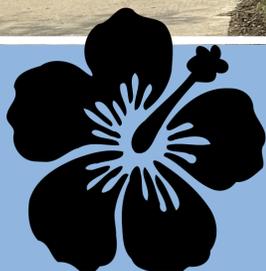




# The GA-ZETTE

MARCH-APRIL 2023 *The Campus Newspaper for Penn State Greater Allegheny* VOLUME 20

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# Penn State's Budget Deficit, Student Success in the Works at Greater Allegheny

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Penn State University (PSU) as a whole has been facing a major budget deficit. PSU President, Neeli Bendapudi, is working to balance the university's budget by 2025, after operating with more than a \$125 million deficit this past fiscal year.

"For our University to thrive, we must have a sustainable budget model that has enough flexibility to allow for innovation and agility, and yet enough predictability so that we can meet our core missions and support our phenomenal faculty and staff members," Bendapudi said in a message sent out on Feb. 24.

In order to address this situation, Penn State's Board of Trustees approved a tuition increase in fall 2022 as well as agreeing to stop spending and committing our central and unit reserve unsustainable levels.

With this in mind, there are plans to lay off many workers while the university is in this "vulnerable" state, according to *Spotlight PA*, who had "internal documents" to quote.



"Decisions are difficult, but I am here to help you find the least disruptive ways to preserve and advance the core of our academic enterprise" Bendapudi said.

However, Penn State Greater Allegheny's (PSUGA) Interim Chancellor, Dr. Megan Nagel, doesn't anticipate a major impact specifically for the campus. Despite this crisis, Nagel said, "We will just continue to operate efficiently as we have for years."

PSUGA has many goals that focus on student success and career readiness.

After successfully defining what student success actually is, a leadership team has been

formed. Part of that team includes faculty that oversee the offices that are student facing, which include the Learning Center, ACE, academic advising, Student Affairs, and athletics.

"That work is now moving behind the scenes and we expect to launch in a more public facing direction during New Student Orientation (NSO)," Nagel said.

Because one of the first checkpoints of the defined student success is after the first semester, Nagel wants to implement this with incoming students to support each one of them as well as the other students already on the Greater Allegheny campus.

The PSUGA campus also received an internal grant from the Equal Opportunity Planning Committee (EOPC) for a summer bridge program that focuses on students' who need extra preparation regarding their math development, which ties right in with the student success goals.

Similarly, PSUGA is beginning to work on Career Readiness, Entrepreneurial Activities, and Transformative Experiences (CREATE), with the purpose to embed career readiness skills into the coursework in an intentional way. From students' first semesters, they can start thinking *(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

about skills that have been identified as core competencies for the workforce.

CREATE's end goal is to be able to identify and track the core competencies in and out of class experiences to build a transcript of experiences. CREATE is planned to have a soft launch during the Fall 2023 semester.

Looking at enrollment, the retention rate has been quite strong according to Nagel, and she hopes to see this trend continue into the upcoming semester, although, the incoming class sizes

have been steady to last year's numbers, which is an area where growth is needed. Nagel mentioned that is something that will come with time and new leadership involving admissions.

Additionally, student engagement has been quite strong, too. "They [Student Affairs] are seeing students participating in large numbers," Nagel said. "To me, that is a sign of community and engagement, both in and outside the classroom."

As far as campus renovations, many of the "big" changes will come

over the summer because it is hard to do anything major during the academic year. They did, however, add potted plants to the lower level of the Student Community Center (SCC) and start painting the Kelly Library during Spring Break. Students can look forward to the sport court and a new makerspace, which will be housed in the library, for the Fall 2023 semester.

With finals coming up within the next couple of weeks, Nagel encourages students to not wait until finals week to prepare for the exams. "If you stay steady with your work, by the time you get to finals, it should just be one more course activity you have

to complete," Nagel said, "not the thing that is going to determine your grade."

Graduation will take place at 11:00 a.m. on May 6, in the Wunderly Gymnasium. Graduates can look forward to this year's guest speaker, David Newell, also known as Mr. McFeely, from Mister Rogers Neighborhood.

Photo courtesy: Eric Firestine



# PSUGA's First Ever Solve It! Competition



On March 24, Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) partnered with Covestro Corporation to host its first ever high school pitch competition, which featured a variety of schools from around the campus.



Each school had a group of students present an environmentally-friendly way to reduce the amount of plastic waste when recycling laptops. These were judged by a panel of four persons, including Covestro employees, community leaders and faculty.



After insightful presentations by each group, the judges deliberated and selected the top three teams.



First Place: Thomas Jefferson High School  
Second Place: Norwin High School  
Third Place: Jeanette Junior/Senior High School



Photos courtesy: Carlin Whalen



# Fetterman Released from Hospital, Expected to Return to Senate on April 17

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A recent press release announced that Pennsylvania's junior senator, John Fetterman, is expected to make a return to Capitol Hill on April 17, after being released from the hospital two weeks ago. This comes nearly two months after he left the Senate to seek treatment for depression.

The first-term senator, was admitted to Walter Reed Military Medical Center on Feb. 15. In total, he has been away from the Senate chamber for more than six weeks.

While an average in-treatment hospital stay for depression usually lasts around 10 days, according to Psychology Today, there could be reasons why a stay may last longer than usual. In Fetterman's case, it had been reported by CNN's Manu Raju, that due to a stroke he suffered last May, the medical staff at Walter Reed wanted to ensure that the medication he is receiving will be in a proper dose.

"Fetterman's stay lasted this long because the doctors have been trying to get his 'medication balance exactly right,'" Raju tweeted on March 14.

Fetterman had a previous issue with an incorrect dosage for his blood pressure medication when in February he experienced dizziness on the Senate floor. This incident caused him to check into George Washington University Hospital, where doctors then learned about the incorrect dosage.

Despite the improvement in the battle with his

Despite these issues, he has still made an impact on the Senate so far. According to a press release on the senator's website, he - along with fellow senators, Pennsylvania's Bob Casey (D), and Ohio's Sherrod Brown (D) - introduced the Railway Accountability Act. This legislation, which is a response to the Feb. 3 train derailment in East

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in a recent report on the derailment.

This follows up a piece of legislation co-sponsored by Fetterman and Casey, that was introduced by Brown and Ohio Senator J.D. Vance (R). This bill would introduce new requirements for trains carrying chemical or hazardous materials.



**Pennsylvania U.S. Senator, John Fetterman, returns to Braddock after he was treated for depression at Walter Reed Military Medical Center.**

*(Photo courtesy: U.S. Senate)*

depression, there are still health concerns about the 53-year-old former Braddock mayor and PA's Lieutenant Governor. Due to his aforementioned May 2022 stroke, Fetterman had auditory processing issues during the 2022 midterm election, something that became a campaign topic.

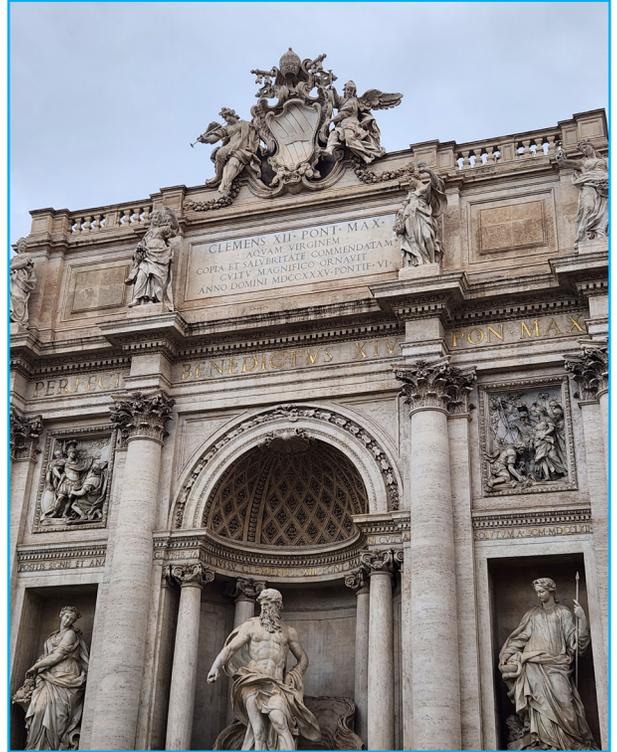
Palestine, OH, would ensure that the Federal Railroad Administration studies similar derailments and mechanical defects and then comes up with regulations to prevent future occurrences.

The bill also requires mechanics inspecting trains, to vouch for their safety, according to the

According to Fetterman's website, he will stay in Braddock for the next two weeks as the Senate is currently in recess.



# Spring Break in Rome with Dr. Sandra Trappen



Much of the time spent on our trip involved touring gorgeous churches and seeing countless frescos, some of which date as far back as the Roman Era.

Students also had the chance to try some of the best food on the planet, especially given how much of it is genuinely fresh and not subjected to the assembly line we're accustomed to in the United States.

I think my favorite part was having the opportunity to make handmade noodles with someone native to Rome.

I would strongly encourage anyone and everyone to take a trip abroad, as it provides the chance for personal growth and reconciliation with other human cultures.

I'm inclined to suggest that it makes you a citizen of the world!

(Story and photos courtesy: Ethan Galley)

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# “Made in McKeesport” Minerva’s At 100 On Good Customer Service, Long-Standing Traditions, Family Values, and Just Darn-Good Sweets

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“Minerva, if you look up mythology, is the Roman goddess of wisdom. Athena is the Greek goddess of wisdom and my grandfather came from Greece,” said Mark Monezis, owner of Minerva’s Bakery, so why not name the bakery in honor of wisdom?

McKeesport business, but that it is a family bakery, built on tradition, that brings in customers from throughout the region.

The family-owned business opened in 1923 by Monezis’ grandfather. Later, when Monezis’ father was the owner, Mark was in the third grade and before going off to school each day, Mark learned the bakery trade by helping with dough fillings.

now it is down to 18,000 to 20,000,” Monezis said. Regardless of population, the Minerva’s tradition continued and each generation had a hand in work at the bakery. Just ask Kate Malson, daughter of the current owner.

“When I was about 13, I would make boxes and or pack the buns for the holidays or pack nut rolls or open [the store] occasionally. My brother would help out all the time, too, when we were kids,” Malson said.

Monezis also mentioned that he would have aunts, uncles and cousins work at the bakery throughout the years. As a result, Malson said that growing up, she would be working with her cousins, her dad, grandpa, and aunt.

“I think people like the old time feel of coming here... it’s an experience as opposed to going to a supermarket for a cake or something like that, even though a lot of people are doing that now because they want everything the easiest and fastest way,” Malson said.

Monezis said that he learned throughout the years that customers appreciated Minerva’s



**Kate Malson (front), and Michael (middle) and Mark (back) Monezis in the Minerva’s kitchen.**

traditional recipes because “a lot of our formulas that we use go back to the late 30s and 40s. Our pumpkin pie formula that we have goes back to a German baker from the 1930s and we do it the exact same way they did it back then,” Monezis said.

Like the Minerva’s tradition itself, tradition keeps the customers coming in.

“For Easter, we’ll make our peep cakes, which are a tradition, too, for some of our families. We just stick to what we know our customers like the most,” Malson said. “I think when people think of us they think of our paska bread,

**(Continued on page 9)**



Anyone stopping by the storefront at 927 Fifth Avenue in McKeesport will soon learn that it is not just a 100-year-old

“According to my father, there used to be 18 bakeries in McKeesport. It [the city] had 55,000 people at the time and

*(Continued from page 8)*  
 especially for the holidays. I think that becomes a tradition for families. It's like egg bread."

Cakes would be the baked good sold the most, but Malson and Monezis also have the display cases and shelves packed with plenty of danishes, donuts, coffee cakes, and french puff pastry.

"These different baked goods that are traditional to us...we like to talk about [them] because if somebody comes in here and they say what should we get, what are you guys known for, we like to share that with them," Malson said.

When asked if they planned on doing anything differently in the future, the owner and his daughter said probably not, adding that even those who come to Minerva's for their traditional items, those customers are likely to say, "Oh, let's try something new today."

Like other long-time McKeesport businesses, Minerva's legacy is "family," according to Malson, because she said it starts with her dad, a third-generation owner.

"But we all work here. I help when I can and when my brother is in town, he'll help. My husband comes nearly every Saturday and even he is learning. We have been married for four years and he is learning how to make dough and fillings."

Minerva's customers enjoy being welcomed by a person instead of communicating through a technological device. Malson added that they maintain relationships with their customers



through meaningful connections. They like to hear how customers' days are going. She emphasized that it is important to talk to the customers and get to know them better.

"I would say the main way we show appreciation to our customers is by listening to them, talking to them about their day

and what they are up to... knowing what they like and don't like," Malson said. After catching up with regular customers for so many years, she added that it is not just knowing what they like from the shelves and display cases, but they get to know the people.

"Grandma would come, great grandma would come since we're going on 100 years. A lot of our customers are generational. Everybody grew up getting our cakes, and

we can say how's so and so been because we get to know their families," Malson said.

The bakery also prides itself on good customer service that keeps people coming back. Just ask the customers, as a few of them were heading out of the bakery after making their purchases:

--"Best bakery around. We like the traditionality of it. It's a family-owned business, so they give back to local people."

-- "Their cakes are good. My dad used to live up the street and he would go up to his mom's every Saturday and bring his mom a Minerva cake. It was nice."

Family favorites from Minerva's? Monzis said that his favorite part about the desserts is "our cheese filling, be it in a piece of danish or in a holiday roll or cold dough cookies with our cheese filling."

For Malson, "My favorite is probably our cinnamon bread...at home we always make french toast with it. Growing up that was always my favorite, along with our sandwich buns."

*Minerva's Bakery, 927 Fifth Avenue...412-673-2863 open Tuesday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Located just around the corner from UPMC McKeesport Hospital.*

*Photos courtesy: Mariah Greene*

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## 95th Academy Awards: A Monumental Night in Oscar History Pittsburgh Native Captures Fifth Statue

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The 95th Academy Awards—the Oscars—hosted by late-night’s Jimmy Kimmel, has come and gone and what a spectacular night it was.

“Everything Everywhere All at Once” won big, winning seven of its 11 nominations, including Best Picture. Michelle Yeoh made Oscar history by becoming the first Asian woman to win a lead actress Oscar for her role in the film.

Ke Huy Quan would win an Oscar for best supporting actor in the film. He gave an

emotional speech about how his journey started on as a child on a boat from Vietnam, and that now here he was on “Hollywood’s biggest stage.” He touched upon living his early life in a refugee camp. It was a truly magical moment that just goes to show how dreams do come true.

Jamie Lee Curtis would also win an Oscar for her best supporting actress role in “Everything Everywhere All At Once” for playing the part of an IRS agent. It was a very full circle moment for the actress because her mother, Janet Leigh, and her father, Tony Curtis, had both been nominated

for the same supporting acting awards for their roles in the films “Psycho” and “The Defiant Ones,” respectively, more than 62 years ago.

“All Quiet on the Western Front,” the German-adaptation of the 1929 novel, brought home four Oscar wins for international feature, production design, musical score, and cinematography.

The night also saw Brendan Fraser giving a tear-jerking acceptance speech for his Best Actor win in the film, “The Whale.”

The historic night began when Kimmel, back

for his third time hosting, parachuted onto the stage in homage to “Top Gun,” to then give his opening monologue. He poked fun at the iconic moment at 2022’s awards when Will Smith stormed the stage to slap Chris Rock following Rock’s comments about Smith’s wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. The audience seemed to get a great laugh out of Kimmel’s jokes regarding the whole ordeal.

Later in the night, Guillermo del Toro’s “Pinocchio” won the Oscar for best animated feature film. In his speech, Toro took a stand for

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10) animation by proclaiming that it is “not a genre of movies, but that rather it was simply just cinema.” It was a very impactful moment because for many years, animation has been looked down upon and not regarded as being on the same level as live action films. The audience seemed to be in agreement as many rounds of applause and cheers were let out for his comment.

Notable musical performances that took place that night were delivered by “Everything Everywhere All at Once” star Stephanie Hsu along with David Byrne and Son Lux. The three performed the nominated song “This is a Life” from the “Everything Everywhere All at Once” soundtrack. The performance was very artful and had tremendous choreography to back it.

Rihanna also dazzled with a moving performance of her first solo song since 2016, “Lift Me Up,” from the film “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.” Lady

Gaga would also deliver a very raw performance of the song “Hold My Hand” from the film “Top Gun: Maverick,” where, before her performance, she said “It’s deeply personal for me and I think that we all need each other, we need a lot of love to walk through this life.”

The viral song “Naatu Naatu” from the film “RRR” would also make Oscar history by becoming the first ever Indian film to win an award in the best original song category.

No Oscars event would be complete without someone from the Pittsburgh area capturing Hollywood gold. Pittsburgh-area native, Joe Letteri, won his fifth Academy Award for Best Achievement in Visual Effects for his work in “Avatar: The Way of Water.”

The 95th Annual Academy Awards ceremony was a truly historical night that saw a lot of representation, diversity and Academy Awards “firsts.” It felt like a turning point and a great look into a much more diverse future.



Eric Saindon, Richard Baneham, Pittsburgh native, Joe Letteri, and Daniel Barret accept the award for best visual effects for “Avatar: The Way of Water” (Jack Gruber/USA Today)

**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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# PSU Musical Theater Graduate Takes Lead in Touring Company of *SIX!*, The Musical, Shares Wisdom with Graduates-To-Be

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Words of wisdom: “The worst answer you can get is no. Go for it. Go for it, guns blazing.”

As another academic year winds down, and just before commencement in a few weeks, many people will want to share thoughts and sentiments with this year’s Penn State graduates. And that includes Amina Faye.

Faye, a 2020 Penn State musical theatre graduate, had those words of encouragement to share on her recent trip to Pittsburgh to star as Jane Seymour, the third wife of King Henry VIII, in the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust’s presentation of the award-winning musical *SIX! The Musical*.

*SIX! The Musical* is a modern retelling of the lives of the six wives of Henry VIII, presented in the form of a pop concert, where each of the wives tells her own tale of how much she suffered at the hands of the King of England. The six wives are all trying to determine who suffered the most and “whoever is deemed to have suffered the most will be made the lead singer of their pop group.”

Faye embodies the role of the strong and smart Seymour and, in doing so, shows that determination can get a person very far in life and career.

“I’ve always been pretty musical growing up. I always sang a lot, but my parents are from Senegal in West Africa, so there was no theatre like in the American sense that



*Amina Faye as she performs in SIX! The Musical (Diana Roth/The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust)*

we have, like Broadway,” Faye said. She added that she always has had a passion for music which drew her to a performing arts high school in her native North Carolina, where she would discover works such as *Les Misérables* and *Rent*. The young actress saw a bright future ahead in the field going into college.

When deciding where to go to college for musical theatre, Faye thought that Penn State was “honestly fate.” Picking three schools to apply to, Faye immediately fell in love with the University

Park campus upon her first visit. She looked no further, having never been to Pennsylvania before.

“I went to the campus...I was like this is where I want to go. I almost didn’t even go to the other two auditions that I had because I just knew that this was the place for me to be,” Faye exclaimed.

Musical theater is selective and highly competitive. Having only 12 people in her classes at Penn State, a number that was dwindled down from around 2000 applicants, Faye found great success at PSU and then, within just three years of graduation, she found herself in a production as big and grand as *SIX!*.

“Anything with art, there is no trajectory. It is so up and down,” she said. “Some people make it, some people don’t make it, some people make it right out of the gate, some people don’t book

anything until 10 years into it,” Faye said, as she highlighted the tribulations that come with pursuing something in the arts and humanities.

Calling upon inspiration from Adele, Yebba, Beyoncé, and Keke Palmer, Faye truly embodies the character of Jane Seymour. “I love playing Jane. I love finding her power” noted Faye. From her inspirations, Faye finds rawness, free spiritedness, and ferocity.

Running since 2017, *SIX! The Musical* has won two Tony awards and was Grammy-nominated. Faye’s touring production runs through May, 2024.

“I think to those people that are trying I would say if you think this is what’s meant for you, then you have to give it everything you’ve got.” Faye’s triumphant story of success is a truly inspiring tale that hits close to home and is sure to resonate deeply with the Penn State community.

It just goes to show that anyone can go far when led by determination and willpower, done with passion and honesty, no matter what role a person is destined to play.

# IWC Keeps Wrestling Alive in Western Pennsylvania for 22 Years

## Not even down-for-the-count amid COVID concerns

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Professional wrestling has long since been a part of Pittsburgh's DNA, with the city having nurtured such legendary talent as Bruno Sammartino, Kurt Angle and Shane Douglas. Since COVID began, however, there have been doubts about the ability for pro wrestling to remain viable.

Late last year, *The GA-Zette* met with the International Wrestling Cartel (IWC) during its double main event show at the Court Time Sports Center in Elizabeth, PA. No belts changed hands that night, but if one thing was proven, it's that independent wrestling is still alive in Pittsburgh, even post-COVID. And to solidify that popularity, last month, on March 25, the IWC celebrated its 22nd anniversary in Pittsburgh.

Throughout the years, IWC has built and maintained a reputation as the biggest indie wrestling promotion in western PA, which has likely helped it through these perilous times.

Before the match I attended started, there was a sort of meet and greet set

up for some of the wrestlers to sell their merchandise and take pictures with fans. Owner and promoter of IWC, Justin Plummer, discussed the struggles of returning to business during the pandemic.

"When COVID hit, all the other promotions in the area basically shut down. I mean, we all shut down for a while... so everybody just gave up—all these other smaller promotions."

Plummer bought the company in 2014 from Chuck Roberts, a well-known wrestling announcer who is now affiliated with the World Net Wrestling Alliance. "Stuck inside, can't do anything. So, it was really important for me to find a way—and all of us, I mean, the whole team—to find a way to give these people something to look forward to, and to give ourselves something to do, because there was nothing. And so we just adapted with the rules," Plummer said.

While lockdown was still in effect, he had to run shows outdoors instead of indoors. "We partnered with the Brownsville Drive-in. They were looking for some different things to do... All these small busi-

nesses that came together was really cool, and they were looking for something different to draw people in. So I just talked to the guy that runs that place and we did drive-in wrestling events to where we set the ring up in the middle of the field. And everybody would park their cars in a circle, almost like Fight Club, around the ring. And the cars would go back eight, ten rows," Plummer said.

The show that I was at, however, began with Plummer being threatened and almost beaten on stage by Jock Samson, a large cowboy wrestler in overalls. The security guards were the only ones that stood between the owner of IWC and a hospital visit.

The High Stakes Championship Belt used to be a popular title in

IWC when it was created in 2001, but it was then phased out. Plummer, however, brought it back.

"Since we brought it back," Plummer said, "the champions have always picked stipulations that favor them. Big men will do a body slam match. Technical guys will do submission matches. Hardcore guys will do No Disqualification (No DQ)."

Alexander Apollo, the longest-reigning High Stakes Champion in the IWC, however, has always chosen stipulations that favor his opponents, and somehow, he keeps on winning.

Apollo was supposed to defend his High Stakes Championship belt against four other wrestlers, but at the last minute, he added surprise guest Facade to  
*(Continued on page 14)*



**Katie Arquette facing the crowd while on the ropes of the ring (Photo courtesy: Yousuf Ibrahim)**

*(Continued from page 13)*  
the match, lowering his own chances of winning significantly. Facade had so many championship belts from so many other promotions that he needed another person to hold some of them for him.

Apollo ended up defending his championship. To cap off his night, he challenged submission specialist, Spencer Slade, to a submission match at the 5th Annual Pittsburgh Classic the next month. That was where his legendary run as High Stakes Champion ended.

Surprise guests are not uncommon in IWC. Kliff Klepto of the up-and-coming tag team, Brotherly Love, said that in one of their earlier fights, Extreme Championship Wrestling (ECW) legend, The Sandman, showed up and helped them out.

After Apollo's victory, Brotherly Love, also known as the Whiz Kids, or the Whiz World Order, went up against the tag team of Paris Sahara and Chase Gold, the self-proclaimed "best-smelling man in professional wrestling." Chase Gold has a habit of yelling his name before performing some of his moves, but neither his energy nor Paris Sahara's elegance were able to overcome Brotherly Love that night.

Brotherly Love consists of the tag-team of

Ricky Dawkins and Kliff Klepto, as well as singles wrestler, "Picture Perfect" Dior Castro, the self-proclaimed son of Rocky Balboa.

"Me and Kliff, we're from Philly," Dawkins said. "Didn't know each other, met each other here in Pittsburgh at the wrestling school, both going through the same thing. As soon as we started training, we just became the Philly Boys."



**IWC Wrestling group, Brotherly Love, from left to right: Kliff Klepto, Dior Castro and Ricky Dawkins**  
(Photo courtesy: IWC)

Castro was later "adopted" into their group.

They incorporate Cheese Whiz into their identity to pay homage to their hometown of Philly, in addition to the fact that they debuted at IWC selling cheesesteaks. Klepto discussed his early love of Cheese Whiz. "I grew up eating whiz on everything... We walk into a building, they tell us don't whiz on this, this, and this. And somehow, by the end of the night, there's [Cheese] Whiz on all of it."

When asked about their favorite matches, each member of Brotherly Love had a different answer. For Klepto, it was perhaps the match where they beat Money Shot, and The Sandman came to help them. Castro says his favorite match was "when we first teamed up, and it was us three versus Glenn Spectre, Chase Gold and Jaxon Argos."

Their goals seem to be even loftier than that, however. Dawkins proclaims that he wants to, "Give a whiz facial on national television." Klepto, a rapper, dreams of rap battling international superstar John Cena at Wrestlemania. Dawkins called out Cena on behalf of his friend. "You hear this, John Cena, if you're listening, I swear you better be there, Wrestlemania 40, Philadelphia," which will take place in April, 2024.

As for Castro, he said,

"The goal for me is just to get on TV, just to get signed, but if I can give a whiz facial, I'll be satisfied." He also proposed beating a cow carcass in the ring, as an homage to "his father," Rocky Balboa.

One of the more notable fights of the November night was the intergender match between Andrew Palace and Katie Arquette. Palace has close to 100 pounds over Arquette, but the latter showed a lot of dominance in the first half, manipulating her opponent's emotions and showing off her athleticism. In the end, however, Palace piledrove her into the mat and pinned her for what seemed to be a bitter victory.

Bill Collier, the #1 contender for the IWC Heavyweight Championship, received a knee injury and eight stitches in his arm after defeating Zach Nystrom, which put his odds against champion Elijah Dean in question. Dean, however, also sustained some injuries at the hands of former World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) wrestler and current hardcore legend, Matthew Justice, in an extreme rules match. Dean's bald head was completely red with blood by the end of the fight, and if it wasn't for interference from

*(Continued on page 15)*

(Continued from page 14)

Zach Nystrom, it's likely he would have lost the match.

The following month at the 5th Annual Pittsburgh Classic, Bill Collier ended up defeating Elijah Dean to become the IWC Heavyweight Champion.

Cole Karter, the Super Indy champion, also defended his belt against Derek Dillinger. Karter is perhaps better known for his time on WWE NXT, or his current run on All Elite Wrestling (AEW). In fact, much of the talent at IWC ends up going on to the "big leagues."

Plummer named current WWE stars Joaquin Wilde and Elias, as well as AEW stars, Britt Baker and Wardlow, as wrestlers who either debuted at IWC, or otherwise wrestled there before getting signed. "You're watching somebody progress, and the next thing, they're a celebrity, and it's like, 'Oh my God, I knew that guy. I knew that girl,'" Plummer said.

IWC also has an academy for aspiring professional wrestlers, called the Iron City Wrestling Academy (ICWA) where much of its talent comes from. The academy is primarily focused on beginners. "We start a class every six months," Plummer said, "We're doing two per year that overlap, and each class is

probably between six and 12 people."

Many of the wrestlers at the Academy end up being brought up into the IWC events. More information can be found at the promotion's website, [iwcwrestling.com](http://iwcwrestling.com)

One of the main events of the night was the tag team of "The Bosnian Bone Breaker" Tito Oric and "The Lebanon Don" Joey Moses versus The Mane Event in a match that should have ended with undisputed tag team champions.

After a disqualification, and an intervention from

Brotherly Love, though, a rematch was slated for the Pittsburgh Classic the next month, a three way tag match between The Mane Event, Brotherly Love, and the team of Oric and Don.

Prior to the Dec. 3 match, Dawkins said, "I'm stuffing a lead pipe in a hoagie roll, I'm stealing the Liberty Bell and we're tearing the house down."

"Literally," Klepto said. "I'm tearing the house down. I'm taking everything that isn't nailed down. I'll take chairs, wallets—after we

beat TME and Tito and Don, I'll just start auctioning people's stuff off outside."

The rules for the match are officially No DQ. Ricky Dawkins, however, said, "Technically, they didn't give it a name. They wanna be boring, and Justin Plummer, he don't got whiz in his brain. It's a Philly Street Fight."

At the 5th annual Pittsburgh Classic, the tag team of Brotherly Love remained undefeated, winning the Tag Team Championship.

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# Opinion, From Where I Sit: My thoughts about the New MLB Pitch Clock

**CARLIN WHALEN**

Managing Editor

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After a long off-season for Major League Baseball (MLB), it finally makes its return for the 2023 season. Just like any other sport, the League decided to implement many new changes to its rulebook.

Now, many of these changes are minor, like the new pickoff rule or the bigger bases. However, one rule in particular is the center of attention for both the players and fans.

That rule is the pitch clock.

If the pitcher has not initiated a motion to deliver a pitch by the time the clock hits zero, he will be charged with a ball. On the other hand, if a batter delays his entry into the box, he will be charged with a strike.

Now, why would the MLB even need this?

Well, MLB's intent is to shorten the runtime of the game. On average, a nine-inning game of ball lasted more than three hours in 2022. This number has slowly been on the rise, ever since the longest game occurred in 2014, lasting over six hours!

Whenever I first heard

runtime as an MLB game. So, why not shorten the length of NFL games? But let's get back to the rule.

When tested during the month-long spring training, the pitch clock did reduce the time to roughly two-and-a-half hours per game. That is nearly a thirty-minute time cut, which actually creates a big difference.

During the first week, however, there were a lot of violations because of this new rule. The number of violations did slowly decrease as players acclimated themselves to the rule change, which is something to expect. It will take time to get used to a drastic change like this. It is expected that these violations will eventually disappear.

As I mentioned before, I wasn't the biggest fan of this change. I didn't think this would really make a difference when watching the actual game. Although, it made a huge difference.

Normally, I don't watch baseball on television because of all the "dead" time throughout the game. Although, I did decide to watch some of the Pittsburgh Pirates games after I heard about the clock. I thought it was much more enjoyable to watch with the

implementation of the pitch clock.

Just like the MLB wanted, it moved the game along and eliminated the "dead" time where nothing occurs.

In fact, in an AP News post on Twitter, Chris Garagiola, the Arizona Diamondbacks broadcaster said, "We're saving 25-26 minutes of nothing (per game). I did the math over a whole season, which adds up to under 80 hours. I mean, just three full days of nothing."

There are arguments for both sides because of this rule. Some say the game should be played out as is without rushing through the game. Others say it will increase the excitement of the game, which is something I personally agree with.

There is always going to be a divide about this rule, but this is the new norm for the game.

Despite all the controversy it caused, it remained in play for the Opening Day of the regular season on March 30.



*An example on what the pitch clock looks like from the view of a pitcher (Nathan Ray Seebeck/USA TODAY Sport)*

The official rule states, "Pitchers have 15 seconds to throw a pitch with the bases empty and 20 seconds with a runner on base. Hitters will need to be in the batter's box with eight seconds on the pitch clock."

about this rule change, I thought it was a bit overkill.

To compare, let's look at the National Football League (NFL). Those games average roughly three hours per game, which is about the same



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BY: SAMUEL ADEKOLA

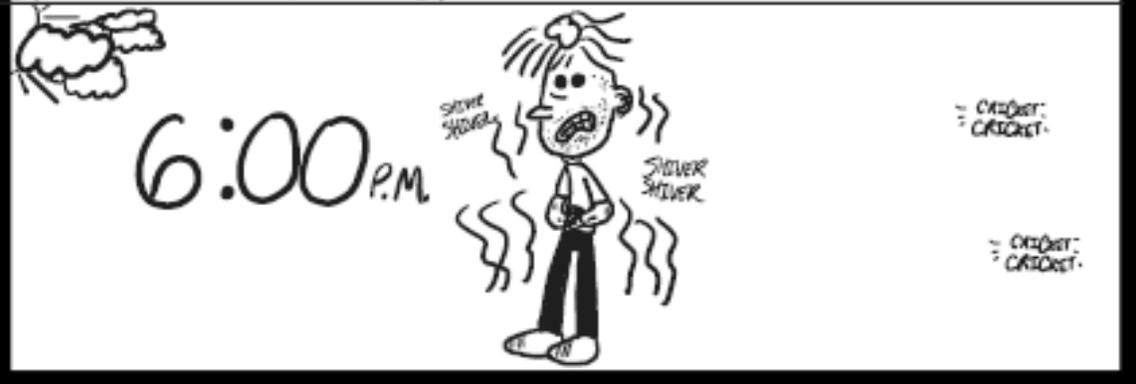
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# 90 SECONDS UNDER THE BLUE UMBRELLA

## TIMELY TOPICS FROM AROUND CAMPUS

ZACH PETRULAK | Contributing Writer | zkp5066@psu.edu

**“What are your thoughts about the new order kiosk system implemented during the Spring Semester in the Café Metro?”**



**Newlyn Bonidie, Sophomore, Comparative Literature & Linguistics**

“As a worker, I wish everything was on there, even some of the hot foods because it would make it easier for us. Otherwise, we are pretty good because they help put in orders and help us see what we need to do with everything listed that students would like. I wish there was a vegetarian button so that we would know to change our gloves to make the order. As a student, I wish the tickets didn’t get stuck [in the kiosk].”

**Rachel Rowe, Sophomore, Marketing**

“At the beginning, I really disliked them because I didn’t think we really needed it [sic]. I mean, we have a lot of students so I understand that it makes things more organized.”



**Darnell Jefferies, Freshman, Undecided**

“I think it can be better, but I think it is okay. I would definitely like to see better food added.”

**Ethan Galley, Sophomore, Criminology**

“As an SGA member, initially everyone seemed on board with the process because there was the underlying assumption it would make things more efficient and speedy when it came to ordering food. Seeing it in practice, I am a bit skeptical to say it has been beneficial to any degree. I do recognize it is kind of nice to be able to utilize the screens more since this campus also uses the mobile app to order things.”



**Anthony Rutledge, Café Metro Employee**

“I think it is a good system. We, of course have some problems with it, I know a lot of students have a problem with it. But it is a good system since it organizes everything and makes everything a lot easier to serve the students. It also makes sure that things are priced fairly and making sure things are paid for.”

# SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

## NCAA March Madness Tournament, UConn Wins Big, LSU Makes History

**CARLIN WHALEN**

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Each No. 1 seed in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's March Madness Tournament was eliminated before the Elite Eight for the first time ever in program history, which allowed a chance for the "underdogs" to receive the title.

The No. 4 seed UConn Huskies were able to dominate the competition in each of their games, outscoring their opponents 20+ points. After their Final Four win against No. 5 seed Miami, the Huskies made their fifth-ever championship game in 24 years and looked to keep their perfect championship record alive.

No. 5 seed San Diego State barely beat No. 9 seed Florida Atlantic University (FAU), 72 – 71, to advance to the championship game against the Huskies.

FAU was this tournament's Cinderella story by far. This 9th overall team proved to the world that they deserved a spot in the championship game. They just fell inches away from their goal. Let's not forget to mention, this was the Owls first ever Final Four appearance in program history, so that should be an accomplishment of its own.

Now, the final game between UConn and San Diego State proved why the Huskies became the national champions. They outscored the Aztecs 17 points, to keep their 100% championship win record



*Huskies coach, Dan Hurley, hoists the NCAA championship trophy (Ian Bethune/The UConn Blog)*

alive. This team had a miraculous tournament run and some may consider this title win as one of the best in modern history.

On the other side of the court, the NCAA women's tournament had the top dogs in the Final Four. However, both No. 1 seeds lost to their opponents.

Iowa was able to pull off a win against South Carolina and LSU was able to squeak by Virginia Tech, both of which were close games. Each team

had never been to a championship game before, making this title more important than ever.

However, the LSU Tigers came to play. Beating the Hawkeyes, 102 – 85, the Tigers won their first championship game in program history. In addition, they were just the third No. 3 seed to win this national title.

This month-long tournament among 64 teams (both men and women) encourages "friendly wagering" on who will come out on top, correctly creating a "perfect bracket" of winners. It's never been done before. In fact, the odds of someone perfectly picking each winning team correctly are one in 9.2 quintillion.

So, it definitely is not in anyone's favor, but it's still fun to try to win, just like the teams in this year's tournament.



*The LSU Tigers after winning the NCAA championship game (Reagan Cotten/Reveille)*

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FANTASTIC 2023 SEASON!



Photo courtesy: PSUGA Athletics Instagram Page