beaver.

"Everybody on the team had a lot of energy tonight," said McPhatter.

Presently, the Pioneers are ranked No.28 in the nation, and they currently reign as the top place-holder in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC) North Division. Their next game will be on Jan. 20 against Cincinnati-Christian at 5:30 p.m.

Michael Richter
can be reached at
mwright@pointpark.edu.



photos by Madison Turiczek

(Above) Sophomore forward, Carly Forse, makes a post move and shoots over a Penn State Fayette defender in the first half.

(Left) Freshman center, Baylee Buleca, finishes a lay up in the second half against Penn State Fayette.

(Below) Senior captain, guard and forward, Natasha Moss, releases a shot after fighting through the paint.



PIONEER DRILL ANSWER: Penn State Beaver