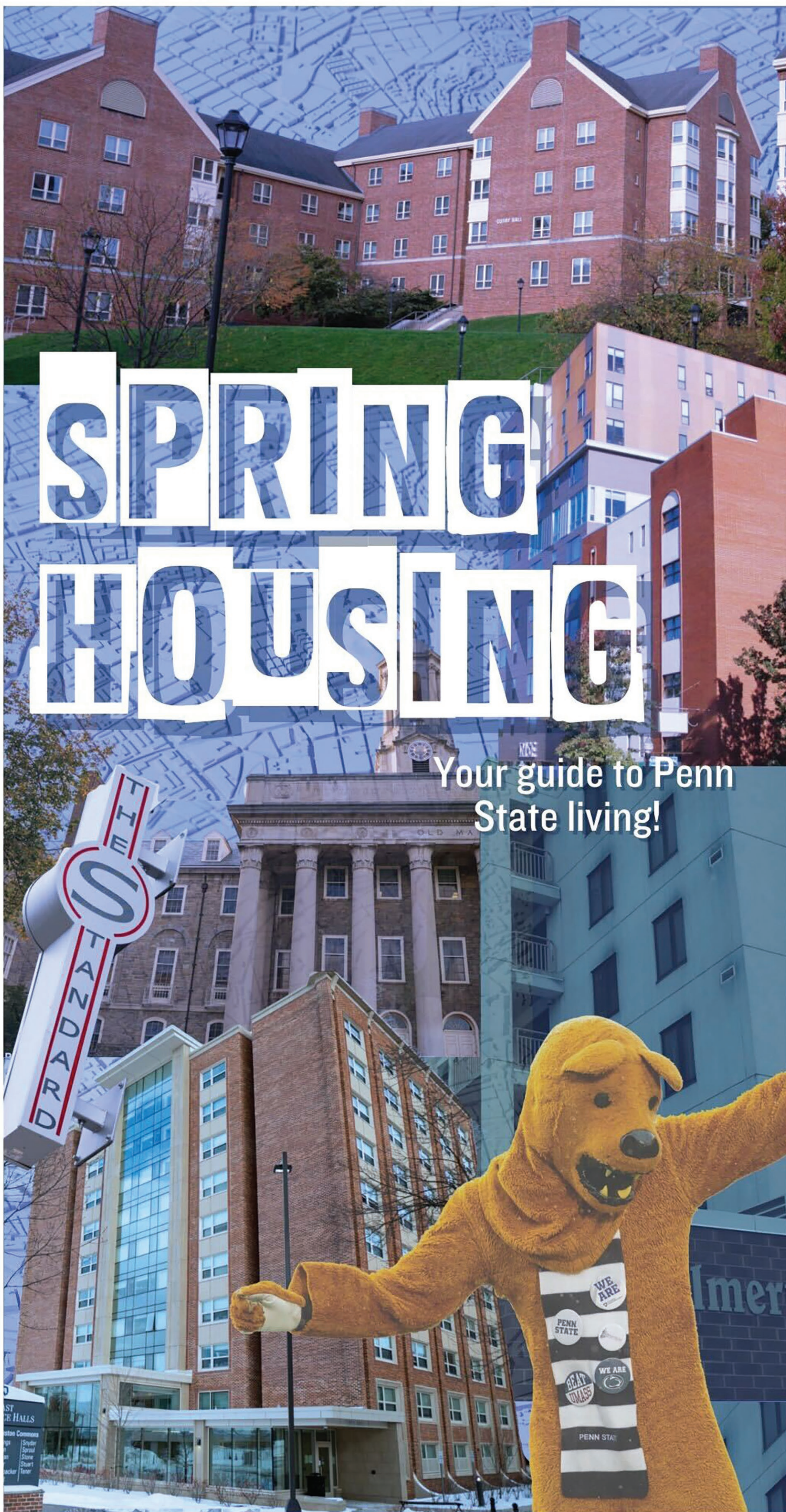


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Photos by Sienna Pinney, Nick Eickhoff, Danny Gotwals and Emily Rosio

Graphic by Caroline Lehman

Benefits, drawbacks of supplemental housing

By **Ethan M. Capitano**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Steady increases in Penn State undergraduate enrollment has caused a greater demand for housing — especially in the dorms.

As a result, Penn State has converted dorm common spaces into supplemental housing that accommodate from four to eight students and “offer more students the opportunity to enjoy the on-campus living experience,” according to Penn State’s LiveOn website.

These rooms include all the same amenities — bed, desk, drawers, hanging space for clothes, Wi-Fi, microfridge — of a normal double room, but in a larger space and at a discounted rate.

Due to the size and the amount of roommates, Samantha Smichnick, a student living in a Geary Hall supplemental dorm, said she faced difficulties coordinating the color scheme of the room with three other roommates.

“I asked everyone what color they were using. At first, I was gonna do a blue for Penn State, but then two of the other girls were doing pink, and I couldn’t find blue decorations, and then the other girl had (something else),” Smichnick, a first-year studying public relations, said.

Smichnick said she wouldn’t recommend going random for supplemental housing.

However, Smichnick said for those finding supplemental

housing difficult, everything will be OK. “You’re not going to be in it half the time — you’re going to be there to sleep,” she said.

According to the LiveOn site, the university will consider students living in supplemental housing for reassignments to a regular room “as space becomes available before the beginning of and during the semester.”

Braeden Burgard, a student living in a Sproul Hall supplemental, recently had a roommate move out, leaving more space in his room.

“In a two-person room, there’s not really much you can do, space-wise. Like it’s kind of tough to rearrange,” Burgard, a first-year studying biology, said. “But (we’re) in a supplemental ... We are able to rearrange our room however we want.”

Burgard and his roommates are taking advantage of the extra space in other ways, too.

“On weekends, and even during the week, we’ll throw parties, just watch movies, play games,” Burgard said. “That’s just a good way to bond with everyone on the floor.”

However, the only drawback about supplemental housing is the lack of “alone time,” according to Burgard.

Despite the concerns about privacy in supplemental housing, “over 95% of students who are assigned to supplemental housing opt to stay in the room when offered the opportunity for reassignment,” according to LiveOn.

Before Elijah Gamson moved

into his supplemental room in Curtin Hall with “one pretty good friend, a kind of close friend, and then one (he) had met briefly,” he was “warned” about living with friends — especially in a supplemental.

“I know there’s certain cases where random roommates hit it off well, but I’ve also seen cases where random roommates haven’t hit off,” Gamson, a first-year studying computer science, said. “I think that’s part of the reason that being friends has been helpful — because we’re pretty comfortable with each other.”

However, Gamson said there’s “a little annoyance” because of the four “different lifestyles” in one room.

“It’s hard planning schedules because you’ll hear them,” Gamson said. “(My two roommates, who are music majors) have a lot of 8 a.m.’s that they can’t get out of, whereas I can — I don’t like to get up early.”

Despite “working out how lights are gonna work and not making too much noise,” Gamson said living in supplemental housing “hasn’t been too bad.”

“It’s just a lot of fun. There’s constant times where it’s late at night, we’re all laughing or we’ll have a movie night,” Gamson said. “Whether it’s sleep deprivation or just having a fun time, we’re all like laughing our heads off.”

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Danny Gotwals/The Daily Collegian

Pictured is the northeastern side of The Maxxen on Sep. 29, 2022, in State College, Pa.

Students share why they moved off campus

By **Vida Lashgari**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

While first-year students are required to live on campus, many upperclassmen make the decision to move off campus with studies showing that a majority of students choose to leave campus housing.

After transferring to University Park from a Penn State branch campus, Yubiried Rios decided that moving into an apartment in downtown State College was the best option for her. “I think dorms are too expensive here,” Rios, a third-year studying criminology, said. “I have my own room, (and) I just share a bathroom with other girls. You don’t hear people scream(ing) or something in the middle of the night.”

Despite the benefits of living off campus, Rios said certain parts of on-campus living can’t be replaced.

As a new student on campus and living in an apartment for the first time, Rios said making friends while living off-campus can be harder than living in a dorm.

“You go to your apartment,

you have your room and that’s it. You don’t have more (interaction),” Rios said. “It’s the only thing I can say that maybe it’s not the best thing.”

Munirah Alayadhi said she also found many benefits living off campus including the “prices” and “privacy.”

“Living off campus is much cheaper than living on campus,” Alayadhi, a first-year studying mechanical engineering, said. “You have your kitchen in your apartment so you don’t have to change floors every time you want to cook.”

She said there are several different factors leading to her continuing to live off campus and she encouraged others to do so, too.

For other students, living on-campus is a better option, like William Moser, who plans to live in White Course Apartments next semester.

“It was a little cheaper than some of the other options,” Moser, a first-year studying political science, said. “It was a good deal (because) I could stay with my friends.”

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Ranking Penn State residence halls

By Madison Schmitt
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

I'm sure we all remember the fateful moment we opened our emails to discover which residence hall we'd be living in during our first year at Penn State.

Whether you got exactly what you wanted or had to learn to love your dorm, each housing area has its pros and cons.

Here's my ranking of Penn State's residence halls.

5. North Halls

I definitely don't hate North Halls by any means, but it does little to impress me.

Don't get me wrong, the suite style rooms have their advantages, especially if you're staying on campus as an upperclassman. But aside from being close to the Arboretum and the Business Building, there's not much happening on that side of campus.

Warnock Commons is also lacking in my opinion. While the dining hall isn't all that bad, the commons itself feels a bit dilapidated and cramped.

Despite this, it does offer a Cultural Lounge and a recreation room that features a pool table and a piano.



Kate Hildebrand/Collegian

Each residence hall has its pros and cons, but Pollock Halls rings in as Madison Schmitt's favorite dorms on campus.

4. West Halls

The collegiate style West Halls truly are a beautiful living space. Every time I enter the courtyard I feel as though I'm being transported to a completely different university. West also features

popular Living Learning Communities (LLCs), such as Engineering House, IST House and Ally House.

While Waring Commons is on the smaller side, it does offer a certain charm. It's no secret that Waring is home to the best choc-

olate chip cookies on campus. Uniquely enough, it also offers a classroom space nestled away at 129 Waring.

3. East Halls

Coming in at No. 3, we have East Halls. While you might think that the highly sought-after East Halls should be higher on the list due to its swanky appearance and air-conditioned rooms, I still have my grievances.

Why? It's probably the most inconveniently located residence

hall on campus. I will say, Findlay Commons does offer a wide variety of amenities, including allergy friendly dining areas, a sizable market and a computer lab located in the basement.

2. South Halls

South Halls often doesn't get the love it deserves. Situated on the edge of downtown, it's the perfect solution for students who want the ease of living on-campus, but also want the experience of State College nightlife.

Additionally, the presence of renovated Greek Life housing can be a big selling point, with floors designated for Panhellenic Sorority Chapters at Penn State.

What Redifer Commons lacks in a buffet, it makes up for with a multitude of à la carte dining options. Whether you're craving an acai bowl, Indian barbeque or an entire pizza, Redifer has you covered.

1. Pollock Halls

A controversial choice for the No. 1 spot — but just hear me out. Pollock Halls is the premium housing location on campus. I guarantee that after it gets renovated, first-year students will be flocking to Pollock instead of East.

You're only a crosswalk away from classrooms in the Thomas Building, an eight-minute stroll from the HUB-Robeson Center and a quick walk down Shortlidge onto East College Avenue.

Not to mention, Pollock Commons is top tier. Boasting an expansive buffet with three separate sections, a large game room and an impressive market the size of a small convenience store, it has everything you need without ever leaving Pollock's quad.

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Sprucing up small spaces

By Justina Geosits & Olivia Reagan
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Starting from scratch in a new place is fun but daunting at the same time.

Having to decorate a space with aesthetic trinkets can be time consuming if you don't have any inspiration.

The one style that you can't go wrong with is the "clean girl" aesthetic — one of the trendiest Pinterest searches for the past few months.

If you're looking for new items with an aura of charm and class, here are a few ideas to get you started.

Minimalism

To fully embody the clean

girl aesthetic, minimalism is a must. Having little to no items other than essentials is what this trend is all about. Although this may seem boring at first, to create a peaceful and neutral environment, it's absolutely necessary.

This is especially useful if you have roommates with clashing styles.

Neutral Colors

The palette of this aesthetic is centered around colors such as white, beige, gray and black. Incorporating some of these colors into things like your sofa, bedding and even your toothbrush will create a pristine and sophisticated vibe.

Adding a slight pop of color will

tie everything in your apartment together nicely like a package with a little cute pink bow.

Greenery and Plant Decor

With dull colors around the apartment, greenery and plants are a way to bring life back into the space. Whether they're real or fake, it'll give the room a natural and calming essence while also adding in a pop of color.

Going to a local shop like Home Depot is a great way to acquire a suitable houseplant, or even ordering a fake succulent from Amazon will do the trick.

Simple Lighting

Nothing will blind you faster than the fluorescent overhead lighting.

Our best tip? Never turn them on. Using alternative sources of lighting can make the room feel warmer and cozier.

To add ambience to the space while still keeping the lighting simple, invest in a few warm-toned lamps and candles. Candles not only fill the space with light, but they also fill it with an alluring scent.

You can also pick up table lamps that can go next to your bed or desk. Fun lights can also be a nice touch.

Continue reading here:



Graphic by Isabella Viteri

There are many ways to make a small kitchen more spacious, and all it takes is thinking outside the box.

Small kitchen? No problem.

By Cearra O'Hern
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Cream countertops covered in mysterious splotches. Wobbly wooden cabinets pressed to the wall. Streams of smoke from the old oven burners.

Chip and Joanna Gaines dream of my downtown apartment kitchen.

The small kitchen only blemishes the apartment. I adore the deep blue couch, the Juliet balcony perched over State College, the teeny tiny room shared with my best friend.

But the worn kitchen does damper the living space. My three roommates and I only fit in the kitchen with one of us trapped behind the white refrigerator door.

The space behind the refrigerator door isn't too bad. A traditional rug would really tie the area together.

Unfortunately, a traditional rug isn't enough for the remainder of the kitchen. But the refrigerator door is a good place to begin tame adjustments.

Photographs stuck on meaningful magnets bring warmth into the space.

My heart swells three times its size whenever I approach the refrigerator door. And then the swelling continues — but only because I'm reaching for leftover pasta from the night before.

Continue reading here:



Graphic by Maddy Perez

Part of decorating is thinking of different ways to make space feel more like home.

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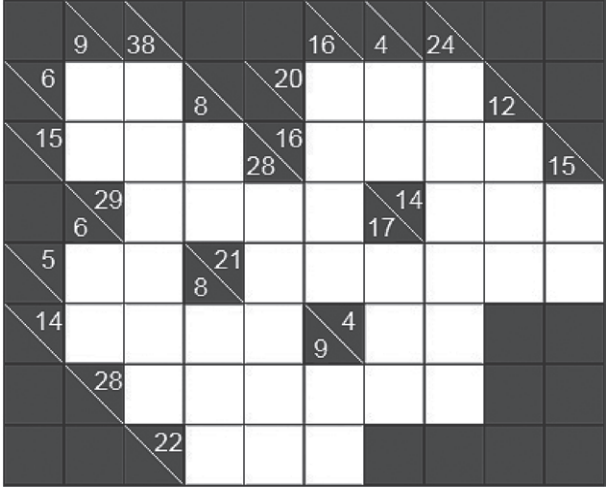
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Caulk
Epoxy
Filters
Glue
Grout
Hammer
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Kakuro

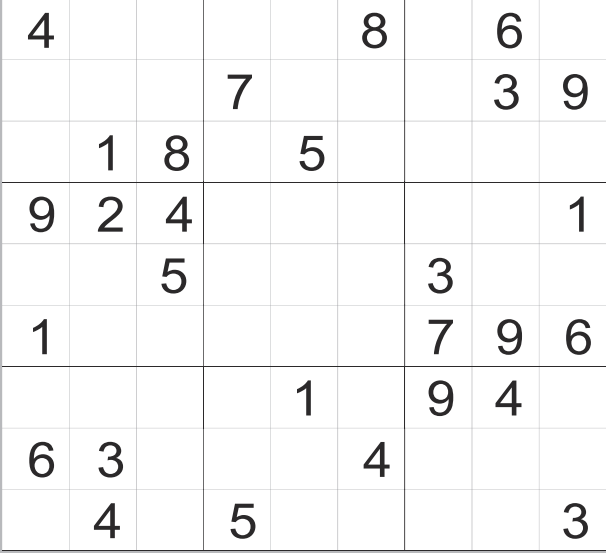


The rules are easy:

A number above the diagonal line in a black square is the sum of the white squares to the right of it.
A number below the diagonal line is the sum of the white squares in the sequence below it.
You may only use the digits 1 to 9, and a digit can only be used once in any sequence.

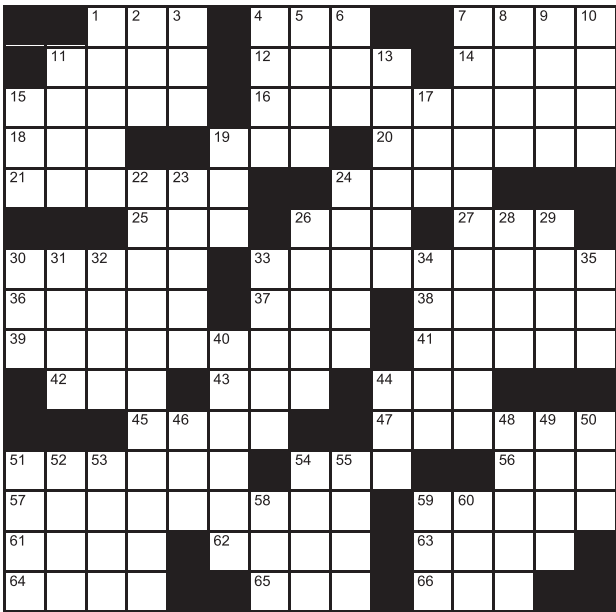
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Sudoku



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Crossword



Across

1 Fate
4 Listening device
7 ___ Pet (novelty item)
11 Metric weight
12 "Battle Cry" novelist
14 Feed bag contents
15 Like a beach
16 Item forerunner
18 Flamenco shout
19 Hard-rock center
20 Turkish capital
21 High school designation
24 Humane org.
25 Peacock network
26 Actress Barbara ___ Geddes
27 Baseball stats (Abbr.)
30 Wait on
33 Comb type
36 Ribbon holder
37 Stomach muscles, for short
38 Golf aims
39 Too late's partner
41 Embrace, as a cause
42 Comic Gilliam
43 Chowled down
44 Cobbler's tool

Down

1 White goods
2 Antediluvian
3 Kind of poodle
4 Vats
5 Mozart's "Il mio tesoro," e.g.
6 Farm animal
7 It comes before doo
8 Maori war dance
9 Roman road
10 Nick and Nora's dog
11 Curly cabbage
13 Paper clip alternative
15 Plea at sea

17 Business abbr.
19 ___ de Triomphe
22 Not subject to the control of the will
23 Manuscript daggers
24 Good judgment
26 Hotel room item
28 Marco ___
29 Footfall
30 Retired flier inits.
31 Heroic poem
32 Tooth part
33 Actor Roscoe ___ Arbuckle
34 Melts
35 Old White House inits.
40 Kind of sauce
44 20's dispenser
46 It's mostly nitrogen
48 Honks
49 Without a doubt
50 In-flight info, for short
51 Future's opposite
52 Kon-Tiki Museum site
53 Rotated
54 French poet Victor
55 Employed
58 Mountain pass
59 Saute
60 Trumped-up story

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Independently published by students at Penn State

Photo by Ken Minamoto

Paving the way for success

Grant Ament and Mac O’Keefe reunite in pro league after championship season at Penn State

By Liam Wichser
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Records are meant to be broken, and championships are meant to be won.

Former Penn State lacrosse players Grant Ament and Mac O’Keefe are no stranger to this concept — Ament holds the most points all-time in program history and O’Keefe is the all-time leading goal scorer in NCAA history.

The duo brought coach Jeff Tambroni and the Nittany Lions a Big Ten Tournament title in 2019 and a spot in the Final Four in the same year. However, to their surprise, Ament and O’Keefe’s playing days together didn’t end after they both stopped donning the blue and white.

Even before their time together at Penn State, the pair met in 2015 at the USA U19 tryouts, and the connection between the two was instant.

After winning the PLL Championship with the Carolina Chaos in 2021, O’Keefe, the sixth pick in the 2021 draft, decided it was time for

a change.

In March 2023, the Syosset, New York, native signed with the Utah Archers on a two-year deal, making the unexpected dream of the duo reuniting come to life.

“I don’t think there was ever any expectation that we’d play on the same team again, but prior to signing with the Archers, we chatted about how cool it would be to throw on the same sweater again,” O’Keefe told The Daily Collegian. “Having the opportunity to play with Grant again was a huge factor in that decision.”

It didn’t take long for them to pick up where they left off, as a few months after O’Keefe’s signing — in their first professional season together — the pair helped the Archers bring home the PLL Championship in a 15-14 win over former Penn State teammates Chris Sabia and Jack Traynor of the Philadelphia Waterdogs.

Traynor, who was a freshman during the blue and white’s memorable 2019 season, credits the duo for helping pave the way in his Nittany Lion career.

“What I admired most about Grant was his desire to be great. Everything he did was aimed at making him the best player he could be. He wanted to be great, and he demanded the very best from everyone around him. And that’s why he became one of the best lacrosse players in the world,” Traynor said. “People worship Mac for his ability to shoot the ball, but I admired him for the subtle things he did well.”

Along with Ament and O’Keefe’s incredible success on the field, their dedication to the program and the lasting effect they had is still remembered by current players.

TJ Malone, a graduate student for the Nittany Lions this year, lived with Ament during his sophomore year and shared the field with the duo before they graduated.

“[Ament] really took me under his wing and I’m extremely appreciative of it, so he’s always been a big brother kind of to me and so we have a special relationship like that,” Malone told The Daily Collegian.

Even more than the connection the two had on the field, players and coaches seem to immediately point out the way they handled themselves as leaders of the program. Tambroni knows how fortunate he was to be able to coach them and witness the standard they set.

Ament and O’Keefe set the bar for Penn State lacrosse for not only their time with the school, but for the future ahead.

“[Ament and O’Keefe] had such an impact because of the way they just went about their day-to-day business, so they set such a high standard, it was an obsession,” Tambroni said. “Together, they knew that they could complement one another and through that relationship, get themselves to achieve the goals that they set out or the vision that they had of themselves and of our team.”

Before the two of them stepped foot on Penn State’s campus, the

program had never won an NCAA Tournament game. That didn’t matter to them or the vision they had.

The 2019 Final Four team became the standard model for Tambroni and the program, as the days of the blue and white not being a prominent team in the Big Ten or around the nation came to an end.

The 2023 Nittany Lion squad followed the blueprint set by Ament and O’Keefe, making it to championship weekend once again.

“The one word I would use is belief, they instilled a sense of belief and probably confidence,” Tambroni said. “There’s a sense of belief not just in themselves, but in what Penn State could achieve, and that certainly left a long-lasting impression on me, our staff and our team.”

For O’Keefe, he felt the connection with Ament on the field right away and the work ethic of the duo seemingly translated to success.

Though stats would be the last thing the two mention when talking about their careers, they used each other to get better each year.

In 2019, Ament became the Nittany Lions’ first-ever Tewaaraton Award finalist — an award given to the nation’s top lacrosse player each year. In 2021, O’Keefe was selected as a nominee for the same award.

“I think the chemistry was there from the day I stepped on campus at Penn State,” O’Keefe said. “Over our college days, we discovered each other’s tendencies and overall grew as players. By the end of our time at Penn State, we didn’t have to communicate as much because we instinctively knew what would work while playing together.”

Since their days playing for the blue and white, Ament and O’Keefe have only gotten better together, and it came as no surprise to many that they would find success together at the professional level.

Ament was the Attackmen of the Year, an All-Star and First Team All-Pro for the Archers in 2021, and O’Keefe was also a 2021 All-Star.

“It’s no surprise I mean, once O’Keefe got on the Archers, you knew that they were both going to be better,” Malone said. “Those two Penn State guys specifically having so much success in the PLL, it’s really inspiring, it shows me that its possible for me to do and also other guys that have come through the program.”

It’s no secret that the presence of the two at Penn State are missed, but players and coaches of the program have continued to follow along closely with their careers, looking to emulate the success they’ve had.

The dream that the duo is living playing together at the next level has been very special for current players, alumni and coaches to continue to watch.

“It’s awesome to watch Mac and Grant thrive together in the PLL, I think all Penn State alumni are very prideful of any guys who make it to the professional level, but it’s especially cool to watch them do it together just like they did every day on Panzer Stadium,” Traynor said.

As for the future, the 2023 championship was just the beginning for the pair, who are both under contract with the Archers through 2024.

Ament and O’Keefe will continue to represent the Penn State community through their play on the field and actions off of it, always remembering where they came from.

“We will continue to carry that competitive drive to win, which we learned at Penn State, to hopefully win more championships together,” O’Keefe said.



Linsey Fagan/Collegian file photo

Attack Mac O’Keefe spins away from Johns Hopkins midfielder Daniel Jones during the game against No. 5 Johns Hopkins.

‘Sprinkling love’ with a children’s book

By Daniela White
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Wanting her kids to believe in love and life, Jamie Sopinski wrote a children’s book in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“At the time, I worked at a rehab hospital, and so it was even more of a challenging time,” Sopinski said. “I’ve always been a journalist, and I was just like, ‘I need some introspection’ and one day I started to journal, and I came up with ‘Sprinkle Love.’”

Sopinski said she initially wrote the book as a poem while thinking about her family that was just beginning to grow, with her future kids in mind.

“It’s a rhyming book,” Sopinski said. “I wanted something that would make the thoughts easy

to remember, easily accessible and to let (kids) know that love is (accessible) too.”

Sopinski said she wanted to leave a message to children who read her book that love “heals, lifts and remakes.”

“(‘Sprinkle Love’) is meant to engrain thoughts of love and help kids to know that love is not something they need to wait for, it’s something they can choose,” Sopinski said. “A lens which they can see through and always have there.”

Using journaling and writing as a method to cope with her anxiety, Sopinski said she never before thought of turning her poem into a children’s book.

“The idea came to me that it could be a book when I was walking my dog,” Sopinski said. “I was reciting the words to myself, and

I was like ‘this could be the children’s book I always wanted to do.’ I went to a few publishers, got responses, and I ended up going with the one I heard from first.”

Her husband Jeff Sopinski said it’s been “really cool” to see his wife do something with her writing.

“She’s always been a writer, not for other people to see, so this is the first time she’s written something and got it published,” Jeff said. “It’s really cool to see her put her heart into something and spread a message she believes in.”

Jeff said the process of getting the book published was very “back and forth.”

“At times it seemed like it was going on for a while, but in the end she really enjoyed working with the publisher and liked the

end product,” Jeff Sopinski said.

Jamie’s twin sister Danielle Koch said her sister has always been the “superior twin.”

“I say that jokingly, but in all seriousness it’s probably true,” Koch said. “She’s always been a good person and the kind that shows up for others and makes you want to be a better person yourself.”

While working part-time to take care of her kids, Jamie also works as a speech pathologist, volunteers with Athletes Serving Athletes and works with others in rehabilitation centers and hospitals.

“She just has a heart for others,” Koch said. “She always wants to give her time, whether it’s work or extracurriculars.”

Koch said it’s been “incredible” to see her sister’s book published

and available at Walmart, Barnes & Noble and on Amazon.

“Her bucket list was always to have a book published, so to see her name and search the book and have it pop up is incredible,” Koch said.

As a second-grade teacher, Koch was able to read “Sprinkle Love” to her students. She said she thinks it’s a very practical book for classrooms and school counselors as it serves a message for everyone of all ages.

“I think when she wrote the poem after COVID-19 it was just a time in the world where everyone needed love more than ever,” Koch said. “So, I just think whoever ends up picking up the book will end up really enjoying it.”

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‘LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE’

Recent Penn State alumna Olivia McMahon travels to Dubai for COP28

By Maggie Day
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

“What an honor.”

That was how recent Penn State alumna Olivia McMahon described her experience last month when she attended the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, commonly known as COP28.

Among the heads of state and world leaders that met in Dubai from Nov. 30 to Dec. 13 of last year was a select delegation of Penn State community members.

McMahon, a 2023 graduate with a degree in energy and sustainability policy from Penn State World Campus, attended the second week of the conference to talk about her experience in the Local Climate Action Program.

The LCAP consists of two three-credit courses over a fall and spring semester where “students are partnered with Pennsylvania municipal governments to help them do greenhouse gas emission inventories” and “climate action planning,” according to the program’s co-director, Brandi Robinson.

McMahon was paired with Bucks County, Pennsylvania for her LCAP, along with another student.

“It was probably the best educational experience I’ve had in my life,” McMahon said. “I learned so much doing it.”

The summer following the LCAP, McMahon completed her capstone project by continuing her work and completing the municipality’s climate action plan.

When she traveled to Dubai, United Arab Emirates for the COP28, McMahon spoke on the “Youth and the Role of Universities in Fostering Climate Solutions” panel about her experience with the LCAP.

“I really got an understanding of the role that a university can play in creating spaces for collaboration,” McMahon said. “Just being able to bring the right people together to work effectively on problems, whether it be for climate or anything else.”

For McMahon, COP28 had an “underlying positivity” she didn’t expect to find given the way she’d “seen it portrayed in the media.”

“It’s thousands of thousands of people who are all extremely committed to the work that they’re doing,” McMahon said. “For me, personally, there was a thread of the importance of local climate action that was woven throughout all kinds of different things that I saw.”

At any given time, COP28 hosted “all different types” of sessions and panels, McMahon said.

“(The ESP program) ... does a very very good job at getting you well-versed in a topic that is just so massive,” McMahon said. “I can honestly say I had no trouble walking into any of those rooms and understanding exactly what people were saying.”

McMahon worked previously as a scientific glassblower in a large research facility, but when she had the chance to “mix up (her) life a little bit and pursue something else,” she was “thrilled” to find the world campus program that matched her interest in climate.

“I’m a returning student, I have a daughter,” McMahon said. “The flexibility that World Campus afforded me is what allowed me to do this.”

In looking to the future, McMahon said she feels “more inspired.”

Though she said she has always believed in the importance of local action, McMahon said she feels a “deeper ingrained sense” of it following COP28.

“After this whole experience, I have a better understanding of how important universities are in solving problems,” McMahon said. “I just feel so very, very fortunate that I have been able to study under the most wonderful professors.”

Robinson, an associate teaching professor in the department of energy and mineral engineering, has been working with McMahon for years as an adviser in the ESP program.

“I’m just in awe of her ability to balance everything and be such



Courtesy of Brandi Robinson

The 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change took place from Nov. 30 to Dec. 13 in Dubai.

a focused, dedicated, exceptional student. She just really went above and beyond,” Robinson said. “She was a real asset to the LCAP program last year ... she has an ability to be very poised when she is engaging with these local government officials, she’s very meticulous in her work and thorough ... I was really excited for her to have an opportunity like that.”

Robinson said last year was her “first chance” to attend UN climate negotiations.

Robinson said COP28 was a “life-changing experience” and the highlight of her career “hands-down.”

“For those of us who work in anything related to climate, that is just like the ultimate experience to have — is to be able to go to a COP.”

After making commitments to address climate change through the Paris Agreement, developed at COP21 in 2015, Robinson said this year’s conference was a global stocktake to see if delegates are on track.

For Robinson, while more needs to be done, the hope at COP28 is “absolutely palpable.”

“A lot of the news that filters out of an event like that is focused

on conflict and disagreement,” Robinson said. “But ... it is just undeniable when you are there that everyone there is trying so hard to get this right.”

Much of the climate work happens in local communities, which “absolutely matters,” Robinson said.

The LCAP, for example, is completely online and mostly asynchronous, meaning students can be and are involved from all over the world.

“We don’t have to be sitting in the same room to get some of this work done,” Robinson said. “It helps us reach a wider audience, and I would love to students from some of our commonwealth campuses participate, as well.”

The LCAP is open to any third or fourth-year undergraduate in good academic standing.

Erica Smithwick, a distinguished professor of geography and director of the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute, organized the Penn State delegation for the UN conference.

Smithwick said Penn State recently launched a Climate Consortium in an “effort to bring together climate research and activities across the university to advance and amplify our work.”

One of the things the consortium wanted to do was find a way to be present at a COP. After receiving approval on Penn State’s end, Smithwick said the university’s delegation had to apply for badges to the conference.

“The idea was that we were going to showcase Penn State’s leadership in climate research and impact and ... form collaborations with other universities and other organizations at this event,” Smithwick said.

Smithwick said COP28 meant “lots more opportunities to engage” but had to be balanced with “cost, resources and the carbon footprint.”

“To be at a meeting like this where people are coming together from all over the world and are literally working on this hard problem, it’s very, very inspiring,” Smithwick said. “You leave there with new ideas and ... examples of how that work is being done.”

Currently, Smithwick is “hopeful” Penn State will be able to attend another COP and engage in this process regularly to show that universities have a role to play in climate solutions.

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Org sets new tempo for Women in Music

By Julia Frederick
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Founded in 2021, Women in Music has served underrepresented communities and continues to create a space for musicians to cultivate their skills away from the pressures of the industry.

According to co-president CJ Seamon, the organization aimed to highlight women, gender-non-conforming and nonbinary voices in the music community.

Women in Music also serves as an opportunity for club members to rehearse for their juries, a final performance for a panel of faculty of the Penn State School of Music.

“Sometimes (juries) can be really nerve-wracking,” Seamon, a third-year studying music education, said.

“So we give people a space to just perform it in front of others. We just clap when they finish performing.”

It’s also an opportunity to network and meet new people, as co-president Alex LeCrone said she hoped for a “sense of community.”

“Especially in a field of music where you have to know people, creating a space where you’re letting yourself be known to others and wanting to know others makes it easier,” LeCrone, a third-year studying music education, said.

Vice president Pearl Lin explained one mission of the organization is to let people know “that they can put themselves out there.”

Rather than shying away from it, Lin, a second-year studying music education and music, said the organization allows performers to regain a sense of confidence.

Izzy Landis, the organization’s treasurer, hoped Women in Music can give people “the confidence”

to continue music postgraduate and beyond.

“You shouldn’t have to sacrifice a piece of yourself to do what you love, and I think that’s something we’re trying to help people realize,” Landis, a second-year studying music education, said. “There should never be a part of you that is silenced.”

LeCrone shared a similar remark and also encouraged people to stay involved in music.

“You shouldn’t feel like you need to be a professional to enjoy music or continue participating in it,” LeCrone said.

The organization is also gearing up for its second annual Women in Music festival. Last year, they hosted speakers such as Chelsea Tanner and Kalia Vandever, who played trombone with artists — including Harry Styles.

Details on the date of this year’s festival to come.

Landis shared Women in Music “opens up a bigger conversation about equity.”

“In the past few years, just our presence in the school and also the conversations we’ve been having have at least gotten some people thinking about representation in music,” LeCrone said. “I think we share this common belief that everyone should see themselves in music.”



Courtesy of CJ Seamon

Members of Women in Music pose together. The organization was founded three years ago.

Penn State alumna soon to swim in ‘Shark Tank’

By Julia Frederick
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State alumna and CEO of TORCH Warriorwear Haley McClain Hill will appear on “Shark Tank” at 8 p.m. Friday on ABC.

McClain Hill announced on her Instagram on Jan. 14 her apparel brand will “take on the sharks.”

The 2018 graduate attended Penn State and received a bachelor’s degree in mathematics.

In addition, she has served in the United States Air Force as an officer and has been a cheerleader for the San Francisco 49ers.

TORCH’s website describes

the brand as a “military apparel and lifestyle brand that celebrates, empowers, and serves current and future generations of military warriors.”

McClain Hill cited her inspiration for the brand as time spent as an Active Duty Air Force Officer and an AFROTC cadet here at Penn State.



Jamil Summaq/Collegian file photo

Students hang a banner in celebration of Black History Month in the HUB-Robeson Center on Feb. 21, 2018.

Penn State celebrates BHM

By Cady Barcak
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State will celebrate Black History Month in February and is hosting a plethora of events featuring speakers, performances, exhibits, transcribe-a-thons and more.

Here are some events for students and community members to get involved in.

Friday, Feb. 2 - Sept. 9

“Where Beauty’s At”: Expressions of Black Visual Culture, which will be located in the Eberly Family Special Collections Library in 104 Paterno Library, the exhibition will draw on the special collection and university archives to highlight works by Black writers and artists.

The exhibit will include poetry, posters, book cover designs, photograph albums and artists books.

Sunday, Feb. 4

6 p.m. — The Welcome Event Dance Party will be held in room 201 at the State College Municipal Building and will feature Penn State dance groups.

Following the performances, there will be a DJ and light refreshments. The event is free but requires registration.

Monday, Feb. 5

7 p.m. — “Check Your Body at the Door,” a film about life as an underground house dancer in New York City’s “golden decade” during the 1990s, will be shown in 132 Flex Theatre in the HUB-Robeson Center.

Following the screening, there will be a Q&A session with

dancers from the film. The event is free but registration is required.

Friday, Feb. 7

7:30 p.m. — “Underscored,” presented by Ephrat Asherie Dance, is a show that acts as a living archive of New York City club dancers throughout five generations.

The show will take place in the Eisenhower Auditorium. Performers will reflect on decades of culturally reflected styles including hip-hop, breaking, house, vogue, hustle and waacking.

Wednesday, Feb. 14

12-3 p.m. — Penn State’s Center for Black Digital Research in partnership with the College of the Liberal Arts and the Library of Congress will host a Douglass Day 2024 Transcribe-a-Thon.

The event will feature Frederick Douglass’ correspondence from the Library of Congress and participants will work to transcribe all 8,731 pages in the Mann Assembly Room in 103 Paterno Library.

Douglass Day is an annual program honoring Douglass on his birthday. Annually, people gather to create new resources to educate individuals on Black history.

The event is open to students, staff, faculty and community members. Those who are interested can register here.

For those interested in attending additional Black History Month events, visit Penn State’s website.

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WEEKEND IN REVIEW: PHOTO EDITION



Kate Hildebrand/Collegian

An official drops the puck at the women’s hockey game against Lindenwood inside Pegula Ice Arena. The Nittany Lions swept the Lions in both nights of the series.



Joel Haas/Collegian

Men’s basketball coach Mike Rhoades yells at the official during the Minnesota game in the Bryce Jordan Center. The Nittany Lions fell to the Golden Gophers 74-83.



Tyler Mantz/Collegian

The Penn State women’s hockey team celebrates a goal in the series against Lindenwood.



Alexandra Antonio/Collegian

A Penn State fan holds up a sign during the Wear White men’s hockey game against Ohio State.



Joel Haas/Collegian

The Penn State student section cheers as the men’s basektball team takes on Minnesota in the THON Game at the Bryce Jordan Center.



Esteban Marenco/Collegian

Women’s basketball guard Leilani Kapinus shoots a free throw after being fouled during the game against Maryland in the Bryce Jordan Center.



Chris Eutsler/Collegian

Men’s volleyball outside hitter Michal Kowal and fans in Rec Hall celebrate a Penn State point during the match against Ohio State.

FANS AND ATHLETES CREATED ELECTRIC ATMOSPHERES DURING THE THEMED GAMES.



Tyler Mantz/Collegian

Penn State quarterback Drew Allar signs autographs at the Battle of the Quarterback Room at Bellefonte Lanes.



Alexandra Antoniono/Collegian

A young fan cheers during the men’s ice hockey game against Ohio State.



Tyler Mantz/Collegian

Quarterback Drew Allar bowls at the Battle of the Quarterback Room at Bellefonte Lanes.

Staring down the death penalty

The controversial execution of 58-year-old convicted killer Kenneth Eugene Smith has reignited the debate surrounding capital punishment in the United States.



Seelig

After spending more than 30 years incarcerated, Smith was put to death on Jan. 25 in an Alabama prison with a first-of-its-kind execution method. This was the first time a new execution method has been used in the U.S. since the introduction of lethal injection in 1982. Smith died by breathing nitrogen gas through a face mask to cause oxygen deprivation. This incident has prompted discussions not only about the effectiveness of nitrogen gas as an execution method but also the

broader ethical and moral implications of capital punishment. Meanwhile, Smith’s case itself adds another layer to the controversy. In 1989, Smith was convicted for his involvement in a murder-for-hire plot orchestrated by Rev. Charles Sennett. Smith, John Forrest Parker and Billy Gray Williams were paid \$1,000 to kill 45-year-old Elizabeth Sennett, the reverend’s wife, so he could collect insurance money. Parker was executed in 2010 and Williams was sentenced to life in prison; however, he died in 2020. Rev. Sennett, the mastermind behind the murder, died by suicide a week after his wife’s death. So, why is the execution of Smith making headlines? The state’s prediction that

the usage of nitrogen gas would lead to rapid unconsciousness and death within minutes did not align with the actual events. During the 22-minute execution, viewers were struck with uneasiness as they watched Smith remain conscious, shaking violently and writhing on the gurney. It was noted that Smith would pull against the restraints, shaking the gurney with the force of his movements. The prolonged and visibly distressing nature of Smith’s execution has drawn attention to the humanity of such execution methods and resurfaced global institutions’ condemnations. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the reports about Smith and his death were “very troubling.” Meanwhile the European Union and U.N. Human Rights Office expressed regrets over the execution and advocated for the

abolition of capital punishment. “He was writhing and clearly suffering,” Ravina Shamdasani, spokesperson for the U.N. Human Rights Office, said. “Let’s just bring an end to the death penalty.” The deep-rooted debate over capital punishment resides in divergent perspectives, with the U.S. nearly split between state’s stance on the issue. As of 2023, 23 states abolished the death penalty. Critics argue that the death penalty violates the 14th Amendment right to life, lacks a deterrent effect and deems it inhumane and prone to racial and economic biases. On the other side, proponents assert that capital punishment provides just retribution for crimes, deters crime, protects society and upholds moral order. In contemplating the controversial execution of Smith, and

capital punishment as a whole, individuals are prompted with the moral dilemma of what is humane and what is just. So, as global voices express their stance and the U.S. continues to grapple with alternate perspectives, it’s important that the people question if the death penalty is just retribution or inhumane systematic flaws. I invite you to ponder these complexities, living within a nation divided on the matter, where do you stand on the ethics and efficacy of capital punishment? As for Smith, in his final state, he proclaimed that Alabama “causes humanity to take a step backwards.”

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Cartoons by Kathleen McGill

MY VIEW | TEAGAN MAYR

Affordable housing should be a community-wide priority

Finding housing in State College is a modern day miracle and is reflected in the price. The average rent for an apartment in State College is \$2,000 per month, with variations depending on location, size and quality of the property. Resulting in an average \$24,000 spent on rent each year. Despite these costs, student salaries don’t meet the needs of housing costs with the average student salary in Pennsylvania being about \$37,000 each year. Although the median age in State College is 21.5, it’s not just students experiencing the burden of expensive housing. Members across the community are plagued with the issue as well. Community efforts such as Out of The Cold in Centre



Mayr

County are experiencing a shortage in room, forcing members to have limited stays as the demands for housing increases. The demand for affordable housing has only been on the rise since the COVID-19 pandemic but is being met with corporate monopolies on historical and community-based housing. Luxury apartments and student living have significant contributions to the State College community but the needs of the general population can’t be ignored. As more luxury living options are built in State College, affordable off-campus housing will be financially driven out of the market. Leaving those in need

of affordable housing with very little power as the economy has proven their ability to survive without lower-income business. The reality is people who aren’t able to meet the rising rent costs are being forced to leave the community. A community fruitful of so many resources, especially when it comes to education, shouldn’t be exclusionary of people who are trying to learn and grow. While it’s important to prioritize economic development, it’s ethically important to ensure that people aren’t being left behind in the process. Although affordable housing may not bring in as much revenue in comparison to luxury

“The reality is people who aren’t able to meet the rising rent costs are being forced to leave the community.”

Teagan Mayr

housing, at the end of the day, it’s more economically viable to provide long-term solutions such as affordable housing instead of short-term housing in shelters. The issue of housing is not black or white, there needs to be an in between. There must be options for people to prevent them from falling through the cracks, to allow for recovery as the economy ebbs and flows. College is a transitional period and it only makes sense for university communities to accommodate those in transition times in their lives. Communities are built on support for each other, not the preservation of personal gain.

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DAILY COLLEGIAN

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2,000 CAREER POINTS

Makenna Marisa becomes seventh Lady Lion to reach historic milestone

By Lyle Alenstein
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With under three minutes to go in the third quarter, Makenna Marisa received a screen from Ali Brigham, where she unleashed a behind-the-back snatch to a between-the-legs crossover dribble combination to gain enough space to take it to the rack and convert a layup.

The basket gave the graduate student her 2,000th career point, making her the seventh player in Lady Lion program history to do so and 10th Nittany Lion — including Talor Battle, Lamar Stevens and Jesse Arnette from the men's team.

Entering the contest against Northwestern, the McMurray, Pennsylvania native was sitting at 1,989 total points, but that number didn't last for long.

One of the staples of the team's culture caught fire quickly on Thursday night, lighting up Welsh Ryan Arena en route to the history books and a 76-65 win over the Wildcats.

"She's been a leader since I've gotten to campus," guard Leilani Kapinus said Nov. 29 following a win against Radford.

"She's always talking to us, walking us through offensive sets, putting us in our places, commanding and directing us. She's huge for us on both ends."

The phenom notched 20 points on 4-7 shooting from 3-point range as she stamped her name into the record books.

The sharpshooter has been a staple of the Penn State program and culture since

"Anyone who's been around Makenna obviously understands how important she is to Penn State important Penn State is to her. She really only cares about her teammates."

Carolyn Kieger
Coach

Big Ten five years later has shown the team's improvement

she stepped foot on campus and logged her first minutes in Happy Valley.

"This team makes it easy," Marisa said Nov. 13 after defeating Kansas.

Playing at Penn State since 2019, Marisa is the longest-tenured Lady Lion.

The 2019 group had an abysmal 7-23 record, so for the team to be sitting near the top of the Big Ten five years later has shown the team's improvement

alongside Marisa over time.

She has been by coach Carolyn Kieger's side for a long time, which is something Kieger has been grateful for as the guard has developed.

"I think anyone who's been around Makenna obviously understands how important she is to Penn State and how important Penn State is to her," Kieger said Monday. "She's such an unselfish player. She really only cares about her teammates and Penn State."

Marisa has been nothing but a constant presence on the court during the duration of her career, never missing a game until the Ohio State game this year.

After suffering an ankle injury, the guard was sidelined for a four-game stretch and the team missed her presence se-

verely despite going 3-1 in her absence.

"That's what's so dangerous about this team," Marisa said after the Radford game. "We have so many weapons, and someone is always gonna go off and we're gonna hit the hot hand."

The graduate student took a game to shake off the rust as in her return to the hardwood against Indiana, she notched just six points and an uncharacteristic three turnovers.

"You would never know on the bench or on the sideline that you know she is weathering this," Kieger said. "She's just all about her teammates and all about giving positive energy."

The phenom returned to her typical form one game later against Rutgers, as she garnered 17 points against the

Scarlet Knights.

Three games later, the guard stamped herself into the history books, with the 2000-point mark serving as a testament to her success repping the blue and white threads.

Marisa will forever have her name etched into the history books for the Lady Lions, and her legacy as not only a player but as a person won't be forgotten.

"To see her go through what she's gone through the last four years, to rebuild this program and be the leader, and be the catalyst for us to make the turnaround just speaks volumes," Kieger said.

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Chris Eutsler/Collégian

Forward Aiden Fink (18) takes a shot on goal during overtime of the Penn State Men's hockey game in Pegula Arena.

Fink dominates the rink as freshman star

By Zach Karpf
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Through a season with countless ups and downs, exciting wins and heartbreaking losses, Guy Gadowsky's focus has never strayed from player performance and Penn State commitment to excellence.

Many notable players have seen themselves thrust into the spotlight this season, but none more than the Nittany Lions' talented group of freshman skaters.

Matt DiMarsico ranks second on the team with 15 assists and fifth overall with 21 points. Reese Laubach has had a well-rounded offensive season with seven goals and eight assists, but has had penalty trouble, picking up 11 on the season for second most on the squad.

On top of their strong performance, one player stands out above the rest in terms of presence on the ice, as well as offensive production.

Aiden Fink has proven so far

this season why he deserves all of the praise he receives. The freshman leads the Nittany Lions in both major offensive categories with 14 goals and 16 assists on the season, combining for a team-high 30 points.

"(Fink's) play has not only been excellent and productive, it's been inspiring and is so fun to watch," Gadowsky said. "He's been really, really good."

During Friday night's game against Ohio State, Fink was a machine on the power play, netting both of Penn State's advantage goals — numbers 13 and 14 for the Calgary, Alberta, native on the season.

Fink's talent wasn't something that was discovered due to his play at Penn State however, as the rookie forward's prowess on the ice was recognized prior to the season by NHL scouts.

The Nashville Predators took Fink at 218th overall in the 2023 NHL Draft, making him one of two players on Penn State's roster to be drafted to a professional team before starting at college alongside fellow freshman Reese Laubach, who was drafted by the San Jose Sharks in 2022.

No. 18's play this season has gained him a multitude of recognitions and honors, most notably being named to the initial list of nominees for the Hobey Baker Memorial Award. The award is given to a player that has been recognized as the best player in men's college hockey.

"(The nomination) is so very, very well deserved," Gadowsky said. "He plays a very aggressive game. He does it when he's tired, he does it when he's fresh, he does it when he's third high, he does it when the puck is turned over. He's an all-around player, I'll tell you that."

With nine games remaining on the regular season schedule for the Nittany Lions, Fink and company have multiple opportunities to continue to add on to their already impressive statlines.

After eclipsing the 30-point mark, Penn State's freshman phenom has even more to prove in the following weeks leading up to the Big Ten Tournament, as he continues to skyrocket into hockey stardom,

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Super Bowl bound

By Joel Haas
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State will be well represented in Las Vegas, with three former players set to compete in the Super Bowl on Feb. 11.

Former Penn State offensive tackle Donovan Smith will seek his second career Super Bowl championship when the Kansas City Chiefs head to Las Vegas to take on the San Francisco 49ers. Smith will face fellow ex-Nittany Lions Ji'Ayir Brown, a safety, and defensive tackle Kevin Givens.

Smith joined the Chiefs on a one-year deal this offseason after being cut by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, where he spent the previous eight seasons. The Buccaneers drafted him with the 34th overall pick in 2015, and he would go on to win Super Bowl LV in 2021 when blocking for Tom Brady.

Prior to the NFL, Smith played with the Nittany Lions from

2011-14, making 31 career starts and earning praise as one of the top offensive tackles in the country.

Brown is in his first professional season after being selected in the third round this offseason. He spent two seasons at Lackawanna before transferring to Penn State, where he played another three.

As a Nittany Lion, Brown recorded 153 tackles across 35 games and added 10 interceptions. His six picks in 2021 were the most by any Penn State player since 2006.

Givens played at Penn State from 2015-17, where he recorded 82 tackles across 39 games. He was signed by San Francisco as an undrafted free agent in 2019, and was waived and re-signed within the same year. Since then, Givens has appeared in 57 games with the 49ers and recorded 80 tackles, including a career-high 23 this season.

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Chris Szagola/AP

San Francisco 49ers safety Ji'Ayir Brown looks on during the NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

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