



# The GA-ZETTE

DECEMBER 2022 *The Campus Newspaper for Penn State Greater Allegheny* VOLUME 17



**AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER**

2022 FIRST PLACE - American

Scholastic Press Association Outstanding  
Collegiate Newspaper

*White Oak Borough celebrates the holiday season by featuring St. Nick and lighting up the trees in the local area. (Photo credit: Carlin Whalen)*



**DECEMBER  
2022 EDITION**

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## **A Hopeful Year-End Editorial for You**

### **TO: THE PENN STATE GREATER ALLEGHENY COMMUNITY**

“Located on 52-acres, Penn State Greater Allegheny is a residential campus offering 2 year and 4 year degree programs, including the Bachelor in Social Work program, starting in Summer 2022. Students benefit from small class sizes, numerous on-campus job opportunities, and a Digital Fluency Project which places an iPad in the hands of each student.”

By now, we have all seen this description of our Greater Allegheny campus...or, for those who haven't, it is how we are described at the bottom of the homepage of our website. It accompanies photos of happy, smiling people, green grass, flowering bushes, and shady spaces from trees and vegetation that some, we are guessing, were planted when the campus opened in 1957.

Since then, this little campus, quietly sitting on the border of White Oak Borough and the City of McKeesport, has seen thousands of students pass through its buildings. Also add in the hundreds of staff and faculty who also called this place “home” to their careers, their jobs, their livelihood. Our history indicates that a visionary group of businesspeople formed the board that made this space a campus and a unique place within the Penn State Commonwealth Campus system.

We have come a long way in these 65 years. We now offer 12 four-year degrees and three two-year ones. To give our future others a look back, we just installed a time capsule (see page 9) in the Ostermayer Building lobby. Here, we captured pieces of our recent past. The capsule will open again in 2072, to tell our story of Greater Allegheny from the first quarter of the 21st century. Some of us will no longer be here to see what becomes of our little 52 acres of Penn State, but we hope that the story will be a positive one, while reflecting on what we have gone through in the past several years.

One thing we know for sure. To be 65 years old is no small feat. But to survive as a campus and to continue serving future students and employees and the community, we all need to be involved in what happens here. We all need to be able to tell our story of who we are and why this campus is important. We need to become engaged outside of our classroom spaces and places and lunch in the Cafe Metro to learn what it takes to keep this campus surviving and thriving. We need to make sure that there are students who want to come here to earn a Penn State degree.

We survived the darkest days of COVID-19 and we continue to navigate its aftermath. This past year, we saw one chancellor leave Greater Allegheny and an interim step in to pick up the pieces and try to keep moving forward. We are seeing the demise of another humanities degree program in a five-year period, while we applaud the launch of a new one.

What does 2023 look like to you? If you are unsure, then you need to start now to learn more about what happens here outside of the classroom, on a day-to-day basis. We see things because we are a newspaper that works to find the news and report on it. But there are countless ways to become involved to make a change in what you believe needs to be changed and, on the flip side, to be involved to keep things about Greater Allegheny that are good and worthwhile to the campus and the community.

We do not want to see these 52 acres of land return to just green spaces and trees. It needs to have the busy-ness of students and employees to help see it through to its next decade and beyond.

# PSUGA Campus Update, A Successful Semester With More Work to Do

**CARLIN WHALEN**  
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With the fall 2022 semester coming to a close, Penn State Greater Allegheny's (PSUGA) Interim Chancellor, Dr. Megan Nagel, will be completing her first as chancellor. She believes it went well, but she still thinks she could have done some things differently.

"I've really given it my best effort and hopefully the campus community knows I am committed," Nagel said. "Every day is a learning curve and that's part of what makes this exciting. There are always new people to meet and new things to learn along the way."

Nagel mentioned this semester came with many



**PSU Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses, Kelly Austin, and Dr. Nagel pose for a picture with the Apple Distinguished School Award (Photo credit: Carlin Whalen)**

highlights, including the Thanksgiving break service trip by PSUGA students to Orlando's "Give Kids the World Village," the campus becoming

some join her on future walks, starting in the new year.

Looking ahead, Nagel has been working on building a relationship

committee is really moving along nicely," Nagel said. "I've been trying to stay out of their [the committee's] way... I want it to be owned by the faculty



**PSUGA students who participated in the service trip to Orlando, Florida (Photo credit: Student Affairs)**

an Apple Distinguished School—the only one in all of Penn State--and the Student Research and Creativity Conference which featured more than 50 student presentations.

Nagel has continued her walk-n-talks on Wednesday mornings. "I know I really enjoy it," Nagel said. "It gets my day off on the right foot... it's nice to have conversation with folks outside the office."

However, she has yet to see a student join in. She plans to make a few changes in hopes to see

with certain organizations in the McKeesport area, but is not able to announce them yet. "I'm hoping to shore some of that up to support our work in the McKeesport community and to engage students more with being career ready." This will help students start to think long term, rather than just about what is happening right now, she added.

Also, the campus plans to have the new Multidisciplinary Studies (MDS) degree finished and ready to promote early next semester. "The

who are creating it."

Nagel has seen a few glimpses of the degree pathways and she is really excited about some of the areas on which the committee is focusing. She believes students will find them exciting, too.

The Student Office Suite is currently under renovation, along with the addition of new furniture on the lower level of the Student Community Center (SCC), which is a part of that renovation.

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# After 37 Years at Penn State, Brother Anthony Mitchell Says Goodbye

**YOUSUF IBRAHIM**

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At the age of 66, Dr. Anthony B. Mitchell, senior associate teaching professor of African and African American Studies, will be retiring from Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA), where he has served proudly since 1985. More affectionately referred to by faculty and students as Brother Mitchell or Brother Tony, he will be giving the commencement speech for graduating students this fall.

Brother Tony is perhaps most well-known around campus for his



passion for history and progressive activism, which seems to be an inevitable path in his life due to his upbringing. His grandparents migrated north from Georgia to Aliquippa, Pa. in 1947, and he lived with them from his childhood to the beginning of his adolescence.

“My grandparents would be my first history teachers,” Brother Tony said. “My grandfather, he would like to gather us on Sundays, usually after church, and he would like to tell stories.”

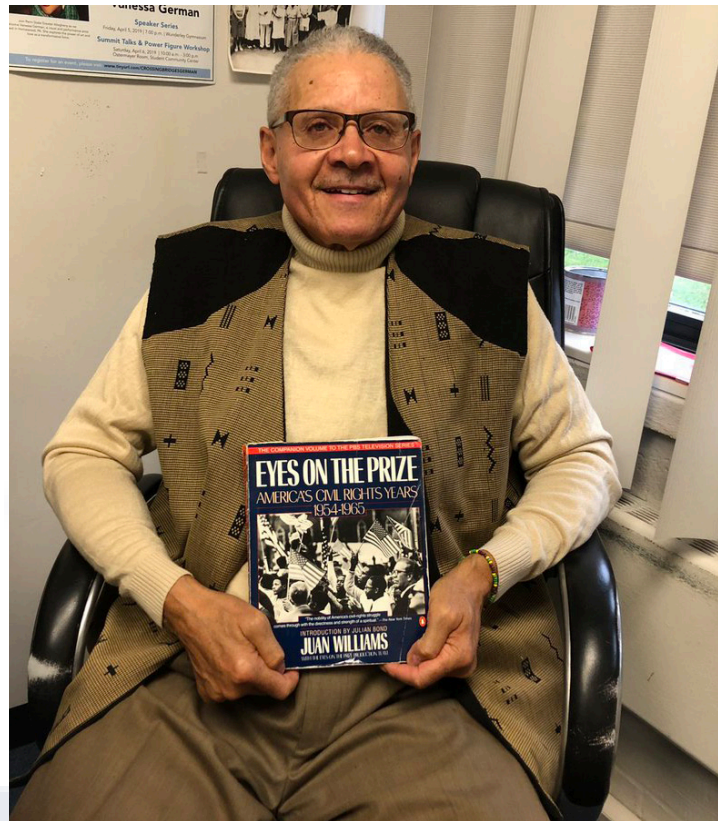
His grandfather, Sammy Crocker, grew up in the Jim Crow south, and had a variety of stories to tell. On one occasion, he told a story about the time he went up to bat against eventual Baseball Hall of Famer, Satchel Paige. “He said he had a pitch, he’d throw it on Sunday and you’d see it on Monday.”

On some occasions, he would tell stories about the hunting dogs his brother raised.

“Sometimes it would be really sad if you start to like the young dog, because if you ever put him out on the field and he started chasing a raccoon, the raccoon might take him to the water. And then, once the raccoon got him in the water, you lost your dog,” Mitchell said.

“And then he might tell a story about a lynching.” Brother Tony noted that his grandfather’s demeanor would change. “He would get a little bit solemn and he might even project some anger.

“But that was his generation, being born in



**Dr. Anthony Mitchell (Photo credit: Yousuf Ibrahim)**

the early 20th century. We think he was born about 1903. We’re not sure. My grandmother, we think she was born about 1904, but she had more education than he had. He was a very proud man, a very stubborn man. And my grandmother was very spiritual and very gentle,” Brother Mitchell said.

During family gatherings, although Mitchell’s grandfather might be the center of attention, it was his grandmother, Hattie Crocker, whose wisdom wove everything together. In that time, Mitchell reported a sense of fictive kinship in Aliquippa, as many of his neighbors

were migrants from Georgia to western Pa., hoping for jobs in the steel mills.

“When you hear people say it takes a village to raise a child...well, I can honestly say, during that time period, I felt like I lived in a village where everybody knew that I was a Crocker. My last name is Mitchell, but my grandparents were Crockers. And so everybody knew that I was a Crocker child,” Mitchell said.

Eventually, in high school, as the Black Power movement

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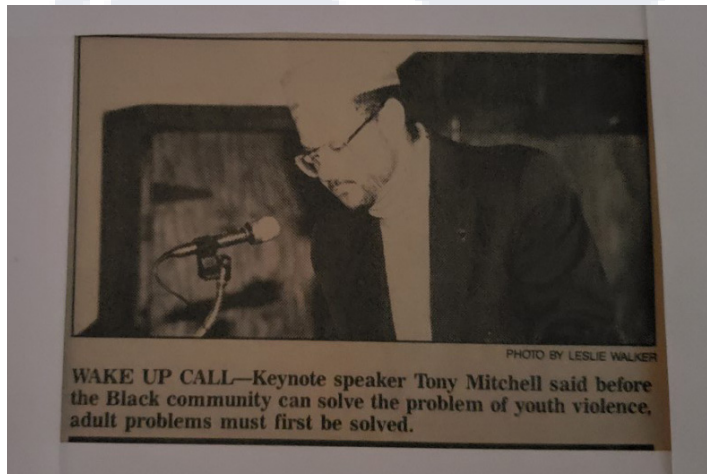
began to rise, Anthony Mitchell ended up being a part of a group of students who pushed for an African American history course. With these students, he also protested other injustices experienced by black students at school, such as disparities in expulsions and suspensions between white and Black students.

“And so [social justice issues] became some of the talking points that in our own way, we tried to present to the principal,”

university, and she was hired by the district. And she became the first teacher in the district to teach African American history,” he said.

Mitchell first began his collegiate career majoring in accounting, but “accounting wasn’t for me. And I realized very early on with the grade I got, and so after that, I said, ‘Well, I think I want to do something that might be in the world of business.’”

When he graduated from college, he spent some years in retail man-



Mitchell said. “We tried to present them to the school board, and we met a lot of resistance: Uh, you’re too young. Uh, you’re acting like you’re a militant. And all we really wanted to do was learn more about our history,” he added.

Eventually, an aspiring young teacher, Paulette Potter, became their African American history teacher. “At that time, she was a young teacher who had graduated from a local

university, and she was hired by the district. And she became the first teacher in the district to teach African American history,” he said. Mitchell first began his collegiate career majoring in accounting, but “accounting wasn’t for me. And I realized very early on with the grade I got, and so after that, I said, ‘Well, I think I want to do something that might be in the world of business.’”

When he graduated from college, he spent some years in retail management as an assistant buyer, then a group manager, after which he joined Penn State in 1985, in the Division of Continuing Education. The first program he worked on was Landscape Maintenance Technology for African American residents in a housing community. Since then, he has led and taken part in various programs and initiatives, such as the recent PSUGA Crossing Bridges Summit, which has hosted



Brother Tony in Ghana

such voices as Angela Davis, Cornel West and Michael Eric Dyson.

“The Crossing Bridges Summit was a vision for connecting our campus more to the community and national issues,” Mitchell said. The initiative started around 2017, with a group of faculty and staff along with former Chancellor, Dr. Jacqueline Edmondson, “who wanted to really create a signature annual program, and so to me, the name Crossing Bridges, even though we’re here at Greater Allegheny, and we’re at Penn State, can we become better at crossing bridges?” Mitchell said.

This connects to one of the core philosophies that has guided Brother Tony in his life, Pan-Africanism. “What would Africa look like if all of Africa could be united and have one currency system, and have one political system, and one economic system that would allow African

people on the continent to have a sense of continental connectedness?” he asked.

He cited Marcus Garvey and Kwame Ture as key figures in influencing this framework.

The concept of Pan-Africanism, Mitchell said, is a commitment by those of African descent to struggle together no matter how far away they may be, whether in Africa, the Caribbean, or the Americas.

“So [Pan-Africanism] is simply a progressive way for African people to see the connectedness that we have to each other and

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Dr. Mitchell plays the drums

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with each other across the oceans that divide us," he said.

Brother Tony said that figures like Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Stokely Carmichael, Angela Davis, and John Lewis were key in inspiring his early pursuits of activism.

In his life, Mitchell has been maced, hosed, and he has "tasted the blackjack," in his words.

"I've had those experiences and sometimes I don't really talk about them a lot, because I feel very fortunate that worse things did not happen. But being part of wanting to make change and wanting to protest and participate in marches can have consequences," he said.

Mitchell is also an accomplished musician, having played percussion for the last 35 years or so.

He has played his djembe in Senegal, Guinea and Ghana.

"This is how I stay calm. This is my therapy. Like, the drum is a very relaxing, therapeutic instrument. And so I've had a lot of wonderful experiences over the years performing, participating in various venues and events, and then in more recent years, doing more work within schools, actually teaching percussion as a way to introduce students to African history and culture."

As he approaches retirement, Brother Tony reminisces on the memories he has created at Penn State with his students. He recounted stories of students he had helped through tough situations, being a professor who was able to notice that something was going on. His philosophy, as he puts it, is: "If you take one step

toward me, I'll take two toward you."

This mentality has helped him connect on a greater level to students who otherwise shy away or hold back.

Dr. Mitchell encourages those students who are fighting the fight for social justice to keep fighting, and to know that there is a lot of work to be done. To those who are jaded or disillusioned with the fight for justice, however, Mitchell has more advice.

"When I look at this picture of an elderly black man with the newspaper," Mitchell said, in reference to a portrait on his wall, "knowing that the struggle to read for African Americans was something that many got lynched for, that many experienced the whip and the lash for... I did my master's thesis on it [the adult education of African Americans.]

"Just learning to read

and write during slavery could get you killed. And yet we did it. And had we not done it, I probably would not be talking to you today," he said. So "these are the things that I would say to anyone: Learn history. Learn your family history. Learn the history of those who have sacrificed for you to be here at Penn State," he said.

"Pay attention."

Brother Tony urges, "Pay attention to the world around you. Pay attention to the things that you want for you and your children.

"And be very aware that the work of the many is often done by the few," he said. "If not now, then when? If not me, then who? I want it to be you. That's why I'm retiring. Because I see something in your eyes that tells me that you care. And I see greatness in your destiny. But do you see it?"

Photos courtesy:  
Anthony Mitchell's  
private collection

## THE CROSSING BRIDGES SUMMIT

BRIDGING RACIAL DIVIDES IN THE MON VALLEY

*Renew your FAFSA for Fall 2023!*

The 2023-2024 FAFSA application is available on October 1!

Don't miss out on financial aid opportunities!

Many sources of aid are awarded to students who apply early.

To apply, visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) using your 2021 income!  
Penn State FAFSA Code: 003329



To view steps on how to complete or renew your FAFSA, Scan the QR code!

### Dr. Anthony B. Mitchell Anti-Racism and Social Justice Programming Fund

This fund financially supports programmatic and student engagement activities designed to increase people's awareness of racism and empower Greater Allegheny students and employees to influence policy and create more just and equitable conditions in the communities we serve.



# New Enrollment Plans and Graduation Soon

*(Continued from page 3)*

“The furniture that’s outside of the offices is a preview of what’s happening behind closed doors,” Nagel said.

The next planned renovation is the sport court, but that still requires a lot of planning.

As far as campus enrollment, Nagel is not too sure how enrollment will look next semester. “It’s hard to get a sense of how many students are returning until the semester starts,” she said.

This has been a problem for many years because students like to wait till the last minute to register for classes, which becomes an issue when the University tracks enrollment numbers.

If that describes any student reading this,

Nagel highly suggests seeing an advisor before the close of this semester to schedule classes for the spring semester.

Penn State has introduced a new Regional Director of Enrollment Management for the five western campuses. PSUGA, along with Shenango, Beaver, New Kensington, and Fayette, will partake in this regional strategy in the hopes to recruit more students to the western campuses.

“I am really excited about that...I don’t think we will see an impact right away, but I think this is an important move in the right direction for Penn State,” Nagel said.

The Crossing Bridges Summit is taking place, however, in a much different way than in previous years. Rather than the



**Amber Bhandari, Narayan Subedi, Samuel Parsons (left to right) discuss their poster at the Student Research and Creativity conference**

big summit talks which started in 2017, only the Summit committee meets. This is due to the lack of investment from students and staff.

“It’s a real commitment to getting more people invested.” Instead, the committee has been talking about three main ideas. “One, is opportunities for growth...two, is circular connections, so really exploring what’s already happening in our classrooms and courses that are connected to bridging racial divides in the Mon Valley...and three, is thinking about how we’re connecting in a more sustained way with our community,” Nagel said.

Finally, as with the close of each semester, PSUGA will be holding

graduation ceremonies.

On Dec. 15 in the Wunderley Gymnasium, the campus will celebrate the academic achievement of the graduating students from the summer and fall of 2022.

Dr. Anthony Mitchell, senior associate teaching professor of African and African American Studies, normally has been the ceremony marshal. Instead, he will be this semester’s guest speaker, which is “a way of honoring his time and commitment to this campus,” Nagel said, since he will be retiring after this semester.

Nagel wants all the graduates to know to “Reflect on who has helped you along the way and be that person for someone else when they continue their journey.”



**New furniture located in the lower level of the Student Community Center (Photo credit: Carlin Whalen)**

# 24/7 Campus Public Safety Update from Lt. Diane Grimm



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Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) is a relatively safe campus, according to Lt. Diane Grimm, who has been serving with Penn State for more than 30 years, and who has been working with Greater Allegheny, Fayette, and New Kensington campuses for approximately two years.

“We don’t really have any kind of violent crime issues,” she said. “We have the typical, you know, misunderstandings here or there, or the occasional thefts, or things like that.

“I’m very fortunate with the officers that I have,” Grimm said, “They really enjoy university policing, they enjoy interacting with students and the faculty and staff. Obviously, we regard the students in the community, our campus communities, as our customers.”

PSUGA maintains a daily 24-hour patrol of the campus. Officers are assigned to investigation, crime prevention and parking. Other duties include: emergency services, such as fires; chemical spills; AED (automatic external defibrillator) use; maintaining the campus lost-and-found; periodic safety trainings for staff and

students; and a safe walk service, the latter available 24 hours a day, seven days a week if, someone feels unsafe to walk back to a residence hall room or to a car.

Still, however, there are some things that go on in Commonwealth Campuses which campus police have a lot of experience in dealing.

“Greater Allegheny, out of all three of the [campuses] I’m responsible for, is the only one with a residence hall. So, you know, typical college-aged crime.” The most common crimes campus police deal with seem to be regarding drugs, theft, and underage drinking. Occasionally,

Grimm reports, there are some issues where people don’t get along.

“We have to go help them out or help resolve things.” She also said that there have been times when students in distress have called campus police in the middle of the night because they (police) were the only ones awake at that time. She said that there are also some situations where perhaps a lot of students are involved, where problem solving seems to become a key component of de-escalating the situation.

Grimm also noted that she and her officers

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“sometimes bring in student affairs and misconduct standards, other people to kind of help develop an idea or a plan.” She added that it depends on the incident.

Some students may have reservations or even some level of resentment towards law enforcement as a result of national events, and even perhaps personal encounters with

racial profiling and abuse. Grimm said that campus police “do their best to partner with the students and make them feel comfortable.”

Throughout the year, her office sponsors coffee chats where anyone can meet and talk with her officers to keep lines of communication open and to foster a greater understanding.

“We’re well aware in general that the national

issues do creep into what all law enforcement is doing. Whenever an incident takes place, you’re aware that sometimes that affects the outlook,” Grimm said. “We want to just go on and be as fair as we can, and handle things appropriately, and try to convince them [students] by our actions that we’re not the people that are going to do them wrong.

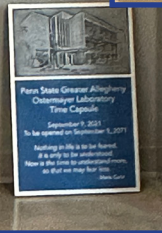
“They [students] may have had a bad

experience, wherever they’re from...and we get that that could impact how they react to us, but we want them to feel good on campuses.”

Grimm and her staff can be reached at (412) 675-9130 or 5-9130 (from any campus phone).



# PSUGA’s Time Capsule Installation



**Interim Chancellor, Dr. Megan Nagel, places the 2022 time capsule into the wall at the Ostermayer Lab Building. George Medina, PSUGA maintenance worker, places the plaque over the capsule that will remain unopened for 50 years. (Photo credit: Carlin Whalen)**

# Free Speech, Penn State and the First Amendment

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Former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, William O. Douglas, once said, “Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us.”

The United States Constitution was founded back in 1776, when 39 delegates signed it solidifying many of the rights Americans have today. Arguably, one of the most important parts is the First Amendment, which protects the freedom of speech, press, and religion.

Freedom of speech, specifically, is the right to express any opinion without censorship or restraint from an outside force, like the government or private organizations.

Dr. Zach Furness, associate professor of communications at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA), mentioned the things it protects vary under the law.

“The framework of it is obviously the same, but how it gets interpreted is all the stuff court cases set precedent over.”

That idea can cause people to hear things that may be objectional. However, their speech would be protected under the law, which can cause a possible outrage in society.

Although, free speech does not give someone the right to “say whatever you want, whenever you want,” Furness said. For example, Furness mentioned yelling fire in a packed movie theatre is not protected because it can cause the endangerment of others.

Hate speech, however, is something that is generally protected under the First Amendment even

though its intent is to vilify, humiliate or incite hatred against a group.

“The main framework

ideas,” Furness said.

“There’s absolutely no role for public universities that get tons of funding,



is explicitly directed towards people’s race, gender and sexual orientation,” Furness said.

This can cause many problems because everyone doesn’t believe that hate speech should be tolerated.

Penn State University (PSU) was involved in this controversy not too long ago. On Oct. 24, a PSU student-run organization at University Park (UP), invited the Proud Boys

to perform what was touted as a comedy show. The Southern Poverty Law Center says the Proud Boys are a hate group. Amid a variety of protests for and against the Proud Boys visit, the event was shut down.

“I think the Proud Boys deserve no university space in which to express their horrendous

not from the state, to provide a venue for them to preach what they want to preach.”

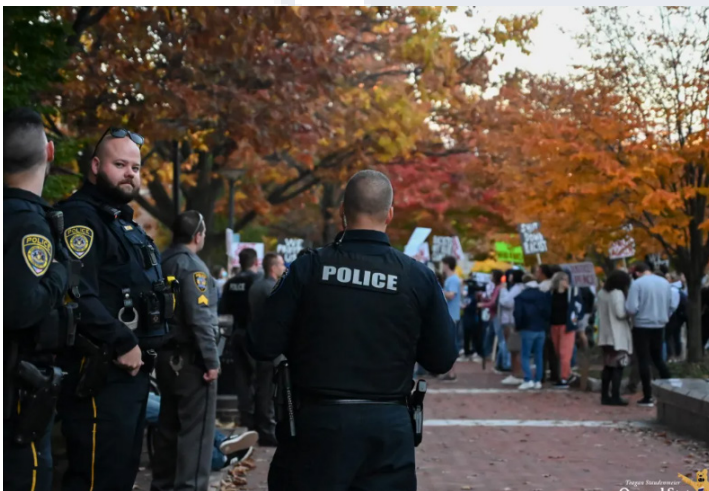
Through an email interview, Ethan Gally, governmental affairs liaison and vice THON chair at PSUGA, has a similar view on the issue.

“I am against what transpired at University Park regarding the Proud Boys,” Galley said. “It is infuriating to know that someone like Gavin McInnes, with his history of racial animus and white supremacy, was even allowed to step foot on university grounds.

“The Proud Boys have a legacy of hatred and bigotry,” he added.

Furness goes on to mention this “criminal organization” is free to say whatever they want

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online, in the street, or any public space despite not agreeing with their ideas.

“Protesting those people is, I think, an ethical responsibility,” Furness said.

Galley goes on to mention, “I submit that the protest taken against these figures was the correct course of action.” He added, if the event was to continue as scheduled, the recruitment of individuals could have added to the intended violence.

Previously, PSU at UP gave Milo Yiannopolous, a British alt-right political commentator, a venue back in 2021 and paid him \$18,000 in student funds to perform his show, “Pray the Gay Away.”

“That’s a load of money... that’s more money than all of the bands I played for 20 years get paid for combined,” Furness said, adding that money could have been given to students.

A petition arose because of Yiannopolous. The petition named, “End Hate Speech at Penn State University Park,” received almost 14,000 signatures, which caused PSU leaders to denounce his visit.

Furness says he is extremely racist as well as homophobic and should not have been given the opportunity he got.

Another big issue in-

volving free speech is the buyout of Twitter by Elon Musk.

“The big problem is the framework for arguments about free speech... that confuses what is people’s actually right to speak versus I should be able to say what I want, whenever I want, to whomever I want, with no repercussions,” Furness said.

Musk is a perfect example of this. He advocates for “free speech” and does not believe in censorship. However, he can be perceived as hypocritical. There have been instances when he suspended individuals’ Twitter accounts because they made fun of him [Musk].

On the flip side, Furness said there have been posts that are racist and anti-Semitic, but aren’t takedown.

“I think that there are legitimate reasons, and important ones, to cherish and fight for free speech.” Furness said. “It’s also equally as important to not have the idea and practice of free speech hijacked by people whose agenda is to have no repercussions for their speech or actions.”

Furness added, “Moderating that stuff [content] is not the same as censorship. There’s an ethical end to that, not only what I think they should do, but also what their obligation should be to the public.”



Furness added that if someone is going to take over a social media company, like Musk, and run it successfully, there must be some sort of content moderation. If there is none, this can cause the spread of disinformation as well as propaganda.

To continue, Apple has considered withholding Twitter from its app store. Apple thinks many companies, like Twitter, have too much power.

So, they [Twitter] “need to get under control and be in compliance with the standards we have to put apps on our [Apple’s] website,” Furness said, then adding the number of anti-Semitic and racist tweets have dramatically increased just within the last month alone.

In fact, if Apple decided to “withhold” Twitter, Furness said it would have the chance to destroy the app because roughly 80% of its users use Twitter on a mobile device. However, the problem is not having

the app on the app store, it’s the updates that will not be compatible with the operating system. After time, this can infrastructurally phase something out of existence.

Furness noted that Musk was not excited about this news and even suggested he would make his own phone to avoid the iOS and Android duopoly in the mobile operating system.

In general, Furness said, the main issue involving free speech isn’t a governmental issue at all. Most of the time it becomes an issue when dealing with private organizations.

“Most of the ways people express themselves and most of what exists as far as there being public space to do that, is in private forums,” Furness added.

*Photos courtesy: Onward State*

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Expert Says Initiating War in Ukraine “Real miscalculation on Russian Side”; Local families watch and wait from afar

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*Editors note: This is another installment of The GA-Zette’s ongoing reporting on the war in Ukraine and its impact on America.*

It has been nearly 10 months since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. As of late November, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported that there have been at least 6,595 civilian deaths in Ukraine, with 415 of them children. The OHCHR has stated that the numbers could be more than what is reported.

A swift Russian victory was expected at first. However, Ukraine has managed to hold on and even fight back the Russian advancement in various cities. On Nov. 12, it was reported that Ukraine had regained control of Kherson after it had fallen to Russian invasion in March.

The victory was a bittersweet one for Ukrainians, as Russian



forces destroyed a significant amount of the city’s infrastructure, a trend that has repeated itself in many of the areas now fallen to Russia’s military. Russia has been targeting major Ukrainian energy, heat, and water infrastructure as well as hospitals, ahead of the winter, to turn the war toward the civilian population.

Julia Skorija, a Ukrainian-American woman who has lived in the Pittsburgh area for 20 years, said that the war came as a complete shock.

“I remember I was watching CNN on the 24th, it was like midnight my time,” Julia said, “and it started showing that Russia started entering from Belarus...it wasn’t

anything like in between. They just started bombing.”

It was so unbelievable that even her parents, who live near Irpin, a suburb in Ukraine’s capital of Kiev, did not realize that the war had begun. Skorija called her parents to ask them about what was happening.

“They would not believe me,” she said. “Nobody would believe me. Even me, myself, I would not. And my mom and my dad said, ‘Oh, you heard something? We [her parents] thought maybe something fell in the garage.’” Skorija said those noises turned out to be bombs. “And they said, well, that’s the war.”

For the first month

of the war, Julia had no contact with her family in Ukraine, which caused her a great deal of stress. She said her family was driving to a store on the first day of the war, when “a Russian helicopter shot at their car just for no reason because they were just trying to attack the airport in that area. Small airport,” Julia said.

“Thank God it didn’t kill them. But my mom got hurt in the head by a piece of shrapnel.” Her mother, still alive, was not able to get immediate treatment at a hospital at the time due to heavy bombing from Russian forces.

Julia’s 35-year-old brother was drafted to the Ukrainian military in mid-March, and his brigade has recently begun to move towards Eastern Ukraine, where much of the more severe fighting is.

“They lost a lot of people.” Julia said, “[My brother] lost his best friend on the first day.”

She said her family does not plan to leave Ukraine in the near future

*(Continued to next page)*

(Continued from page 12)

in order to be available for her brother in case something happens.

According to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), M142 HIMARS rocket launchers donated by the U.S. have been imperative to Ukraine's success in winning back territory. Since the war began in February, the U.S. has sent over \$18.2 billion in weapons and equipment to Ukraine. While some criticize the amount being given, Dr. Catherine Wanner, professor of history, anthropology, and religious studies at Penn

this, was something called the Budapest Memorandum in 1994, that the United States signed on to."

The countries involved in the Budapest Memorandum at the time were the U.S., U.K., Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. "[Ukraine] agreed to give away its nuclear weapons," Wanner said, "because it was given two things. One, it was given assurances from the United States that it would protect Ukraine should it ever be attacked. It was also given assurances from Russia that Russia would protect

made it a nuclear power. According to Wanner, "it was not in the United States' best interest for Ukraine to have access to such power."

Another reason Wanner cites for the amount of aid gone to Ukraine is a pattern with Russian activity in Eastern Europe. She draws parallels to Russia's military aggression towards Moldova.

"That was one of the 15 republics, and it became independent in 1991," she said. "What Russia was able to do, via military intervention, was to create what's been called a frozen conflict or a supposed state structure within Moldova, which means sort of a zone of lawlessness."

This region, known as Transnistria, borders Ukraine on the west, and has since become a center for human and weapons trafficking, among other crimes. In 2008, Russia was also able to intervene in Georgia in Eastern Europe, seizing approximately 20% of that nation.

"To both of these instances, there was almost no international reaction," Wanner said.

"(Senator) John McCain in the United States reacted to Russian aggression in Georgia, but he was a lone voice." Then, in 2014, the Russian annexation of Crimea began.

"In other words," Wanner said, "you have a pattern of military intervention to either just take another state's territory, or destabilize a certain region for political or economic advantage, neither of which are in keeping at all with international law and international norms."

While a tremendous amount of aid has been sent to Ukraine, the vast majority of that aid has been in the form of weaponry, which, while useful in fighting back opposition, does not help with civilians who just want to keep fed and warm.

Julia Skorija volunteers at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in McKees Rocks to help send packages to Ukraine.

"People donate a lot. Now, it's kind of died out because it's not [the war] being advertised in the news much. And you know, once somebody donated," Skorija said, "you don't see a need to donate again unless you're from the country."

Skorija also said that her brother was thankful for volunteer efforts in Ukraine, because without them, there would be nights where the soldiers would have nothing to eat.

Currently, Russia's offensive on the city of Zaporizhzhia is a specific

(Continued to next page)



State's College of the Liberal Arts at University Park, indicated that the war is complex and past actions have led to today's situation.

"I think there's quite a lot of aid going to Ukraine for multiple reasons," Wanner said, "One of which, and I mention this because I think most Americans are unaware of

Ukraine should it ever be attacked."

By that point in 1994, the Soviet Union had already broken up, which made Ukraine an independent state. Due to Ukraine bordering non-Soviet countries, the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons were disproportionately stationed in Ukraine, which

(Continued from page 13)

concern due to the nuclear power plant located there, which is also the largest nuclear plant in Europe. The memory of the Chernobyl disaster in 1986 should be deterrent enough for such attacks from Russia, according to Wanner.

She said that even though the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was located in Ukraine, “The wind that day took the radioactive materials that escaped from the station northward.”

Belarus, a then republic of the USSR, as well as several Baltic and Scandinavian countries, received a significant amount of radioactive fallout. To this day, there is farmland in Norway still contaminated by the Cesium-137 used in the Chernobyl power plant.

“[Zaporizhzhia] is not particularly far from the Russian border,” Wanner said, “so once again, should the winds at all that day be going

eastward or southward—I mean, Russia itself could pay the highest price should they decide to attack or in any other way disable this nuclear power station.”

The war has gone on for an unprecedented nine months so far. A swift Russian victory was expected, but foreign military aid to Ukraine, as well as a lack of preparedness from Russia, has extended the fight, according to Wanner.

“It was a real miscalculation on the Russian side...that is to say, Russia has three times the population, it has infinitely more weapons, and it’s a far larger country. And I think they really just thought they could quickly take [Ukraine] over,” Wanner said.

Though it may sound like an unreasonable miscalculation, Wanner cites U.S. expectations for its entry into Afghanistan and Iraq as prime examples of similar miscalculations.

On Nov. 15, reports cited Russian missiles tar-



**Picture of a Ukrainian house that was destroyed by a Russian airstrike**

getting a Ukrainian power grid ended up hitting Polish territory, killing two people. Poland is a NATO country, which has many worrying about the potential of a nuclear war. In fact, in March, shortly after the start of the war, Russian President Vladimir Putin put nuclear forces on a higher level of alertness.

Since Russia’s invasion, both Finland and Sweden have filed to join NATO, and only Turkey and Hungary are yet to ratify their accession. This decision would expand NATO’s membership to 32 countries.

Some people criticize NATO’s expansionist policy, however, stating that it should have been dissolved after the fall of the Soviet Union. Others, in turn, argue that Russia’s aggression leaves these smaller countries with no other option.

“I think if you speak to people in the region,”

Wanner said, “they’re overwhelmingly supportive of NATO and they overwhelmingly wish to be part of NATO, and they are not at all convinced that Russia doesn’t still harbor imperial designs.” Many of the countries that are a part of or wish to be a part of NATO were once Soviet Republics or satellite states.

Belarus is one of the exceptions to this rule, having once been a Soviet Republic, yet remaining on good terms with Russia. The two countries signed a treaty in 2000, rendering them both the “Union State.”

“I think a good bit of this war is over the fact that Russia would like Ukraine to be much like Belarus,” Wanner said.

*Part 2 of this ongoing story will be published in the January Edition of The GA-Zette.*





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our Fall 2022

Penn State Greater Allegheny

*Rising Scholars*

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Friday, December 9, 2022

12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Traina Room, Student Community Center

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RISING  
SCHOLARS!**

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Messado's Magic Speaks to All

**MELANIE MCGINNISS**  
Contributing Writer

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“Magic is not so much about the tricks,” said professional magician, Joshua Messado. “It’s about telling the story...inspiring somebody”.

This year at Liberty Magic at the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Messado has been performing his magic show “Mr. Messado’s School Of Magic For The Young And Young At Heart” every Sunday until Dec. 18, in the speakeasy-styled theater, where audiences are encouraged to participate and learn.

His tricks and performances entertain an audience of all ages, but his stories hold just as much magic, too. “Magic is just a vehicle to get your point across,” he said.

During one such show, two young sisters were called up to volunteer together and be a part of the magic. Their shocked faces turned to their parents when Messado magically connected the solid metal rings they held into a chain.

Messado engaged his audience members this way or by asking questions. Catching everyone’s attention with magic, he also taught lessons using

his own experiences. The show was “educational for children, and inspirational for the adults,” Messado said an elder told him.

Another invested father raised his hand when Messado asked who was enjoying the show. Messado took an empty jar the exact size of

purpose is to uplift and inspire...to show people that anybody can do the impossible, even you,” Messado said.

Messado started magic when he was 18, but it was at the age of 25 that he quit his job and dedicated his time to performing and inspiring others.

“other guys,” but when he decided to take it seriously, he excelled.

Messado worked hard to perfect one of the oldest magic tricks in the world, the Chinese linking rings. He practiced consistently and found a way to stand out even more by performing the trick like



a Rubik’s Cube. Without breaking the jar he miraculously fit the cube in the jar and gifted it to the man for appreciating the magic.

Young or old, anyone can leave Messado’s show with a positive impact and for him, that’s the most important part. “My

Originally from Philadelphia, he worked his first job at Houdini’s Magic Shop in Atlantic City.

“To be totally honest...I really got into magic to impress the girls,” Messado shared. To him magic was a way to stand out from the

no one else. “That’s really rare in the magic community, to see something that’s completely different from what you’ve seen everybody else do,” Messado said.

Before he knew it, he caught the attention of the

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from page 16)

famous American magician, David Copperfield. Messado became popular in the magic community and created a genre of magic called “ringistry,” a modern adaptation of the Chinese linking rings. He got signed to the largest magic company at the time, illusionists.com. “It’s paved a beautiful way for me over the past couple of decades, and hopefully it’ll keep going,” Messado said.

From one magic trick to endless magic shows, Messado inspires with his story of success in magic. “I just try to tell what I’ve learned from my journey...take some of the lessons I’ve gathered over that time and share it with people,” Messado said. “Don’t keep it all to yourself, share it with someone else to make the world better.”

Messado has more shows to come at Liberty Magic, specifically one in 2024 more geared toward adults and focused on the story telling. Plenty of other shows at Liberty Magic can be found through the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust’s website—trustarts.org, under “events.”



# CONGRATULATIONS 2022 GRADUATES!!!



*The GA-Zette team wishes you all the best on your future endeavors!*

**The GA-Zette will not be posting the graduates' names until after the ceremony takes place. Graduation will be held on Dec. 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wunderley Gymnasium.**

## Lion Ambassadors

*Service. Tradition. Excellence. Pride*



Penn State Greater Allegheny Lion Ambassadors display spirit and enthusiasm, communicate our history, strengthen University traditions, and instill Penn State pride in current and future students, alumni and friends, and all guests who visit our campus.

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[ga.psu.edu/admissions/lion-ambassadors](http://ga.psu.edu/admissions/lion-ambassadors)

# “Barbarian” Horror, Suspense Keeps Audiences Connected to Streaming

YOUSUF IBRAHIM

Staff Writer

yil5000@psu.edu

With *Barbarian*, director and screenwriter, Zach Cregger, joins Jordan Peele in the hall of sketch comics who are somehow extremely good at making horror movies.

Released in theaters on Sept. 9, the movie gained a resurgence in popularity during the month of October. Part of this could be attributed to the general increase in popularity of scary movies during this month.

Another part of it could be due to the wide accessibility on both Hulu and HBO Max, with various other platforms offering it through digital rental.

An initial viewing of *Barbarian* should surprise you, so I’ll keep the description brief. The film stars English actress and model, Georgina Campbell, as main character Tess Marshall, who arrives at night to a house in Detroit that she rented via Airbnb. Mysteriously, she finds Keith, played by

Swedish actor, Bill Skarsgard, already in the house, as he has also rented it for the same time.

The film also stars amazing performances

Cregger’s directing throughout the movie is insane. Most horror movies made in 2010 and onward are visually boring and thematically

psychological thrillers of filmmaker, David Fincher.

Both of these are valid comparisons, but Cregger is his own director, and he has more to say with the language of horror than vague handwaving towards “trauma” and “guilt.” Cregger spent his career in comedy with comedy troupe The Whitest Kids U’ Know as well as various sitcoms like *Wrecked*, and has developed a great sense of timing that works exceptionally well with both horror and comedy.

If I had to reduce this film to a numerical rating, I’d have to give it a four out of five. Schools would have us believe that this is a B-. A close friend of mine says otherwise, claiming that a four out of five is “a damn good score.”

And it’s certainly far better than most directors’ horror debuts. If you’re more partial to horror films, you will probably like *Barbarian* even more than I did.



from character actors Justin Long and Richard Brake. And that is all I will say about the script. The rest, you should figure out on your own.

repetitive. *Barbarian* is not so. Some compare Cregger’s style to Sam Raimi of *Spiderman* and the *Evil Dead* franchises. Some compare it to the

## CLUB ADVERTISING

Does your organization want to promote its event or program in the newspaper?

**The GA-ZETTE** offers complimentary, no-cost display ads to any university sanctioned club or organization.

**Space is limited!** Contact the campus newspaper at [ga-zette@PennStateOffice365.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:ga-zette@PennStateOffice365.onmicrosoft.com)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The staff and management of **The GA-ZETTE** welcome letters to the editor by writing to [rum31@psu.edu](mailto:rum31@psu.edu).

Please include your full name, PSU email, address, and phone number to verify.

Missing contact information will result in non-consideration of your article.



## KENNYWOOD HOLIDAY LIGHTS

### Returning Brighter than Ever

Kennywood spreads seasonal cheer with the return of Holiday Lights this winter. More than two million twinkling lights will illuminate the park, along with more than 20 family-favorite rides, new festive culinary delights and the nightly tree lighting at the tallest Christmas tree in Pennsylvania.

Holiday Lights transforms Kennywood into a winter wonderland where guests can meet Jolly St. Nick and enjoy special live entertainment, such as magic shows, ice carving, choir performances, and local celebrity readings of “The Night Before Christmas.”

Visitors can also enjoy a massive model train display, kids’ dance parties, and a walk-through petting zoo.

A Holiday Lights Kennywood evening isn’t complete without rides!

The Kangaroo makes its Christmas time return

with a new, seasonal lighting package, plus the Jack Rabbit, Merry-Go-Round, Gran Prix, Kiddieland rides and more.

Plus, watch Pennsylvania’s tallest Christmas tree illuminate the sky nightly at 6 p.m., sponsored by Clearview Federal Credit Union.

According to a Kennywood press release, an all-new holiday menu will delight the taste buds of all and make the spirits bright with peppermint milkshakes, doughnut holes with different flavor and sauce options, and a

fresh take on Kennywood’s famous fudge.

Also, during Holiday Lights, there are nightly opportunities to dine and leave wish lists with the man of the season, Mr. Claus, at the nightly Dinner with Santa.

Tickets are as low as \$19.99 for a limited time to visit any operating day through Jan. 1.

*Photo credit: Dave DiCello Photography from Kennywood’s Facebook page.*



# Highmark First Night Pittsburgh 2023

## Lineup for New Year's Eve in the Cultural District

Pittsburgh, put your plans on ice – literally – as the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust welcomes you to the Cultural District for New Year's Eve with a one-of-a-kind Ice Maze to lead you into 2023.

Master ice carver and founder of Ice Creations, Richard Bubin, will create an immersive walk-through maze of giant ice blocks five feet high, specially designed and carved for the Backyard at 8th and Penn. It's a grand return for the popular family-friendly experience that debuted in Pittsburgh's Cultural District eight years ago.

"Pittsburgh's Cultural District is a special destination on New Year's Eve. Through the power of the arts, we can reflect on the past and celebrate our future," Sarah Aziz, director of festival management for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, said in a press release. "We extend our heartfelt thanks to presenting sponsor, Highmark Health, our community partners, and this year's featured artists whose contributions will make this New Year's Eve so memorable."

A block away, but a world apart from the Ice Maze, Wood Street Galleries will host a leading figure in Japan's

avant-garde art scene, choreographer and multi-disciplinary artist, Hiroaki Umeda, for his high-intensity dance and digital imagery installation, called Intensional Particle. The event is a co-production of the Trust's Pittsburgh Dance Council series, Visual Arts program, and Highmark First Night Pittsburgh, with the gallery exhibition remaining open through March of 2023.

Familiar favorites and traditions abound, too, starting with the Dollar Bank Children's Fireworks at 6 p.m. on the Dollar Bank Stage in front of the Benedum Center on 7th Street.

INEZ, self-proclaimed FireShorty™, multi-faceted artistic Renaissance woman, and Homewood resident, headlines the Highmark Stage, 10:45 p.m. to midnight.

As always, there will be plenty of attractions for families, including a visit to the Highmark Holiday Block Party & AHN Family Zone, 6-10 p.m., at 7th and Penn, where you can win prizes, warm up, and celebrate the new year with creative activities curated by community organizations.

"Better World" will be the theme when the New Year's Eve Parade,

presented by Giant Eagle steps off from the David L. Lawrence Convention Center at 8 p.m. and marches through the Cultural District along Penn Avenue. The annual arts-focused parade is packed with performance groups, loaded with artistic surprises, and led by signature giant puppets and art cars created by Studio Capezzuti.

For those looking for new experiences, the Trust will offer guided, behind-the-scenes theater tours of the historic Benedum Center and Byham Theater. Guests can learn about the history and magic of these 100+ year old venues – and even stop on the way in or out for face-painting, caricaturists, and tarot card readings.

When 2023 arrives, the Trust will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of

Hip Hop. Preview the year-long celebration with an outdoor Graffiti Gallery at Trust Oasis, boasting seven large-scale murals by talented regional artists.

In addition, live music lovers can anticipate a reggae performance by 4-Yaadi on the Dollar Bank Stage, as well as jazz performances in the First Night Jazz Lounge at the Trust Arts Education Center.

Guests wanting to grab a popcorn and take a seat at the Harris Theater will find Laurel & Hardy shorts on the big screen. Trust visual arts galleries will be open all night, with previously announced gallery exhibitions.

*Photo courtesy: The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust*





**Would you like to be part of this award-winning newspaper?**

Are there any students in any major interested in being a news writer, reporter, or photographer?

If you are, please contact Professor Rosemary Martinelli at rum31@psu.edu to get more information about your involvement in *The GA-Zette*.

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*THE GA-ZETTE*, the official campus newspaper of Penn State Greater Allegheny, is published by students for students, faculty and staff of the campus. The paper is printed seasonally, but is also posted and updated bi-weekly, on a digital platform at [sites.psu.edu/gazette](https://sites.psu.edu/gazette).

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# 90 SECONDS UNDER THE BLUE UMBRELLA TIMELY TOPICS FROM AROUND CAMPUS

CARLIN WHALEN | Managing Editor | [cjw6426@psu.edu](mailto:cjw6426@psu.edu)

**“Where do you get your news? Do you believe that is the most reliable source? Why?”**



**Olanrewaju Peter-Koyi, *Sophomore, Psychology***

“I have a monthly subscription to New York Times, but other than that, I go on social media or YouTube. I do not think this is the most reliable way, but I see the news on social media and look online to verify it.”

**Kilian Schilling, *Junior, Psychology***

“I mostly get my news from social media, probably YouTube or Instagram. Its probably not the best way. There are probably better ways, but it’s very convenient. If I am really interested in the topic, then I would do my own research.”



**Jodi Petro, *Café Metro Staff***

“I get my news from the television. I definitely don’t think Facebook is a good source, but television is a reliable source. I also used to read newspapers, but we hardly get them anymore.”

**Dr. Sandra Trappen, *Assistant Professor of Administration of Justice***

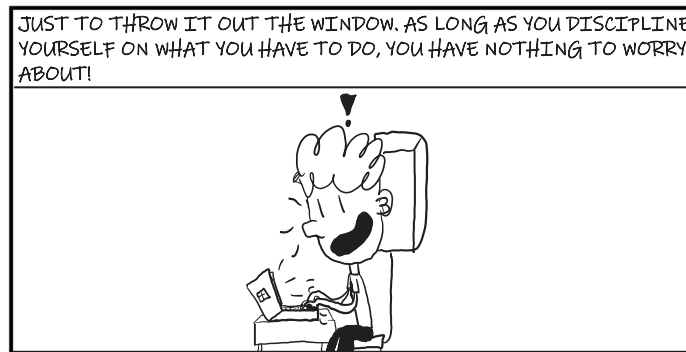
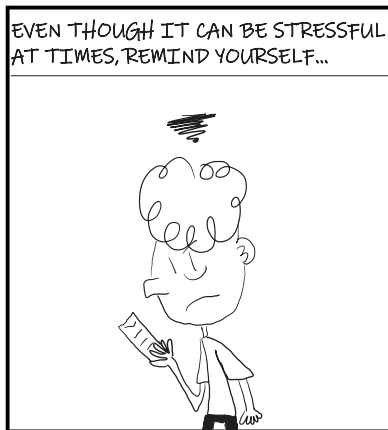
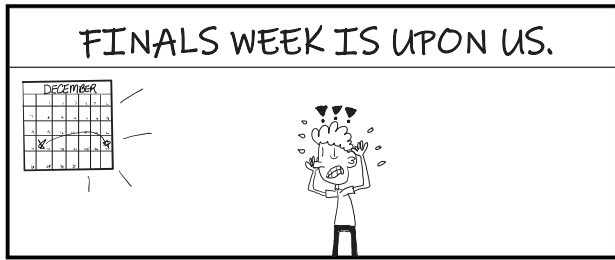
“I get my news a little bit from social media, but mostly (because I am a professor) from peer reviewed sources, peer networks, and conferences I attend. I think people should have access to a diversity of sources. In particular, they should try to listen to people that don’t think like them.”



**On Friday, Dec. 9, there will be a THON meeting during Common Hour in Frable 120. This meeting is open to all, including students and staff. Please plan to attend “For The Kids!”**

**THON™**

FINALS WEEK  
BY: SAMUEL ADEKOLA



# SPORTS & ATHLETICS

## Steelers 19 - 16 win keeps playoff hopes alive

**CARLIN WHALEN**

Managing Editor

[cjw6426@psu.edu](mailto:cjw6426@psu.edu)

Coming off a needed win last week against the Indianapolis Colts, the Pittsburgh Steelers were able to record their first two-game win streak of the season with a 19 – 16 victory against the Atlanta Falcons on the road at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. With this win, the Steelers are now 5 – 7, inching their way closer to potential playoff berth.

The Steelers received the opening kickoff and took almost half of the first quarter to score the first points of the game. Steelers Quarterback,

Kenny Pickett, and the offense slowly made their way down the field to put them in field goal range. Matthew Wright, Steelers kicker, was set up with a 46-yard field goal attempt and successfully put it through the uprights. This put them up 3 – 0, which was the only score for the quarter.

After holding the Falcons to a 4th down, the Steelers were able to get the ball back and score more points. Once again, they were forced to attempt a field goal and

Starting the third quarter, the Steelers were once again able to force a punt and capitalize with points on the next drive. Wright made his fourth field goal of the game with a

one last chance to win. Steelers Punter, Pressley Harvin III, had an amazing punt, pinning the Falcons backs to their end zone. They started at their own



*The Pittsburgh Steelers offense during a regular season game against the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday, Dec. 4 (Pittsburgh Steelers/Karl Roser)*

Wright was able to nail his 46-yard attempt to widen the lead, 6 – 0.

Soon after, the Falcons answered with a field goal of their own. Falcons Kicker, Younghoe Koo, successfully made his 50-yard attempt to bring the game back to a 3-point deficit. On the next drive, Pickett was able to find Steelers Tight End, Connor Hayward, in the end zone for a 17-yard touchdown pass, making it 13 – 3. Each team added a field goal to the score, entering halftime, 16 – 6.

33-yard attempt that soared through the uprights. The Falcons answered back with a 7-yard touchdown pass.

Marcus Mariota, Falcons quarterback, found Tight End, MyCole Pruitt, in the end zone to make it a one score game.

In the fourth quarter, the Falcons were able to milk 9-minutes off the clock and march down the field to score another field goal to put the team within 3-points of the Steelers.

Forcing a punt, the Falcons were able to get

2-yard line. Mariota's first pass of the drive was intercepted by Minkah Fitzpatrick, Steelers safety, to secure the victory for the Black & Gold.

Steelers Head Coach, Mike Tomlin, had some encouraging words in his post-game interview. "We were not perfect today, but we did what was required...there's always things to work on after games and I'd prefer to do it on a W as opposed to an L."

