



Tuition to rise 3% for full-time undergrads

Gavin Petrone
Editor-elect

The yearly cost for tuition increased for all full-time undergraduate students by about 3% for the 2026-27 academic year, according to recent cost estimate updates on Point Park's website.

The incoming increase is a bit less than years prior, and is consistent with the average 3% to 4% increase that annual tuition usually rises each academic year. Last year, tuition went up by around 3.8%.

The incoming jump in tuition pricing is thanks to "rising costs and ongoing investments in the student experience," according to Marlin Collingwood, vice president of enrollment management and marketing, in an emailed statement.

"We always work hard to minimize any increases to tuition and fees," Collingwood said, "as we understand that even small changes can affect students and their families."

SGA President Christian Rangel said the increase was "unfortunate," but added that it follows a consistent trend.

"My ideal world would be to lock in freshmen's tuition rates for the whole four



Khalil Johnson | The Globe

The cost of tuition has increased by roughly 3% to 4% since at least the 2022-23 academic year. Officials have cited a variety of reasons for the increase, from inflation to the expansion of Point Park's facilities.

years," Rangel said. "Maybe we could have a talk with them about doing that."

For COPA students, the annual cost of tuition jumped to \$51,260; up \$1,500 from last year's annual price of \$49,760.

For non-COPA students — in arts and sciences, business, communication and education — the annu-

al cost of tuition rose from \$39,080 to \$40,260, an increase of almost \$1,200.

Collingwood called the 3% increase "modest," and said charging more for tuition each year helps the university maintain its existing facilities and programs.

"Inflation affects nearly every aspect of university operations—from technol-

ogy and utilities to student services and compensation," Collingwood said. "This adjustment allows the University to preserve small class sizes, maintain the strength of its academic programs, and enhance the overall educational experience for students."

Those aforementioned figures only account for the

cost of tuition and do not factor in additional costs of room and board, meal plans or any other additional fees.

For many students, financial aid offsets some of that cost: Freshmen last semester got about \$36,500 in aid each on average, according to Point Park's website.

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Thomas Speranza | The Globe

A man holds a sign protesting President Donald Trump at "No Kings" on March 28.

Confusion mires 'No Kings' megaphone controversy

Cilia Catello
News Editor

In the days following the last "No Kings" protest, a protester — Rosalyn Tosh — made an Instagram post alleging an organizer with Indivisible, one of the two

organizations to lead "No Kings," confronted her after she led pro-union and pro-Palestine chants at the rally.

In the post, Tosh, a Carnegie Mellon student currently suspended for interrupting a talk the CTO of

Boeing gave at the university, mentioned the organizer by name as Tracy Baton, a volunteer organizer with Indivisible Pittsburgh who Tosh said she has worked with in the past.

Baton did not clarify whether the interaction did or did not occur, but did say any disagreement over the megaphone was unrelated to the nature of Tosh's chants.

According to Baton, she doesn't specifically remember if the incident happened or who was involved.

"I do know that if someone had taken our megaphone, I would take it from them," said Baton.

She did not respond to the allegation that she had handed Tosh the megaphone.

see **NO KINGS**, page 2



Ayden Miller | The Globe

Protestors rallied at "No Kings" on March 28. Organizers estimated nearly 20,000 were in attendance.

Dining hall asks for dishes and utensils back

Carson Folio
Editor-in-Chief

The plate pirates have struck again.

In an announcement to the entire campus community on Friday, Point Park's food service provider CulinArt asked students to return any dishes and utensils they're holding onto from the dining hall.

Kayla Kowalecki, director of dining services, said everything needs to be returned so the dining hall does not run out of the needed supplies to serve patrons.

"It is imperative to keep all dishes and utensils in the dining hall, to ensure availability for all patrons."

Kowalecki did not respond to an additional request for comment.

Keith Paylo, dean of student affairs, said the announcement is normal for

the dining hall and is something the university hopes to do at least once a year to remind people to not hold onto items from the residential dining facility, typically referred to as just the dining hall.

Additionally, the announcement said students can return anything they may have held onto, no questions asked.

Paylo said anybody with items doesn't need to go to a CulinArt employee to return them. Rather, they can just walk into the dining hall and put them in the dish return area as if nothing happened.

While CulinArt employees interviewed said the number of dishes and utensils missing is noticeable, it isn't anything close to one of the worst instances of dishes dashing for the hills.

Paylo backed this up,

see **DISHES**, page 3



Point Park University | Courtesy

Students select food from the dining hall buffet.

SGA approves It's On Us emergency funds; senators discuss new initiatives

Gravin Petrone
Editor-elect

In its only new business this week, SGA unanimously approved about \$175 in emergency funding for It's On Us (IOU).

The funding, which covers supplies for IOU's upcoming Take Back the Night Neon Party, was requested after leadership at IOU apparently realized some federal grants it had been receiving were not renewed.

Treasurer Sam Fehl recommended approval of the request, and said SGA has the funding for it. The approved funding covers snacks, a neon photo backdrop, and other glow-in-the-dark party supplies.

SGA's senators are conducting a few surveys, and some discussed their progress with the legislature this week. Senators are looking for students' thoughts on both CulinArt, who oversee dining services on campus, and Physical Plant, who fill work orders.

The Physical Plant survey, according to Vice President Madigan Balfe, has received over 80 responses. The CulinArt survey has received



Ayden Miller | The Globe

Treasurer Sam Fehl (middle) during an SGA meeting on March 2, 2026.

over 150.

Grace Smith, diversity, equity, inclusion and wellness chair, was out this week on an excused absence. Smith sent word to the legislature, asking it to discuss implementing more diverse language options on campus.

Parliamentarian Sienna Wraith, who said they were at the meeting where this issue was raised, said that international students who don't

speak English as a first language have discussed having issues keeping up in English-spoken classes and following signs written only in English.

"It's just hard when it's not your first language," Wraith said. "It's hard to understand things."

SGA was receptive to the concern; Vice President Balfe proposed inviting some of the affected students to next week's legislative body meeting so they can explain the issue themselves

to get to the bottom of the issue.

Devin Frank, the director of downtown engagement, also noted student concerns — this time from the esports team's orbit.

Frank said students covering esports' events would like to form a club, similar to the existing Sports Communication Club that covers athletics. A constitution for the club might be proposed accordingly in the coming weeks.

The legislature also discussed its upcoming Pioneer Community Week event. SGA on Tuesday set up 12 tables in the ballroom from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Additional information on the event is pending, as it will occur after The Globe's Monday night presstime this week.

SGA's most recent event, a table for Trans Day of Visibility, was a success, according to Chief of Staff Zoe Cybulski. Visitors to the table made advocacy packs for local trans Pittsburghers.

The next SGA meeting will be on Monday, April 13 at 3:15 p.m. in the PCRC. All are welcome to attend.

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Graduate students to be charged activity fee

from TUITION, page 1

Some additional fees, particularly for graduate students, saw new fluctuations.

Graduate students will now be charged an additional \$25 Activity fee each semester, which covers entry into the many events organized monthly by the Campus Activities Board. Students enrolled part-time at the university are now the only ones not charged an activity fee.

Collingwood said the fee was added to graduate students' bills to bolster resources meant to enhance the student life experience. He noted part of the activity fee covers SGA initiatives.

"As graduate enrollment continues to grow, this approach ensures equity in how student life programming and shared campus benefits are supported across all student populations," Collingwood said.

Full-time undergraduate students saw some hikes in fees, as well, particularly in their University and Health Services fees.

The University fee jumped by \$60 and the Health Services fee by \$100. Those fees are charged each semester.

The University fee funds student resources, like the library and the Student Center, and other service costs. The Health Services fee partly covers the University Counseling Center and Health Center, among other mental and physical well-being initiatives.

Both were increased in line with "the university's ongoing investment in student-focused services," Collingwood said.

The Health Services fee was increased to be in line with the costs of other nearby universities, Collingwood said.

"[The Health Services fee] was part of a recent benchmarking comparison among similar colleges and universities in the area," Collingwood said, "which found that Point Park's rate was significantly lower than peer institutions while providing additional services often not found at other institutions."

The cost per semester of most programs' credits increased from \$15 to roughly \$40, depending on the credit. Other fees, like the Pioneer Experience Orientation fee — listed as miscellaneous — saw no change.

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Thomas Speranza | The Globe

A protestor holds a sign at the most recent "No Kings" rally on March 28.

Baton: 'Our people control the chanting'

from NO KINGS, page 1

Baton said the Indivisible rallies are highly structured and only organizers reading from the list of accepted chants use the megaphones.

"It was a high security event," said Baton. "It wasn't a casual open mic."

According to Tosh, Baton handed her the megaphone herself, and Tosh carried on with the same chants Baton was leading for a while.

"I ran out of stuff to say and there was a group behind me that had started a union chant, so I started doing that one too," said Tosh. She said she had led the same chant at other "No Kings" rallies before and received no backlash.

Immediately after echoing the chant through the megaphone, Tosh said Baton ran toward her and said, "Stop doing that."

Tosh said she stopped chanting and looked around in confusion before starting a pro-Palestine chant that she said didn't catch on.

According to Tosh, Baton began yelling into a speaker pointed directly at her rather than the crowd at the end of the march and said, "I paid for this protest."

Baton said she actually said "I paid for this permit," referring to the permit Indivisible had to obtain to legally shut down Downtown's streets for the rally.

While Baton didn't confirm or deny the allegations made against her, she said anyone not directly affiliated with Indivisible isn't allowed to lead their own chants.

"Our people control the chanting," Baton said. "There's a list that's printed out before. Spontaneous things are not welcome to happen."

Tosh said that has not been her experience at rallies and protests in the past, including other "No Kings" events.

"Invisible has some rights to say what chants are going to be done but that's not really how protests and rallies operate," Tosh said. "You have to let other groups operate independently."

She said that although Indivisible has a reputation as politically moderate compared to other protests and rallies, she didn't expect the events she is alleging to have happened.

Baton said the negative incident represents a tiny fraction of what happened at the event, describing it as "two-tenths" of the experience.

"People were crying and telling me it meant their life — that they were changed by it," she said.

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Carson Folio | The Globe

The Globe's CRIME REPORT

No crimes reported for all of last week

The Globe did not receive a crime report from Point Park police for the week of March 29 through April 4.

The online version of The Globe's crime report will show no data to reflect the lack of reported crimes for last week.

If you need help, Public Safety's phone number is 412-392-3960.

The Globe
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University students participate in ConverSage therapy pilot test

Gavin Petrone
Editor-elect

Mutual connections brought Massachusetts psychology firm ConverSage and Point Park students together for an early beta test of one of the firm’s upcoming products.

Students are testing “Speak with Taylor,” a service that, according to ConverSage’s website, “conducts an on-demand, empathetic digital conversation that serves as a mental health and wellness ‘check-up’ providing a clear course of action.”

ConverSage did not respond to The Globe’s request for comment. According to Dean of Students Keith Paylo, Point Park did not pay ConverSage — or receive — any money to participate in the test.

Paylo added that the University Counseling Center (UCC) is aware of the tests, has “given comments and direction” for them, and won’t have any of its capacity reduced in favor of “Taylor.” The UCC did not respond to The Globe’s request for comment.

“Taylor” is part questionnaire, part AI avatar, and runs users through a 20-question diagnostic to assess what issues they are experiencing and what sort of help they might need.

Point Park’s portion of the test is still ongoing, and began about a month ago.

The “Taylor” beta test is a similar effort to a 24/7 mental wellness phone service the university offered in years past, Paylo said, adding that the service wasn’t utilized much.

Paylo stressed that the tests do not mean the university will adopt

ConverSage’s product, and that he hopes to help the firm improve “Taylor.”

“I won’t commit to an AI therapist,” Paylo said. “What I’m looking for ... is [mental health service] access for students when they need it.”

Some of the selected beta test-ers were SGA senators and executives. Four who spoke with The Globe said they were not at all impressed with “Taylor.”

All four said they were told the bot is not connected to the Internet, and does not keep any of the data it collects while being used — all said they doubted that to be true.

Grace Smith, the legislature’s chair of diversity, equity, inclusion and wellness, noted that “Taylor” at one point started speaking Portuguese unprompted.

“I said something like, ‘I feel like I’m not doing enough, but I’m also busy all the time,’” Smith said. “And it just sat there ‘thinking’ for five minutes. So it was very silly; very weird.”

Smith said she wanted to give “Taylor” the benefit of the doubt, and figured the product could be improved. But she also said services like “Taylor” shouldn’t replace human-to-human therapy.

Liz McKinney, a senator in SGA who said she heard about “Taylor” while sitting in on an executive cabinet meeting, noted it was difficult to get the bot to veer off its preset list of questions.

“It’s like one of those forms you would fill out in like the health office,” McKinney said.

McKinney added that she found



Christian Rangel/ConverSage | Courtesy

“Taylor,” the AI therapy service students tested for ConverSage.

the static, twitchy movement of “Taylor’s” eyebrows off-putting.

Riley Mahon, SGA’s president pro-tempore and president-elect, managed to crash “Taylor” by telling it he was feeling sad.

Mahon, too, said he was frustrated by the bot’s apparent inability to deviate from its predetermined list of questions.

“If you try to ask it anything not related to directly answering that question, it’ll just be like ‘I’m sorry to hear that, but back to the question at hand,’” Mahon said.

Christian Rangel, the current president of SGA, said he wanted to give “Taylor” a shot from an “unbiased” perspective, but soon

found the bot to be “uncanny.”

“I would not recommend it,” Rangel said. “If I could test something and it was like the experience of talking to a real therapist, maybe. But I don’t think we’re anywhere close to that. So, I think we should just look for other avenues [for round-the-clock mental health care].”

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Over 950 plates stolen in the past

from DISHES, page 1

saying the announcement wasn’t made because of an ongoing problem, but rather to remind students not to hold onto items from the dining hall because it is not allowed.

How this gets enforced remains to be seen. Nobody from CulinArt responded to requests for comment about the situation and when employees usually report a lack of necessary dishes and utensils available for use.

One of the worst instances of plate piracy was in fall 2022, when over 950 plates went missing from the dining hall. At the time, the facility had started out with 1,000 plates and was left with only 47 remaining.

Because of this, patrons of the dining hall often had to use to-go boxes or bowls to eat food on and paper coffee cups for drinks. To-go boxes are no longer offered at the dining hall.

Students called the

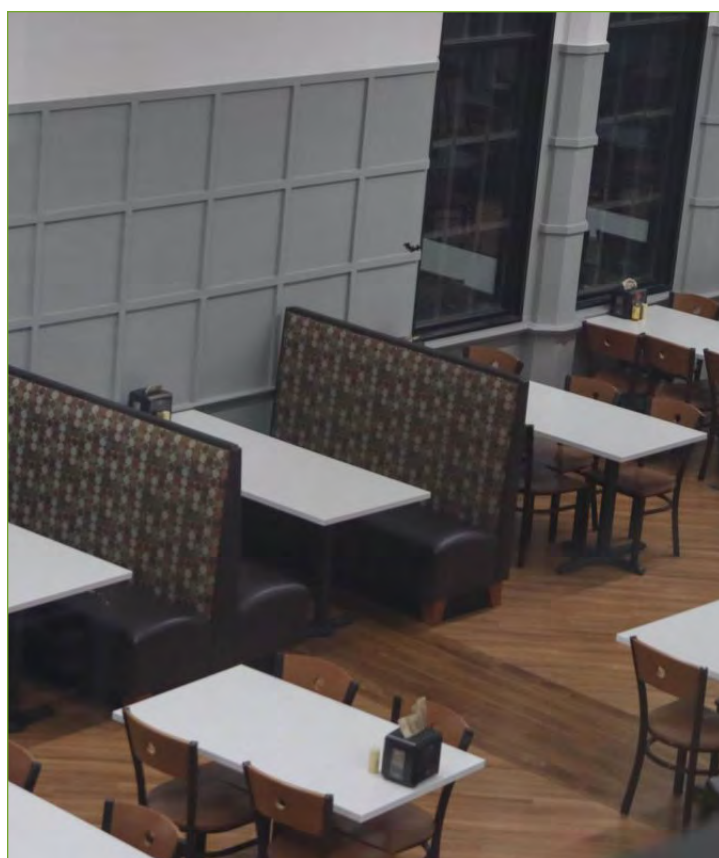
situation crazy, unheard of and questionable at the time, as some couldn’t understand how the problem of missing plates went unnoticed until there were less than 50 left.

Operations at the dining hall seemed normal on Monday, where it did not appear any person eating was using a bowl in place of a plate or a coffee cup in place of a normal drinking glass.

SGA will be releasing the results of its dining hall survey shortly, but it’s not known yet if the issue of missing items will be mentioned by the legislative body or if a lack of available necessities is a talking point for any participant.

And as far as dishwashing goes, the dining hall hasn’t had any problems with that. No recent inspection reports of the dining hall have mentioned issues in that regard as of recent.

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The Globe | Archives

The dining hall as seen from the Commuter lounge.



Point Park University | Courtesy

La Mar Taylor, co-founder of HXHOUSE, at the announcement of the incubator’s partnership with Point Park University on Jan. 22, 2026.

First HXHOUSE workshop kicks off in GRW Theater

Carson Folio
Editor-in-Chief

HXHOUSE, pronounced “house,” held its first workshop with creative direction students and presented results from the first part of the workshop in the George Rowland White Theater on Friday.

Point Park’s collaboration with HXHOUSE, a Toronto-based creative incubator co-founded by music artist The Weeknd and his creative director La Mar Taylor, hopes to give opportunities to underrepresented creatives trying to break through in the industry. The workshop ran from April 3 to April 4.

The first workshop’s session on Friday was open to the public and hosted by Charm La’Donna, a creative director, dancer and choreographer who is known for her work with Bad Bunny, The Weeknd and various Super Bowl shows.

In the workshop, students worked in groups and were given various different fictional music artists. From there, participants were tasked with making a hypothetical performance to go along with the artist given.

And students were asked to factor in the type of music

each artist made, what their other performances were like and what their fans may be able to interact with the best.

To present these, students created mood boards, mockups of potential social media posts advertising the performances and mockups of the performance stage for each artist, which were referred to as a “creative brief.” Each group had five people in it.

The HXHOUSE x Point Park collaboration had 50 students in its first run — 20 students, 20 adult learners and 10 K-12 teachers hoping to either expand their creative knowledge or move into a creative directing role.

Whitney Pearson, the creative director of her own podcast which focuses on the fashion of women’s basketball players and sneakerhead culture, was one of the adult learners present at the workshop. She said it was valuable to talk with people of varying perspectives and experience in the industry.

“The conversations, the energy, and the willingness to think beyond what already exists is what makes this experience real,” Pearson said. “I’m really excited to see what this project has to

offer for the next year.”

Pearson also made note of the fashion choices of everyone in the workshop. “The fits mattered,” Pearson said. She was wearing all green.

Originally, the HXHOUSE program was recommended to start in Los Angeles, according to a previous statement from the university. But Taylor chose Pittsburgh instead because of what he saw as a treasure trove of creatives waiting to be found.

“Pittsburgh’s energy reminds me of Toronto when HXHOUSE first started — hungry, innovative and ready to disrupt,” Taylor said. “Point Park understands how creativity fuels community, and together we’re building something that transcends traditional education.”

And Taylor kept that same energy during the workshop, too.

“HXHOUSE is a way for creatives to come together to network, collaborate and aspire to be great,” Taylor said. “We’re trying to create new pathways to success, so we had to build HXHOUSE.”

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Soto's 'A Poet' brilliantly portrays the lows of the artistic process

Elle Murphy
Staff Writer

 Film Review

"A Poet" is a 2025 Colombian comedy-drama film just now receiving its North American release.

The second film from writer-director Simón Mesa Soto, it follows Oscar, a financially unstable middle-aged man with such a strong belief in his own poetic talent, that is pressured by his family to finally get a real job.

When he starts to work as a high school English teacher, he becomes fascinated by the poetry of one of his students, a 15 year old girl named Yurlady, and is determined to help her start a successful poetry career.

From his introduction, Oscar's self-destructive lifestyle establishes him as a fascinating character. He is a man who sees himself as the classic "tortured artist," a brilliant poet who can never escape pain and sorrow. He takes pride in this label.

The film portrays the way the self-esteem of artists often becomes linked to the quality of their art. Oscar is unhappy with himself because of his lack of success in his writing, and we start to see how this mindset is transferred onto Yurlady as she enters the world

of high art.

Previously, Yurlady wrote poetry to cope with her emotions. Her poetry goes on to become something much bigger than that. No longer a silly little thing that she does to blow off steam, Yurlady feels pressured to create better art.

Despite the film's small scope, it is incredibly ambitious, navigating a wide range of emotions through numerous character interactions. It is truly a film that takes the viewer on a journey.

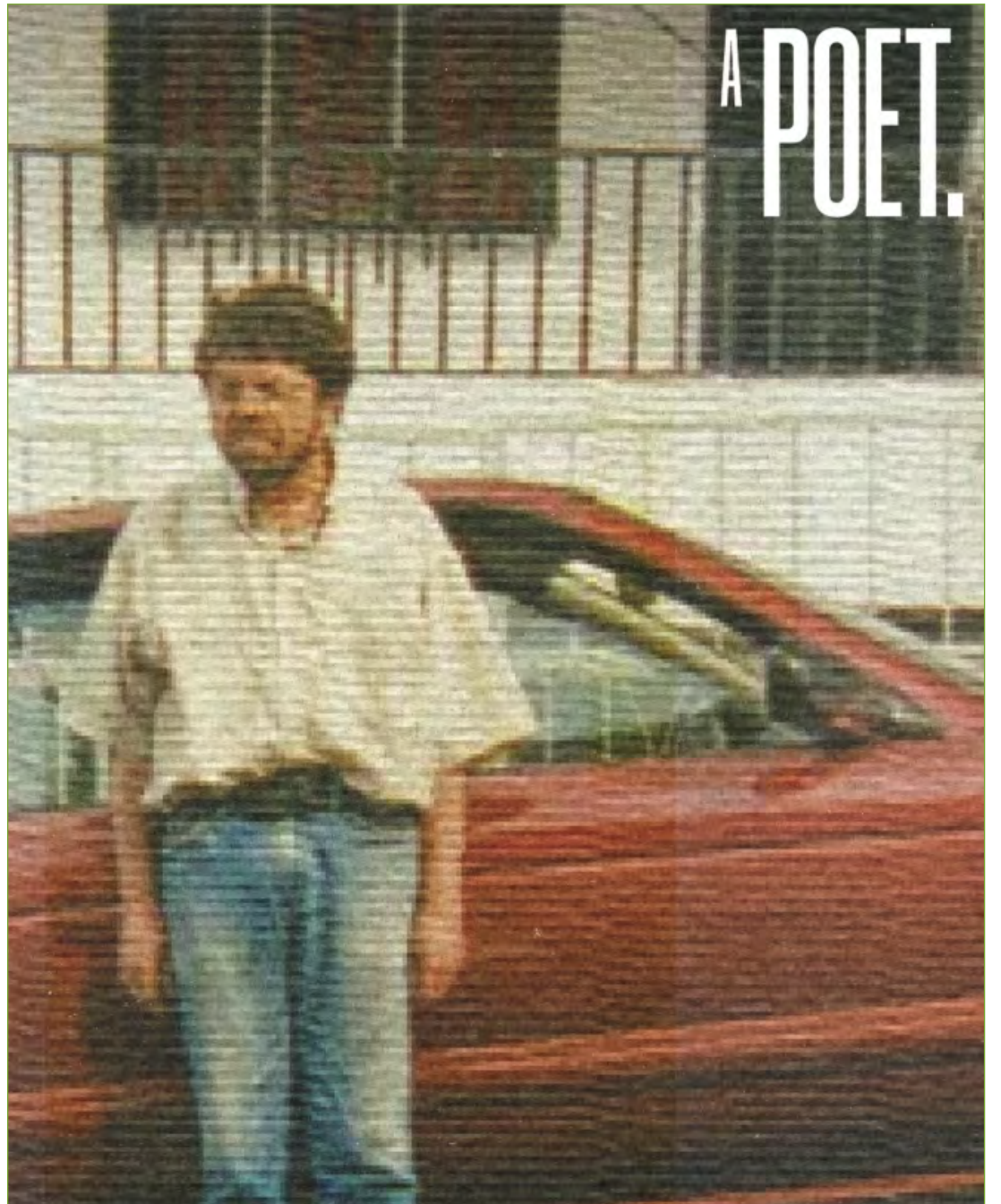
Soto's direction grounds the film throughout, often lingering on still shots of stereotypically mundane objects and locations, emphasizing the emotion and meaning these characters see in the smaller details of life.

The directorial style contrasted with the hectic plotting of this film, giving the movie a flavor similar to the work of Sean Baker, although "A Poet" remains a unique work evocative of a singular vision.

The middle of this movie may come off as repetitive to many, but the meandering tone is ultimately justified when it becomes clear what phase of the artistic process Soto is attempting to portray. Oscar insists that he is a poet while rarely writing at all. He is a man afraid of failure, as he has experienced much of that in his life.

In order to avoid failure, he distracts himself, as many writers do.

For much of the film, the viewer is living within an absurd distraction. When the distractions have finished and the film comes to an end, Oscar is forced to face his life head-on, leading "A Poet" to culminate in a fascinating and profound ending, with



Khalil Johnson | The Globe

a final line that will stick in viewers' minds for days after the credits roll.

"A Poet" is made up of an ensemble cast of complete newcomers to the film world, which makes the quality of the performances all the more impressive. The ensemble is led by Ubeimar Rios as Oscar, who brilliantly embodies the physicality of a man trapped inside his own fear and self-loathing.

Rebecca Andrade also impresses as Yurlady, balancing both the "wisdom beyond her years" that Oscar is struck by and the naivety

of a child. Andrade is tasked with portraying many complicated emotions, and these emotions always feel genuine and believable coming from Andrade.

In a specific pivotal scene towards the movie's end, Adriana Upequi shines as Yolanda, Oscar's sister who is sick of Oscar's meandering lifestyle.

Alisson Correa plays Daniela, Oscar's estranged teenage daughter. Correa truly embodies her character's complex emotions, establishing a world of depth under Daniela's surface

within her small amount of screentime, ultimately becoming the standout performance of the film.

"A Poet" is a dense, ambitious exploration of a man full of regret and self-hatred, doing little to improve his life. To many, that may sound like a painfully unpleasant affair. However, Soto always manages to find brilliant meaning within the frustrating lives of his characters.

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'The Hedge Knight' provides a solid, bite-sized adventure in George R.R. Martin's fantasy world

Bryce Mwenda
Staff Writer

 BISON BOOK REVIEW

"The Hedge Knight" is a 1998 novella written by George R.R. Martin. It serves as a prequel to the "A Song of Ice and Fire" novel series and is the first of the novella spinoff series "A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms."

The novella follows a tall man named Dunk, a hedge knight looking for a chance at glory after the death of the knight who he had previously squired, Ser Arlan of Pennytree.

Dunk makes his way to a nearby tournament to compete. He allows a young, mysterious and highly educated boy named Egg to become his squire while he tries to join the tournament to win money, fame and glory.

The novel is split into two halves. The first half follows Dunk's attempt to enter and compete in the tournament at Ashford Meadow while developing a dynamic with his companion, Egg. The reader is given access to his thoughts about whether he is truly worthy of being a knight or if he is just a fraud.

The second half of the story begins when Dunk decides to attack a prince of the reigning house of the land, the Targaryens. This is after the prince, Aerion, strikes an innocent woman. Dunk is forced to fight six people in a trial by combat to determine his innocence.

Unlike the rest of the "A Song of Ice and Fire" series, this prequel starts out with a

much lighter tone.

The main series of books are known for their violence, swearing and continent-spanning stakes. The whole novella takes place over about a week's time, is mostly set in one meadow, and is only from the third person's limited perspective of one character, Dunk.

The tone of The Hedge Knight is far lighter than I was accustomed to and is mostly about lowborn characters, as opposed to the royalty of the main series. The second half of the novel shifts gears into something that "A Song of Ice and Fire" fans will be more accustomed to.

If the political machinations and amoral characters are why you enjoy the main series, you'll have to wait until the second half of the

book to get what you want. Even then, it is toned down in comparison to the rest of the series.

The dynamic between Dunk and Egg is what carries the story forward. Despite being the older of the two, Dunk is far less knowledgeable than Egg. Dunk, however, has the leg up on him when it comes to world experience.

One of Martin's biggest strengths as a writer, and one of the main reasons why he adapts so well into television, is his ear for dialogue.

In "The Hedge Knight," the conversations between Dunk and Egg as well as Dunk and Baelor, the Hand of the King, are a highlight of the books.

Dunk and Egg have a fun, unconventional, and occasionally heartwarming

dynamic. The calm, understanding, and highborn personality of Baelor clashes well with Dunks' nervous and low-born status, which results in great interactions, especially in the back half of the story.

At a little over 100 pages, it doesn't take long to read and provides a bite-size piece of Martin's expansive world that is no less excellent than the rest of his series.

The novella appears alongside the next two entries in this series in the novella collection titled "A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms."

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JOIN THE GLOBE

WE NEED:
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THE GLOBE'S

We're in the home stretch, you got this

A month from when you're reading this, the semester will be over.

Depending on how far along you are into your journey into college, the significance of this may vary. It could look like a halfway point, an end to the first year of something completely new to you, or it could even mean being done with your education entirely.

Whatever a month from now may look like to you, it's important to not lose focus while also still being kind to yourself.

Yes, assignments might pile up, deadlines for big projects might inch closer by the minute, and the looming fear of finals week will only go away once it's over. But even if this is your first semester of college, remember that this isn't the first time you've dealt with the pressure of having to juggle a lot of assignments at once.

Consider how much time in high school you may have spent being told by teachers that everything you did then is to prepare you to deal with the challenges of getting a college education. If these teachers were realistic, then chances are they were right to prepare you with a similar workload to what is expected at an institution of higher learning.

Post-secondary education isn't supposed to be easy, but it isn't supposed to be mind-numbing either. We are all at the point where we've dealt with these challenges before, so once finals week is over, the feeling of relief and the overall experience of taking the work on should be familiar.

We don't have to tell you how to pace yourself or to not wait until the last second to do everything the day before it's due. Not only have you likely had those lessons already, but we've talked about this in so many previous Globe's Point articles

that it's stale.

But even if this is something you've done multiple times, it may still be overwhelming. This is perfectly understandable, and it's OK to feel that way.

Just remember that, no matter what point you are at in your college career, it will get better and easier. And if this is your last semester ever, a hearty congratulations to you.

Naturally, much of the questions for graduates and people continuing their education, whether they're finishing up an undergraduate degree or deciding to go through graduate school, are going to be about the future. "What's next?" "Where do you expect to be in a year?" "How will you do this?"

Can these questions be pestering and feel like unnecessary prodding? Of course they can. But it's usually out of a place of genuine excitement and support.

And even if you don't exactly know what things will look like a year into your college education, if you'll keep the same major or if you know what you'll do after you graduate, that's OK. Four years may sound like some time at first, but — and everyone will say this — it goes faster than you'll expect. Having everything figured out in such a short amount of time or less is not an easy task.

So don't forget to take things easy on yourself and take breaks when necessary. After all, your health and wellbeing is paramount to everything else. You're at your best when you're rested and feeling alright, but you don't need a newspaper to tell you that.

Regardless of where you are in your time at Point Park, we're rooting for you.

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Hot Tea with Z

Troubles with love

Zarrick Plizga
Staff Writer

How do I deal with getting ghosted? How do I cope from being blocked? What is wrong with me if everyone keeps abandoning me? How can I keep people from leaving me? Is it stupid to chase after someone who leaves you? What is the point in fighting for someone if they aren't fighting for you too? Is it wrong to want love above all else?

Great questions. I know love can be really complex and can be overly romanticised in the media. It can be cliché but it is best to let love find you, otherwise it is often more painful than beautiful.

Ghosting is an awful thing that many people in our generation rely on to avoid conflict and make it easier to get out of situations they often create themselves. It is often the weakest people that resort to ghosting people when a relationship sours because they have not matured enough to handle difficult conversations.

Sometimes getting blocked can be a good thing, and other times it can be extremely disheartening. If you find yourself obsessing with someone else's actions, then maybe getting blocked was the way to break free. However, sometimes people will just block you out of the blue because they are going through something or just not ready for the kind of attention that you offer.

There is nothing wrong with you just because some people are not open to a relationship at the moment. It is important to remember that you cannot base your own

self worth or happiness on other people. This needs to be something you can self-sustain so you don't become co-dependent on others.

Chasing after someone you love is not stupid, but sometimes it can be exhausting putting in all your effort to be with someone. If they are not putting in the same amount of effort into being with you, then it might be smart to let go of that person. If someone does not put in the same effort as you do, then they are not worth your time and love.

Having to fight for the person you love is common, as most relationships require hard work. If the relationship does not have a balance of give and take, if it just feels like you're pouring your energy into something only to get nothing in return, then it really is not worth the effort to fight for. And sometimes you just have to fight for something because it feels right. Remember to not let it consume you.

Love is something we all crave, but only the lucky few truly find the purest love. I understand the overwhelming need to feel loved, but when you really feel that way, it is the worst time to be looking for it. You want the love that happens naturally and finds you when it is right. I know it is hard to wait for the passion you dream of, but it makes it far more worth it when you find it in the end.

Do you need some advice? Do you need a new point of view? Just email me at zdplizg@pointpark.edu.

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'Off' days don't mean you've lost focus

Melissa Garlock
Staff Writer

COPA CORNER

Some days, you just don't feel like yourself. As performing arts majors, we all experience them — days where something just isn't clicking.

Maybe your body feels sore, exhaustion has your voice strained, or your brain refuses to comprehend what's happening around you. In disciplines that demand full mental and physical presence, when even one element feels off, everything suddenly becomes more difficult.

What's worse? When that day actually matters.

This feeling always seems to land on the days with a big performance or an audition you've been looking forward to. I've been in audition spaces where, no matter what I do, I just can't pick up the choreography and I completely bomb

the whole thing.

You walk away feeling like you didn't show your best, replaying everything you wish had gone differently. It's an undeniable feeling of defeat.

Naturally, it feels like there should be a way to avoid these unpredictable off days altogether. But unfortunately, there isn't.

An off day isn't just about having a "bad" class or messing up choreography. It's when your mind and body aren't operating at their usual level due to accumulated fatigue, stress, lack of sleep, emotional overload or every one of these at once.

Even when nothing obvious is wrong, your focus can feel delayed and your ability to retain information just slightly out of reach. It's a disconnect

that's hard to explain but easy to feel.

Ideally, when experiencing that disconnect, pausing, identifying and experimenting to find a way out of it would be a great solution. Though, in a rigorous class and rehearsal schedule, there's rarely ever room for a pause. The same goes for life outside of the conservatory.

The schedule keeps moving, whether you feel ready or not. And what makes these days extra frustrating is not just that you feel off, but you're expected to perform and retain as if you are at your best always.

So with no room for a break, it's important to learn how to move through it. Here are six steps to work through this.

First, adjust your definition of success for that day. If you walk into class expect-

ing your "best," you're setting yourself up to feel defeated. Instead, meet yourself where you are. Maybe it's not about perfect execution, but about staying present.

Second, simplify your focus. On off days, everything can feel overwhelming because nothing is clicking at once. By focusing on one tangible thing like your breath, your musicality, or your technique, you give your brain something specific to hold onto. This will ground you when you feel scattered.

Third, don't excuse yourself because you are "off." While it's important to give yourself grace, the moment you start thinking, "I'm off today," or "this is going badly," it amplifies the problem. You can continue to work, even ineffectively, without judging yourself.

Fourth, control what you can. You might not be able to

fix that "off" feeling, but you can control your effort and your responsiveness. Professors notice when someone is still engaged and applying corrections even when the result isn't perfect.

Fifth, find one win. Even on your worst days, something is working. Hold onto one positive. It shifts your mindset from everything going wrong to continuing to move forward.

And finally, let it go when it's over. Do not carry one off day into the next. One class, one rehearsal, or one audition does not define you. Growth in the arts is built over time, not determined by a single moment.

"Off" days are a sign that you are working hard. And sometimes they are still inevitable. Grow around them.

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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. Letters to the editor must be signed and include author's contact information. Letters can be anonymous upon request.

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

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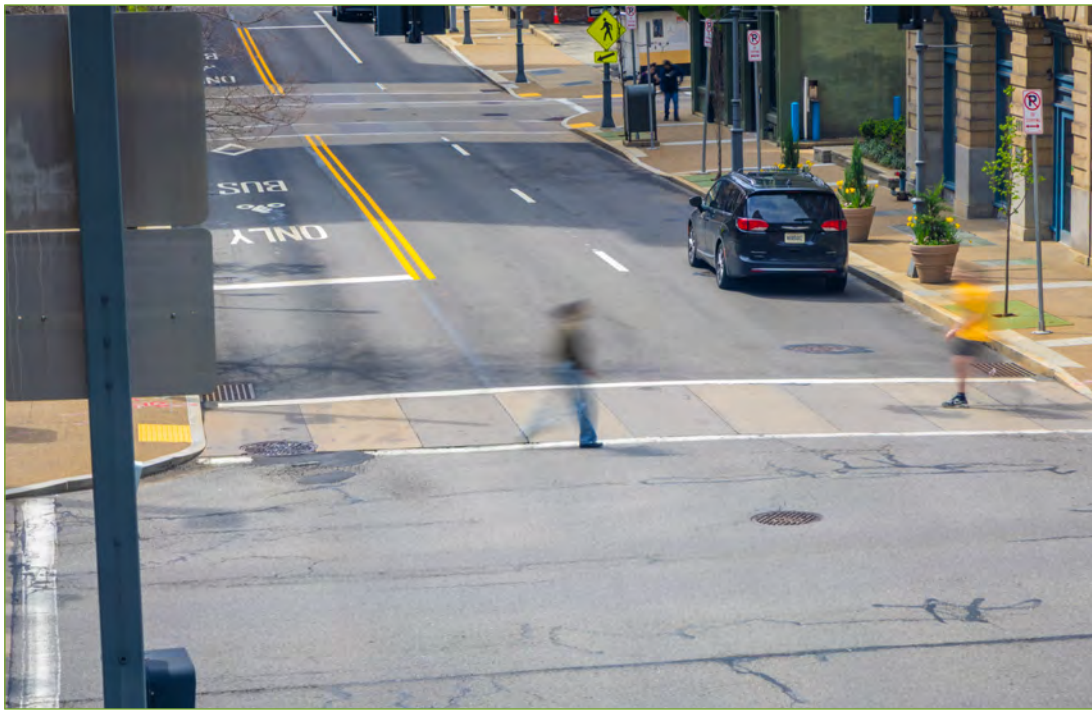
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Thomas Speranza | The Globe

Students cross the intersection of Boulevard of the Allies and Wood Street during the day.

Crosswalk cell phone use a concern on campus

Kaiya Russell
For The Globe

A brief observation at a busy intersection in Downtown Pittsburgh found nearly 10% of pedestrians were using their phones while crossing the street; small at first glance, but frequent enough to raise questions about attention and safety in everyday travel.

On a warm Monday in March between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m., an observation took place at the intersection of Wood Street and Boulevard of the Allies, a high-traffic area during rush hour. Out of 150 pedestrians observed, 12 were looking directly at their phones while crossing.

This included texting, scrolling or brief glances while walking. Some were even talking on the phone while looking down, including on video calls.

While many of these pedestrians continued walking safely across the street, several were slower to react to changing signals or approaching vehicles. Some glanced up less frequently at surrounding traffic, which could be hazardous

in a potentially dangerous situation.

While the brief observation does not capture every instance of phone use, the results suggest that distracted behavior among pedestrians is a consistent part of navigating city streets, even if it does not represent the majority.

That perception is echoed by those who regularly commute through the area.

“As a commuter, I see students crossing the street and looking at their phones often while I’m driving. It’s a good thing I’m paying attention to the road, because they aren’t,” said graduate student Emily Stroup.

As cellphones remain a constant presence in daily life, the challenge of staying focused on the road or the crosswalk continues to grow, raising safety concerns for both pedestrians and drivers.

According to data cited by Richard Schwartz & Associates, pedestrians using phones are four times more likely to be involved in a motor vehicle collision.

They are also more likely to step into traffic, trip over obstacles or collide with other pedestrians or objects, which can lead to serious injury.

While most public safety messaging focuses on distracted driving, campaigns from state officials also acknowledge pedestrian distraction. A Pennsylvania Department of Transportation initiative encourages both drivers and pedestrians to “park the phone” and avoid distractions while on the roadway.

However, direct messaging about pedestrians using phones remains less visible, despite observations suggesting the behavior is common.

With nearly 10% of pedestrians observed using their phones while crossing, the data suggests that distraction is a regular part of navigating city streets. As both drivers and pedestrians share responsibility for safety, even small lapses in attention can carry significant risks.

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Is the 2026 NFL Draft really for Pittsburghers?

Lilliana Fonzo
Staff Writer

As the three-day NFL Draft draws near, Pittsburgh is changing at the speed of light.

New construction has gone up near Acrisure Stadium in the North Shore, where the Draft will mainly take place. It’s a 19-million-dollar investment for everything: including construction, cleanup, marketing and everything in-between.

But the construction has been going on for months now, and even though it’s nearly done, people are starting to question whether it was worth the cost.

VisitPittsburgh estimated this draft will generate between \$120 million and \$213 million from tourism from the roughly 600,000 fans coming to watch and participate. However, some people are questioning whether the local economy will even generate that much and, if it does, where the money will go afterward.

To make Pittsburgh look picture-ready for the Draft, the city has pushed back on encampments Downtown, with advocates and local homeless shelters calling it a “dehumanizing” attempt to hide the city’s unhoused population.

A dozen encampments have been removed, and around 200 unhoused people are living outside throughout the county. Many homeless shelters are opening their doors and providing a safe space not only to stay but to watch the Draft, such as Light of Life on the North Shore.

People have also been questioning the city’s removal of things that make Pittsburgh unique, such as some 86 trees around Acrisure, which cost around \$20,000 to replace

and often die after being planted.

The city is also planning an extensive removal of graffiti, most of which is on the sides of highways driving into and out of Pittsburgh. Many people are calling it dystopian; getting rid of the things that make Pittsburgh look lived-in rather than perfect.

Another concern is the business pop-ups Downtown: Mayor Corey O’Connor is rushing to fill empty retail spaces with small businesses that will further boost the economy and make Downtown more attractive to large crowds.

So far, 24 new businesses have filled the 50 vacant retail spaces. Public officials say this is a great way for local small businesses to get the exposure they need. Still, many others are skeptical about whether any of these businesses will actually be permanent.

And it’s not just the public that’s concerned about how the NFL Draft will affect them; parents are already feeling its effects long before it even happens.

O’Connor recently released a statement that there will be asynchronous learning from April 22 to 24.

Around 10 people I discussed the Draft with think that the city isn’t geographically or structurally able to handle this many people and cars; so why should parents and the average person be affected by something they say Pittsburgh never should have agreed to host?

Until the NFL Draft happens and is over, we will have to see if this will actually benefit or be a detriment to Pittsburgh.

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Satire in the news only works if you’re a funny person. And sometimes, that’s rare

Carson Folio
Editor-in-Chief

In all my years of writing articles whether it’s a news piece, an editorial or a feature, not once have I thought to bring humor to the forefront of my reporting or to make The Globe a publication rife with comedy.

Doing so would damage its reputation as a campus news leader and would run counter to what it means to run a student newspaper. Granted, some bits of information can be funny and a well-written scene lede in this newspaper can get a good giggle out of me.

But despite this and despite the comics on the fun page, I do not agree with the premise of satire in news, especially in an outlet that is not known for it or dabbles much in the realm of any comedy.

Let’s be clear, I’m not saying news satire can’t work; The Onion is arguably the master of it. They do what satire in news is supposed to – a fleeting critique on the awful things happening in our world

at the moment.

But one student news organization, the Daily Tar Heel (DTH) – whom I respect immensely – continued its yearly tradition of publishing satirical content online and in print on April Fool’s day, if one of its publication days falls close to the holiday. This year, it did.

And the articles that resulted were abysmal.

At best, what they decided to publish was at best simply not funny – one of the only exceptions was a recently fired basketball coach trying to find a summer internship on LinkedIn – and at worst, much of the articles were hateful and insensitive. Additionally, these articles were not properly marked as satire and were present on its front page as if the information was real.

The DTH’s editor-in-chief chalked it up to a production error, but I find that hard to believe. The Globe’s articles typically go through around three to five editors before being put into the newspaper. Works in the DTH go through 35 editors at a minimum. How this many people read these

articles and didn’t see any potential issues is extremely difficult to believe.

Now, I don’t mean to fight about something where the dust has ultimately settled and much of UNC Chapel Hill’s campus community might not care anymore. But it would feel irresponsible to not mention the scope of these articles, ranging from an article about DEI being brought back to the university only for white people, a “two stadium solution” – a play on the ongoing war between Israel and Palestine being compared to the decision to either tear down or renovate a basketball stadium and the replacement of campus resources with ICE agents.

Satire in news does have historical merit and used to be something one could find easily in newspapers from the 19th and early 20th century. However, it’s important to note that this was also the time when yellow journalism, an early precursor to fake news and clickbait, was deemed acceptable by editors and publishers at the time.

And sometimes, tradition

isn’t sacred.

Does this mean satire in news is something that should never happen ever again? Absolutely not; those who can do it well should continue to do so. In fact, UNC has its own satire news source - The Oh Well. It definitely has some low brow humor, but it doesn’t joke about tragedies or people being abducted by ICE unfairly.

And that’s the problem when newspapers, especially student newspapers, attempt to dabble in satire without the writing expertise to do it effectively. Good satire must carefully tread the line of irony, hypocrisy and humor while also sticking to some semblance of truth.

The problem only gets worse when allegations spread about a DTH editor appearing in a racist video during the same time as their April Fools’ issue was out and the editor-in-chief attempted to double down on the paper’s abhorrent content in private, telling their editors not to be goaded by anger, while begging for forgiveness and promising an internal investigation in public

on social media platforms.

Alternate ways to express oneself in writing are welcomed and necessary. But to do so with such poor taste in what should be a leading example of student journalism is disappointing.

Whether The Globe decides to do anything resembling an April Fools issue or satirical content is not up to me once this semester is over. It used to do for a while in a farce publication named “The Midnight Globe,” which was sometimes even more insensitive and hateful than this year’s DTH issue.

And without fail, The Globe had to apologize almost every week after it was published for objectionable content and slander, along with publishing an onslaught of valid angry letters to the editor. This is a tradition I hope never returns.

Perhaps it’s time to let April Fools issues go the way of the Gutenberg press.

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WHAT DO WE WANT?
Writers!
Photographers!
ANY major! No journalism experience required!

'A late April Fools' by X'Aire Huger

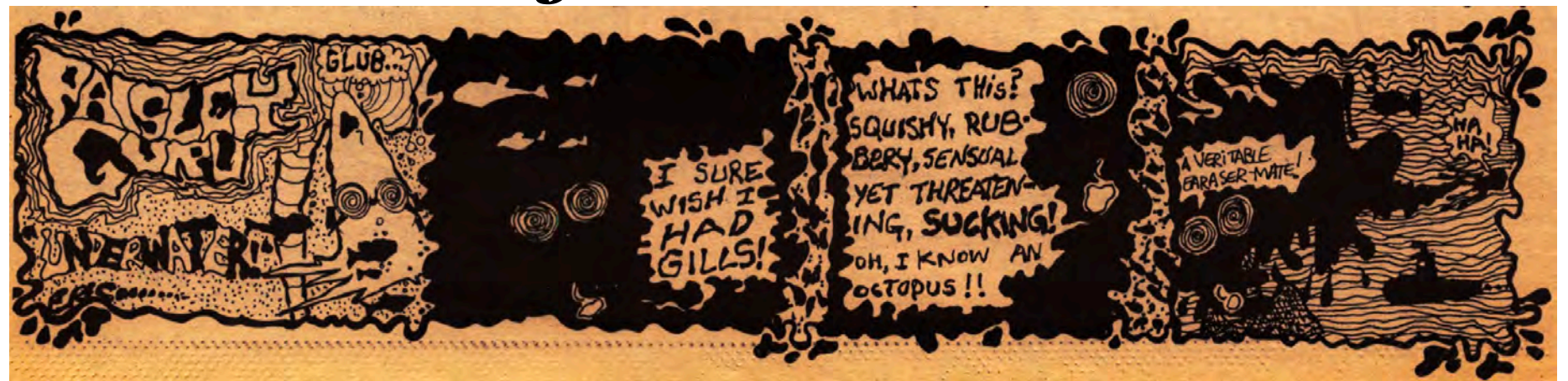


'The age old question' by Kathy Stauffer



Originally published April 11, 1985

'Underwater' by Eric DeJesus



Originally published April 10, 1986

'How do you do that?' by Barbara Sinko

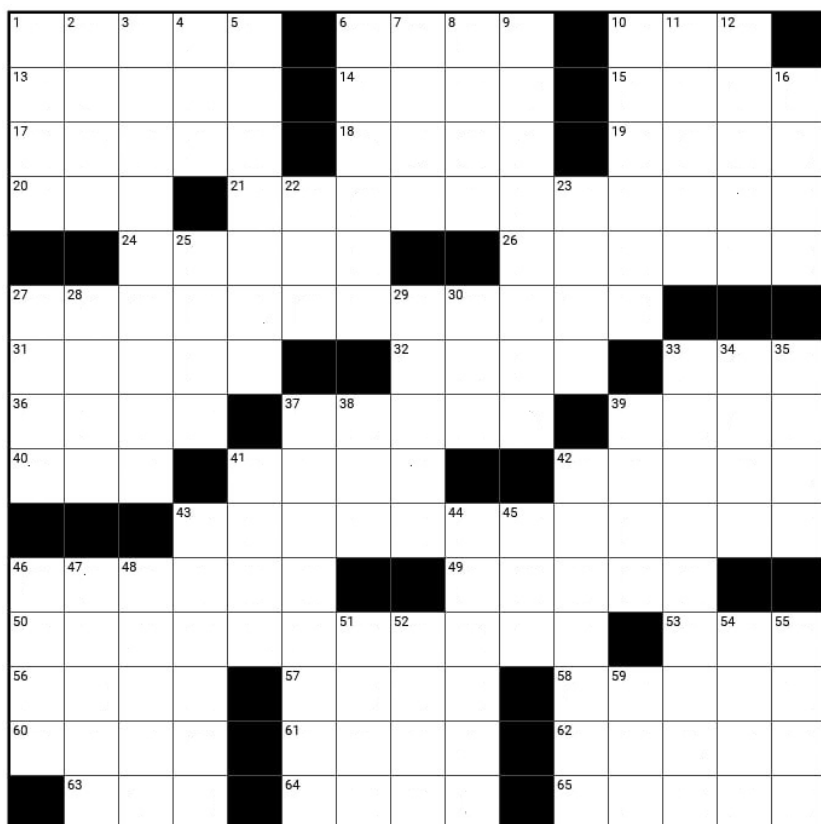


Originally published April 11, 1991

Point Puzzle: 'Yeah, OK, sure'

Across

1. Subway that makes all stops on the track
6. Sheeps' sounds
10. Semiconductor company known for creating the 6502 processor (abbr.)
13. "Humble" home
14. Stevie Wonder's "____ She Lovely"
15. Insect you don't want to see at a picnic
17. Yank out of bed
18. Actress Torres
19. A level up from the NAIA, say
20. Bear's lair
21. HOSS Steak & Sea, for instance
24. "Over _____!"
26. Removing digitally
27. Calling someone out
31. Emergency notification service, Point _____
32. Missouri rep. Bush
33. Hot pizza might burn this part
36. Null and _____
37. Got2B _____
39. Multiple cars driving stupidly fast could be this
40. Japan's currency
41. _____ bag
42. Artist's stand
43. A chance to see Matthew Lillard at Steel City Con, for example
46. "Wanna _____ cranberry?"
49. Seething rage, maybe



50. Point Park won't charge you for this kind of dorm damage
53. Same as "However..." but shorter
56. Song that's Italian for "air"
57. Tender _____ meat cut
58. Pittsburgh Civic Light _____
60. _____pong

Down

1. Cooking fat
2. Double-reed woodwind
3. "I'm down"
4. Often skipped on YouTube
5. "Dinner's ready!"
6. Pop with a size and a color in its name
7. "In your dreams!"
8. Name spelled the same forward and backward
9. Bog _____ (British slang)
10. Yankees center fielder Mickey
11. At the right moment
12. "Don't even _____ with me"
16. Opposite of danger
22. Coffee dispenser
23. Prefix for "god"
25. Group of cows and bison
27. Shade of blue
28. Plant with skincare qualities
29. Underwater diving gear
30. Gardening tilling tool
33. Don't shine these in the sky unless you want a hefty fine
34. Slurpee alternative

35. Hit with projectiles
37. Given the go-ahead
38. Counterpart of longitude (abbr.)
39. "I want my steak medium _____"
41. "_____ load of this!"
42. Typically paired with General Tso's chicken and rice, maybe
43. Desert illusion
44. "Watch me whip, watch me _____"
45. Genetic material
46. Trade
47. Danger
48. What the weather is like here seemingly every other day
51. Gone the way of the _____
52. Top _____
54. _____ Major (constellation)
55. Pieces of body art
59. Sweet _____

Scan this for the answers!



Men's basketball assistant coach promoted to head coach position

Adam Komo
For The Globe

Point Park hired a new men's basketball head coach, Joe Long, on Thursday. The head coaching job opened up after former head coach Ryan Grandits resigned to accept a head coaching position at his former institution, Daemen University.

Long joined the Pioneers as an assistant coach for the 2024-25 season and was able to lead Point Park to qualify for the Mountain East Conference championship tournament last month.

"The journey has been long," Long said. "Obviously [a head coaching position] is what I have always wanted in my career."

Before joining the Point Park staff, Long was the lead assistant at Gettysburg College, where the team went 21-8 and made it to the semi-final round in the Centennial Conference Tournament in his final season.

Gettysburg College was ranked eighth nationally in Division III this season and made it to the round of 32 in the NCAA Division III Tournament in 2025.

In 2023-24, Long was at another Division III school where he served as lead assistant for St. John Fisher University in Rochester, N.Y. The team went 18-9, and Long was credited with assisting in the development of the Empire 8 Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year and two all-conference selections.

"It is really simple: When you have a group of guys who are going to go out there and work hard, you

just put that in front of them," Long said when asked how he develops players. "Players with incredible work ethics, [a] love of the game [and who are] bought into what you are trying to do and accomplish; that is when the development part gets a little easier."

Before that season, he spent three seasons at Medaille University. Medaille, a small Division III college in Buffalo, N.Y., saw a great impact from Long once again as an assistant coach, helping Medaille reach the Division III national tournament in 2021-2022.

"One thing I have prioritized every single year as a part of this journey was what am I going to learn [and] what can I get out of it," Long said.

Before Coach Long was assisting at the DII and DIII level, he spent time as a graduate assistant under future Hall of Fame head coach Leonard Hamilton at Florida State University in 2018-2019.

During this time, FSU reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA DI Tournament. The 2018-2019 season was Florida State's best season since 1993.

Long also spent five years as the student manager of the men's basketball program at West Virginia University, while completing his undergraduate studies. While there, he got the opportunity to work for another future Hall of Fame coach, Bob Huggins.

Coach Long took time to sit down and talk about what the hiring meant to him and what is ahead in the upcoming season.



Kyla Pothier | The Globe

Former assistant coach Joe Long assists Point Park's warmup vs. West Liberty on Jan. 21.

"I am really excited about the opportunity to create something that Pittsburgh is going to be proud of," Long said. "It's like a dream come true. But at the same time, now we are going to set our eyes on and chase an MEC Championship and National Championship," Long said. "I am super excited for the opportunity, but now we got more to do."

Coach Long and the Pioneers have a long break before the start of basketball season, but with many things to get done and work for over the summer, Long aims to start a foundation to work from.

"We have a lot of work to do [in] recruiting," Long

said. "We are going to take this summer to really build and cement what our culture is going to be. We want to build something that is going to last longer than we are all here."

On top of recruiting, Long shared that he plans to utilize the veteran players in the lineup.

"We got a decent amount of guys to come back, so there's going to be more familiarity with what we got going on," Long said. "I think we did a really good job of laying the foundation of what we are trying to create here at Point Park, and this last year really helped me out a lot."

Long shared that the Pioneers will see several

players return to the roster, including Jayden Davis, Grant Welch, Emeka Anwah and Osvaldo Biebrich.

"A lot of the guys are bought into what we are trying to accomplish, and the culture we have set," Long said. "They know the journey is a long road, but the guys are committed to what we are trying to do."

The combination of an up-and-coming coach and a great supporting cast will make Point Park a team to watch out for in the Mountain East Conference by the winter.

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Point Park trades MEC wins with Fairmont State in doubleheader

Makenna Smith
Staff Writer

Point Park split a Saturday doubleheader with Fairmont State at EQT Park, falling 3-2 in the first game before rebounding for a 5-4 victory in the nightcap. The Pioneers improved to 17-10 overall and 9-5 in Mountain East Conference play.

Fairmont State secured the opener with a late push in the seventh inning. Point Park had jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first after loading the bases, with junior Trevor Jones reaching on a throwing error that allowed Felix Rodriguez and Chris Williams to score.

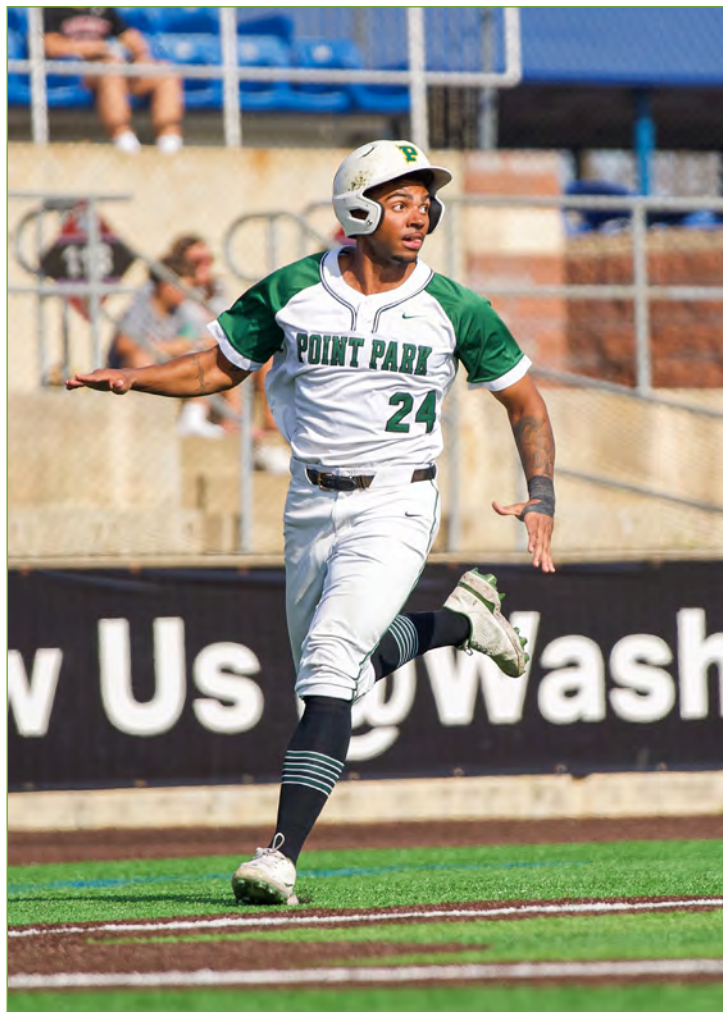
The Falcons responded in the second inning with a sacrifice fly to cut the deficit in half.

Ramon Rodriguez got the start for Point Park, pitching three innings and allowing only one run while striking out several batters.

Ethan Parker entered the fourth inning with two runners on base and struck out three batters to escape a potential scoring threat. Fairmont State tied the game in the sixth after Cam Cole led off with a double and Kris Sutton followed with an RBI single.

In the seventh, Fairmont State's Riley Bubb delivered a solo home run to give the Falcons the 3-2 victory.

Point Park turned the momentum around in Game 2 with a balanced offensive performance, scoring five consecutive runs to claim the 5-4 win.



Andrew Hartung | For The Globe

Trevor Jones runs home in Game 2 vs. Fairmont State.

After Fairmont State opened scoring in the third with a two-run single, the Pioneers quickly responded. Felix Rodriguez drove in Chris Williams, and Olindo Pezzone followed with an RBI single to tie the game.

The Pioneers took the lead in the fourth inning when Josh Zambito sent a ball down the third-base line for an RBI double, scoring Jones from first. They added two more runs in the fifth on an RBI single from Luis

Gonzalez and a sacrifice fly by Jones, giving Point Park a 5-2 advantage. Eight players on the roster have double-digit RBIs.

Harold Boyce earned the win, pitching five innings and allowing just two runs while striking out four batters. Boyce, who was recently named NCBWA Division II National Pitcher of the Week, has been a key contributor to the pitching staff this season.

Ethan Parker closed out the game with two innings of



Andrew Hartung | For The Globe

Harold Boyce pitches in Game 2 vs. Fairmont St. on April 4.

relief, picking up his fifth save of the season and continuing his strong campaign.

Point Park went on to face Fairmont State in another doubleheader on Monday, narrowly securing the Pioneers' first sweep against the Falcons. The first game concluded 4-3 and the second game 7-6.

The sweep improved Point Park to a 11-5 record in MEC play, going 19-10 overall. Entering this week of play, the Pioneers are third in

the MEC North division.

Point Park will face non-conference California (Pa.) tomorrow with first pitch set for noon at PNC Park. Playing at the home of the Pittsburgh Pirates offers the Pioneers a chance to compete on a Major League Baseball field and experience a professional atmosphere to build momentum for the rest of the season.

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