

The Daily Collegian

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Speak UP
Speak
OUT

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Edition

Understanding the bystander effect

By Mia Debelevich
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

It doesn't always look like violence. Sometimes it looks like a hand that lingers too long, a joke that doesn't land.

Everyone sees it — sort of. Eyes glance, shoulders shift, someone coughs and looks away.

That hesitation has a name: the bystander effect. People may care, but no one wants to make a scene either.

Kirk French recalled witnessing his sober friend take intoxicated women home from a bar during college.

French, a professor of anthropology and film production and media studies, said he and his friends referred to the friend as a creep, but did not intervene.

"It seems like common sense that if you see something going on, you do something to distract or intervene," he said. "I think that when I would see something going on that was questionable, to me, the only reaction would be to go up and confront the person, which I'm less likely to do."

French said having education surrounding the bystander effect now has shifted his view of the situation.

He now includes a lecture in his Anthropology of Alcohol course

that helps students understand being an active bystander in settings that involve alcohol.

"There's this thin line between everything being fine and everything going sideways," French said.

He added that he wants to encourage his students to "be better than" him, and recognize there are various options in any situation.

Speaking up doesn't have to be confrontational. It's often about seeing the quiet moments where speaking up can shift the outcome.

Jennifer Pencek said there

needs to be a focus on taking people from inactive bystanders to active bystanders.

"The bystander effect can be when we choose not to intervene in a situation because we assume someone else will do it," Pencek, the executive director of Centre Safe, said. "Being an active bystander (is) actively seeing what's happening around me, and if I see someone who needs help, I'm gonna do something to help them."

A larger change may come when people across the board receive proper education surrounding sexual violence, she said.

"We need to talk about bystander intervention, and we need to

talk about just human respect for one another," Pencek said.

Education plays an important role in prevention, Pencek said. People often don't recognize various methods of intervention; they see conflict as the only answer.

Jacob Frank, the program coordinator for men's engagement and peer education for the Relationship Violence Outreach, Intervention and Community Education (R-VOICE) Center, said the center teaches the "3 Ds" — direct, delegate and distract.

He said to direct means stepping in to address the situation, to delegate involves asking someone else more comfortable to intervene and to distract is creating a diversion to help remove a person from potential harm.

Pencek also said the "3 Ds" are a great way of getting more people within the category of active bystanders.

"You have a menu of options of ways," Pencek said. "The goal is that you're keeping someone safe."

Frank noted that he's noticed students are becoming more receptive to having conversations, as well as more vocal about sexual and relationship violence.

"Students are always going to be the most informed on what they need in their culture," Frank said.

Pencek acknowledged a cultural shift as well, and said it presents an opportunity for reclamation. Rape culture is prevalent in society, but there can be a counter-culture that instead inspires intervention.

"Instead of saying, 'Oh my gosh, this is so awful,' and then the perpetrators win, why can't we take our culture back?" Pencek said. "It's awareness plus action. So now that we're aware of it, what are we prepared to do about it?"

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Resources for survivors explained

By Veronica Figg
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Here's a list of resources available at Penn State and in State College for students who are survivors of sexual violence.

Medical services

The Mount Nittany Medical Center and Penn Highlands State College provide survivors with medical care and evidence collection exams.

An evidence collection exam is only done with the survivor's written consent and consists of a thorough examination by collecting any evidence of the assault found during the exam.

The exam is conducted by a trained sexual assault nurse examiner, but a police officer and advocate from Centre Safe are also involved. Police notification is required for an evidence collection exam, but the survivor is not required to speak with the police.

A non-evidence collection exam looks for any injuries or STIs; it does not include evidence collection.

Unlike the evidence collection exam, police are not notified of the circumstances of the assault unless there are extreme injuries, the survivor would like to report the incident to the police, a weapon was used, the perpetrator was a stranger or the survivor is under 18.

University Health Services

University Health Services (UHS) provides non-forensic medical care consisting of medical evaluation and treatment.

Evidence exams cannot be performed at UHS, but the center provides medical treatment to address pregnancy risk, STIs, involuntary drugging or other injuries related to the incident.

On-campus resources

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

CAPS is a confidential service for survivors that offers individual counseling, group counseling and emergency appointments for survivors.

Office of Sexual Misconduct Reporting & Response

OSMRR can help survivors make a formal report that leads to a formal Title IX investigation of the perpetrator.

Those who want to speak confidentially should ask for a confidential employee — identifying information shared with these individuals will not be disclosed without the complainant's explicit consent, except in rare and extreme situations.

The office also works with survivors to change on-campus housing assignments, alter classroom assignments and issue an administrative no-contact order to the perpetrator.

R-VOICE Center

The R-VOICE Center is another free and confidential resource.

The center provides one-on-one crisis intervention and support counseling for survivors. The center also offers education advocacy and referrals to other support services on and off campus for survivors.

The Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (CSGD)

As a confidential resource for survivors who identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community, CSGD offers support through a mentorship program, discussion groups, Queer Peers, Clothing Transit, scholarships and a student emergency fund.

Off-campus resources

Centre Safe

Centre Safe is a confidential resource that offers a 24-hour hotline staffed by trained sexual assault and domestic violence counselors that can direct survivors to support services.

The center also offers emergency shelter for survivors fleeing abuse or violence, as well as short-term empowerment counseling that provides advocacy, safety planning, information and referrals to other support services in the community.

Along with hosting support groups, Centre Safe also offers legal services, including assistance in obtaining civil orders of protection for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

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Crowds in green walk down College Ave during State Patty's Day on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023 in State College, Pa.



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'AN OUTLET FOR STRENGTH'

Lambda Theta Alpha holds annual Take Back the Night event

By Rachael Keller
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The rain and cold didn't keep the State College community from participating in Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.'s annual Take Back the Night event.

The international movement was intended to create an open and safe space for survivors to share their assault stories, according to event co-chair Jayden Foxx.

"It's a way for the community to stay engaged...to support people who have been affected by this ongoing issue that we see on our campus," Foxx, a fourth-year studying political science, said.

The event began in front of Old Main, where several community members and students shared speeches to kick off the event.

Sophia Mills, a program coordinator of outreach and prevention from the R-Voice Center, Jennifer Penceek, executive director of Centre Safe and a CAPS representative all shared resources for survivors, including advocacy, counseling, case manage-



Alexandra Antoniono/Collegian

Students walk through campus toward East Halls during the Take Back the Night event on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 in University Park, Pa.

ment, 24/7 hotlines and support programs.

Mills said it's important to give survivors back their autonomy that they may feel is lost, help them navigate their trauma and isolation and reassure them they're not broken but

resilient and don't need rescuing. She called these responses the "ABCs" — autonomy, believing and confidence.

Following the groups, State College Mayor Ezra Nanes addressed the crowd, saying he was heartened by the size of the group and inspired by the sorority sisters' efforts to create the event.

Nanes said no one should be targeted for sexual or domestic violence based on their gender, identity or sexuality. He said safety, acknowledgement and accountability are some of the pillars of human dignity.

Following the Mayor's speech, two members of Writers Organizing to Represent Diverse Stories (WORDS) shared poems they had written for the event titled "Wings" and "The Hands We Hold."

A member of R-Voice kicked off the event with her story about surviving a sexual assault when she was 19 and attending Penn State.

The group then walked behind

a large, black banner with white lettering saying "Take Back the Night" to different places on campus, including Pattee and Paterno Library, East and Pollock Halls and eventually back in front of Old Main.

Larra Lopez, a co-chair of the event, said the march is meant to stop at "hotspots" where domestic and sexual violence take place.

According to Lopez, a fifth-year studying psychology, a "hotspot" is an area on campus where assaults happen at an excessive rate, like dormitory halls.

"Penn State is such a big campus, I think some issues may get swept under the rug, that's just the nature of it," she said. "I think bringing awareness to such an amazing cause is really important."

At each of these places, the Lambda sisters would open the floor for any willing audience members to take the microphone and share their survivor stories.

Students and community members of all ages, genders and sexualities tearfully shared their stories. Stories ranged from experiences with sexual violence as a child to domestic violence more recently. Oftentimes bystanders would join the audience to listen in on stories and even share their own.

Speakers were met with encouraging comments from the audience, embraces from their friends and applause for their courage when they finished their speech.

The night ended with a glowstick vigil in front of Old Main to commemorate those who have lost their lives to sexual, domestic or dating violence. Each of the glowsticks represented one life lost to these issues, and the moment of silence that accompanied the vigil was to honor the lives or remember a loved one.

Salma Morales said she attended the event because she thinks it's very important to highlight the stories of sexual and domestic violence survivors as it's something that happens every day and people may not even know it's happened to them.

A lot of people's stories go unheard and unreported, according to Morales, a fourth-year studying political science. She said events like Take Back the Night are great opportunities to encourage those who have been assaulted to speak up because they deserve closure, whether the assault was yesterday or 15 years ago.

"It's like an outlet for strength," Morales said. "To get the strength for yourself, to have the courage to tell your stories, not blame yourself and sympathize with others."

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Alexandra Antoniono/Collegian

Sophia Mills, program coordinator at the R-Voice center, speaks during the Take Back the Night event outside Old Main.

'CLOTHING DOES NOT EQUAL CONSENT'

Display shows outfits, quotes from survivors

By Luke Snyder
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The phrase "I haven't worn the outfit since" is displayed above a pair of sweatpants and a crew-neck as attendants file through the various hung up outfits.

The Relationship Violence Outreach, Intervention and Community Education Center (R-VOICE) put on its "What Were You Wearing" event in the HUB-Robeson Center's Charlotte Ray Lounge last Friday afternoon. This event showcased dozens of outfits and anonymous quotes from survivors of sexual violence.

Displayed outfits included pajama sets, bathrobes, oversized sweatpants and more. Descriptions above the outfits varied, with some simply stating the clothes each survivor was wearing, and others providing details about the events that led up to their assault. Many times, the first question survivors receive after sharing their story is, "What were you wearing?" and this inspired the name behind the displays.

"This exhibit specifically addresses the clothing aspect of things to really showcase that clothing does not equal consent," R-VOICE Program Coordinator for Outreach and Prevention Sophia Mills said. "It's really a visual representation of different examples of clothing... it's really powerful if you've never been before."

One display shared the story of its clothing being used as evidence in court. Below, a dark brown tank top and jean shorts,

all from Hollister.

"It was my favorite tank top, and my mom had to explain to me why it was never going to be returned to me," the sign above read.

Mills shared the goal of the event is to combat the myths associated with sexual assault. R-VOICE hopes to dismantle some of the assumptions and stereotypes that can be associated with survivors of sexual violence.

"No matter what you are wearing, [it] doesn't equal consent. Regardless of any of those identity factors: age, gender, religion, socioeconomic status, race or sexual orientation," Mills said.

This event was also co-sponsored by Centre Safe, an organization dedicated to empowering survivors of sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking and to provide resources to those affected.

It offers an anonymous 24-hour hotline, professional and confidential services and advocacy and counseling. Avery Heverly, the prevention educator on the Outreach Education team at Centre Safe, said that their services are for everyone.

"We have an emergency shelter, which a lot of people don't know that it's for students as well. It's for anyone in the Centre County area needing to get out of an environment," Heverly said.

Through its various resources, Centre Safe offers many ways for members of the community to get involved and volunteer with them as well.

Through its volunteer training program, students and residents

can give their time to Centre Safe and become trained counselors.

Cara Schmitt is one of these trained counselors, and said it helps empower her through her own personal connection to sexual violence awareness.

"I was looking into places I could volunteer in State College," Schmitt, a second-year studying biochemistry and molecular biology, said. I heard about Centre Safe, which is pretty meaningful for me, so I wanted to get involved."

Schmitt also added that the Centre Safe website has more information about volunteering for those who want to get involved.

R-VOICE and Centre Safe offer numerous workshops and information sessions to help students learn more about the signs and dangers of sexual and relationship violence. In addition, Heverly suggests other ways you can help by being an active bystander.

"If someone looks inebriated and is stumbling somewhere with someone else, we can go up and ask directly, 'Hey, do you need help? What can I do to help you?'" Heverly said.

Heverly also suggested using a distraction and shifting the focus to something else by asking the person in the situation questions about the news, dropping something next to them or getting another trusted adult to help.

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A row of outfits sits on the "What Were You Wearing" exhibit at the HUB-Robeson Center on Friday, April 11, 2025 in University Park, Pa.

Alexa Nikolas gives lecture

By Mia Debelevich
FOR THE COLLEGIAN



Jacob DeLuca/Collegian
Alexa Nikolas speaks on Thursday, April 3, 2025 in Alumni Hall.

be reminded of the progress," Nikolas said. "We really have succeeded in a lot of ways... Even sexual harassment wasn't a thing in my mom's era. You could rape your spouse up until '93, legally."

Nikolas also mentioned Assembly Bill 2777, which recently passed in California and prevents perpetrators from suing survivors for coming forward. She said she started Eat Predators because her abuser, her ex-husband, was able to release details of her child sexual abuse in their divorce agreement without her knowledge.

"I wasn't allowed to have a lawyer because he threatened me and said he would put me on the street, that I was going to disappear, and I had nobody," she said.

Nikolas recalled her abuser, with support from his management team, telling her this meant she could no longer speak out about her experience.

"Institutions are designed to protect themselves and not people," Nikolas said. "It's in the recipe to only want to protect itself."

Her current endeavor, alongside Eat Predators, is working on passing a bill that would void abuse disclosures if one was not legally represented in a stipulated judgment.

Nikolas is also hoping to make sure there are more trauma-informed representatives for those going through these processes. She wants to see complete reformation with law enforcement, so survivors themselves are leading units that deal with cases of abuse rather than those lacking genuine care for survivors.

"Every big, major revolution that we've ever seen just started with one person," Nikolas said. "We can change the world."

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‘Healing is never linear’

Professionals discuss navigating life after sexual assault

By Rachael Keller
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Content warning: This story discusses sexual assault. Resources and support are available through Penn State's Counseling and Psychological Services.

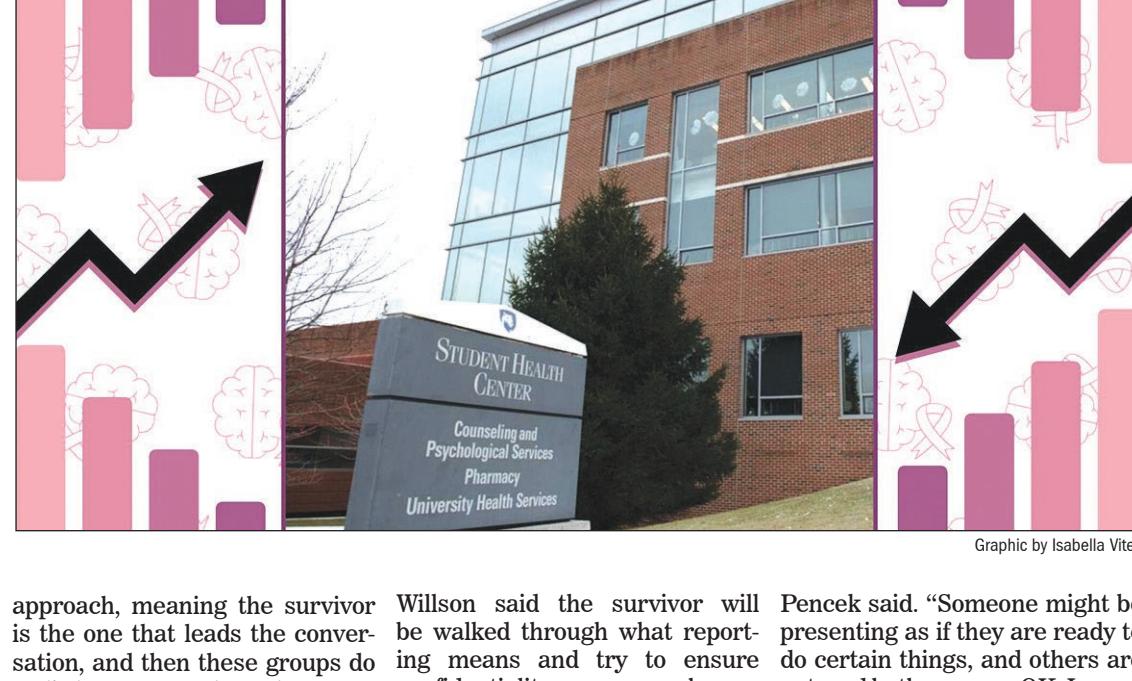
April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is meant to educate and talk about the widespread issue of sexual assault, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Jennifer Pencek, executive director of Centre Safe, said the center assists around 200 sexual assault survivors per year. Additionally, 1,500-2,000 calls are made to the center's 24-hour hotline about sexual crimes; it's one of the "top" crimes people call to talk about, according to Pencek.

Yvette Willson, director of the Relationship Violence Outreach, Intervention and Community Education Center (R-VOICE), said sexual assault is one of the most underreported violent crimes in the country for a number of reasons, including mistrust in the system, fear of not being believed or the survivor blaming themselves.

"Just getting somebody to reach out for services is a huge step in the right direction, because nobody deserves to go through that healing time alone," Willson said. "It's never going to be easy, but at least they'll have somebody that believes them and is there to support them and help them as they move forward."

Centre Safe and R-VOICE take similar approaches in assisting survivors after an assault. Pencek called it a "drive the bus"



Graphic by Isabella Viteri

approach, meaning the survivor is the one that leads the conversation, and then these groups do as little or as much as they want them to.

"It's not telling them what they need to do, or even what they should do," Pencek said. "The client very much directs things."

When a survivor comes to R-VOICE, whether on Zoom, over the phone or in person, a professional will begin by talking with them and explaining some of the policies they have in place.

Willson said R-VOICE is a confidential office, but there are some exceptions to that rule. For instance, every R-VOICE professional is a mandated reporter for child abuse, or if the crime was committed on campus, they are mandated to make a Clery Act report.

In both of these instances,

Willson said the survivor will be walked through what reporting means and try to ensure confidentiality as much as possible.

Pencek said when survivors come to Centre Safe, officials will talk with them a bit about why they came in and ensure they are informed of different services the center provides.

The center can assist survivors in filing reports or protection orders, safety planning, finding them information, support groups or individual counseling, with R-VOICE having similar resources for students.

Since R-VOICE is a university group, it can also walk survivors through the university legal process of how to navigate classes, assignments and on-campus safety planning.

"Healing is never linear;"

Pencek said. "Someone might be presenting as if they are ready to do certain things, and others are not, and both are very OK. I never want people to feel pressure that they have to know what they want to do. It's more giving people breathing space."

Mary Ohashi, survivor advocate and case manager at R-VOICE, said there's a number of ways survivors may react after a sexual assault, highlighting "flight, fight, freeze."

Ohashi said there can be someone who is completely shut down, angry, crying or a mixture of all three.

"Trauma is so uniquely individualized based upon prior experiences, based on what happened in this trauma," Ohashi said. "So, unfortunately, there isn't one 'most common way.' I think it's really very specific to each person."

Ohashi said feeling shame or blaming oneself is a common response to sexual trauma, and it's important to normalize and validate it.

Willson said victims who blame themselves may reference that they were out drinking, dancing or wearing a short skirt and a low-cut blouse. She said people have a right to do these things, and that doesn't give anyone the right to assault them.

She also said sometimes self-blame can stem from someone initially consenting to sexual activity, but only one part of it, or they change their mind for any reason.

"You can't control what someone else does to you, and it doesn't matter if you were out late or drinking or you've had sex 5,000 times with 5,000 people — sexual assault is never your fault," Pencek said.

Healing is not an easy or one-size-fits-all process for anyone, but all three professionals agree the blame lies with the perpetrator.

Willson said there are so many perpetrators who don't care about the lives they mess with and the people they hurt, often saying things like, "They didn't say no," or "They were silent."

"Perpetrators need to understand that it's not about them," Willson said. "If you're coming together with another person, both people have to have that mutual, informed, enthusiastic consent, and unless you have that, you're really risking hurting their lives as well as your own."

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Reporting sexual violence

By Lily Groover
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Understanding how to report sexual violence and access support can empower survivors and connect them with the resources they need.

Penn State provides several reporting options, as well as resources to help survivors navigate the process, access support services and understand their next steps.

Anyone who witnesses sexual violence can submit an online report to the University's Office of Sexual Misconduct Reporting and Response (OSMRR). The form asks for any information the reporter can provide, including who was involved, the location and type of behavior that was witnessed.

An in-person report can also be made in either the OSMRR in 120 Boucke Building, or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access (OEQA) in 328 Boucke Building. Zoom drop-in appointments are

available Monday through Friday between 1:00-4:30 p.m., and students are asked to submit a request form beforehand for a case manager to review.

Another way to make a report is anonymously through the Penn State Hotline, which is available 24/7. Either call 1-800-560-1637, or visit the website to submit a report.

Additionally, any survivor of sexual violence can file a report with either the University Police & Public Safety if an on-campus crime occurred, or the State College Police Department if the crime occurred off campus.

University procedures for responding to reports differ and are separate from the police department. Any decisions to report misconduct are up to the survivor, and there are resources available, like the OSMRR, to help guide them through that process.

After a report is submitted, Title IX staff review all documents and decide if the behaviors fall

under Title IX Policy (AD 85) and the Discrimination & Harassment & Related Inappropriate Conduct Policy (AD 91). Both policies and their conditions are available on the Penn State Office of Ethics and Compliance website.

After the report is reviewed, appropriate investigations and hearings are scheduled to take place per the policies.

While there is no time limit to complete a report, the ability to investigate and act upon a tip may decrease as time goes on. Survivors are encouraged to file a report as soon as possible.

Penn State also offers different types of counseling services to anyone who may need emotional support, psychological services or information about reporting services.

Penn State's Relationship Violence Outreach, Intervention and Community Education (R-VOICE) Center can help anyone impacted by sexual violence. Its mission is to support students

in their relationships and educate Penn State's community by promoting awareness and building support for survivors.

Penn State's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can also provide resources for any individual who has experienced sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating/relationship violence, stalking, sexual exploitation and retaliation.

Working with a professional can play a key role in the healing process and help one better understand their options and available resources, according to CAPS.

Those who choose not to report — or are uncertain about doing so — are still entitled to confidential, free emotional support and medical care through the university, along with the option to request adjustments to academic, housing, transportation or employment arrangements.

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Resources

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

501 Student Health Center
(814) 863-0395

Centre Safe

140 W. Nittany Ave.
(814) 234-5050

Crisis Services (24/7)

Call (877) 229-6400

Text "LIONS" to 741741

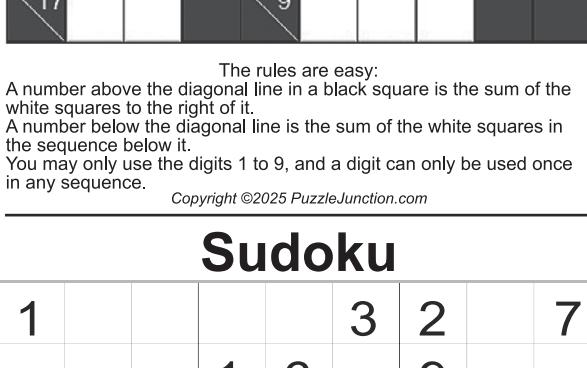
Office of Sexual Misconduct Reporting and Response (OSMRR)

120 Boucke Building
(814) 867-0099

Relationship, Violence Outreach, Intervention and Community Education Center (R-VOICE)

222U Boucke Building
(814) 863-2027

Kakuro



The rules are easy:

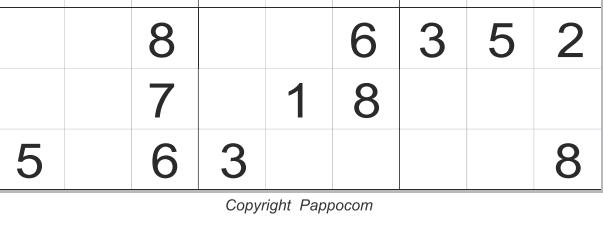
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Sudoku



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Soup's On!

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

Alphabet

Bean

Beef Barley

Bisque

Borscht

Bouillon

Broth

Chicken

Clam Chowder

Consmome

Corn

Egg Drop

French Onion

Gazpacho

Gumbo

Lentil

Matso Ball

Minestrone

Miso

Mock Turtle

Mushroom

Noodle

Oxtail

Pork Dumpling

Potato

Shark Fin

Split Pea

Tomato

Vegetable

Won Ton

Crossword



Across

1 Like some vases
5 Captain's superior
10 It's equal to 100 paisa
14 Maple genus
15 Ancient Greek marketplace
16 Tributary of the Rhine
17 Gift on "The Bachelor"
18 Beat (out)
19 One of the Aleutians
20 Walks in
22 Purse items
24 Salon creation
26 Group of two
27 School assignment
31 Fall guy
35 Suffix with project
36 High-hat
38 The New Yorker cartoonist Edward
39 Lens holders
41 Young haddock
43 Punjabi princess
44 Draw forth
46 Persimmon trees
48 Something to pick
49 It's often burning
51 Actress Flynn Boyle
55 Half-moon tide
56 1964 Fonda, Matthau thriller
60 Malodorous
64 Score before 15
65 Time on the job
67 "See you later!"
68 Turn profit
69 Like a haunted house
70 One way to run
71 Trueheart of "Dick Tracy"
72 Apprehension
73 Detective's assignment
75 Seating sections
76 Refuse visitors
77 Dress type
78 Employed
79 Notable morsel
80 Office papers
81 Sacred text
82 Zoo critter
83 Magical wish granter
84 Bluebloods
85 Arcade coin
86 Frying pans
87 Grasped, mentally
88 Notable times
89 Criticize severely
90 Cleared the boards
91 Medicinal syrup
92 Before shave or noon
93 Travel annoyance
94 First-class
95 Currier's partner
96 Leprechaun's land
97 City founded by Pizarro
98 Golden Triangle country
99 Oxen's harness
100 Actress Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"

Down

1 Stallion's mate
2 It's clicked on a computer
3 It may be out on a limb
4 Thessaly locale
5 Large and imposing houses
6 Opposite of hence
7 Tease
8 Companion of Artemis
9 Circle part
10 Union suit feature
11 Autobahn sight
12 Top Tahar sight
13 Tahar holders

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Protect international students

Penn State must stand with its international students and denounce the Trump administration's efforts to revoke student visas — often in an attempt to silence constitutionally protected speech — on college campuses nationwide.

Trump's administration has stripped almost 800 international students of their visas. Several Penn State students have had their visas revoked, according to a letter from the Interim Vice Provost of Penn State Global Sabine Klahr.

On Tuesday, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Tracy Langkilde released a statement acknowledging anxieties and expressing the university's commitment to and appreciation of its international community.

Penn State hasn't disclosed the number of students, but WPSU reported at least 14 University Park students had their visas revoked as of April 14. Centre County District Attorney Bernie Cantorna told WPSU that the visas were revoked for various offenses — 12 for retail theft, one for possession of marijuana and one for a DUI.

The letters acknowledge the

OUR VIEW

Penn State must be a leader in denouncing the Trump administration's immigration restriction efforts

"concerning incidents" nationwide and affirm the university's commitment to supporting and assisting international students, scholars and faculty. The statements include documentation and travel guidance and list resources like Student Legal Support for international community members, noting that Penn State Global staff reaches out to students once they're aware their legal status has been terminated.

This communication with targeted students feels like an afterthought — it's the bare minimum.

Penn State hasn't been proactive in vocalizing support for its international students. The letters from Klahr and Langkilde that were published after several students had their visas stripped aren't enough.

The university's international

community is living through an unprecedented time of tremendous change and extreme measures. Recognizing that federal actions have caused stress to its students isn't sufficient; Penn State needs to acknowledge it is unjust.

If Penn State truly values its international community, it must take a stronger stand. The university must publicly denounce federal efforts to restrict immigration and be the voice for its international students who have been silenced.

Penn State won't be alone.

Harvard University became the first university to resist the Trump administration's requirements to report international students who "commit conduct violations" to federal authorities Monday afternoon. Harvard's

resistance suggests "momentous significance" and a "turning point" in Trump's attack against American institutions, according to an article in the New York Times.

Penn State should find inspiration in Harvard's defiance and uphold its commitment to its international students and their voices.

Penn State has affirmed its values free speech in the past. The Office of the Vice President and Provost has a web page stating its dedication to freedom of speech and expression on campus.

But when international students on other campuses are detained for authoring opinion pieces — like Rumesya Ozturk from Tufts University — Penn State remains silent. It hasn't reassured concerned international students

nor clearly communicated how it would respond if something similar happened on one of its campuses.

Penn State must face the music of the nation's political and social climate. It's a real possibility that international students who contribute to student publications or participate in protests are at risk of their visas being revoked.

Penn State's international community is afraid. International students' education and livelihoods are in jeopardy for the same activities a student who is a U.S. citizen may partake in without significant risk — minor parking violations, underage drinking and protesting.

The university has maintained in its recent public statements that its commitment to its international community of over 11,500 students and faculty has not faltered, but it needs to go a step further in protecting them.

Penn State must defend its international community and become a leader in denouncing the Trump administration's pressures to target international students and faculty.



Cartoon by Nate Campbell

MY VIEW | JADZIA SANTIAGO

Stand firmly in your own corner

If you've been keeping up with my columns thus far, you know that I've always been relatively alone. Not lonely, just alone.

Aside from Santiago preferring a small friend group after dealing with bullying, I've been no contact with most of my family tree for almost five years. It's not necessarily a sad thing — just a decision I had to make when I was 16.

Thus, when I'm working toward achieving something, I don't exactly have a long list of people to consult. Or at least, I wasn't born with that list.

Quite the opposite, actually. If I listed the names of everyone who has wished me ill or actively tried to stop me from reaching my goals, I'd exceed the word count for this column (and probably get sued).

Despite that, I've put many people and situations that wrecked me in the rearview, and I'm heading toward a life I'm so proud of that it makes me feel faint.

Occasionally, my friends ask me, directly or indirectly, "How did you do that?"

I usually say that I wish I had an answer, but recently, I've reached some major achievements, and I've realized that I do have an answer, or at least a partial one:

I've always been in my own corner.

Ever since I was a kid, I've known exactly what I deserve, which is a life of my own making. Very early on, I got used to not caring

what was in the way.

I may not have been born with the typical support system, but I was born knowing that this life is mine to live and my future is mine to create.

As such, I've grown into a woman who always insists.

I've got a small army of phrases for different settings, like: "That's not what happened/how we're going to do this; Run another test, something's still wrong; I know what I'm doing; Don't talk to me like that; I can do it, watch me."

And, my favorite, "Never contact me again."

Whenever someone or something grabbed my ankles, I crawled. When there was no

body fighting for me, I fought for me. And when I finally did it, finally reached the tops of the mountains I've been climbing for years, I stood in the shower and cried for myself.

When you're your own fiercest ally, there's absolutely nothing that can touch you. Even when you're beaten down and everything is upended, you still have something.

Remember how I said I wasn't born with a list of people to consult or call with good news? I still have that list because I went out and wrote it down myself.

Because I've always believed in myself, I didn't listen when I was told, over and over, that I didn't deserve a community that accepted me.

Now, I have a lovely little group of people I can call about anything — and who can call me about anything.

When you learn to fight for yourself, you also become an ally for other people. I can't tell you how many friends and acquain-

tances I've gone to bat for, unfazed by the consequences.

It's not that you don't feel fear, but you don't give others the satisfaction of seeing it.

There are people who are rooting for you, and people who are rooting for whatever the opposite of you is. You learn, over time, how to tell the difference, and that the space between those two groups has nothing to do with you.

Make sure, though, that you're always in the first group.

In order to get anywhere and pass anything, one of the things you have to do is cheer yourself on, even when you fall, and people and circumstances get you down, because that will happen.

Stand firmly in your own corner, even if you're like me, with very few people (or nobody) standing with you. Especially then.

If you're afraid to, that's OK. I'm no stranger to crying and fighting for strangers. I'll be right there with you.

Jadzia Santiago is a columnist and DEI committee member for The Daily Collegian. She's a third-year double-majoring in English and communication arts and sciences. Email her at jas9280@psu.edu and follow her on X @JadziaAsan-Santiago.

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Staff perspectives on sexual violence

Content warning: The following columns contain mentions of sexual assault and suicide.

You're walking down an alley and notice a girl against the wall on her phone. She's attractive, makes eye contact, gives you a small smile. You approach her and strike up an incredible conversation, one that she lowers her phone for.

It's been an hour, and the conversation has only gotten more lively; you're lonely, she seems to be alone. You invite her to your place, and one thing leads to another.

If she's drunk, unsure, uninterested or delaying her response, don't do it because of her "signals." If she's repeatedly pushing your hand away, and you're forcing your tongue down her throat anyways, look in the mirror for 10 seconds

April is the cruellest month" is the opening line of T.S. Eliot's modernist masterpiece "The Waste Land." It's one of my all-time favorite poems, though so much of its meaning continues to elude me after years of analysis.

From all my readings, I understand this line and its following stanza as commentary on the painful memories that arise with spring. There is, of course, a more detailed and nuanced explanation of the iconic opening line, but I won't bore you with it.

April is my cruellest month. She creeps up on me every year with her unwelcome reminder that my body keeps score. I live the entire year unglued by the distant memories of the past until the social media infographics, op-eds from "victim-survivors" — a term I hate, as I don't feel I've survived anything — sickening statistics and the awareness events come piling in.

I know Sexual Assault Awareness Month wasn't created to torment me, but I'd be lying if I said it didn't sometimes feel that way. This is certainly a strange and selfish take on a month so crucial, but it's my truth. I can't deny the way my skin crawls, my heart plummets and my muscles tighten when I see those awareness campaigns on my Instagram feed.

Because, quite frankly, this is one thing from my past that I never wish to remember. And not to toot my own horn, but I do a damn good job. Don't write me saying my gaps in memory are just remnants of trauma — I know it is — but please let me have this.

Around this time last year, I

believed it.

I believed in the message that in order to move past this traumatic experience, I had to reclaim my sexuality, and the only way to do that was by becoming hypersexual.

Internally, I rebelled against this idea, but externally, I embraced this, as it seemed like my only option to heal and move on.

I began dressing quite provocatively, even though it made me uncomfortable, and the kind of attention I received made me gag. The type of men who were now pursuing me were only interested in my body, whereas before, they were also interested in me.

I began rebelling against my father, not only in dress, but in behavior. I was told that he was just another man trying to control me and put me down. No one ever mentioned — and it never occurred to me — that maybe he simply wanted what was best for me and knew a man's brain better than I did.

He understood full well what kind of picture I was painting of myself and what kind of man my dress and behavior would attract. He seemed to not only know men better than I did, but he also seemed to know me better than I did.

I never actually wanted to put my body out there for the world to see. It made me increasingly self-conscious, and I didn't want to engage in any sort of sexual activity. It was repulsive to me, but I tried to push myself to "reclaim my sexuality" in order to heal.

This behavior regrettably continued until the end of my freshman year of college. I had been

seduced by the feminist talk online that claimed to understand what I was going through.

I was told that not only was this one boy who had wronged me bad, but that he was indicative of a larger societal problem where all men were bad — and

and ask yourself if you'd like it if it happened to you.

Consent, in every form, matters.

FRIES (freely given, reversible, informed, enthusiastic and specific) is a method we should all use when it comes to consent. Consent should never be viewed as given if the person is unclear with their body language or response. Unless the "yes" follows the concept of FRIES, you shouldn't follow through.

Asking four times and hoping to hear "yes" the fifth time isn't consent. That's pressure and manipulation. Telling them they already said "yes" even though they asked you to stop isn't consent.

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'NO ONE IS ILLEGAL'

State College residents, students protest against ICE activity

By Claire Huss
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In light of several Penn State students having their visas revoked earlier this month and nationwide ICE detentions on college campuses, State College residents united in a community demonstration at the Allen Street Gates at 6 p.m. last Wednesday.

The Student Committee for Defense and Solidarity, Latino Caucus, United Socialists at PSU, People's Defense Front, Students for Justice in Palestine and Centre County Rapid Response Network laid out three demands via an Instagram post as reasons for protesting:

- Penn State administration take action to defend international and undocumented students, faculty and staff.
- Penn State administration refuse to cooperate with ICE.
- Penn State stand for its students and their right to an education without fear and provide resources to support and protect students.

Protesters chanted phrases like "Power to the people; no one is illegal," "Say it loud, say it clear; immigrants are welcome here" and "No more deportation; fight for liberation."

Luke Gosnell came to the protest to pressure Penn State administration to take action, citing successful student protests during the Civil Rights era and the Vietnam War as proof of the power students hold.



Alexandra Antoniou/The Daily Collegian

A protester yells a chant during the Unite to Defend International Students and Immigrants protest on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 in State College, Pa.

"(The university) couldn't even offer an empty message of support for students who are being deported, having their visas taken away," Gosnell, a fourth-year studying political science and philosophy, said. "It's important to fight. It's not an issue that just affects (immigrants and international students), it affects us all."

Organizers provided masks to protestors and handed out tarjetas rojas and cards with a phone number to report activity from ICE officers.

Kate Heinzel, co-leader of the Centre County Rapid Response Network, welcomed people in the

area to become trained observers to "keep everybody safe."

"We want to promote power, promote people thriving, being able to go to school and work without fear," Heinzel said. "We are documenting when ICE is here and simply letting the community know what we've learned."

Several speakers from student organizations spoke, including Roua Daas from Students for Justice in Palestine.

"Repression has never stopped the people," Daas, a graduate student studying clinical psychology and women's, gender and sexuality studies, said in her speech.

Beck Scheinberg said students have "a lot more power when (they) come together."

"I'm feeling like we're on the brink of our government descending into fascism, and if I don't fight against it, I'm just watching all of these people have their rights taken away," Scheinberg, a graduate student studying clinical psychology, said.

At the Allen Street Gates, a counter-protester blew cigarette smoke into the face of protesters and shouted, "Go Israel" and "Go Trump."

After an hour, the protesters occupied West College Avenue, where they were met with

expletives shouted by drivers, revved engines and honks.

The protesters continued up Fraser Street, then proceeded down West and East Beaver Avenues, chanting, "Whose streets? Our streets."

While they neared the intersection at West Beaver Avenue and South Allen Street, a motorcyclist drove through the crowd. No one was harmed.

As the crowd passed Penn Tower apartments, students on their balconies either waved in support or screamed, "Go Trump" and "Get the f--- out of the street."

The protesters persevered back to the Allen Street Gates and moved to Old Main.

After nearly two hours, the crowd dispersed around 8 p.m.

Daas said the censorship of speech surrounding student protests around the country for various causes is all connected and that students have to "struggle alongside each other in the fight for liberation."

"The Trump administration is doing everything they can to make us scared, and this is a direct result of our movements being powerful and our fight for justice being powerful," Daas said. "We are not going to back down just because you are trying to scare us — in fact, we are going to go harder."

To email reporter: cjh7005@psu.edu.
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Geraldine Cruz/The Daily Collegian

A runner celebrates during the Super Gay 5K on Saturday, April 12, 2025 by the HUB-Robeson Center in University Park, Pa.

CSGD holds Super Gay 5K

By Jonathon Chiu
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity held its fourth annual Super Gay 5K outside the HUB-Robeson Center on Saturday as part of Penn State Pride Month.

Three hundred sixty people registered to run in the 5K, with volunteers from CSGD offering commemorative T-shirts and pride-themed items for participants to wear.

Runners who opted to wear numbered bibs were given the opportunity to have their run timed and tracked by volunteers at the HUB.

The Super Gay 5K was also accompanied by volunteers from Free Mom Hugs, who attended in support of both the participants and volunteers.

CSGD director Sonya Wilmoth said these events allow for the representation of Penn State's LGBTQ+ community and that there are allies who are willing to assist them.

"We have a ton of allies here, and that is so helpful for us to know that," Wilmoth said. "Our students recognize (that) there's this many people who are going to come out on a rainy, cold day and support us as people and our identities on campus."

Kate Rawson, the assistant director for CSGD, said it's important to continue holding events such as the Super Gay 5K despite the current political climate.

"I think it's important now more than ever to create those spaces where people can be themselves and find support in their

"We have a ton of allies here, and that is so helpful for us to know that."

Sonya Wilmoth
CSGD director

"As a queer student, I wanted to come out and be able to be part of this community with everyone," Barley, a second-year studying theatre, said. "It was one of my personal goals to run a 5K ... in 2025. So, I have two birds, one stone right there."

Barley continued by stating how events like the Super Gay 5K allow the campus LGBTQ+ community to represent itself while also bringing the larger State College community together.

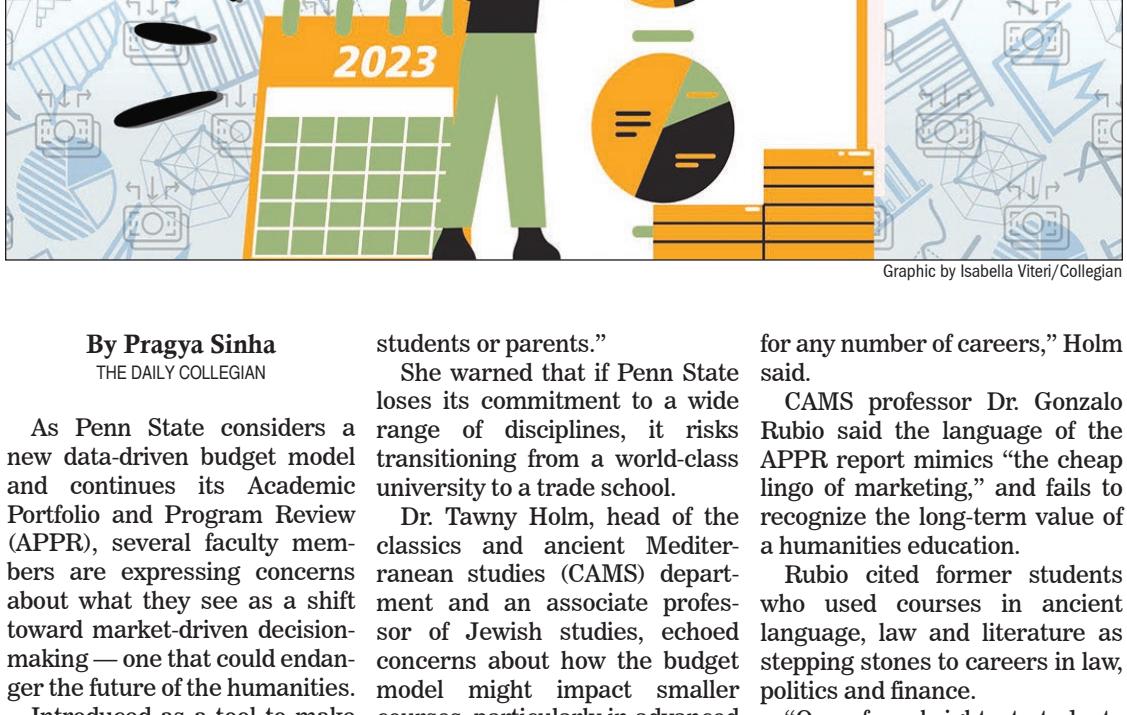
"For the first part, it's just the visibility; we're here, we're proud of who we are, we're happy to be here," Barley said. "There's also a chance for other queer individuals and allies from the broader community to get together and meet us."

To email reporter: jwc6496@psu.edu.

Follow him on X @JonChiu38880.

Humanities at risk?

Penn State faculty express concern over data-driven budget model



By Pragya Sinha
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As Penn State considers a new data-driven budget model and continues its Academic Portfolio and Program Review (APPR), several faculty members are expressing concerns about what they see as a shift toward market-driven decision-making — one that could endanger the future of the humanities.

Introduced as a tool to make the university more efficient, the model emphasizes student enrollment figures and could result in cuts to low-enrollment courses, many of which are in the humanities.

"I won't comment on the particular model that is being presented by Penn State because I don't know enough about it yet," Dr. Erica Brindley, head of the Asian studies department and professor of history and philosophy, said. "But in general, I do think that what we call the 'butts in seats' model ... pits different units within the university against each other."

Brindley said such models encourage departments to chase enrollment numbers, rewarding programs like engineering and business, while marginalizing disciplines perceived as less directly linked to job outcomes.

"This is very unfortunate," Brindley said. "Fields like classics, Chinese philosophy, ancient history — even math, literature or the social sciences — tend to pursue foundational knowledge. That kind of learning is powerful, but often not seen as immediately 'useful' by

students or parents."

She warned that if Penn State loses its commitment to a wide range of disciplines, it risks transitioning from a world-class university to a trade school.

Dr. Tawny Holm, head of the classics and ancient Mediterranean studies (CAMS) department and an associate professor of Jewish studies, echoed concerns about how the budget model might impact smaller courses, particularly in advanced language instruction.

"Currently, we are able to offer advanced levels of language courses even when they have small enrollments," Holm said. "Not only because they fulfill requirements for our majors and minors, but because our popular general education courses help make up the difference in credit hours."

CAMS offers courses in ancient Greek, Latin, Sumerian, Biblical Hebrew and other languages, along with a wide range of cultural and historical topics spanning the ancient Mediterranean and Near East.

Holm said the department embodies the interdisciplinary strengths of a humanities education, but she fears those strengths may not be valued in the new budget calculus.

Even more concerning to some faculty is the university's ongoing APPR, a process conducted with the Hanover Research group. Holm said the review appears to prioritize "marketability" in a narrow, job-specific sense.

"This approach ignores the nature of most humanities degrees, which provide broad preparation

for any number of careers," Holm said.

CAMS professor Dr. Gonzalo Rubio said the language of the APPR report mimics "the cheap lingo of marketing," and fails to recognize the long-term value of a humanities education.

Rubio cited former students who used courses in ancient language, law and literature as stepping stones to careers in law, politics and finance.

"One of my brightest students is now a press secretary at the U.S. Senate," he said. "Others have told me that courses on ancient law helped them during law school or financial training."

Rubio also criticized a university policy that imposes additional fees on students who take more than 19 credits per semester — penalizing those who seek a deeper academic experience.

"Penn State is punishing our most highly motivated students," he said. "We must nurture scholastic achievement, not discourage it."

Across departments, faculty expressed concern that the university's academic values are being eroded.

"Studying Homer or Plato may not lead to immediate job placement," Rubio said. "But it equips students to think critically, adapt and understand the world in profoundly important ways."

In a moment when universities are redefining their priorities, Rubio and others said they hope Penn State remembers not all value can be measured in enrollment numbers.

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‘She left the jersey in a better place’

Remembering the legacy of Lady Lion great Kathy Drysdale

By Noah Aberegg
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Some athletes compete in college and leave their colors behind after graduation, moving on to bigger and better things. Others, like Kathy Drysdale, put their blood, sweat and tears into the program during their time competing, but also return and work to improve their program after graduation.

Drysdale was part of the Lady Lion program from 1988-1992, where she became a member of the 1,000-point club as she helped the blue and white reach numerous feats.

After graduation, Drysdale worked for the Philadelphia 76ers in marketing and game day operations, but returned to Happy Valley, where she spent 13 years in marketing.

While at Penn State, Drysdale was diagnosed with cancer, eventually leaving the program in November 2023 to watch her son, Dereck Lively II, fulfill his NBA dreams.

Six months later, Drysdale died while surrounded by her friends and family. Despite her life being cut short at 53 years old, Drysdale's legacy will live on through the Penn State community for the work she did for the program, both as an athlete and a staffer.

"Kathy is one of the legends who has put so much sacrifice and time and energy into making Penn State what it is today," women's basketball coach Carolyn Kieger said. "Family ... that's what Kathy was to Penn State, and not only to women's basketball and Lady Lions, but to volleyball, to so many other programs."

Drysdale came to Penn State in 1988 as a highly recruited prospect due to her 6-foot-4 frame and running ability. However, she didn't immediately connect with many of the Lady Lions.

"My first memory of Kathy was when she came in for her recruiting visit, and to be honest, she looked like this stuck-up, rich little snob sitting in this armchair watching practice," Jennifer James, a former Lady Lions manager and current associate athletic director for events, said. "We said she's not gonna fit in. But once we signed her, and once she got here on campus, we absolutely loved her."

During the 1990-91 season, Drysdale helped the blue and white become the first northeast team to earn the No. 1 spot in



Courtesy of Penn State Libraries

Forward Kathy (Phillips) Drysdale plays defense during a Penn State women's basketball game versus Rhode Island in Rec Hall. Drysdale played for the Lady Lions from 1988-1992.

the AP poll after upsetting No. 1 Virginia. Over the next two years, Drysdale racked up 1,295 points, 717 rebounds and 89 blocks, becoming a staple in Lady Lions' history.

"Not only could she score in the post, but also 15-16 feet and along the baseline," former Lady Lion Susan Robinson Fruchtl said. "That's kind of how she got (the title), 'Goddess of the Baseline.'"

Drysdale brought her love for basketball into her professional career, becoming a marketing staffer for the Philadelphia 76ers.

During her time in the City of Brotherly Love, Drysdale worked in game operations, organizing national anthem singers and halftime performances.

Drysdale returned to Happy Valley in 2011, working in marketing for athletics as she combined her love for Penn State with her marketing background.

"She brought a level of professionalism to not only women's basketball, but to the entire marketing department," James said. "It was really pretty awesome to see."

During her time with the Nittany Lions, Drysdale became involved with many of the top programs at Penn State, including the national champion wrestling and volleyball teams.

"Kathy had a strong personality, so I think sometimes she got assigned to some prominent wrestling, women's volleyball, prominent programs with long-standing, successful coaches who also had strong personalities," Robinson Fruchtl said.

"She wasn't gonna back down. She would tell you no to your face, whether a good idea or

not a good idea."

While Drysdale worked with the 76ers and then at Penn State, she was also a mother, raising Lively. In 2012, Drysdale became a single mother after her husband suffered from an overdose.

"Kathy was very black and white, and she raised Dereck very black and white in terms of, 'If you want to do this, then you're going to have to do this, and if you want to be this, then you're going to have to do this,'" Robinson Fruchtl said. "She didn't beat around the bush at all."

Over the next several years, Drysdale watched Lively's potential skyrocket, as he became the No. 1 prospect in the 2022 ESPN Top 100. At this time, however, Drysdale began suffering from Hodgkin lymphoma, but battled through it as she supported her son in fulfilling his dreams.

"I still remember recruiting down at Nike Nationals and seeing her in the stands watching Dereck as she was going through treatments, and seeing the level that she just poured into cheering him on while she was facing her own battle," Kieger said. "You talk about inspiration. She was with him every step of the way, and that's as a mother."

While Drysdale watched Lively become an ACC All-Freshman Team and All-Defensive Team selection, she continued her work at Penn State, balancing her role as a mother, her cancer treatment and her marketing career.

"You talk about servant leadership, that was Kathy," Kieger said. "She made sacrifices from her own family to make Penn

State better. She made sacrifices to her own health to continue to fight toward putting Penn State where it needs to be."

After just one season with Duke, Lively entered his name into the NBA draft and was selected with the No. 12 pick by the Dallas Mavericks. As Drysdale's cancer became more severe, she left her job at Penn State in November 2023 to watch Lively play in the NBA.

"Once we saw the trajectory of where Dereck's career was potentially going to take him, (we) knew that she would probably go see him once he got drafted," James said. "We couldn't have been more happy for her to see him get to that level and to be able to witness everything pay off that they worked so hard for."

Drysdale moved to Dallas, where she spent the remaining months of her life watching Lively compete at the highest level. Backed by her son and the entire Mavericks' organization, Drysdale experienced her son leading the NBA in field goal percentage.

"I know she didn't get that many months, but she was so happy and proud of him, and not just as the player, but as a human being," Robinson Fruchtl said.

Despite the celebrations for Lively, Drysdale's cancer was becoming more severe. However, she continued to take it one day at a time, thinking about her battle like a game.

"It was literally like, 'What's the game plan? OK, the doctor told me this, this is the game plan.' It was literally like prepping for a big game," Robinson Fruchtl said. "She was inspirational because she was always like, 'Yeah,

I'm gonna beat this.' There was never a freaking doubt."

Shortly before her death, Drysdale continued to keep the same mantra and philosophy as before.

"You walk in, and she's in the hospital, and out of her mouth is, 'Well, this is the situation we're in,'" Robinson Fruchtl said. "It's very black and white. 'Yep, guess it's gonna be Dallas.' It's sobering, it's touching. She was inspirational, just thinking what she went through."

On April 12, 2024, Drysdale died in Dallas, surrounded by Lively, her two sisters and the Mavericks organization. Drysdale's passing sent the Penn State, Lady Lions and Mavericks communities into mourning for everything she had done for them.

"You talk about resiliency, you talk about toughness, you talk about fighting through struggle and fighting through pain. That's who Kathy was," Kieger said. "She never complained. You never knew what she was going through half the time. I bet no one even knew the pain and struggle she was going through because she put everybody else first."

Drysdale continues to be an inspiration for her former co-workers and friends alike. With 13 years in Penn State athletics marketing, she made many connections and mentored many individuals.

"From a work perspective, she was an inspiration. She made me a better event manager for what she was able to bring and how she was able to hold us all accountable," James said. "She was an incredible team member. That part of her legacy continues. I know there were a lot of marketing folks that she worked with, whether they were interns or full-time marketing assistants, that learned an awful lot from her and will carry that forward."

Nearly one year after her death, Drysdale's legacy continues in Happy Valley. Her story of perseverance, fight and grit is an inspiration for those fighting any battle.

"She was a phenomenal woman, phenomenal mother, phenomenal marketer, phenomenal athlete," Kieger said. "We all say the one goal at Penn State is to leave the jersey in a better place, and that's what Kathy did. Every job that she did for Penn State, she left the jersey in a better place."

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The forgotten great

Evan Royster's journey to becoming Penn State's all-time rushing leader

By Lexie Linderman
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The bright lights of Beaver Stadium and a sea of white faced Evan Royster as he lined up behind Matt McGloin at the 44-yard line in the early minutes against Michigan in 2010. The senior was just yards away from breaking Curt Warner's 28-year-old Penn State career rushing yards record.

McGloin handled the snap and passed it off to Royster, who took the ball 11 yards as the stadium roared. His parents jumped for joy in the stands — their son had officially cemented himself at the top of the Nittany Lions' history books.

"It was a very special day for me. My whole family had come up to the game and brought some of their friends and stuff with them," Royster told The Daily Collegian in November. "So to have everybody there on that day was pretty special, and we got to celebrate a little bit all together afterward, so it was pretty cool."

Royster finished that contest with 150 yards and two touchdowns, and ended his career with 3,932 rushing yards, 534 more than Warner. In Penn State's bookstore downtown, Royster's name sits atop the short flight of stairs to the second floor, which commemorates the Nittany Lions' best rushers.

But it wasn't a given that Royster would end up at the top, or even in Happy Valley. Royster said Penn State made a push into his recruiting process "pretty late." However, when the Nittany Lions started their pursuit, they stood out among the pack.

Regardless, Royster planned to wait until National Signing Day

to make a decision on his future, wanting to have what he envisioned as a "cool spectacle" for his commitment. That changed when Joe Paterno took a trip to Westfield High School in Chantilly, Virginia, to visit Royster.

"(Paterno) was just kind of talking to the senior football players on my team and in the weight room. He pulled me over for the private part of our conversation and how he wanted me to come to Penn State, and we had talked a few times leading up to that, but that's the day I committed," Royster said. "When he was there, he was engaging with my teammates, and made them feel good and them special too (which sold me)."

That day, Royster picked Penn State over schools like Nebraska, Oklahoma and Virginia Tech, but he also picked the Nittany Lions over a career in lacrosse. The running back was one of the premier lacrosse players in the country throughout his high school career, earning first-team All-Metropolitan honors for both lacrosse and football.

He was pursued heavily by lacrosse powerhouses who were determined to change his mind, but Royster ultimately knew football was where he could have a future playing professional sports.

"I was always pretty set on football, just because I knew there could be a future if I made it to the top," Royster said. "I was naive in high school and thought that would be my living, but as I got a little older and a little wiser, I knew that it would just be kind of an experience for me, and that's totally fine. It was an awesome experience."

Although Royster's head was

belonged to lacrosse. Through out his Penn State career, he was asked numerous times by friends on the lacrosse team to join them and become a dual-sport athlete for the Nittany Lions, but Royster never saw a world in which he could play both.

"Lacrosse is the thing that I missed the most," Royster said. "Lacrosse is probably, if I had to be totally truthful about it, it's probably my true love when it comes to sports. If there was a professional lacrosse league that was viable and I could have made a living doing that, I would have been there in a second."

Still, Royster never went back on his decision to play football, and sometimes got caught up in his desire to make a living in the NFL while at Penn State. After back-to-back 1,000-yard rushing seasons, Royster decided to return to the Nittany Lions for his senior season, but had no desire to workout on campus.

The running back wanted to train more like an NFL player rather than a student-athlete, which earned heat from Paterno, who openly called for Royster to lose weight. His play took a dip as well — Royster started the 2010 season with just 110 yards in three games.

"It's not always the greatest memories of being at Penn State at that time, truthfully," Royster said. "Coming back to school and having that slow start made me start to just kind of recommit myself to being a college athlete instead of starting to think about the future."

Royster also credited his team-

mates and their support for his turnaround. Former Penn State running back Joe Suhey had a front row seat for nearly all of

Royster's career in Happy Valley. Suhey couldn't say enough good things about how his teammate handled himself, and the legacy he left as a Nittany Lion.

"I think he probably is one of the more underrated runners to come out of Penn State. He probably doesn't get the credit that he deserves for how good he was," Suhey told the Collegian. "Evan Royster is an incredible teammate. Always, always a team-first guy."

By the end of his senior season, Royster had completely rebounded and put the slow start behind him. He had earned the rushing record and played himself into his goal of an NFL draft selection. The Virginia native was drafted by his hometown team, the Washington Redskins, in the sixth round of the 2011 draft, where he spent three seasons before being released and calling it a career.

Royster enjoyed the luxury of living at home and having his family around for every home contest, but what he really took away from his experience in the big leagues was the business side of it and the importance of building relationships, both of which he's applied to life after football.

"I think the lesson I learned from the NFL is that no matter where you're going, or what you're trying to get to, relationships can help you get there," Royster said. "I'm enjoying life after football. I enjoy that I don't have to get beat up all the time, and I enjoy that I can make a living not having to sit behind the desk all day."

The Penn State record-holder

may be "happily moved on" from his time on the gridiron, but his name and record have been in the record books, but the senior running back is confident he can get his retirement. Saquon Barkley came just 89 yards from breaking the record during his illustrious career in Happy Valley, somewhat to the displeasure of Royster.

"I really wished he was going to break it, because I wanted somebody with a name to break it," Royster said. "I kind of joke about it, but I say, 'I didn't want Evan Royster to go break it, who went to the NFL but had a short career.' I want somebody who goes and has a 10-year NFL career, breaks records in the NFL, to come back and say, 'Hey, you know, I broke that record too.'"

Nine years later, Royster's 15-year-old record is again at risk with both Nick Singleton and Kaytron Allen just over 1,000 yards away from surpassing him. Singleton said he and Allen haven't discussed the idea they could end their careers atop the record books, but the senior running back is confident he can get the job done.

"It's obviously a good honor to do it, just gotta keep working to it," Singleton said. "I can't wait to get it, but I just gotta keep working for it."

Royster never thought he'd still be the record holder all these years later because of the talent Penn State consistently has in its running back room, but he knows it's only a matter of time before his name moves down a step or two.

His only request? Be alive to see it happen.

"There's that common saying — records are made to be broken," Royster said. "I hope it happens when I get to see it, but if it doesn't, I'll be proud either way."

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‘She’s got a great personality’

Creamery employee wins Special Olympics bowling championship

By Matthew Griffith
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

When taking a trip to the Penn State Berkey Creamery, chances are, patrons have come across Special Olympian Tanya Roberts behind the cash register sporting her “Queen Tanya” name tag and contagious smile.

“She’s the funniest girl in the world,” manager Veronica Brown said, “and she’s kind of my boss.”

Roberts will turn 31 in May, and has been working in the Creamery since she was 17. Long before her career at Penn State began, she participated and competed in The Wilds Region, Special Olympics organization in Centre County.

The Special Olympics is divided into different sectors like local, regional, state, national and even international, where participants can build a community and compete against other groups. Counties in The Wilds Region include Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, DuBois, Elk, Cameron, Jefferson, McKean and Potter.

Roberts and her fellow competitors traveled to York, Pennsylvania, this March, where they competed and won the Pennsylvania state championship in bowling.

Roberts’ Special Olympics journey began when she was just 5 years old and started with swimming. She dove into the deep end and started practicing different techniques, as well as experimenting with different sports offered by the Special Olympics.

“There’s different kinds of styles I’ve been doing,” Roberts said, “Breaststroke, freestyle,



Courtesy of Leroy Young

Tanya Roberts and the Special Olympics bowling team pose for a photo after one of their competitions for the Special Olympics.

backstroke ... backstroke is my favorite.”

Roberts remembered while swimming and preparing for a competition when she was younger, that she missed a Special Olympics after contracting double pneumonia.

This is more severe than having only one lung affected and increases the chances of complications. Treatment plans also become more complex with both lungs being infected.

“It was a long time ago, but it was a really difficult time for me,” Roberts said, “I was in the hospital for eight days.”

After she recovered, Roberts started practicing again.

“There are a lot of events in the Special Olympics,” she said. “I did track and field, bocce,

volleyball, swimming and bowling.”

Preparing for the state championship tournament in bowling was no easy feat either, but with the help of coaches and teammates, Roberts said she felt ready for anything.

“I had four people on my team,” she said. “It was wonderful. I love the organization and everything about it. There was a lot of training and hard work involved, but we got through it.”

One of Roberts’ favorite things about bowling is the birthday present she received from her sister-in-law one year. It was a gift card to purchase her very own bowling ball, shoes and bag that she uses every time she practices.

Leroy Young has been the head

coach for The Wilds Region Special Olympics for five years, and has been a volunteer for the Special Olympics for even longer. He led Roberts and her bowling team to victory.

“I got involved because my son, Adam, has Down syndrome,” Young said. “We’ve been involved for 20 years or so.”

Coaches and volunteers do a lot in order to be involved, like completing medical training, applications, background checks and other various training. They also organize practices, schedules, competitions and scorekeeping.

“For every four participants, there needs to be one volunteer,” Young said.

In preparation for the state championship in bowling, Young said they practiced a lot. The

competitors played two games per week during their Saturday practices at Northland Bowl & Recreation Center. Around 40 bowlers came to each practice, which means 10 volunteers were needed to help facilitate practices.

Young emphasized the significance of the work volunteers and coaches do for the organization and the participants.

“I really appreciate my coaches and Tanya’s dad,” he said. “They really make it happen.”

Bob Roberts, Tanya’s father, is the department head of food science at Penn State and volunteers with the Special Olympics to help his daughter and other participants have a safe and enjoyable experience in their community.

With a state victory for Roberts and her team, their next goal is to be chosen for the national competition. State champion winning teams are entered into a bracket to see who will be chosen to compete in the national competition.

“I hope she keeps participating,” Young said. “We’ll start training again soon.”

Young talked about working with Roberts.

“She’s got a great personality,” Young said. “She’s joyful.”

Roberts was also a member of the organization Best Buddies.

She said she made great friends and lifelong connections through the program, and volunteers to help students with disabilities at State College Area High School.

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Courtesy of Julie Ann Caro

Happy Dads sit on the bar in Champs on April 12, 2025 in downtown State College. Champs gave the drink out for free to the first 100 crawlers last weekend.

Drinking Around Penn State: Senior Bar Crawl edition

By Julie Ann Caro
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

If you haven’t experienced Drinking Around the World at EPCOT yet, don’t worry — I’ve brought the fun right here to State College for you.

Last weekend, I participated in LineLeap’s 2025 Summer Send Off-Crawl, more commonly referred to as the Senior Bar Crawl for those graduating in May.

Most of the bars downtown have a signature drink they’re known for. Whether it’s Champs’ Dirty Sprite or Café 210 West’s Cafe Tea pitchers, there is a drink for everyone to enjoy.

Join me for my “Drink Around Penn State: Senior Bar Crawl Edition,” all done on a budget.

Primanti Bros.: Mimosa Tower

You had me at mimosas.

I kicked off the day right with a dose of vitamin C and a splash of Prosecco at 9 a.m. with a \$40 mimosa tower at Pmans.

This was definitely an underrated deal, especially if you’re with a group of friends. Two bottles of champagne, lots of orange juice and two cups each — all for just \$8 a person.

When you’re debating where to start a bar crawl in State College, make sure to start at Pmans.

Bill Pickle’s Tap Room: Pickle-Tini

Calling on all pickle lovers with the “Pickle-Tini.”

I had to match the classy mimosas vibes, so of course I ordered a pickle martini. This is a drink I’ve been wanting to try all semester.

No better time than the bar crawl

to make it happen.

Was it worth the \$10? I’m not so sure.

It was an aesthetic choice to make, but I don’t think I will get another one any time soon. If you’re not a pickle or martini lover, this won’t be your go-to, but definitely a fun choice.

However, you can never go wrong with their Pickles Punch.

Champs: Happy Dad

OK, hear me out.

The first 100 crawlers to enter at 11 a.m. got a free Happy Dad, so you already know I was one of the first in line.

It was my first time trying a Happy Dad, and I wasn’t blown away, but I also wasn’t disappointed either. It was a pretty average drink, not much more to say than it tasted like fruit punch flavored seltzer.

But hey, a free drink is a free drink.

If you’re looking for another drink at Champs during a bar crawl or night out, I would highly recommend getting the regular or pink Dirty Sprite. Those are definitely worth the hype.

The Phyrst: Angry Orchard

When life gives you apples, head to the Phyrst and grab a \$3 Angry Orchard.

I don’t go to the Phyrst often, but when I do, I usually order a Purple Gatorade. Except on St. Patrick’s Day, when I drank my first Guinness. What an experience.

There is something about an Irish pub that makes a beer feel like an appropriate drink to get. As a person who doesn’t enjoy beer, I can always count on a hard apple cider to do the job.

The \$3 Angry Orchard sounded

like a deal to me. It was just as refreshing as it sounded.

Stage West: Green Tea Shots

“Shots, shots, shots, shots, shots. Everybody!”

If you’re looking for an easy and quick shot to take, I highly recommend heading down to Stage West for a \$2 green tea shot.

Nothing more to be said.

The Shandygaff: Adios

Motherf*cker Single

Say Adios to the need for another drink after this one.

Most Wednesday nights, I find myself singing and dancing at Gaffeoake with a \$5 Adios pitcher in my hand. As the menu says, “its reputation speaks for itself,” and trust me, it does.

During the bar crawl, Gaff served Adios singles for only \$3.

Not only did it save me \$2, but also a morning headache.

The “generous mix of liquors and citrus” is definitely a popular choice at the Gaff, and I can see why.

Doggie’s Pub: Hoop Tea

Two paws up for Doggie’s Hoop Tea.

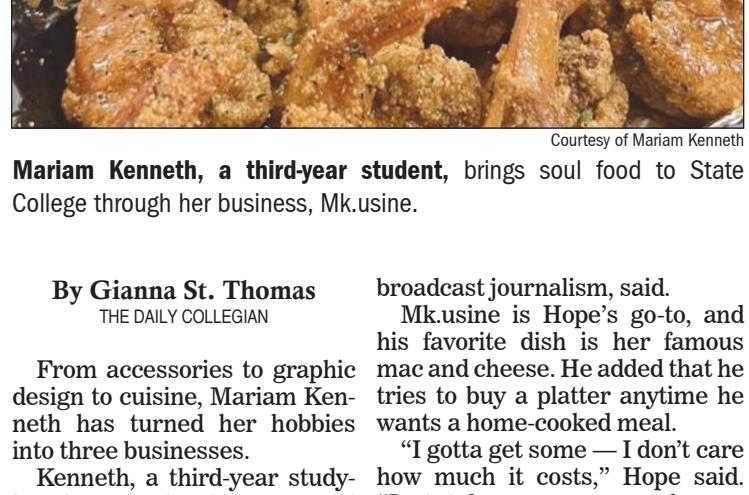
Ended a successful day with the perfect drink at my favorite bar. All day, everyday \$4 Hoop Teas. Nothing screams senior year like sipping a Hoop Tea in the sun and playing cornhole with friends at Doggie’s.

Always a great choice, if it’s your first or last time at Doggie’s.

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Mk.usine brings fresh new taste



Courtesy of Mariam Kenneth

Mariam Kenneth, a third-year student, brings soul food to State College through her business, Mk.usine.

By Gianna St. Thomas

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

From accessories to graphic design to cuisine, Mariam Kenneth has turned her hobbies into three businesses.

Kenneth, a third-year studying human development and family studies, started her businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic and eventually shifted her focus to cooking soul food due to her love for cooking.

“It’s really hard to find a meal that reminds you of home, or your mom’s cooking,” Kenneth said. “We all know that State College has (the) bare minimum when it comes to food.”

While she primarily makes soul food, she wants to expand to other cuisines like Caribbean and African food. Her platters and catering, which are available for pick up or delivery, can be found on her Instagram page, @mk.usine.

On her page, Kenneth shares polls on what platters of the week her customers prefer, giving it more of a personalized feel.

“The best moment was when I first started my sales because those reviews came in quick — like a guy, he ordered a lamb alfredo platter, and he was literally crying while eating it,” Kenneth said.

Running to cook for comfort, Kenneth said she plans to complete her entrepreneurial certificate at Penn State to perfect her craft.

“My best advice would be just have faith in yourself,” Kenneth said. “Don’t have so many doubts that hold you back. Have faith.”

Jaiden Hope enjoys having the soul food that reminds him of his community back home in Philadelphia.

“It’s hard to get food that caters to where you’re from,”

Hope, a third-year studying

broadcast journalism, said.

Mk.usine is Hope’s go-to, and his favorite dish is her famous mac and cheese. He added that he tries to buy a platter anytime he wants a home-cooked meal.

“I gotta get some — I don’t care how much it costs,” Hope said. “Just take my money, take my card.”

Hope paid \$23 one time, and he said his platter was so full he couldn’t close the container.

“You could tell that the chef, Mariam, likes doing what she does,” Hope said. “It’s a very passionate type of thing. Everything feels normal and sweet.”

Mk.usine is one of the few soul food and Caribbean options in State College, Hope said.

Ashton Bent has ordered delivery and pick-up and said it never fails.

“It’s a vibe,” Bent, a third-year studying supply chain and information systems, said. “It’s different from your regular day-to-day. It’s somewhat special.”

When Bent posts a picture of Kenneth’s food, his friends pester him on where and how he got the food, he said.

“If you have that desire, you should definitely go out and start something, because there’s definitely a market for it,” Bent said.

Bent said he struggles with cooking consistently and making large portions on his own, but Mk.usine helps fill in that gap.

“I never eat it all at once,” he said. “I always split it up into at least two or three meals. You gotta stretch it. It doesn’t come around as often as other things do.”

Kenneth will set up a menu with the price and inform her customers when to contact her and when the orders will be ready.

“It shows you that anyone could do it if you really put your mind to it,” Bent said.

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