Ville Votes!

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COVID-19 developed the world of higher education in uncertainty last spring and has reshaped the field since it forced education into the online environment. Despite precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19, universities across the country are experiencing inflated numbers – West Chester University is the latest among them.

On October 2, Mayor Dianne Herrin of West Chester declared a state of emergency in response to COVID-19 cases doubling from the beginning of August to the end of September. New restrictions went into effect limiting social gatherings at private residences to ten people and requiring masks in public spaces. Violating the limit on social gatherings comes with a $300 fine for each person exceeding the limit. This fine is applied to each attendee, not just the host.

According to the Chester County Health Department, the number of COVID-19 cases increased from 202 to 437 from August to September. Of the 437 active cases, 299 of them are in people aged 18 to 22 – this is triple the number of cases in that age group present in August. The 299 also make up 68% of all COVID-19 cases in the borough of West Chester. In Chester County, it makes up 6% of total cases out of 7,155 according to data collected by The New York Times. Mayor Herrin stated that public officials were worried about behavior exhibited in the residential areas around the university saying, “We are seeing a lot of activity, outdoor gatherings that are quite large, with close contact over long periods of time and no mask wearing.”

Data collected by The New York Times shows 4,397 cases at 81 schools across Pennsylvania since the spring semester. The majority of cases were active in the current fall semester. The university, with 17,700 enrolled students, is the largest PASSHE school with approximately 7,817 enrolled students. This is nearly 10,000 more than Millersville which has 7,817 enrolled students. The difference in size affords Millersville an advantage in keeping positive cases of COVID-19 down in comparison to larger schools, but it is not a guarantee.

The cases that prompted West Chester to initiate a state of emergency, while mostly college students, are not tied directly to the university. Since the gatherings believed responsible for the uptick in cases occurred in off-campus housing, the university had limited ability to prevent them, especially since instruction is primarily online. This is why Mayor Herrin felt the borough had to step in, saying, “It has to be a partnership between the university and the borough, and that’s what we’re really working to achieve.”

According to the Millersville University COVID-19 Dashboard, there are currently 7 active cases among students, 2 are on campus and 5 are off campus. 62 cumulative cases have been reported since August 8. By comparison, West Chester has recorded 103 students who have tested positive for COVID-19 according to university spokesperson, Nancy Gainer. These cases are collected through self-reporting by students. It is understandable that college students are feeling like they are missing out on an important life experience by having to avoid many of the social aspects of the “college experience.” It is unfortunate, but in order to keep our communities safe, we need to practice safety guidelines. The declaration by Mayor Herrin is set to expire in seven days, but could be extended. “This is a temporary and very minor sacrifice for us all to make to protect our friends and neighbors and prevent them from getting sick,” she said.
With the presidential election only 3 weeks away, we reached out to Millersville students to see how, and if, they intend to vote on November 3rd. Of the 82 responses collected from a survey sent out to Millersville students, 97.6% of students said they are registered to vote in the 2020 election, only 25.6% of these students would be first-time voters. In Pennsylvania, the voter registration deadline is October 19th. The last day to apply for a mail-in ballot is October 27th.

Alexandra Neiderer is a writing studies major and junior at Millersville. She says “College students have probably some of the highest potentials when it comes to the shaping of our country. College students should be more involved with politics, as this world that we live in is shaped and influenced heavily by our choices.”

Tufts University released a report in 2018 which stated that they saw a 21-point increase in the percentage of college students who voted in the 2018 midterms as opposed to the 2014 midterm election. According to a Pew Research study done in 2018, the Millennial generation has now made up the largest portion of the American electorate.

Daniela McCurdy, media arts production major and sophomore at Millersville says, “I do feel as though it is very important to be engaged with politics as a college student. Whether it’s smaller elections or the presidential election you should get to know who is in control of your next however many years they’re in office and how that will affect you.”

62.4% of students surveyed said they plan to vote in person at a physical polling location. The remaining 37.6% of students surveyed said they would be voting using the mail-in or absentee ballot options. The mail-in ballot option being used during the upcoming presidential election due to the COVID-19 pandemic has raised concerns regarding election security. A report released by the Bipartisan Policy Center in May 2020 predicted that over 50% of votes cast would be in the form of mail-in ballots. This would be a 190% increase in mail-in ballots compared to the 2016 presidential election.

According to votespa.com, Pennsylvania’s official election information website, the Pennsylvania Department of State has “greatly intensified its election security efforts with increased monitoring, fortified voting system defenses, and added layers of protection to the commonwealth’s voter registration database.” For more information on election security, visit votespa.com.

At the time of the survey, 75.6% of Millersville students reported they would vote for Joe Biden, 13.4% said they would vote for Donald Trump, 4.9% said they would vote for Jo Jorgeson, the Libertarian candidate. 2.4% of students surveyed said they were conflicted between voting for Biden or casting a protest vote for Howie Hawkins, the Green party candidate. The results of the 2020 election can be found on votespa.com on November 3rd; however, it is unlikely we will have an accurate projection of the winner until weeks after election night.

The general election will take place on Tuesday, November 3rd. Polling places will open at 7 AM and close at 8 PM. All mail-in ballots must be postmarked or returned to the county board of elections office no later than 8 PM on November 3rd.

For college voters that still have questions about voter registration and election day information, visit Campus Vote Project (www.campusvoteproject.com/stateguides) or Pennsylvania’s official election website (www.pavotes.com).

Happy voting!
Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s death brings clouds over the courthouse

JAKE MARKOFF
News Editor

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died earlier this month; it was a deeply saddening event in an otherwise wonderful time in our country’s political landscape. That is what I would like to say, but RBG’s passing is, in actuality, a deafening blow that serves to further divide our country in the most decisive year since 1861.

RBG was a consistent moral and ethical voice in our country’s judicial system throughout her tenure on the Supreme Court. She upheld the promises of civil liberties, due process, and equal protection that our constitution affords us, as evidenced in her ruling in Planned Parenthood v Casey. Now with RBG’s passing, we have to worry about her replacement. I use that opportunity to celebrate and remember what an incredible role model she was for our country. While many have had that opportunity, it was curtailed by a sense of dread that comes with worrying about her replacement. I use this term replacement lightly, because like everything Trump does it will be a shoddy facsimile of what it should be.

RBG’s passing should have been an opportunity to celebrate and remember what an incredible role model she was for our country. While many have had that opportunity, it was curtailed by a sense of dread that comes with worrying about her replacement. I use this term replacement lightly, because like everything Trump does it will be a shoddy facsimile of what it should be.

Disney layoffs reminds us of stalling economy

HOLDAN HITCHCOCK
Associate Opinion Editor

During the past several months, the so-called “happiest place on earth” has been far from the “happiest place on earth”. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Disneyland and Disney World theme parks were mostly shut down. Though, the former has been open partially throughout the summer months. With this being the case, Disney has announced unfortunate layoffs to the company. 28,000 part-time workers were laid off from their parks division in their respective California and Florida locations, according to reports from The Associated Press.

Wall Street Journal reported that Disney executives had seen pay cuts. Which included: Vice Presidents pay was cut by 20%, Senior Vice Presidents pay cut by 25%, Executive Vice President’s pay cut was 30% or more, CEO Bob Chapek forewent 50% of his salary, and Executive Chairman Bob Iger forewent 100% of his salary. However it was also reported by The Wall Street Journal that their executive pay was fully restored as of August 22, a full 40 days before the announcement of layoffs. These layoffs aren’t really representing the full picture of the U.S. job market. The Department of Labor announced over 800,000 Americans had filed for state benefits, according to The New York Times. The New York Times also reported that the job market is in a fascinating state as it is pulling in two different directions. Jobs are growing in places in the country where they are slowly reopening as the number of Covid-19 cases are dropping. While this is happening, other jobs are being cut permanently. I expect this trend to continue throughout the fall months. Although the winter may become a different story, as jobs that operate primarily outdoors will become non-existent until spring.

With all this uncertainty, doesn’t it seem like the right time for another government relief package? 1,200 dollars wasn’t enough; especially for a one time payment back in April. It is now October. People have been struggling to make it day by day financially, and some are worried about losing a place to live. Census Bureau data as shown in a recent New York Times article showed that 8.3 million people are behind on rent, and that 2.3 million expect to be evicted in the next month. With numbers like that, you fear that things are still looking bleak for the future. The government is failing American people with no aid or stimulus. States are reopening and a growing number of Covid-19 cases is at an alarming rise that will only impact everything negatively.
Debate night: more theater than policy

HOLDAN HITCHCOCK
Associate Opinion Editor

The first of three presidential debates, center stage last Tuesday night, I, like many voters, don’t really understand what had transpired. President Trump and former Vice-President Joe Biden put on quite a performance and less of a presidential debate. That was a hot mess, inside a dumpster fire, inside a train-wreck,” CNN’s Jake Tapper said at the conclusion of the debate. If the debate was part of a game show, it would have been entertaining; instead, it is for the presidency, and that makes it disheartening.

Of the two candidates, there wasn’t a clear winner, but there most certainly was a clear loser. President Trump lost the first debate. President Trump spoke loudly and often, spewing conspiracy theories about voting fraud, where he claimed ballots were being thrown into rivers and mail-in voting, and that’s making it disheartening. Trump not only failed to denounce white supremacy, it seemed like he also encouraged it with his call to the notorious alt-right white nationalist group known as the Proud Boys. “Proud Boys, stand back and stand by,” Trump said.

This was appalling, but not surprising as he has been racially insensitive during his presidency. Examples included calling the Coronavirus “Kung Flu,” referring to Elizabeth Warren as “Pocahontas,” and calling players of the National Football League derogatory names for peacefully protesting police brutality.

When Trump was pushed by the democratic nominee Joe Biden on his fumbling response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Trump fired right back. Again, saying by the Obama administration failed on the handling of the Swine Flu. This was not a battle President Trump should take on because he will surely lose.

In reality as of now, 207,000 people have died from the Coronavirus in The United States, and the country has been suffering from the pandemic since March of this year. During Swine Flu, the CDC reported less than 13,000 people died, and none of us were homed in on Snapchat and Twitter because the government handled virus infections poorly.

The New York Times released an extensive report on President Trump’s tax returns. In the years 2016 and 2017, Trump paid 750 dollars in federal taxes. When pressed on this issue, the president falsely claimed that he had paid “millions” of dollars.

As I said, no one really won the debate as much as Trump lost it. Sounding incoherent and abrasive with his baseless claims, Trump didn’t make the best case for a re-election bid. With so many tensions rising, a botched handling of the pandemic, millions of unemployment claims, hysteria about the validity of voting by mail, and the upcoming election itself, I don’t need to see the next two debates to know who I’m voting for. Biden actually made attempts to answer the questions given to him, as opposed to Trump just spouting baseless claims and how he brought back college football. Biden reminded himself as a president that can unify a divided nation, while Trump looked foolish simply because he’s a fool.

Kanye West: a reminder that celebrities live strange lives

SHAUN LUCAS
Opinion Editor

On Sept. 16, Kanye West tweeted a video of himself urinating on a Grammy Award. As of Sept. 22, the tweet has over 47.8 thousand comments, 295.6 thousand retweets and 769.1 thousand views. Unsurprisingly, the odd post received a staggering amount of exposure, likely due to West’s high celebrity status and 31 million Twitter followers.

Kanye West overall has had quite the interesting career within American politics. In July, West held his first presidential campaign rally, describing his potential policies if he was elected in the 2020 election. Unfortunately for West, video clips of the rally gained negative attention due to Kanye’s sporadic and nonsensical “proposals.” “Maximum increase would be everybody that has a baby gets a million dollars,” West said in the video. “Kanye West makes chaotic presidential rally debut in South Carolina,” posted by The Guardian on Youtube.

Other notable moments include sobbing while describing how he almost shot his daughter, and frankly stating that, “Harriet Tubman never actually freed the slaves.” I felt as if I was watching a parody of a political rally rather than someone attempting to become president. Perhaps, it’s the result of a known showman joining important political discourse without formal experience in politics. So why do we see West constantly in the news for his bizarre actions? Kanye West was officially diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 2015, according to NBC News. This diagnosis, along with the death of his mother Donda West in 2007, are certainly tied to Kanye’s behavior.

Despite what they say, celebrities are not “just like us.” Celebrities make immense livings off of their personas and products, with some being the envy of what portion of their lives is public. For example, Beyoncé stopped doing face-to-face interviews mid-2010’s, according to The New York Times. “She has to be studying how effective her interviews have been so far. She may have decided that they do not contribute as dazzingly to the image of Beyoncé as the other stuff,” Pulitzer Prize winner Margo Jefferson wrote.

Both sides of the public image spectrum display why celebrities are potentially unsympathetic from their fans. In fact, some become annoyed when celebrities attempt to be “just like us.” Back in March, a video was released of celebrities singing “Imagine” by John Lennon, attempting to bring unity during the Covid crisis. I, along with others on social media, was annoyed that people such as Gal Gadot with a net worth of $20 million according to the website Celebrity Net Worth, are implying they’re struggling similarly to the people barely paying their bills during a worldwide pandemic.

This concept is also why I struggle to understand the confusion behind many celebrity controversies. Nearly every week, we find out about a different notable figure committed some reprehensible act. Why would someone with excess influence and funds eventually feel above the law and/or abuse their power? If anything, it’s a reminder that West is capable of taking a stance in the public eye.

Returning to West, we’ll likely see more public times from the rapper super soon. After all, when a tweet of a trophy in a tolleleaves 28.6 million views, why wouldn’t someone keep crediting Twitter for the sake of publicity? I do at least hope West receives professional support to overcome fame’s stressors.
We, The People: the limits of individualism in American society

In February, a Pew Research survey revealed that 60% feel burned out by the amount of news there is. Seven months later and it still feels this way. Between police killings and protests, wildfires and climate change, pandemic deaths and progress, the death of a Supreme Court Justice, and political tensions predating the 2020 presidential election, we’ve had elections before where we’ve had to wait to find out who won, NPR’s Shannon Bond said. “Remember back in 2000, the Bush vs Gore fight that dragged on for 36 days? There wasn’t Twitter and Facebook 20 years ago. Delayed (election) results would offer even more opportunity to cast doubt on the outcome and to amplify that doubt using social media.” This leads to the question of what it looks like to be well informed, while sorting through a seemingly partisan press with a massive amount of questionable claims.

Ezra Klein, co-founder of Vox, released a book earlier this year called “Why We’re Polarized” where he discusses the causes of political polarization that currently face our nation. “The political media is biased, but not toward the left or right so much as toward loud, outrageous, colorful, inspirational, confrontational,” Klein writes. “It is biased toward the political stories and figures who activate our identities, because it is biased toward and dependent on the fraction of the country with the most intense political identities.”

When our debates turn into pure sport and our political climate turns to chaos, what are we doing to move the needle forward in our democracy? How is this leading to anything, but more strongly cemented division and unenlightened voters’ decisions being based on cosmetics and performance? “The news media isn’t just an actor in its own right; it’s arguably the most powerful actor in politics. It’s the primary intermediary between what politicians do and what the public knows,” Klein said.

For many of us, this may only be our first or second presidential election. We’ve heard about a wide range of events and issues in the news, they are more likely than other Americans to have heard about a number of false or unproven claims, according to the study.

This is a bipartisan factor in information consumption, leading to high levels of contradiction in the information consumed by American voters. By the sheer level of information being published on social media platforms, combined with the ability for anyone to write and share their opinion, it is no surprise that we see inaccurate information go viral.

As Nov. 3 draws near, concerns grow over how social media may impact the 2020 presidential election. “We’ve had elections before where we’ve had to wait to find out who won,” NPR’s David Vargas.

We are experiencing a time of heightened political polarization, combined with an unrelenting news cycle. We have more information at our fingertips than during any other period of history. Combine this greater accessibility with a presidential election, and you are bound to see impacts rippling across our culture. The Pew Research Center released a study this summer, citing that social media has become one of the most common avenues for American news consumption.

“Even as Americans who primarily turn to social media for political news are less aware and knowledgeable about a wide range of events and issues in the news, they are more likely than other Americans to have heard about a number of false or unproven claims, according to the study.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KAT DELANEY

Students sitting and forming communities on Millersville’s own campus.

DAVID VARGAS
Staff Writer

In February, a Pew Research survey revealed that 60% feel burned out by the amount of news there is. Seven months later and it still feels this way. Between police killings and protests, wildfires and climate change, pandemic deaths and progress, the death of a Supreme Court Justice, and political tensions preduding the 2020 presidential election, only so much emotional energy can be spent. We are finite beings. The question, then, is how do we determine what is a worthy cause to turn our attention to amid such tension, political and otherwise?

This dilemma may be a question that only you can answer. However, one incontrovertible truth we are discovering as a nation, especially during the pandemic, is the limit of our individualism: To what extent should we do what is right for ourselves and only ourselves when we know we have the ability to interact with others in a greater community? This is a question we have wrestled with since the conception of our country.

For example, many American intellectualists who sought to define what it meant to be an American had conflicting ideas of what it meant to be an individual.

Walt Whitman exclaimed in “Song for Myself” that, “I celebrate myself, and sing myself, and what I call a虹 must be treated in the same way you shall assume”, emphasizing that the individual should be glorified.

Ralph Waldo Emerson declared in “Self-Reliance” that, “the importance to believe your own thought, to believe what is true for you in your private heart”, emphasizing that individuality produces genius.

Henry David Thoreau in Civil Disobedience proclaimed “I think that we should be men first, and subjects afterward”. The only obligation which I have inwardly, habitually, naturally, is to do what I think right”, emphasizing that we are individuals first in a political system, not political affiliations don’t matter. Just the one relative who has a different political opinion from you.

Without the Stamp Act, the burning of the Gaspee, and/or the Boston Tea Party, America would never have been able to establish and distinguish itself, “from Britain, “you”. However, there are limitations to how far we can take this mindset. What is working
together to build our heart and build us up? Where are the areas that need improvement? Where are the injustices? What is working together to build our heart and build us up? Where are the areas that need improvement? Where are the injustices? What is working?

Don’t get me wrong – I am not saying that everything is relative and political affiliations don’t matter. Just the opposite, as we do need firm beliefs and opinions regarding what matters to us as both individuals and community members. However, we also must understand that our opinions and beliefs come with baggage. We do not pull these opinions from thin air. It is built over the course of time, within the context of our personal experiences, challenges, and successes. Our political beliefs are the result of our experiences, our parents, our childhoods, and our culture. These beliefs are also influenced by our privilege in the system or our lack of privilege. Our ability to navigate the systems that are set in place, or the way they leave us oppressed and vulnerable.

I would venture to say that we do not vote by chance. Even if our understanding of politics and policy is limited, we still vote based on factors of context and issues that resonate with our own life experiences. We must have our convictions, our opinions, our personal beliefs on what is important. We can call out injustice and fight for freedom and equity, while still holding empathy for the people on the other side of the aisle. We must continue to see each other as human.

I know for a fact that I have much more to learn about navigating our political landscape. This may be a simplistic view of politics, but in this moment, what can we do? Change of almost any kind requires a long view of time – but we can begin to build the future we want for our country, for our families, and for communities. Register to vote by October 19 by visiting www.votespa.com. Change starts right here, and right now.
SYDNEY CLARK
Features Editor

David Ginolfi, better known by his moniker Bruce Banter, had a collection of his art featured at curio. Gallery & Creative Supply from August 1st to September 16th. This downtown exhibit “Scenes from a Technicolor World” featured over thirty pieces using watercolor, ink, and acrylic paint.

Curio, is co owned by both Nicole Duquette and Matt Allyn Chapman where they sell a selection of drawing and writing supplies, fine papers, and stationery. This unique space also features a rotating exhibition that spotlights local and regional artists. They host artist talks, workshops, virtual events, and a weekly Sketchbook Club.

Banter talks about the start of the show, “I was given the pleasure of having them curate the show. They have a really great name that goes along with what they do, and you kind of just hand them your art and they make it happen. So they named the show based on what they saw in the pieces they selected. It was a really awesome process for me, because as a veteran showing art and in this town, I’ve kind of had to do everything myself, other than one or two exceptions.” Normally Banter ends up naming the show and coming up with his own artist bio, but at Curio, Duquette and Chapman took that over. Banter handed over about 40 pieces and they whittled it down from there. Beyond a few pieces from 2016 and 2017, the gallery was mainly made up of pieces from 2019 to 2020, and some were even created during quarantine this year. By using a similar pallet over the years, the works came together cohesively.

Banter talks about what his process looks like while creating different pieces. With about 10 different pads of watercolor or iterations of the same idea. This looks like while creating different pieces. With about 10 different pads of watercolor or iterations of the same idea. This

By the time the exhibit came down Banter sold over a third of the pieces, something he was excited about because they didn’t have a reception at all. After a show, he usually offers the pieces up in his Instagram story then see if them to go to a good home.

Something that significantly stands out is how similar his moniker is to the Hulk, or Bruce Banner. It came about while frequently encompassing in Millersville, so with his rapping Bruce Banter formed. He describes his music as bassy and hip hop with a little bit of psychedelic and progressive synthesizer work over top of it. “My studio is a 50/50, yin yang of art and music... The one B is for beats. The one B is for beauty, and that’s just kind of who it is. It’s kind of a convoluted scenario with how I came up with the moniker. So the two it’s that I signed my work with are actually thirteen’s. I was born on Friday the 13th. My girlfriend was born on Friday the 13th. That’s something that I’ve kind of always been into, horror movies and stuff like that, since I was a little kid. Bright colors of 80s, and stuff I grew up with, kind of all culminated into this Bruce Banter thing,” he says. Had this show not been during a pandemic, Banter would have had music to go along with the show, even if it was just ambient in the background.

Banter also mentions how the Lancaster community cares about the artists and the music involved in the town. “I’ve always loved Lancaster and the things it had to offer... People are just growing and relating and feeling good to kind of reinvent yourself, and I think that’s kind of a lot of what this show is about, just enjoying and reintroducing styles that I’ve been doing and things that I’ve been doing and reiterating ideas,” he says. Regardless of the current pandemic, the city of Lancaster will continue looking forward to everything Bruce Banter has in store. Even when the world was stopped, we turned to art.

Festive First Friday

CARLY O’NEILL
Editor in Chief

In mind that COVID-19 is still very much a thing and socially distanced as needed, while wearing masks around the city. Tables with a bucket of sanitizing wipes, along with a hefty bottle of hand sanitizer were placed around the city to encourage safety before pleasure. Musicians were utilizing the city’s outdoor audience by performing on passerbys and collecting tips if people were particularly pleased with their performance. A dancer set up shop in an alleyway performing on a mat to “The Greatest Showman.”

Several restaurants had tables and chairs displayed outside their restaurants to encourage social distancing and attract other visitors to their menu. While inside dining was also an option at most restaurants like The Black Goat Gastropub, seating was little to none to ensure limited capacity. Inside the Lancaster Dispensing Company replaced their physical menus with a bar scan that customers can take a picture of to look up and browse an online menu.

Some restaurants like the Lancaster Cupcake, which has recently undergone renovations, was open to the public with their popular fall themed cupcakes like, Maple Pumpkin Pecan, Pumpkin Spice, and a Vegan and Gluten free Pumpkin Roll. Their seating area was also decorated with fun velvet pumpkins and flowers to add to the warm aesthetic of the shop.

All in all, First Friday was a refreshing escape from reality that allowed people to come together, while remaining 6 ft. away, enjoy quality food and entertainment in the heart of Lancaster city.
Inside Millersville's Incident Management Team

CARLY O’NEILL Editor in Chief

Incident Management Teams (IMT) are specialized teams that oversee disaster or emergency management. Millersville’s Incident Management Team is working on putting effective safety measures into place to ensure the mitigation of COVID-19. Their goal is to make sure they have systems in place to assist students, and staff with COVID-19.

The team is made up of 12 specialized team members, who oversee different departments. They also recently added two students, one graduate and one undergraduate.

Co-chairman Duane Hagelgans works in the Center of Research and Education and is leading the Incident Management Team. Hagelgans works within the faculty side of the team and he has been actively involved in emergency management for 30 years. In 2012 he was hired to teach full time for Millersville’s emergency management program.

Co-chairman Victor DeSantis is the Executive Director for community engagement, government, and economic development. DeSantis has been working at Millersville for 15 years now and is currently involved in emergency management for 30 years. His primary role is to bring an administrative perspective to the team as an administrator and is helping with bringing an administrative perspective to the team.

In a recent Zoom interview, Hagelgans and DeSantis discuss their roles on the team and how they have been handling the pandemic. They also discuss how they are handling COVID-19 to far. Their goal going forward is to keep the campus open while minimizing the risk of coronavirus cases on campus.

“Probably our number one goal of our team is to take as much stress off campus as possible so that we can keep the campus open throughout the rest of the semester. Our goal is to work with everybody, our entire community to keep campus open and hopefully come back next semester and do it even better. ’”

The IMT has recently set up a Student Relief Fund and the EPPIIC Student Compliance Fund. They have also collected screening kits and utilizing Meltwater writing social media copy, which was the most historic venues in Nashville: The Bluebird Cafe, The Grand Ole Opry, and the Academy of Country Music. The internship didn’t end for her internship. She experienced a unique internship with the Academy of Country Music because everyone was home during a pandemic.

“I got to talk with artist’s people in the field, via Zoom, to just kind of learn more about the industry. That’s the opportunity to work for. I really am thankful for all of that,” McDonough says.

Throughout McDonough’s internship, she experienced some challenging workdays.

The team is currently preparing for the upcoming Awards on Wednesday, November 16. They are typically held in Las Vegas, but for the first time in ACM history they will be in Nashville, Tennessee. It is being held at the most historic venues in Nashville: The Bluebird Cafe, The Grand Ole Opry, and the Academy of Country Music. McDonough talks about how historical the ceremonies are and how it’s going to be exciting to see it all come together.

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While the show itself and what the interns will be doing is still being finalized, view the show on Wednesday, November 16. McDonough says.

“This will be the first year in ACM history that the awards will be held in Nashville, Tennessee.”

Know a professor or student who is doing something exceptional? Contact our Features Editor at features@thesnapper.com
Most professional industries have taken a hit this year due to COVID-19 and its spread, especially those that rely on crowds of people to function. Bars and restaurants feel the heat of the pandemic and live music almost seems like a thing of the past. As venues all across the world are forced to cancel or indefinitely postpone shows, everyone is asking the same thing: when and how will we ever hear live music performances again?

Musicians have been holding online streams for their fans while some larger venues have started drive-in concerts. Many smaller venues are suffering, as many are not equipped for alternative measures. Fortunately, right here in Millersville just a short walk from campus, Phantom Power is able to put on live shows in their makeshift beer garden.

Recently opened in February of this year, Phantom Power is a bar and music venue that showcases local talent. The venue had a short run before they were forced to close their doors indefinitely, just like all other nonessential businesses amidst the pandemic.

In early June, they announced on their Facebook page the opening of their beer garden, a makeshift outdoor seating area arranged in a socially distanced fashion. Event tickets are available to be pre-purchased online or at the door, depending on capacity and sales limits. On nights without planned events, guests are still able to sit down and enjoy their evening. The venue offers table service only with limited menu items available, allowing alcoholic beverage purchases within the COVID-19 guidelines set in place.

The menu is offered contactless and readily available to customers via a QR code printed and laminated on tables. Instructions to scan the code with a smartphone are attached. Seating is limited to four guests per table and, like other places open for sit-down service, masks are required while not seated. The live performances are sometimes limited to 21+ unless accompanied by a parent/guardian but some all ages shows are put on as well.

One of their most recent all ages shows proved that Phantom Power is not just for casual bar-going. The venue showcased The Stonewall Vessels, a local group described as psychedelic, genre-bending rock who use influences of punk, indie and 60s rock to create their own sound.

Set up in the building’s parking lot, the band was situated in the front corner of the beer section and was able to be seen from each table. They succeeded in mesmerizing the small crowd of about 35 people with their tunes for the whole evening; they even played an encore at the end. The original music had people tapping their toes along to the beat and directed their attention to the performers rather than who they were seated with. The members were upbeat and interacted with the crowd in between songs played.

The venue’s next event is an all-age karaoke night on Sept. 17. This will begin at 6 p.m., end at 8 p.m., and entry will be free.

The next day, Sept. 18, will be their next live performance event which will feature local music groups “One Too Many,” a self-proclaimed diverse, genre-shifting band, and “No Bad Days,” an eclectic musical bunch that features the vibraphone. This event will be open to all ages but will require a $5 entry fee.

Phantom Power is here to provide entertainment and a good time to both students and residents of Millersville and Lancaster. With the current climate and state of the world, it is a breath of fresh air to sit, relax and enjoy a live performance.

HANNAH SUTTON
Staff Writer

“One of their most recent all ages shows proved that Phantom Power is not just for casual bar-going”

PHOTO COURTESY OF HANNAH SUTTON

Guests of Phantom Power sit socially distanced from one another as they enjoy The Stonewall Vessels’ live music set.
“The Devil All the Time,” directed by Antonio Campos, was released on Netflix on Sept. 16, 2020. The film centers around a young man overcoming pressures of mid-1900’s American society, including the oppressive nature of church and religion. The concept and characters make for an exciting experience, even if hindered by unexceptional design choices.

After fighting in World War II, Willard Russell (Bill Skarsgård) returns home with severe PTSD. Such trauma is spread onto his son Arvin Russell (Tom Holland), with Willard violently enforcing religious concepts onto Arvin. Now a teenager, Arvin becomes exposed to corruption within his town, including predatory Pastor Preston Teagardin (Robert Pattinson). Teagardin, along with numerous other dangerous individuals, provide obstacles in Arvin’s journey of self-discovery and resolving his past life.

Story is definitely the film’s strong point. Arvin’s experience was engaging to watch throughout the film’s duration, creating a dark and immersive “adventure.” Arvin’s characterization felt tremendously natural, with each of his scenes realistically developing his morals and later actions.

Holland’s performance also added plenty of value to Arvin’s character. Holland’s natural charisma builds him as a likable underdog, which is crucial for Arvin’s believability. In contrast, Pattinson superbly plays a wicked villain, utilizing his signature mischievous demeanor. Another notable performance was Harry Melling as Roy Laferty, unfortunately having rather little screen time.

Besides these three, the acting was mixed. Performances commonly ranged between acceptable and unintentionally humorous. The humorous line deliveries are particularly detrimental, as the film’s overall tone is notably serious. Unfortunately, questionable vocal delivery is likely a byproduct of an inconsistent script, with numerous scenes’ dialogue feeling stilted.

Cinematography gave the film a clean look, especially when displaying the interesting rural locations. The issue was little variation in terms of shot composition, filming angles, and overall creativity in a visual sense. There were many instances where the camera remained stagnant, alternating between shots of characters’ midsections while they talked. Such a safe presentation leads to attempts at tense scenes sometimes lacking energy and impact.

One aspect I did not care for at all was the narrator, who was overly present throughout the movie. I dislike when a narrator’s purpose becomes summarizing what the audience just watched. This became particularly annoying after intense scenes, where the narrator’s voice interrupts time for the audience to reflect on the impactful events. There were also moments where the narrator’s lines should’ve been said by an actual character. Without spoiling the story, one narrator line, if used by a specific character, would’ve made said character much more interesting.

The mid-1900’s America theme was done well. The costumes of characters were believable for the period, and the film’s high school settings. Classic cars and building decorations are always a pleasure within any timepiece film. The added music from the period was a personal favorite aspect of the theme. The songs added personality to the film, while being sparse enough to not be distracting.

The film is bizarrely edited. Scenes often end abruptly due to a sudden transition, rather than having the scene conclude naturally. Moments also occur when the shots seemingly should have taken place in a different order. For example, characters begin a conversation, then suddenly have one character showing physical changes made a whole scene earlier. Minor aspects, such as this, can still provide distractions from the actual film.

Overall, I give the film a 7 out of 10. Certain actors and a great story occasionally makes for exceptional moments. Yet, as a whole, questionable design choices diminish a lot of the film’s potential. Nevertheless, the film is certainly worth a casual viewing if you’re interested in dark, historical narratives.

SHAUN LUCAS
Opinion Editor
Sixers Hire Doc Rivers

SCOTT MACHENRY  Staff Writer

This Monday the Philadelphia 76ers introduced Doc Rivers at their new head coach. "The 76ers reached a deal with Rivers late last Thursday night, October 1, bringing Philadelphia's coaching search to a dramatic end," Rivers beat out former Rockets Head Coach Mike D'Antoni and his former Clippers assistant Ty Lue for the job. He replaces Brett Brown, who was unceremoniously fired after the '76ers disappointing playoff performance in the NBA bubble. Brown took over the '76ers Head Coaching position in 2013 and helped usher Philadelphia through the team's rebuilding strategy, "the Process."

However, Brown never proved he could coach the young team to a championship. After years of speculation that he lost the locker room, discussion that he wasn't utilizing Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons properly, and consistent failures in the postseason, the '76ers decided to look in a new direction.

The decision wasn't an easy one though. The '76ers are a team committed to winning now and they required a coach with a championship mentality. While they briefly considered promoting assistant coach Ime Udoka and flirted with the possibility of Jason Kidd, only two names emerged in the aftermath of Brett Brown's dismissal, D'Antoni and Lue.

Both Mike D'Antoni and Ty Lue are respected coaches, but they also would have brought a host a negative discourse to the job. Sixers Twitter made their feelings very clear on the matter.

D'Antoni was trolled because he never won a championship and failed to find a winning formula with multiple rockets offenses. Lue was trolled because he rode the coattails of LeBron James when the Cavaliers won the NBA Finals in 2016. Reports from inside the '76ers' organization claim the front office was divided on who to hire. Reportedly, General Manager Elton Brand wanted Ty Lue and Owner Josh Harris and his managing partner wanted Mike D'Antoni.

As the '76ers stalled their decision, an unlikely solution was about to present itself. On September 28, the Los Angeles Clippers fired Doc Rivers, sending a shockwave through the NBA. Rivers, a celebrated coach, was the casualty of an early playoff exit. It took the '76ers only a couple of hours to reach out to Rivers' agent. Doc Rivers was a name Elton Brand and Josh Harris could agree on and the '76ers concluded contract negotiations in 72 hours.

Doc Rivers brings a championship pedigree to Philadelphia, as well as a history of working with star players. Yet, his work is cut out for him. With his hiring, the '76ers face an increase in already high expectations, plus a roster that needs overhauled. Al Horford, a questionable free agent acquisition last summer, is still owed $81 million over the next three seasons.

Tobias Harris and Ben Simmons were given extensions that owe them $147 million and $178 million respectively. Those contracts make any significant changes unlikely. Despite Elton Brand surely shopping Horford hard, the number of interested teams will probably be around zero. That means Rivers will largely have to work with those already on the '76ers current roster. His priority will be creating an offense that benefits both Embiid and Simmons. Rivers' previous history suggests he may make Ben Simmons the primary ball-handler and keep Joel Embiid under the rim.

A lot of people want to see Embiid with the basketball in his hands, but how Rivers handled Blake Griffin and Lob City in Los Angeles might point to his solution. Doc Rivers also needs to incorporate Tobias Harris better into the offense.

Harris had his best career numbers under Rivers in LA and their reunion in Philadelphia offers Tobias Harris a second chance to become a focal point. Additionally, Rivers likes to use off-the-ball shooters as his fifth starter or sixth man. If that transitions to the '76ers, Furkan Korkmaz and Alec Burks may see larger roles in the offense next season.

At his introductory press conference, Doc Rivers appeared enthused to be taking over as Head Coach of the '76ers. "I love coaching. I absolutely love it," Rivers said to the media. "But I was not going to just coach anybody it just depended on the team that was available, and if that team in my opinion was ready to win." Rivers also praised the '76ers players, stating they were the reason he had to take the job. "You look at these players, these young players, and their potential. The fact that they've had so much success in so many ways at the ages they are already, and where I think they can go, for me it's a job you just couldn't turn down. That's why I'm here. Just really excited about it."

Millersville Alum makes Astros Roster

BRIAN MARKLEY  Sports Editor

Millersville alumni Chas McCormick has made the active postseason roster for the Houston Astros. The Houston outfielder was selected in the 21st round of the 2017 MLB draft and has spent the last two seasons in Houston's minor league organization.

While at Millersville, McCormick was the second Marauder ever to be named P&AC East Player of the Year. He also set the team record for hits, totaling 306 in his career as a Marauder. Along with holding the hits record, McCormick also holds the record for all-time runs and RBIs at Millersville.

McCormick spent most of his 2017 season in the minor leagues, bouncing between three teams: Buies Creek (A-), Quad Cities (A) and Greeneville (Rook- ie). He hit .262 with 18 RBI in 136 plate appearances with the Quad Cities River Bandits.

McCormick then was promoted to the AA Corpus Christi Hooks in 2018 where he hit .386 in 282 plate appearances. He continued to impress and began the 2019 season as a member of the AAA Round Rock Express.

Today marks a special day for McCormick as he finally makes his first big league roster.

Millersville's head baseball coach Jon Shehan took to Twitter to congratulate his former player, "Congrats to this guy" the @astros added him to the 40-man roster today. One team turned him in for the draft. One team took a shot on him. It only takes one “He hasn't disappointed at any level. We are all so proud of you @Chazzyfizz.”

Good luck at the major league level, Chas!
Philadelphia Fusion advance to Overwatch League Grand Finals

DAVID MILAM
Social Media Manager

In a dominant final showdown the Philadelphia Fusion avoided elimination with a series sweep of the Washington Justice and with it punched their ticket to Seoul to attend the Overwatch League Grand Finals. The Overwatch League had only just begun its third season before being disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. Despite the online nature of esports, the Overwatch League has been making a name for itself emulating traditional sports through the hosting of home and away matches in various areas worldwide. Therefore, it was not spared the incoming slew of season delays faced by other sports leagues. This forced the league to reconnect with their online roots through the hosting of remote online matches.

Due to issues competing over WiFi with teams located half the globe apart the league was forced to compensate by splitting into two regional groups, an Asian league and American league. The remainder of the season was then completed with the separate leagues competing internally and ending with separate playoffs. The separate playoffs ended with two victors from each league advancing to the Grand Finals. The finals will mark the first time since the seasons restructuring that Asian and American teams will be competing against each other.

The Philadelphia Fusion had a fantastic regular season, ending with the best record in the North American regional league with 24 wins to 2 losses. Their playoff journey started out just as dominant with sweeps of both the Los Angeles Gladiators and Los Angeles Valiant. With that they advanced to the winners bracket final where they fell to the defending champions, the San Francisco Shock. Moving down to the losers bracket they were able to climb back up with sweeps of the Florida Mayhem and Washington Justice, winning the losers bracket and securing their spot in the Grand Finals. This year’s Grand Finals will be hosted in Seoul, South Korea, a country praised for its handling of the pandemic thus allowing for a safe environment for the teams to compete in person. The Philadelphia Fusion will be joined by the San Francisco Shock, Shanghai Dragons and Seoul Dynasty as all four teams will compete locally on the same server for the first time in any months.

Before the long-awaited tournament can kick off though the arriving American teams must complete a two week quarantine period before joining their Asian counterparts. Once their quarantine period is complete the four teams will compete in a double elimination bracket in order to crown this year’s champion.

Interested viewers will be able to watch the entirety of the Grand Finals for free live on YouTube via the Overwatch League official channel when the tournament begins on October 8th.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA

Russell Wilson looks to keep the Seahawks undefeated as they host the Minnesota Vikings.

CALEB WOLFE
Associate Sports Editor

After four weeks the NFL season looked to be off to a strong start, but due to COVID-19, some teams (including two mentioned below) have yet to play their fourth game. The four week mark also serves as an important indicator for how the rest of the season may pan out. According to the website SportCasting, in recent years NFL teams who start the season with a 4-0 record have a 96% chance of making the playoffs. Not to mention that the percentage is likely to rise with the expansion of the NFLI’s playoff format starting this year. For those reasons, let’s take a brief look at all the NFL organizations who feature an undefeated record.

Seattle Seahawks:
The Seahawks are a prime example to heed to this list. Not only are they one of the best teams in the NFC, but the assumption that they are playoff bound is not a bold one. Russell Wilson is continuously proving to be an elite quarterback, and he is already making a bid for the title of MVP. Though the defense is a bit shaky, the addition of Jamal Adams is making a huge impact. Although the Seahawks reside with in the toughest division in football, after four weeks of play this team looks strong.

Green Bay Packers:
The Packers have been performing at a consistently good level for longer than most NFL organizations. Therefore it’s little surprise they have started the season undefeated. Despite Green Bay’s outstanding performance in recent years, they have struggled to surpass the final hurdle, being the best. However the Packers defeated a strong Saints team on Sunday, which helped further them towards that goal. Aaron Rodgers showed that he has a ton of gas left in his veteran tank. Additionally, the Packers have also put up an astonishing 122 points already this season, a team record according to the NFL website.

Pittsburgh Steelers:
Another undefeated team with a misleading record is the Pittsburgh Steelers. They’re in a similar situation to the Bears, as they face many difficult teams throughout the rest of the season. Most notably they have to play the Baltimore Ravens twice, which are two games that will be tough for them to win. Ben Roethlisberger is coming off a season long injury, and he looks stable considering such. The team has notable issues on both sides of the ball, but nothing too detrimental. Therefore the Steelers’ odds of grabbing at least the 6th or 7th seed look good.

Tennessee Titans:
The Tennessee Titans are continuing their Cinderella story from last season, as they begin this season undefeated. However unlike other teams mentioned prior, there’s not much to say about the Titans. Both the offense and defense are doing their job each game. It also helps that the AFC South is a lackluster division.

Kansas City Chiefs:
The reigning Super Bowl Champions are looking strong as ever. They had a questionable close game against the Chargers in week two, but shutting down a Ravens team that ranked first in the AFC last season was a phenomenal way to reclaim dominance. Patrick Mahomes is still a machine. He throws passes that look inhuman, and has thrown with the heaviest of touchdowns passes already this season. Similar to how the Chiefs beat the Baltimore Ravens in week three, the Chiefs look ready to beat them for the top seed in the AFC this season.

Buffalo Bills:
The last team that remains undefeated after three weeks of play is the Buffalo Bills. You read that right, not the New England Patriots, the Buffalo Bills. The Patriots are worth bringing up though because they will be the biggest challenge for the Bills. If they want to continue to lead the division they are going to have to beat the Patriots at least once, if not both times they face off.
COVID-19 has halted many different campus activities, campus recreation being one of them.

“Campus recreation is trying their best to keep things relatively normal given the circumstances, and some of the new options like trivia nights and eSports open the door to more students than before. Yarrow and her team knew the pandemic would force campus recreation to change, but the changes that were made still hold the same spirit as traditional campus recreation.

“Our biggest concern is for our team’s safety, feelings of scared, stress, anxiety, loneliness, and so much more. From the very beginning, we in Campus Recreation understood this and wanted to do something about it. We want to offer Marauders an outlet to these serious and unknown times. Even before COVID-19, we are all about staying engaged and having a little fun so there is no better time than now to continue doing what we do best. We’ve added in some programming that might be seen outside of the scope of “recreation” but it’s still all about having some fun and interacting with others.”

For students who are interested in getting involved in any campus recreation activities, IMLeagues is the place to go. IMLeagues is the one stop shop for everything Campus Rec – the SMC Rec Center (formerly the SMC Fitness Center), Intramurals, and Club Sports. You can login via IMLeagues.com or the app. We are getting a custom app through IMLeagues that should be finished this week but until then the app is just IMLeagues,” says Yarrow.

Campus recreation is trying their best to keep things relatively normal given the circumstances, and some of the new options like trivia nights and eSports open the door to more students than before.

For intramurals – we are running fantasy sports leagues and eSports leagues and tournaments. Many of the eSports games will be streamed live on Twitch for others to watch and chat about. We quickly rolled out Intramural eSports in the Spring and had success with that. We also partnered with our friends at West Chester University and Bucknell University to host several “West BuckVille” Rocket League Tournaments. We are doing all of that this semester and more! We have added in additional eSports leagues – all registrations are open on IMLeagues. We have a Discord channel where Marauders can meet up with other Marauders and just play some pickup games together. Another virtual Intramural competition we are adding in is a Speed ePuzzle competition. This will be done in teams and a singles competition as well.

It’s solving jigsaw puzzles online – fastest time wins,” said Yarrow. The addition of eSports and fantasy sports gives students a new opportunity to be competitive and have fun while remaining safe. Yarrow also mentioned another new addition for intramurals, that being single person competitions.

“Another intramurals addition this semester we will be phasing in some competitions that can be done safely by one person but then get added on a team total. So for example, we will have teams sign up for a 3-point competition. It’ll be how many 3-pointers they can make in a minute. Team members will sign up on a team and put in their availability. We will then schedule them individually for a time slot to compete. Their score will be added to the team total. Additionally, Marauders can sign up as a free agent and be put on a team.”

The additions to campus recreation don’t stop there, however. Game nights, trivia nights and trick shot competitions are also in the works.

“Also through Campus Recreation – we have weekly Virtual Trivia nights for any Marauders to compete in. We will also be hosting a few game show nights of fun for all! Coming soon – we also will be having a trick shot competition that all Marauders can submit entries into. It can be a more classic sports trick shot or one of those fun, viral trickskots where it’s a ping pong ball bouncing off pots and pans to then go into a goal/cup. That’s just a few examples! We will take all of the entries and randomly draw up a bracket for all Marauders to vote on daily between head to head matchups until we have one winner left! It’s similar to the Marauder Showcase we ran in the Spring in collaboration with our Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. We are partnering with our friends at PSECU to offer a Marauder Family Feud competition that will be all virtual and streamed,” Yarrow said.

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