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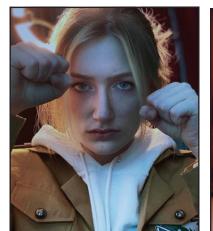
TikTok Titan: WVU student becomes internet famous for anime cosplay

BY KATELYN ALUISE CORRESPONDENT

Eva, a student at West Virginia University, has found internet fame as a TikTok cosplayer under the username "itsevanoteva" and has over 400.000 followers.

Eva, who asked to be identified by her first name due to safety concerns, started her TikTok account at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic as a way to keep up with people online and reunite with some of her hobbies from middle school. When people found out she was named after the anime series, "Neon Genesis Evangelion," she started gaining followers at a rapid pace.

Today, her account has evolved from cosplay and anime head-cannons into a personal platform and so-



Eva cosplays as Annie Leonhart from "Attack on Titan."

cial hub for her supporters of all ages through her TikTok and her Discord, "Eva Squad."



Eva cosplays The Female Titan from "Attack on Titan."

"People can just talk to people who have similar interests, find friends. I just want people to find a sense of



COURTESY PHOTOS Eva cosplays at Ymir Fritz from "Attack on Titan."

community and a sense of happiness," she said. Eva (pronounced "ay-vah") started watching shows like "Full Metal Alchemist" and "Attack on Titan" with her dad in middle school. She said her parents, who are both supportive of her TikTok, used to have "anime-Fridays" throughout the 90's, and they passed their appreciation onto Eva.

Before her TikTok following, Eva tried cosplaying some of her favorite characters from "Attack on Titan," but she stopped because she was worried about what others thought of her.

"Once I got to high school, the nerdiness got beat out of me. Unfortunately, I kind of assimilated, because I [wanted] people to like me-I didn't want people to think I'm weird."

See **TikTok** page 5

'No one believed me': Students protest WVU School of Music's handling of sexual misconduct cases

BY JULES OGDEN

BREAKING NEWS EDITOR

Sara Ruff walked alone from her dorm to the Title IX office. She had been sexually assaulted by one of her peers in the School of Music during her freshman year.

After her case was closed, she left the program that she came to WVU for. Now as a senior, Ruff shared her

story publicly for the first time at a protest Wednesday. She said she felt ignored and unsupported by faculty when it was reported.

"I gave up on this University," Ruff

\$340 per person!

said. "I had to leave the program because I couldn't sit in class with him. I couldn't look at the people that were supposed to be teaching me, nurturing me, keeping me safe, then ignored me and put me back. I had to leave the program and leave what I wanted to do with my life."

Ruff's story and others like it were shared during a protest against the School of Music on Wednesday outside of the Creative Arts Center.

Cheyenne Henline and Ashley Rogers, two sophomore students in the School of Music, partnered with WVU Believe Them to organize the protest after they felt their Title IX cases were wrongfully dismissed by the University.

WVU Believe Them is a new student organization that advocates for survivors and sexual assault awareness on campus. They offered support and resources to survivors during the demonstration.

Protestors, including several students outside the School of Music, gathered to share their stories and experiences with sexual assault and harrassment. Many voiced their concerns and disappointment with Title IX at the University.

Student protestors also noted that no faculty attended the event.

After each student told their story, the crowd responded by saying "we

believe you."

"When I was about to go to college, the gifts from my family and my boyfriend at the time were not folders or dorm decorations. I got a personal alarm and pepper spray," Taylor Schwartz, a junior social work major, said to the crowd. "I was told that I couldn't wear crop tops or short shorts. I was told not to go out at night and to not listen to music at night and to always keep looking around me. Why do I have to be told what to do and how to live my life? Why can't you teach people not to sexually assault others? Why do I have to put so much of my energy into protecting myself from people who were not

taught to restrain themselves?"

Henline's main goal is for the School of Music to listen to its students and hold their faculty accountable.

"No one believed me," she said. "No one held him accountable. No one."

Rogers said she hopes raising awareness will help prevent future students from experiencing the same sexual misconduct and lack of support as she did.

See Protest page 4

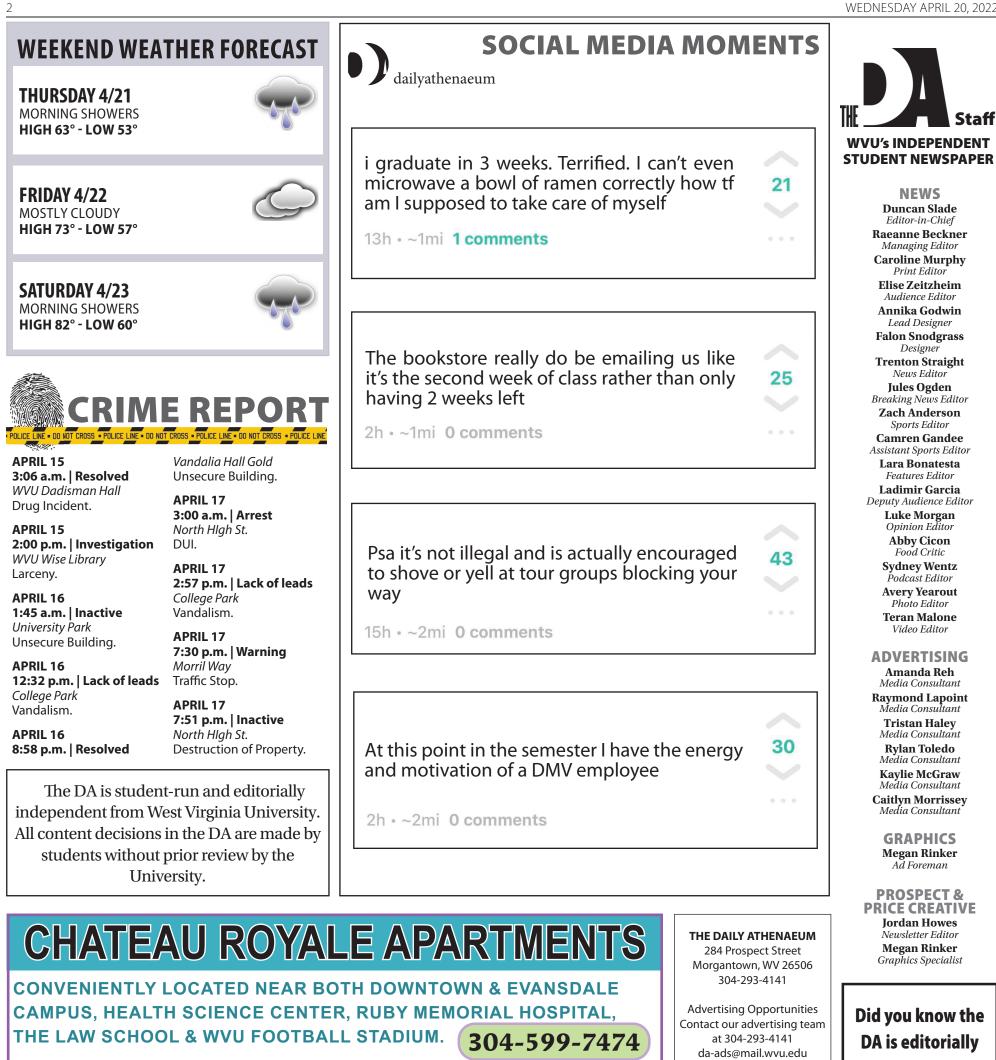
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Independent from the University?





Breaking News Editor: Jules Ogden jlo00001@mix.wvu.edu

WVU offers financial assistance to some international student amid war in Ukraine

BY KATELYN ALUISE CORRESPONDENT

West Virginia University said in March that it would provide emergency funds to Ukrainian and Russian students impacted by the war. Since then, four of those students have requested financial assistance.

The funds are mostly meant to help cover the cost of the loss of their family's financial assistance.

The University offered financial aid and summer housing to each of these students, according to Executive Director of the Office of Global Affairs Amber Brugnoli. There are currently nine Ukrainian and 10 Russian students enrolled at WVU.

She also said the University should increase the maximum number of hours these students can work at on-campus jobs.

Support for Ukrainian and Russian students at WVU comes from both private do-



Two people hold signs during a demonstration in support of Ukraine on Feb. 28, 2022.

Editor:

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nations to the WVU Foundation and through pre-existing emergency funds for international students, according to Brugnoli.

International students were

also eligible for the last two who rounds of funding that were ing

given out to WVU students de through the American Rescue Br Plan Act. an

Most international students

who require emergency funding receive \$500 to \$1,500, depending on their need. Brugnoli said that it is important to remember; however, that these students are still not

PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

eligible for the FAFSA and cannot adjust their financial aid package in the same way as a domestic student.

"Should a student need longer-term or more substantial aid, there are international student scholarship funds available that are both need and merit-based, and these students will be evaluated under those criteria," she said.

Although these students asked for increased Federal Work Study hours, Brugnoli said they are still limited to 20hour work weeks for on-campus positions.

One of these students has requested to extend their stay in the U.S., which is being processed by the Department of State. Brugnoli said that the University will offer them financial support in this endeavor as well.

Brugnoli said travel support has been offered to these students to combat the rising cost of plane tickets, assuming they are able to return home safely.

"As part of this, we can work with our international insurance provider and other vendors to gather information regarding flight delay/cancellation rates and other useful info before we actually send a student out," she said.

"This is especially a concern for our Russian students who would face great difficulty re-entering the U.S. if their plans were interrupted and they ultimately couldn't get home."

So far, no students have taken up the offer of summer housing, but the University will keep that open.

There is no designated space for housing yet, but depending on the amount of time and accommodations the student needs, including whether or not they have family or medical concerns, Brugnoli said Student Life is helping them find spaces on campus, and local hotels are offering the University reduced rates.

"This could become a greater need the longer the conflict lasts," she said.

WVU keeps ACT, SAT testing optional for applicants through another year

BY JORDAN HOWES STAFF WRITER

West Virginia University made ACT and SAT scores optional for applicants in the early days of the pandemic and will continue this policy until the end of the Spring 2023 term as administrators decide what to do next.

President E. Gordon Gee said during a Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month that the University will keep standardized test scores optional for admissions. Administrators are currently evaluating whether the change will be permanent or to revert back to requiring test scores.

"As you know, the SAT and

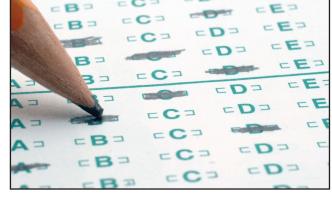


PHOTO COURTESY HUFFINGTONPOST.COM

deadlines.

Standardized testing has been criticized for stifling creativity in the classroom.

ACT have been optional for us and I think we will continue to have that debate about whether or not that should be the case," Gee said.

WVU made standardized tests optional for admissions

in 2020 during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Universities nationwide relaxed testing requirements for admissions due to the inability to take the ACT or SAT before admissions

"If a student is not able to take the SAT or ACT, we will still admit them to WVU as long as they have shown academic ability on other areas of their application," George Zimmerman, Executive Director of Admissions and Recruitment at WVU, said in a 2020 press release announcing the change.

However, individual degree programs and scholarships often still require applicants to take the ACT or SAT and provide WVU with their scores.

WVU's Scholarship of Distinction is a merit-based scholarship based on both an ACT or SAT score and overall GPA. This scholarship can be up to \$4,000 for in-state students and \$16,000 for out-of-state

students.

The Go First Scholarship at WVU is solely dependent on a student's GPA. It was designed to accommodate test-optional applicants. Go First's maximum amount is \$3,500 for in-state students and \$12,000 for out-of-state students.

Students cannot receive both the Scholarship of Distinction and the Go First Scholarship at WVU.

If a student is admitted under the test optional process and does not meet specific program requirements, they will be referred to the WVU Center for Learning, Advising, and Student Success.

CLASS was designed to better supports underclassmen students looking to complete prerequisite requirements and explore different paths within their field of study.

Students are still able and encouraged to apply with test scores if they are available.

"It's also important for students to understand that WVU has implemented a 'no harm policy," Zimmerman said in 2021 when WVU decided to extend its test-optional admissions policy.

The test optional policy will remain in place through the Spring 2023 term.

"We are re-evaluating for future terms, but no final decisions have been made," said April Kaull, Executive Director of Communications for University Relations.

WVU student workers plan to form union

BY JULES OGDEN BREAKING NEWS EDITOR

Graduate students have partnered with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) to develop a new union for University workers at WVU.

West Virginia Campus Workers (WVCW) was developed after graduate students began organizing around a mutual concern about what they say is WVU's laissez-faire response to COVID-19 and poverty wages, according to a press release.

The effort was initially started as a way for graduate students to organize and communicate their concerns to the University but later expanded to include all WVU employees. Leslie Wilber, a current fic-

tion MFA graduate student and union member, said graduate workers have attempted unionizing before but were never successful.

The union, which is organized under AFT-Academics, aims to increase worker representation during decision-making at the University. They also want to continue building membership across the state.

"Essentially many of our concerns come down to the fact that workers at WVU don't have a say in so many policies and decisions that have such

Get Involved: Interested workers and supporters can attend the union's May Day celebration on May 1 at Marilla Park noon to 3 p.m. •Register on the AFT website or email wvhesn@gmail.com

for more information.

a big impact on our lives," said Grace Smith, a fiction MFA student and union member.

Smith, who joined the effort in fall 2020, is particularly concerned with mandatory University fees.

"For me really, one of my biggest issues has been University fees. So, as a graduate worker I have a stipend. You know, it's hard to budget, it's hard to live on a stipend, and a huge portion of that goes to fees," said Smith.

Smith had reached out to the Hub to learn more about University fees and what they were funding, but when she was redirected to a special assistant of the Board of Governors, who decide and vote on fees, she was told they could not provide her an itemized breakdown.

"Recently, you know, there was the Graduate and Professional Student Senate trying to address these student fee issues. And we don't really have the administration, the University itself has shown that they're not particularly interested in listening to our concerns as smaller groups. And so, one of the things we hope to do is be able to organize on that larger scale to hopefully have some of our concerns listened to," said Wilber.

Smith also added that these financial issues that many student workers face can be much more difficult for those who have kids or are caring for other family members.

WVCW is a wall-to-wall model, meaning anyone who receives a paycheck from a college or university in the state is eligible to join WVCW, according to Wilber and Smith. This includes student workers, undergraduate workers, graduate workers, parttime workers, hourly workers, tenured and untenured workers, staff and faculty.

Currently, the union does not have members from any state institutions aside from WVU, but the wall-to-wall model allows for higher education employees from across the state to join.

WVU SGA strikes down election bill to increase transparency, mandate in-person polling

BY TRENTON STRAIGHT NEWS EDITOR

After nearly three weeks of discussion, the WVU Student Government Association struck down a bill Wednesday that would have significantly changed the body's election code. It would have required in-person voting and expanded election transparency.

The proposed amendments were found to be in violation of SGA's election code, which reads that code cannot be amended "after the last regular SGA meeting in the fall semester prior to the election."

"So, likely that would need to be struck from our agenda," former Vice President Hunter Moore said in the meeting. "Which really puts last week in a whole new ironic perspective."

This past week, a number of senators weren't present for the discussion of the bill, thus denying a quorum. Chloe Hernandez and Pareera Uqaily, who were recently elected as the next SGA president and vice president, were among the absent senators.

SGA unanimously voted



STAFF PHOTO

Polling locations are open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday at the Mountainlair, the Student Recreation Center and the College of Law.

this week to strike the amendments from the meeting's agenda, effectively killing the bill.

To be considered again, the bill would need to be introduced next semester as Wednesday was the final meeting of this year's SGA administration.

The bill was first introduced on March 30, which came after a controversial campaign season. In the following meetings, senators debated on whether to amend the election code to allow in-person voting.

It would have increased the

transparency of campaign finances by making them available to student media outlets and members of the campus community within 24 hours after documents are filed with elections officials. Election violations would have been published within three hours after being found.

The bill would have also required in-person voting for student government elections at a minimum of three locations on campus.

At least two-thirds of the total members are needed to vote, per SGA's constitution.

Protest

Continued from page 1

"It's not an isolated incident. There are literally so many girls, so many boys, so many non-binary people, genderfluid people, so many people are being taken advantage of in their own school," Rogers said.

April Kaull, WVU executive director of communications, said the University and the CAC "are aware of the concerns being raised by students regarding the culture in the School of Music, particularly pertaining to sexual harassment, sexual assault and misconduct."

She added that there are protocols and processes that must be followed when a report or complaint is received, per the BOG Governance Rule 1.6

"Any issues brought to the college's attention are immediately referred to the appropriate offices so that a thorough investigation may be conducted," Kaull said. "Though we cannot com-



A student leads a chant at a protest against the School of Music on April 13, 2022.

ment on pending or completed investigations, we can share that the College of Creative Arts has followed all required procedures and an investigation was completed. West Virginia University and the College of Creative Arts takes any complaint or report of misconduct seriously and moves swiftly to assure all concerns are addressed appropriately."



Students chant at a protest against the School of Music on April 13, 2022.



A student holds a sign she made at a protest on April 13, 2022.

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Amplifying Appalachia: WVU Libraries adds 16,000 words to Wikipedia about Appalachian issues

BY AUBREY BURKHARDT STAFF WRITER

WVU Libraries, students and researchers participated in an annual Edit-a-thon to amplify stories of underrepresented creators and communities through the entirety of the Appalachian region.

Art + Feminism, a nonprofit focused on amplifying women and other marginalized groups in culture, uses Wikipedia Edit-a-thons as part of their initiative to share resources and support. Amplifying Appalachia, the 2022 Edit-a-thon was hosted in part by this nonprofit and the WVU Libraries.

Edit-a-thons help people become familiar with Wikipedia and how it works so that they have the skills to edit or create content. These events focus on and develop content to get information published.

Focusing on the region as a whole allows for more expansive inclusion of the information being developed and allows the university to try to reach other institutions for participation in future Edit-a-thons.

WVU English professor, Erin Brock Carlson, was an or-

TikTok

Continued from page 1

During the pandemic, she did not have to worry about the opinions of others, and her TikTok became her escape. Now that her following has grown, Eva wants to use her platform to create a safe space for others to not feel judged and to show that she feels comfortable being her true self.

She said that people from her high school will often recognize her on her page, but it no longer matters if they think her interests are "cool" or not.

"It's got to a point where it's like, you can't judge it. I'm succeeding with it, and I'm having fun with it. So actually, none of your judgment matters."

Now that she has become a part of a supportive online community, her interest in anime has been able to grow more than ever.

Through her Discord channel, followers can play games together, discuss their interests, and share recommendations that have expanded her watch-list.

"I feel like if I didn't get into



Students edit wikipedia pages at the Amplifying Appalachia Art + Feminism Edit-a-thon.

ganizer of the event.

"I think one of the most important things for us has been just really amplifying the stories of people who often don't get their stories told," she said.

Using Wikipedia to do so encourages students to edit and contribute to the site, while also bringing recognition to specific communities on a platform used by millions.

"Appalachia's a very diverse region, actually, with a lot of different stories and lots of different people. That often goes unnoticed or kind of ignored," she said. "So to have an organized event each year that's focused on this, is really exciting and important I think."

Bringing awareness and getting information out there is only a part of events like

these. Editorship plays a huge part in what information is being added to Wikipedia, Carlson said.

"The predominant group editing Wikipedia is men. There's really only 10 percent of people editing that are women or non-binary folks," she said. "The fact that that's the editorship, means

that's what is replicated in the content."

This means there is less content about underrepresented groups on Wikipedia because there are fewer content creators or editors for these groups.

The event had a total of 37 editors but proportionally added more than what was achieved last year with 94 editors.

'While we had fewer overall participants-unsurprisingly, given how turbulent this year has been—we achieved a higher depth of engagement. The words-per-editor ratio increased significantly, and we had several more media uploads than last year," said Lynne Stahl, humanities librarian.

Carlson also spoke about the success of the event.

"The goal too was sort of to come get students and faculty and other members of the campus community more familiar with Wikipedia and like confident in their editing skills the most enjoyable part for me has been working with students who at first are kind of hesitant, but then by the end they're like into it," she said.

game-streaming or creating a YouTube account with vlogs.

She said she hopes she can continue her social media presence for at least four more years. While she is prioritizing her studies, she has thought about the possibility of turning her hobby into a primary source of income sometime in the future.

Either way, her main goal is to find a way to help people. For now, she is using her

platform to uplift the voices of others. She has made TikToks supporting the Black Lives Matter and Stop Asian Hate movements and the LGBTQ+ community, which she is a member of as a non-binary person.

"I'm so glad I have this follower base where I'm able to be like 'Hey, there's a problem going on. These people know what's up. These people know what they're talking about. They know the problem. Please go listen to them and educate vourselves."

She said that, in her experience, content creators will often shy away from these subjects, because they are worried about attracting the wrong" audience.

Still, it is important to her that she boosts others.

Three things to do this weekend in Morgantown

BY RACHEL LIBERT CORRESPONDENT

With the warm weather this weekend, be sure to get outside, but also find some time to sit back and relax. Check out some of the fun events happening in Morgantown this weekend.

Mountaineer Short Film Festi-val: 4/22-4/23 The Mountaineer

Short Film Festi-

val is a two-day event taking place in various locations. On Friday, April 22, it will be hosted in Bloch Hall Theater from 7:30 p.m. to midnight. On Saturday, April 23, the festival will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Moun-tainlair Gluck Theater; Saturday night, it will be hosted from 8:00 p.m. to midnight at the Morgantown Art Party on Walnut Street.

Established in 2010, The West Virginia Mountaineer Short Film Festival is an international film competition. Hosted by the Elec-tronic Media program at WVU, the event will fea-ture films by WVU students in addition to films from all over the world.

Admission is free to stu-dents and the public. You can visit www.wvmsff for exact screening times and locations.

WVU Gold and Blue Spring Game: 4/23 4 The annual Gold

and Blue Spring Game is set to kick off at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 23. A portion of the proceeds from the game will benefit WVU Medicine Children's Hospital.

Game tickets are available in advance for \$10 each and can be bought online at WVUGAME.com or by calling 1-800-WVU GAME. WVU students will be admitted free through the ticketing process on WVUGAME.com/students.

LABFest Beer and Arts festival: 4/23 Morgantown

Brewing Company is col-laborating with the L.A.B. Art Collective to host a oneday festival to celebrate West Virginian artists and brews. The event is from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and has free

admission. The festival will feature live music and entertainment with several L.A.B. artists vending and performing. You can visit https://www.morgantownbrewing.com/events for more information.

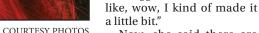


Eva cosplays as Poison Ivy from "Batman."

it on TikTok, then I wouldn't be as intuitive as I am," she said. "I'd still be pretty dang into it, but this really does expose me to a whole world."

The anime that resonates the most with her is still "Attack on Titan." When she started watching the show with her dad, she was 12the same age as the characters whom she has grown up alongside.

"The story gets deeper and



deeper and more complex." she said. "I genuinely like it. It affected a lot of my early adolescence and definitely influenced who I am right now."

When she first started her TikTok, Eva had no idea that it would become so popular. "The minute I hit 100,000 [followers], my entire Discord server lit up...That's the first six figure count on the path of whatever the heck I'm gonna

get to, so that was definitely

Kaisen." the biggest moment. I was

a little bit.

Now, she said there are TikTok stars with even more followers than her that are tributing her or shouting out her work

Eva cosplays as Sukuna from "Jujutsu

Her TikTok and Instagram accounts have become a secondary source of income, generating her over \$1,600 from TikTok and around \$200 to \$250 from Instagram Reels every month through a combination of viewers and sponsors. She said she hopes to turn what she is making into a solid income source by expanding her Twitch

Editor: Luke Morgan lim00002@mix.wvu.edu

The DA debates: What state has the worst drivers?

OPINION

BY DA STAFF

The Daily Athenaeum staff has often debated which state has the worst drivers and which state's drivers are unfairly criticized. These are our takes in the newsroom. Disagree? Agree? Send your takes to DANewsroom@ mail.wvu.edu and we might feature them in next week's edition.

Ohio has a DUI problem

On a recent trip through highways in Ohio, God's gift to creation (eyeroll), I noticed a startlingly large volume of signage attempting to address a particular societal ill. The anti-drunk driving signage was literally everywhere. I have real concerns about a state that needs a sign every half mile reminding drivers to put down the bottle and keep their hands on the wheel. -Duncan from Maryland



No one actually knows how to drive

I didn't know how hated Ohio drivers were until I moved to West Virginia. We are known for sitting in the left lane and slowing down traffic rather than moving back to the other lane. I don't do that, but I have seen it. Everyone believes that there is one state that breeds the worst drivers. Some believe it is Ohio, while others believe it is Pennsylvania or Maryland. However, I do not think this fact should be on the state listed on a license plate. It should be based on the fact that most people simply don't know how to drive. -Elise from Ohio

I almost died on a Maryland highway

Once I was visiting a friend from Maryland. I was nearly killed by two native drivers of the Old Line State. Though the roads are clean, the drivers drove dirty. *-Trenton from West Virginia*

Maryland drivers, was it worth it?

Maryland drivers are some of the most impatient drivers on the east coast. They will lay their lives on the line just to pass you and shed 10 seconds off their drive. I fear changing lanes sometimes. It always baffles me when they pass you and then end up right

in front of you at the next red light. Was it worth it? -Jules from West Virginia

In defense of NJ drivers

New Jersey drivers are unfairly judged. New Jersey is the most densely populated state meaning we have some of the most crowded roads around. The issue isn't that we are bad drivers, we're just misunderstood. In New Jersey driving makes sense. We have jughandles to make turning easier and passing lanes that are used as the driving gods intended. Anyone who claims that New Jersey drivers are a problem should take a trip to Maryland and see if they can

even make it out. -Lara from New Jersey

Pennsylvania drivers are the real threat on the road Pennsylvania drivers might be a bigger threat than you think. Since Morgantown is right next to the PA border, the town is overflowing with PA drivers and it's intolerable. The lack of using their turn signals and cutting you off for absolutely no reason is just horribly annoying. -Ladimir from West Virginia

Ohio drivers belong in the Ohio River

Ohio drivers have given me more heart attacks than the scratches and dents they have all over their cars. Whether it's changing lanes without a mirror or brake checking me, they need to get off the road. - Zach from West Virginia

Who lets Ohioans leave their home

Dear Ohio driver going 65 in the passing lane, you are a disgrace to your family and state. -*Camren from West Virginia*

Maryland drivers are the worst

Maryland drivers have zero patience. They will pass you as soon as they have any opportunity to do so. The driving becomes worse and worse the closer you get to the DMV. Avoid Maryland at all costs. -Luke from West Virginia

Why South Carolina drivers suck

The top five states with the highest rate of car crashes per capita are Mississippi, Wy-oming, South Carolina, Al-abama, and New Mexico, in fatal accidents South Carolina ranks number two. South Carolinians use their southern rage to suck at driving. *-Avery from South Carolina*

This is why we need universal health care coverage

SUBMITTED BY GARRETT CESSNA

Editor's note: The letter below is a submitted letter and does not reflect the editorial stance of the Daily Athenaeum. Interested in submitting a letter? Fill out our form at www.thedaonline.com

Millions of people living in the United States do not have access to healthcare. They cannot afford to see a physician when they feel sick, have prescriptions filled in a neighborhood pharmacy or even visit the dentist when they have a toothache. The ever increasing income inequality present within the United States furthers this divide in healthcare outcomes, disproportionately affecting immigrant and low-income communities in the United States.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of universal healthcare. Maybe if this country would have had a universal system in

place during the early months of 2020, the disease may not have spread as fast or explosively as it did. Although doctors would become employees of the state and be paid by the federal government, having the ability to see a doctor at no cost would allow every member of our society (regardless of citizenship status and occupation) to be healthier and less likely to propagate future pandemics. Specifically, a federal plan for universal healthcare would be beneficial to thousands in West Virginia that are financially struggling with healthcare related expenses.

Unlike the majority of developed countries, access to healthcare is tied to job occupation via health insurance in the United States. Meaning that those with better paying jobs (who might otherwise already have the income or connections to pay for these services) are more likely to have better healthcare than the working poor, or the unemployed. This practice is a mere pawn in our conception of American Exceptionalism, the idea that the United

States is somehow different and otherwise incompatible with the political systems of 'the rest' the countries on this planet. Moreover, tying access to healthcare to occupation is essentially another way that our society perceives and constructs the myth of meritocracy, the false idea that anyone who works hard in this country can succeed, and in turn, have access to high quality healthcare. What would be a moral outrage in who our society determines as "deserving" of healthcare in other countries, is simply a normal part of life in this country.

Despite centuries of being told that anyone who wants to make a better life for themselves in this country can do so, social mobility has declined in recent years. While many might argue that this logic encourages people not to work at all, this line of reasoning merely encourages people to consider the effects of race, class, and gender on career outcomes.

The only way that the United States will ever be able to finally destroy it's connec-



Students Health Services center.

tions to these evil institutions is to establish universal health care; only then can the American populace begin to deconstruct our ideas about social divisions and live a life where will finally be able to pursue the ever-elusive "pursuit of happiness" guaranteed to us by our country's founders.

Garrett Cessna is a sophomore, undergraduate researcher, and double major at West Virginia University studying Biology and Spanish. He is a native Appalachian from Weirton, WV and has research interests in the intersections of natural and social sciences. He is a member of the National Society for Leadership and Success, Chimes Junior Honorary Society, WVU College Democrats, and the WVU Wildlife Society.

STAFF PHOTO

In addition, he is the recipient of the Brouzas Foundation Scholarship Award and Professor Emeritus Frank Herrera Memorial Scholarship Award through the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics. After graduation, Garrett hopes to attend graduate school to study Ecology or Ethnobiology.

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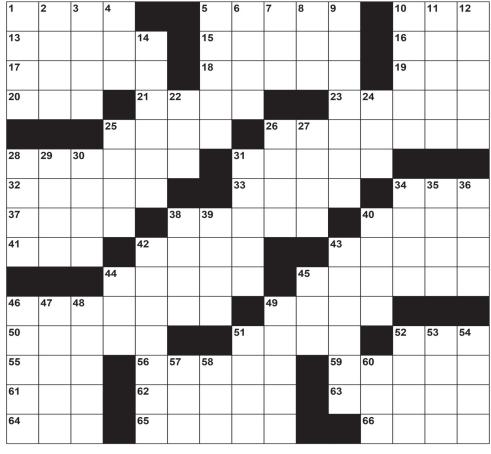
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45 Hunting bird

46 Underwater breather 49 Planted grass area 50 African nation 51 Food 52 Flightless bird 55 Cutting tool 56 Ornaments 59 Painter Richard 61 Aye 62 Ridge 63 Way 64 South southeast 65 Older 66 Expired **Down** 1 Upset

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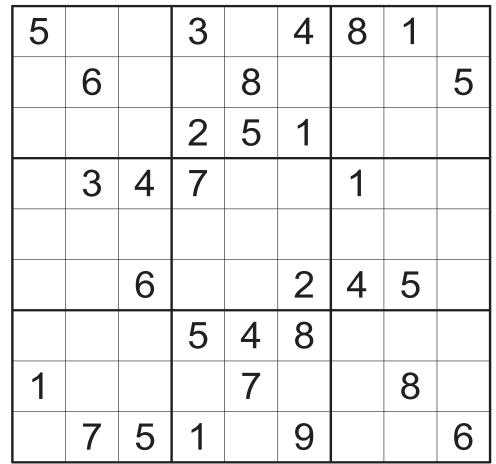
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What's the state of WVU baseball following Oklahoma State series?

BY ZACH ANDERSON SPORTS EDITOR

8

The West Virginia baseball team is coming off a three game set against one of the Big 12's toughest offerings, the No. 4 Oklahoma State Cowboys. Despite the 2-1 series defeat for the Mountaineers, there was a lot to learn about WVU's season following the matchups last weekend.

Many believed that the series against the Cowboys was a testament and a showcase of how the Mountaineers will fare this season, whether that's a long postseason run or a struggling conference record.

The series against Oklahoma State (26-10, 9-3 Big 12) was a measure of the 2022 season and was important for a couple of reasons. The first of these was the Big 12 standings implications.

West Virginia (22-12, 6-3 Big 12) came into the weekend series against the Cowboys atop the Big 12 standings with five victories and only one defeat in conference. The Cowboys were second in the conference, coming in with seven victories and two defeats against conference opponents. The series in Morgantown, W. Va., was a fight for the top spot in the nation's best baseball conference, and it ended up being exactly that. With both squads splitting the first two matchups, it came down to the Easter Sunday series finale, with Oklahoma State pulling away with a lopsided win.

Despite a close defeat, one dominant victory and a crushing blowout, WVU baseball has shown that it can handle some of the toughest teams in the country and within the Big 12.

In the first matchup on April 15, West Virginia showed some of its best play from the mound with ace Jacob Watters and showed some great bullpen play afterwards.

Watters led the Mountaineers with eight strikeouts on six innings pitched, but the hitting struggles against the Big 12's best bullpen and OSU opening arm Justin Campbell proved to be too much to overcome the small deficit.

Small-ball for the Mountaineers proved to be helpful against the excellent OSU arms, with WVU's Austin Davis stealing two bags to bring the game within one.



West Virginia's Ben Hampton (11) winds up a pitch against Oklahoma State on April 16, 2022 at Monongalia County Ballpark in Morgantown, W. Va.

In Saturday's April 16 matchup, WVU showed their best combined performance yet against a top five team. The West Virginia field group amassed seven strikeouts all together with seven hits from the plate against OSU.

The Mountaineers also bombed two solo homers, Nathan Blasick and McGwire Holbrook, against the Cowboys on Saturday to show off their long ball capabilities even against a strong group of pitchers. The decisive series finale on Sunday, April 17 set up a battle for the Big 12's top spot, but this matchup was the

but this matchup was the anomaly of the series for the Mountaineers. Oklahoma State ran away early with a great eye in the box, scoring eight runs in the

It was a rough day on the mound as well, with Okla-

first five innings before West

Virginia got on the board.

homa getting 11 hits off of five different pitchers compared to WVU's three hits.

Blasick showed some promise in an otherwise blowout loss, homering for his second time in two games against the Cowboys.

Even with a series loss in front packed home crowds at Monongalia County Ballpark, the Mountaineers have shown how they can hang with some of the country's best and even

the Big 12's best, potentially

leading to a spot in the postseason come June.

West Virginia will be back on the diamond for a non-conference matchup however, facing the Pittsburgh Panthers in the Backyard Brawl.

When: First pitch at 1 p.m. Where: PNC Park, Pittsburgh, Penn.

Watch: ACC Network Extra

Victor Scott II: Leading at the plate and breaking records along the way

BY CAMREN GANDEE ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

A common theme among the WVU baseball team this season has been their opportunistic and aggressive mentality. For manager Randy Mazey and the Mountaineers, no player epitomizes this mindset more than centerfielder Victor Scott II.

With 18 games still remaining in the season, Scott has already set the Mountaineers single season stolen base record. The junior swiped four bags against the No. 3 Oklahoma State Cowboys on April 16, propelling him to 30 stolen bases on the year to claim the long-standing record.

The previous record of 29



PHOTO BY JAKE TAYLOR West Virginia's Victor Scott II (6) prepares to bat against Youngstown State on March 25, 2022 at the Monongalia County Ballpark in Morgantown, W. Va.

had stood for over 35 years, when Mickey Mamarella set the mark for West Virginia back in the 1986 season. Scott has also become formidable in the batters box, as the junior is slashing .301/.522/.447 with five long balls and 33 RBIs in 34 starts this season.

While Scott is now alone atop the Mountaineers single season stolen base list, he may just have some company by season's end. His teammate Austin Davis is also within shouting distance of the Mamarella's 29 base threshold, as the right fielder has 23 steals with just below 20 games remaining.

The two outfielders' prolific base running has only reinforced Mazey's small-ball mentality. The duo is so effective on the bases, in fact, that the two alone have more combined stolen bases (53) than every Big 12 team has total, with the exception of Oklahoma (80). The Mountaineers dominance on the bases has certainly translated to success in the standings, as West Virginia sits at third place in the Big 12 with a 22-12 overall record, and a 6-3 mark in conference play.

Scott and Davis are also closing in on some career accolades, as the two outfielders are both top three all-time on the school's stolen base list.

Davis is currently tied with Bobby Boyd for second on WVU's all-time stolen base rankings with 58, while Scott is a step behind the two with 54. Scott and Davis still have a ways to go if they hope to surpass the school's all-time leader, Bill Marovic (74).

The constant pressure WVU

places on opposing catchers has been unmatched across the country, as West Virginia's 115 total steals ranks second in the nation behind only Texas Southern (146).

Scott and Davis will look to wreak more havoc on the base paths for WVU as they get set to embark on a four-game road trip, starting with a oneoff matchup against the Pitt Panthers.

When: 1 p.m. first pitch Where: PNC Park, Pittsburgh, Penn. Watch: ACCNetwork

owed some on the diamond therwise blow- ference matchup

Behind the scenes of collegiate rifle: a look at a former WVU assistant coach's journey

BY JAKE HOWARD SPORTS WRITER

Soren Butler has been named as the head coach of the Georgia Southern Eagles rifle team after spending five seasons as an assistant coach for the West Virginia Mountaineers.

Butler takes over a program that just won a conference championship in 2022. The Eagles have a female only team, but they compete against co-ed teams as well as the female exclusive teams.

Butler, who spent his collegiate shooting career at Alaska Fairbanks from 2012-2017, is replacing Sandra Worman, who coached the Eagles from 2017-2022, winning Southern Conference Coach of the Year three times.

After graduating with a Master's of Business Administration in 2017 from Alaska Fairbanks, Butler came to WVU where he spent two years earning another master's degree in sport management and on the Mountaineers staff as a graduate assistant.

With the addition of a fulltime assistant coach position for the program in 2019, something that head coach Jon Hammond said he has

needed for a long time, Butler was given the inaugural role for the Mountaineers.

Butler then spent the next three seasons as the assistant coach for the Mountaineers, winning three Great American Rifle Conference (GARC) championships on the West Virginia staff.

Butler was officially hired as the new head coach at Georgia Southern on April 2, 2022. Georgia Southern athletic director Jared Benko was excited about the hire, citing Butler's experience in the WVU program as a big factor in the hiring process.

"Soren is the top assistant coach in the country and has been successful in the sport throughout his career - both as a former student-athlete and as a coach," Benko said.

"As a coach at West Virginia, he was instrumental in leading his team to backto-back national championship, runner-up finishes and several conference championships. He also excelled as a student-athlete at the University of Alaska Fairbanks where he was a twotime NRA All-American and co-captain," Benko said.

Hammond also expressed his gratitude for Butler, coveting the skills and experience he brought to the program during his tenure.

"I'm really excited and

553 SOREN BUTLER **RIFLE HEAD COACH** Former WVU assistant rifle coach Soren Butler with his new role at Georgia Southern.

is going to be a team to watch

in the coming years," Ham-

ing the announcement, re-

Butler was excited follow-

mond said.

proud of Soren for getting this opportunity to be a head coach, and I think Georgia Southern has really hired the best person they could have found," Hammond said.

"Soren has had five wonderful years with us at WVU and has meant a lot to our program. He has really grown into the position here and learnt how to be a great coach, whether that is listening, teaching, doing admin or just building relationships. We are going to miss him a

lot, but I'm excited to see him ceiving much support from the Eagles staff on his hiring. step into a bigger role and I "I'm really excited, a lot know Georgia Southern Rifle

of support from the staff and a lot of cool people down there," Butler said.

Hammond was also a cru-

development, offering support and plenty of experience for Butler to build and learn from.

"He was always ready with questions, about recruiting, budgets, and his general shooting IQ," Butler said.

cial part of Butler's career

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Multiple top five finishes in Bison Outdoor Classic for WVU track and field

BY SAM GAMBILL SPORTS WRITER

The West Virginia track and field team had a very successful weekend at the Bison Outdoor Classic while earning multiple top five finishes.

WVU's first event was the 1500 meter invitational where senior Hayley Jackson took fourth place with a time of 4:25.16. Jackson was followed by junior Charlotte Wood, senior Katherine Dowie, senior Mikenna Vanderheyden, and senior Sylvia Russell, who finished in 7th, 12th, 17th, and 25th place respectively.

Next up for the Mountaineers was the discus throwing event. Senior Sada Wright, the only West Virginia athlete competing in the event, finished in fifth place with a distance of 45.94 meters.

West Virginia also took part in the 3000 meter run as sophomore Maria Kaylor earned a second place finish with a solid time of 10:08.05.



During the mile run, ju-

West Virginia's Sarah Stair begins a pole vault in the Mountaineer Classic on April, 2, 2022 at Mylan Park in Morgantown, W. Va.

Senior Samantha Hatcher's the same event. time of 10:54.13 was good enough for seventh place in nior Malina Mitchell finished

with a time of 5:18.04 which led to her taking home fifth place in the event.

WVU continued their weekend's success during the 800 meter run as sophomore Jo-Lauren Keane took home fourth place, while sophomore Cassandra Williamson and senior Hayley Jackson finished just behind her in fifth and sixth place.

West Virginia had three more athletes finish within the top 25 during the pole vault, when Ellie Gardner earned ninth place, Sarah Stair received 19th, and Katelyn Caccamo took 22nd place.

Meanwhile, senior Tessa Constantine was able to attain a time of 25.43 during the 200 meter run, good enough for 11th place.

Other notable finishes for the Mountaineers include freshman Ghamani Hogue ending up in 38th place of the 100 meter hurdles event.

West Virginia will be back in action for the Mountaineer Showcase in Morgantown, W.Va from April 22-23.

Fans react to QB JT **Daniels move to WVU**

BY ZACH ANDERSON SPORTS EDITOR

back and five-star prospect JT Daniels to West Virginia, many fans and alumni took to Twitter to announce their excitement for next season.

Following the commitment of former Georgia quarter-

Blue and Gold Nation WVU FOOTBALL BACK FROM THE DEAD Brandon Phoenix @IAlsoHatepitt Just like that, I'm back in! **Tyler Davis**

JT Daniels single handedly just restored the mental health of all WVU fans

Nick O'Toole @jtdaniels06 best decision you could have made man! Enjoy the ride and hold on cause Morgantown gets wild baby! #\|/ #LetsGo #WVU



JT Daniels is a good get for West Virginia and makes the BackYard Brawl between Pitt and WVU the battle of Former USC QBs. Another example of how the Transfer Portal has changed the game.

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Monday In Morgantown Monday in Morgantown- Monday in Morgantown is a weekly news podcast aimed at keeping you caught up on all the events on campus at West Virginia University. Each Monday, a new episode detailing all the news you might've missed will be released.



Women in Science and Medicine Podcast- The Women in Science and Medicine podcast features discussions with female scientists within West Virginia University and other institutions. In this series, we'll share the achievements and insights from some of the country's top female scientists and learn from their experiences to understand how they came to be passionate about science and overcame any obstacles in their paths. This podcast is offered by West Virginia University's Office of Research and Graduate Education



Hosted by Sydney Wentz and Chloe Snodgrass, the "Are You Still Watching?" podcast discusses TV shows, past and present, the impact they've had in pop culture and the mark they've left on our society. New episodes are available every Friday! This podcast is a product of the Daily Athenaeum, West Virginia University's Independent Student Newspaper, and produced by WVU Student Media.



In this podcast series, we'll share the achievements and insights of West Virginia University graduate students and faculty. We'll discuss their experiences and how they came to be passionate about their research. We'll also talk about life beyond the lab and academy. GradLife 601: Research and Beyond is sponsored by the WVU Provost's Office of Graduate Education and Life and hosted by Dr. Nancy Caronia, a Teaching Associate Professor in the Department of English at West Virginia University





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