

THE REVOLT

November | December



Congratulations Fall 21' graduates!

Issue 27



Check out The Revolt online!

Dungeons & Dragons FUNdraiser

When you usually think of how THON raises money, you probably would think of their famous 46-hour dance marathon. However, on November 13, students at Penn State Wilkes-Barre fundraised for THON in a truly out-of-the-box way, with an eight-hour-long Dungeons & Dragons livestream. However, despite its unconventional method, it was a resounding success—hosted by Nerd Herd president Paul Gestl, the event raised an incredible \$595. So, how did such a unique idea come to be? During an interview with Revolt staff member Andy Traver, Paul discussed how one day he and former THON chairman Tom Piatt came up with an idea to do a D&D charity livestream hosted by Nerd Herd, as they felt it would be more in-line with Nerd Herd's activities than a conventional fundraiser. Then, Paul and his DnD friends came up with a list of donations that could influence the way the campaign was played. He planned to get student leaders involved in the livestream, coming to the conclusion that “if people are part of the student community, and people know them, they will absolutely have people that know them donate to see things happen to them during the stream”.

After planning the event, Paul gathered up four players to form a party for the campaign (while he would be the dungeon master)—Victoria Vespico, the student government's webmaster, Tom Piatt, Tom Berry, the former Nerd Herd president, and me. We arrived in the academic commons the Saturday of the 13th to begin our stream at 9 am. Victoria and I were new to D&D, and it was a lot of fun to be able to learn how to play. It's really awesome to be able to be able to immerse yourself in the campaign; my character was a drow elf wild sorcerer, and getting into character and appreciating the worldbuilding was amazing. “I loved playing D&D, because it allowed a group of wildly different students to work together and have fun,” Victoria said. “It gave me the opportunity to try something I have always wanted to do while also helping raise money for a worthy cause”.

The donations from viewers did affect the gameplay, ranging from changing the dungeon master's hat, to blindfolding the players, acting out the in-game attacks, and even summoning a deity in the middle of the campaign to wreak havoc (which happened twice). All in all, it was a great time, and it was wonderful to be able to raise so much money for charity. If you want to get involved in playing D&D with other students, consider checking out the Nerd Herd.



Article by: Grant Loose; Photo Credit: Tyler Pace

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Who: Robert Mastropole, President of Veterans Support Club; President of Students for Justice.

What: Administration of Justice major with 3 minors in History, Sociology, and Rehabilitation and Human Services. Intending to work for the Department of Homeland Security.

When: I came to PS-WB in Fall of 2018. I'm set to graduate Spring of 2022.

Where: I'm from Mahopac, NY. I plan to live in NEPA.

Why: I chose to be an Administration of Justice major because I have a passion for justice and helping those in need. I've wanted to be a Penn State student for as long as I can remember. Originally a 2+2 student, I decided to stay on campus after falling in love with the area and the great faculty and staff here at PS-WB. Being a Marine veteran, I understood the unique challenges of transitioning into the college setting. I knew I wanted to help my fellow veterans on campus so I decided to step up and become the President of the Veterans Support Club. Our Veterans, ROTC, and Patriotic Supporters have come together and we've had tremendous success this semester. We look to continue this great work into the next semester.

Who: Paul Gestl, President of Nerd Herd, Nerd Herd Dungeonmaster, Host of Nerd Herd Virtual Gamenight

What: Graduate Journalism/Media Writing (ASS) of Luzerne County Community College Class of 2017, Corporate Communications Major (BA) PS-WB Class of 2021

When: I came to Penn state Wilkesbarre after finding little success in getting a job in Journalism with my Associate's Degree and will be graduating in Fall of 2021, I plan to get a job in Public Relations or Human Resources once I graduate and my schedule frees up.

Where: I'm from Pittston PA, and will want to move to one of the more urbanized, surrounding cities for my career.

Why: I choose communications as a major because in Math and Engineering careers, I proved to be a small fish in a big pond. Communications turned out to be a natural talent of mine, which I previously overlooked, thinking it was as viable for a career skillset as math seemed to be. I picked this campus for its proximity and also I had some friends attending here who got me involved in the Nerd Herd, which gelled fantastically with my nerdy hobbies. As the new President of Nerd Herd in the middle of the pandemic, I began to use my lessons in my club to socially distance in the club, while still maintaining strong communication between club members. I think this is why the campus and the Revolt have begun to notice me.

On behalf of everyone at The Revolt, we'd like to extend a much deserved Congratulations to the graduating seniors of the Fall 21' semester, including one of our own journalists!

Matthew Craig
Paul Gestl
Nathaniel Gillen
Brian Hoskins
Elizabeth Hulbert

Dean Jones
Katelynn Loscig
Gurvinder Mathan
Noah Mirro
Kyle Moskaluk

Lexes Palissery
Justin Radginski
Scott Schival
Jennifer Soto
Victoria Vespico



Five Fun Festivities to Celebrate the Holidays

By: Emma Sands

It's that time of year again! Holiday shopping is in full swing and Christmas music is playing on repeat. I yearn for winter break, hot chocolate, and warm sweaters. It's a new season and here are five ways you can celebrate:

Make Gingerbread Houses

One creative way to get in the holiday spirit is making gingerbread houses with your friends or family. I usually buy a kit from the store, but you can always bake your own. Make sure to buy extra candy, so you don't eat all your decorations. If you are having a hard time coming up with designs, you can make up a story about the people who live there. Maybe they are holding a Christmas party or are living somewhere tropical where it doesn't snow. Once you are done creating your masterpiece, you can put it on display!

Decorate Your Dorm or House

Christmas lights, menorahs, and garland are all holiday décor staples. Incorporating them in your room, dorm, apartment, or house can make your living space more festive. If you do not have any decorations at your disposal, you can make your own. This year, my family made Christmas ornaments and mason jars. You can find kits online or buy your own supplies at your local craft store.

Festive Gift Exchange

Presents are a great way to show your appreciation for someone. If you have a large group of friends or family members, you can do a White Elephant Exchange. Participants write their names on individual sheets of paper and put them into a hat. Then, everyone draws a random name and buys a gift for the person they selected. My friend group usually has a \$20 spending limit, but you can go all out!

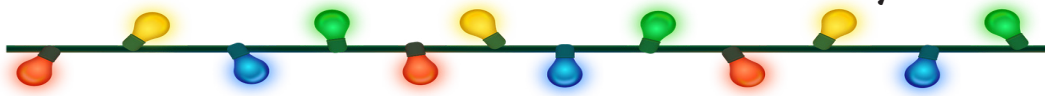
Holiday Movie Night

Watching a movie and spending time with the ones you love always puts you in the holiday spirit! There are tons of movies to choose from and a lot of inexpensive options. I recommend making cookies to eat and hot chocolate to drink while watching. Some of my favorite holiday movies are "Noelle" (Disney+), "The Polar Express" (Hulu), and "A Christmas Prince" (Netflix).

Snow-filled Fun

If you are willing to bear the elements, there are plenty of activities you can do in the snow! You can have a snowball fight, craft an igloo, go sledding, make snow angels, and build a snowman. Make sure you wear appropriate clothing and go inside if it gets too cold.

Penn State Wilkes Barre has a Club for Everyone!



Where are you now? Where will you be later? Don't worry, I already know. I'm always watching. – Santa Claus, writer of threatening sentences. Okay, moving on from my Santa rant. You have two choices of where to be: inside or outside. I like to call the outside “avoiding becoming a Popsicle.” PSU Wilkes-Barre has a student club that focuses primarily on inside activities, and another is all about the outdoors. They are Nerd Herd and Four Seasons! If you are an active member of Nerd Herd or Four Seasons, you already know all about them. Along with fun activities, these clubs (like any other) are also about the feelings, friends, memories, possibilities... For those of us who aren't part of Nerd Herd and Four Seasons, are they something we would enjoy? What are they like? Let's find out!

Four Seasons:

I interviewed Four Seasons club president Hannah Farber. She is a sophomore studying Mechanical Engineering and will remain club president next semester. There's a lot of active members in Four Seasons!

Q: What's going on in the club?

A: We just had a hike at Ricketts Glen and are planning lots of fun activities in the future (like paintball and a bonfire)!

Q: What events are there?

A: We had a club hiking trip to Ricketts Glen State park a few weeks ago and that was a success. We plan on having a bonfire soon as well as a trip to Skirmish to play paintball to cap off our events for the semester!

Q: What's a memorable event?

A: A memorable event for me was hiking with the club and all of the fun things we talked about!

Q: What's an idea that you've been thinking of?

A: An idea I have been thinking of is our club going camping in cabins in the spring semester!

Q: If somebody is not sure about joining, what would you say to convince them to join?

A: When I joined the club last year I was not an outdoorsy person but the club's events that they held helped me appreciate nature and all of the fun things I can do outdoors!

Q: Anything you wanted to mention?

A: If you are on the fence about joining the Four Seasons Club, just come to one meeting! I am sure you will love the club as much as I do .

I also interviewed Four Seasons member Yusef Kamal. He is a freshman studying Information Sciences and Technology. Yusef joined Four Seasons because he wanted to try something new and have fun. He enjoys the outdoors, though it isn't like he is hiking all the time. Yusef says he likes Four Seasons because everybody's cool there, such as the people in charge and club members. He says they are nice, and he enjoys talking to them. A lot of Four Seasons members are outdoorsy, but many aren't. Yusef thinks it's great that everybody comes together from different perspectives.

Yusef likes the outdoors because everything is great about it - it is healthy, relaxing, and more. Yusef grew up more in a city environment and hasn't ever gone hunting or fishing, but he likes to explore, meet new people, things, and experiences. He said exploring doesn't have to be complicated. It can be simple things like driving around to see new places that make memories and friends.

It's possible for somebody to enjoy both indoor and outdoor activities! A great point Yusef made is that social media is helpful for talking to friends, but going on a whim to hang out in the outdoors is a great way to connect. Similarly, video or board games are an awesome way to bond, but remember to go on adventures and meet new people in the outdoors. A bonus is that a balance of indoors/outdoor activity can get us in tune with our surrounding area!

Yusef hopes to help others by being involved in student government. Outside of school, he enjoys talking about cars and basketball and casually playing videogames.

Thanks, Hannah and Yusef!

Articly by: Andy Traver

Nerd Herd:

Next, I sought to learn more about Nerd Herd. I interviewed Nerd Herd president Paul Gestl, who is a senior.

Q: What is Nerd Herd about?

A: It's a club full of people who enjoy different fandoms of video games, anime, card games, board games, anything you consider a nerd to do (also, game development and design.)

The only rule of Nerd Herd is to “be a fan of something, and don't judge other people for what they like.” You don't have to be a fan of stuff Nerd Herd typically likes to get involved with Nerd Herd, because options like the Virtual Game Night are open to everyone.

Some events going on in Nerd Herd include Virtual Game Nights every Tuesday, Anime Nights every Thursday, and beginner Dungeons & Dragons games. Virtual Game Night is where party games like Jackbox are played together over Zoom. Anime Nights are where club members watch anime, which are animated shows that have great stories. The beginner Dungeons & Dragons game introduces people to D&D in one game.

I think that game nights, like the Virtual Game Night held by Nerd Herd or Board Game Night held by the library, are great ways to meet people on campus. Paul said one reason he likes Dungeons & Dragons is because he made great friends with the people he played with.

Paul is a huge fan of D&D, but at first he didn't want to try it because he thought he wasn't that big of a nerd. But one day he tried it and liked it so much that it has been his hobby since that day, and he made some close friends playing it! I think that's a heartwarming story and what I took from it is that you should try new things sometimes because you may find something you like for the rest of your life.

Paul wishes that the name of the Nerd Herd won't discourage people from joining the club. Nerd Herd advertises that they “share the interests of what nerds typically do.” The name “Nerd Herd” isn't inaccurate, but it may limit how many people the club appeals to even if they may enjoy being part of it. There's no set definition of “nerd” and maybe people don't feel they're “nerdy” enough to join the Nerd Herd. “If somebody joins Nerd Herd, they aren't expected to like the nerdy stuff but just have a conversation. They don't even have to try our nerdy stuff if they don't want to,” says Paul.

I also interviewed member Hana Fall, who is a sophomore studying Psychology.

Q: What do you like the most about Nerd Herd?

A: The virtual game nights on Zoom, where everyone comes together and plays Jackbox games. I think they're really fun and it's nice to be able to get to know the people on campus and just like have some fun.

Q: Why did you join Nerd Herd?

A: I saw the Nerd Herd and I thought that I can fit in here and they pretty much have everything that I like, like anime, videogames, board games – I love playing games so it's really fun to be in a club that I can get to meet people with similar interests.

Q: Do you think that somebody can enjoy both outdoors and indoors/“nerdy” activities?

A: I can see how they can be a little at odds a little bit. I think they definitely could. There's this one game called Mafia where you choose one person as killer, officer/ detective, and doctor. It's an in-person game where everybody sits in a circle and you close your eyes and every night each person chooses who they want to save, inspect, and kill. It's just a fun game that you can play with anyone. It doesn't have to be a nerdy thing. Even if we're called Nerd Herd, I think there are things that can appeal to anybody's interests or that anybody can find fun.

Q: Anything else to mention?

A: I think that people should try it out just to see what it's like. It's not like a scary thing where everyone knows each other and you might feel like kinda awkward coming into it. We're all pretty nice, calm, and welcoming, and I'll think you'll have some fun and just to try it out. You don't have to be super into anime and like people are going to quiz you on different shows. It's just a really nonchalant club.

Thank you, Paul and Hana!!!

DID YOU KNOW?

NOVEMBER IS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

On August 3rd, 1990, President George W. Bush declared the month of November be recognized as National American Indian Heritage Month, which is more commonly known as Native American Heritage Month (and also appropriately referred to as American Indian or Indigenous People's Heritage Month.)

Many people don't know about this as the month of November gets overshadowed by celebrating Thanksgiving and anticipating the holidays to come! However, moving forward, it is important that we honor the history, heritage, and diversity of Indigenous people.

That may feel like a big task, but here are some easy ways to be a genuine ally, or to simply support our Natives. November may be over, but it's always a good time to support one another, and it's never too late to learn!

1. Educate

Talk, but mostly listen amongst Natives- learn about their history and culture, specifically the injustices and oppression they continue to face; educate yourself so you can educate others. Be willing to "unlearn" the narrative that is taught in public schools. Becoming aware and then spreading that awareness is the easiest way to be an ally to any group of people.

2. Support

If you have the means, donate to relevant Indigenous-led organizations. With the most recent, harrowing news of the Indian Residential School's mass graves, there are many organizations that provide support (through counselling or financial assistance) to the survivors. There are many other great organizations that advocate for Native American to choose from as well. NARF, Native American Rights Fund provides legal representation and assistance to Indigenous tribes, organizations, and individuals; The American Indian College Fund invests in Native American students; Women Empowering Women for Indigenous Nations supports tribal cultures with a concentration in the destiny of Indigenous children.

3. Shop

Another way to support Indigenous people is to purchase authentic Native clothing, jewelry, art, etc., from actual Natives instead of places that profit off of their culture and traditions. With gift-giving holidays all around, this time of year is the perfect time to support Native-owned and led businesses that don't get as much publicity as big-box stores and bigger brands. Many Native products are hand-crafted, unique, and are infused with history and culture. Scan the QR code below for a list of 41 Native-owned businesses to support!



Christmas Gift Ideas

By: Hana Fall

Thanksgiving has passed and we're already on our way to Christmas. If you're thinking about what gift to get for family and friends, here are some suggestions for what they might be into!



Nerdy

Gift Card for their hobbies
 New Video Game
 VR Headset or other
 Gaming Equipment
 Subscription for Gaia
 (Amazon Prime)
 Books for their favorite
 genre
 Museum Trip

Busy

A New Planner or Mini
 White Board
 Charging Station
 Sophisticated/Formal
 Clothing
 Spa/Massage Gift
 Certificate
 Appliances (Coffee Maker
 or Robotic Vacuum)
 Reading Tablet

Artsy

Utensils for their favorite
 mediums
 New Sketchbook,
 Canvas, or Painting
 Paper
 Clay, Paint, or Ink
 Musical Equipment
 Sewing or Carpentry Set
 Artwork from their
 favorite artist

Trendy

Stylish Shoes
 Make-up Products
 Hair Styling Equipment
 Accessories
 Cologne or Perfume
 Gift Card for their
 favorite store

Active

Workout Dumbbells or
 Yoga Mat
 Fitness Sneakers
 High-Quality Bookbag or
 Survival Kit
 Gift Card for Dick's
 Sporting Goods
 Laser Tag Guns w/ Vests
 Set
 Amusement Park Tickets

Homebody

Fuzzy/Soft Blanket or
 Socks
 Gift Card for their
 favorite delivery
 restaurants
 CarePackage of snacks
 Skincare or Bath Set
 Mini Fridge
 Scented Candles or
 Small Potted Plants

PSWB Men's Basketball

With Senior #10, Kevin Major, leading the way, the Mountain Lions of Penn State Wilkes-Barre roared past PS Greater Allegheny (PSWB 81 - PSGA 65) and PS Dubois (PSWB 86 - PSD 65) on Nov 19 and Nov 20 respectively. Major scored a total of 49 points with 20 assists in both games, and along with a 14-point 7 assist performance earlier in the week against PS Schuylkill, earned himself PSUAC Player

of the Week honors for the week of Nov 14-21.

The Mountain Lions came up with a big win against Penn State Brandywine on Nov 30 (PSWB 94 - PSBW 79). The win was PSWB's fourth straight conference win of the season, but also a historical moment for Head Coach LeShawn Hammett. Coach Hammett has now reached his 150th career win total and his 100th win as the Head Coach for PSWB. The win against Brandywine was led by Freshman #30, Frantz Jean-Pierre, with 30 points and 13 rebounds. Senior #10, Kevin Major, scored 22 points, and had 5 assists and 5 rebounds. Senior #0, Clifton Tracey, gave the team a spark off the bench scoring 18 points and shooting 4-6 from the 3-point line.



PSWB Men's Soccer

Freshmen Goalkeeper #55, JJ Farbes, makes USCAA Soccer Men's Division II All-American team for the year 2021.



Penn State Holiday Word Search

H Y D C V Z C H R I S T M A S
 D W R E A T H W I I I S N O W
 D I D G F O Q C Q U D U A S G
 R N S N R E I N D E E R X T V
 E V A W C T Z R P G I I W O L
 I D N A A Y U T N I Y G I C O
 D Q T H R P S S Y N N Y N K M
 E X A A O E I L Y G O A T I V
 L A K N L N R E V E E G E N H
 Q B X N O N F D G R L K R G A
 C G S U Q S S D L B C A J S Q
 T I X K Z T J I X R I X H L G
 H C S K P A O N M E N O R A H
 L G K A B T Y G S A G H W E L
 N M U H M E Y E J D V V I Y V

GINGERBREAD

STOCKINGS

SLEDDING

WINTER

PENN STATE

REINDEER

WREATH

CAROL

CHRISTMAS

DREIDEL

SANTA

NOEL

HANNUKKAH

MENORAH

SNOW

JOY