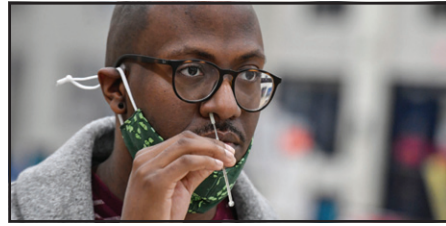




Harris' VP inauguration inspirational for Alpha Kappa Alpha sisters



Self-Swabbing for COVID-19 a new option at WVU



Emery Martinez developing into formidable post player

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WVU's Independent Student Newspaper

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2021

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Pandemic unable to stop Greek life; recruitment numbers rise

BY LARA BONATESTA
STAFF WRITER

WVU's Greek organizations are in the midst of spring recruitment, and this is the first primary recruitment season to take place in an all-virtual setting.

According to Matthew Richardson, director of the Center for Fraternal Values and Leadership, recruitment numbers from fall 2019 to fall 2020 are up more than 120%. Richardson believes this influx of membership comes from students' desire to be more involved during the pandemic. He said that membership increases are not happening nationwide, and pointed out the benefits of holding primary recruitment in the spring.

"Everyone else has their primary recruitment in the fall," Richardson said. "Well in the fall, there wasn't a lot of time to plan for virtual and things like that, so we've been able

to work with our Big 12 counterparts and learn from them."

According to Richardson, 377 women registered for Panhellenic recruitment — about 40 more than last spring.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Greek organizations have had to adapt to the need for social distancing by holding online events for both recruitment and new member education.

Joanna Switala, a junior political science and religious studies student, said that her sorority, Omega Phi Alpha, plans to hold each of their recruitment nights, including information, sisterhood, service and interview night, will be held over Zoom.

Switala also said that some of the sorority's other traditions, including big little reveals, are also taking place virtually. Switala named one virtual big little reveal as one of her favorite sorority memories.



PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

Sisters of Alpha Phi dance behind the Mountainlair on Bid Day, Feb. 2, 2020.

"It was kind of like a game show, where it was guess who your big is, and there were three or four of us as, we all had our camera's off, and we didn't have our names on there," Switala said. "[The little] would ask questions, and we would all answer and she'd have to guess who her big was

at the end." Richardson said that while the pandemic has made it hard to gather, it revealed the possibility of virtual recruitment and the existence of Greek life online.

"I think that this has really made us take a few steps back and think about

the Greek experience in general and realize that we still can exist without formal social events functioning and happening," Richardson said.

Richardson also emphasized that there is a place in Greek life for any student who desires to take part. The different types of Greek organizations that WVU has to offer includes the Interfraternity Council, which consists of traditional fraternities, the Panhellenic Association, which consists of traditional sororities, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, as well as professional fraternities and sororities.

"If you want to have a place in Greek life, I firmly believe that there is a place somewhere for you, so you can be your most authentic self and live your truth, and that'll be celebrated in our community somewhere," Richardson said.

Students that are interested in joining can find more information at the WVU Greek life website

Panda Express nears opening in Mountainlair

BY CHRISTINA RUFO
STAFF WRITER

After some delay, Panda Express is scheduled to open in the Mountainlair by the beginning of March.

While the original opening date was postponed due to some COVID-19-related issues, according to Tiffany Peden, communications and HR manager for WVU Dining Services, the staff is working through these issues to ensure a safe and timely opening.

Since being announced last summer, excitement has been high for the

new, mainstream option.

"We have heard nothing but positive feedback for the incoming Panda Express," Peden said. "It's a well-known brand with a good following, and we think the WVU community will enjoy its addition to the Mountainlair food court."

The new eatery will be taking the spot of Burgershop, a burger restaurant located next to Chick-Fil-A. It will join the Mountainlair's host of offerings including Which Wich, Taziki's and Blue Tomato.

Panda Express will accept Dining Dollars, Mounty Bounty and regular cash and cards like all takeouts in the

Mountainlair, making it more accessible to all students with meal plans on campus.

Freshman Bri Myers has been long awaiting the grand opening of the new on-campus dining option.

"I'm actually super excited for the Panda Express in the Mountainlair," Myers said. "I love Asian food and there are a ton of great Asian food places on campus, but none that take Dining Dollars, at least until now."

The staff plans to have many opening week specials, which will be announced closer to the opening date.

See Mountainlair page 4



PHOTO BY SETH SEEBAUGH

Panda Express will replace Burgershop in the Mountainlair.



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FRIDAY 2/5

MORNING SNOW SHOWERS
HIGH 40° - LOW 23°



SATURDAY 2/6

PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH 34° - LOW 21°



SUNDAY 2/7

MORNING SNOW SHOWERS
HIGH 32° - LOW 18°



CRIME REPORT

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JAN. 31

5:47 p.m. | Citation
WVU Dadisman Hall
Drug Incident.

JAN. 31

7:31 p.m. | Citation
University Place North
Drug Incident.

JAN. 31

8:05 p.m. | Citation
University Park Apartments
Parking Complaint.

JAN. 31

9:19 p.m. | Warning
University Ave. / Eighth St.
Traffic Stop.

JAN. 31

9:31 p.m. | Resolved

College Park
Disturbance.

FEB. 1

4:32 p.m. | Investigations
WVU Wise Library
Suspicious Event.

FEB. 1

6:25 p.m. | Resolved
WVU Law School
Trespassing.

FEB. 1

8:39 p.m. | Resolved
University Park Apartments
Drug Incident.

FEB. 1

9:33 p.m. | Resolved
Cornell Ave. / College Ave.
Destruction of Property.

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SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENTS



Hannah Petronek
@retronek

WVU parties are broken up with more force. remember snow day on Spruce Street? yeah



RACHIE @itsmeRachie · Jan 6

Name a place with tighter security than the Capitol. RIGHT answers only.

[Show this thread](#)



11:07 AM · Jan 7, 2021 · Twitter Web App

3 Retweets 11 Likes



Vannah Lusk
@vannahlusk23

One of the strangest coping mechanisms I've developed is clearing my mind and only thinking of DQ's gravy.

No stress, only good vibes and gravy.

8:00 AM · Feb 3, 2021 · Twitter for Android

1 Quote Tweet 43 Likes



black poncho boy
@mahweyll

i posted sumn on linkedin for the first time today and i was thinking like

🙄🙄🙄🙄 people really be on this app yo

7:44 PM · Feb 1, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

17 Likes



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NEWS

Harris' VP inauguration inspirational for WVU's Alpha Kappa Alpha sisters

BY SADAF NIKZAD

STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 20, Kamala Harris made history when she was inaugurated as the first female Vice President of the United States, as well as the first African American and Asian American to hold the office.

Harris is an alumna of Howard University and was a sister of Alpha Kappa Alpha during her time as an undergraduate student. Alpha Kappa Alpha is the first intercollegiate historically African American sorority and was founded at Howard in the early 20th century.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. declared Jan. 20 "Kamala D. Harris Day" to honor her accomplishments. Members were asked to wear pink and pearls to help celebrate Harris, two symbols of the sorority.

Inauguration Day was especially important on campus as West Virginia University features a chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Many sisters celebrated Harris by watching the inauguration and wearing their pearls as well.

Sister Tiara Rowe said Harris' initial run as President



PHOTO VIA GAGE SKIDMORE

U.S. Senator Kamala Harris speaking with attendees at the 2019 National Forum on Wages and Working People hosted by the Center for the American Progress Action Fund and the SEIU at the Enclave in Las Vegas, Nevada.

meant a lot to her.

"For a black woman to put her best foot forward and attempt to run for President, it was very courageous in my eyes," Rowe said. "I feel like she's brave, and I feel like she's achieved a lot."

Rowe started keeping up

with Harris in 2018, as a junior in high school. Now, three years later, she still follows Harris and her achievements.

Despite opening her presidential campaign as a name to watch in the Democratic Party, Harris suspended her presidential campaign due to

a lack of financial resources.

"Even after she withdrew from the presidential race, I knew that this was not going to be our last time seeing her," Rowe said.

Rowe said as an AKA sister and a long-time Harris supporter, Harris' accomplish-

ments give her hope as a political science major.

"It makes the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha proud because that is an organization full of black women who create black excellence and achieve highly," Rowe said. "I feel like Kamala does more

than that."

Camryn Pressley, another sister of AKA, said Harris' initial run for president showed herself and other AKA members that girls anywhere can do anything, no matter their skin color.

"The initial run for president was very important to us," Pressley said. "It showed us that as members and sisters of the first historically black sorority created in the world that we will always be first."

Although the sisters couldn't watch the inauguration together due to COVID-19 and quarantining, they still celebrated Harris and all of her accomplishments.

"We did some fun things on Jan. 15, which is our Founder's Day," Pressley said. "She came and spoke to us. It was very celebratory for her."

Pressley said while she watched Harris get sworn in, she felt like a little kid.

"I was jumping up and down in my seat and was so excited about what was happening," said Pressley. "I got to watch her make history."

College affordability, voter registration among SGA's upcoming spring agenda

BY ZACH ANDERSON

STAFF WRITER

West Virginia University's Student Government Association has shared new plans for the spring semester, mentioning upcoming legislation and events it plans to have a part in.

The main goal of the SGA every semester is to be a student advocacy organization that is responsible for representing the needs of students. The association serves as a liaison between the students' needs and the University's higher administration.

SGA President Chase Riggs has noticed, with this school year being more difficult than years past, how important meeting in person is for him and his association, and how different work this year has been for him and his administration.

"This semester has been very disruptive for our students in Morgantown, and you know SGA as a body has not met fully in person," Riggs said. "We've met virtually on Zoom or in small cohorts following all policies, but you know we rely on in-person interaction with the students, so we're working to seek out concerns from our fellow Mountaineers."

For this semester, however, the SGA has been able to meet together enough to form new legislation and ideas and to help students.

"We have a few programming legislations in the pipeline, and we're also attending Big XII on the Hill, with our fellow colleagues, to meet with congressmen and women to address existing issues that students in higher education are facing now," Riggs said.

"We're looking at COVID relief, additional stimulus, col-

lege affordability and meeting with West Virginia state representatives as well," Riggs said. "We also have a subcommittee to address the costly use of third party tools or platforms in the classroom, especially now because of the financial stressors that have been increased due to COVID."

Riggs also plans to be monitoring the upcoming state legislative session just to see if there is any specific legislation he finds that could affect education here in West Virginia.

Alongside looking at new legislation and meeting with state officials, the SGA also plans to hold events to promote certain events coming up.

"Our community engagement committee hopes to plan to have a second voter registration drive, we had one this October, because there is a Morgantown municipal election that is approaching later



PHOTO VIA WVU

Chase Riggs (right) and Jaron Bragg (left) serve as the 2020-21 WVU SGA President and Vice President.

this spring," Riggs said. "Our hope with that is that students are able to become registered in Morgantown or the city in which they've lived for the last four years."

Riggs is also looking out for student organizations and their needs, describing financial aid they could receive

through the SGA.

"We have a bureau of finance that has grants that are available for student organizations, and any organization looking for a grant can find more information about that on our website."

With an SGA election nearby, as well as the needs of

thousands of students at hand, Riggs wanted to make it clear that the SGA is here to help.

"If they (students) have anything that is of importance to them, that they'd like to share with us, we're happy to help them in any way possible that we can," he said.

'Zoom anxiety' has many open to software changes for the classroom

BY SADAF NIKZAD

STAFF WRITER

Virtual classes have begun to be the norm during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the process in which they are being conducted is still under countless adjustments.

At West Virginia University and around the country, many instructors are relying on Zoom, an online video-chat software, in order to connect with students. Yet, varying complaints with the software have many asking how it can be better.

Last week, an elementary school teacher made a post on TikTok, saying that Zoom should incorporate a new option to benefit those

in academia.

"Our students should be able to set their cameras to be only visible to the host," Matt Head said in his video. "This should be a setting for the host or the students."

The post, which was published to the video-sharing social media network last week, quickly became popular on the app. As of Wednesday afternoon, the video had received more than 365,000 likes and had been shared within the app nearly 5,000 times.

Additionally, most of the comments on the post seemed to be positively in favor of the proposed change.

In Monongalia County Public Schools, many classes already have this ability. The virtual learning

system public schools use, Schoology, only allows students to see the instructor.

"With that system, the students can only be seen by the teacher," said Kirk Hazen, professor of linguistics at WVU.

In a real classroom, Hazen said, you get to be seen by other students, and that's part of the agreement of joining a class.

But, as classes are in a much different environment, many students have become self-conscious about the shift to a virtual classroom. This is primarily due to the fact that each student's learning environment is different and may cause embarrassment for some.

Natalie Watson, a sophomore psychology student,

says she feels intimidated that other students can look at her at all times when she has her camera on, and that makes her anxious.

"I feel like people are more likely to take a screenshot or video of people doing something on camera on Zoom," Watson said.

Watson said she would feel more comfortable if only her professors could see her on camera.

"I never know what my setting is going to be," Watson said. "Sometimes I don't have time to put myself together as what I like to be."

Since last March, the majority of classes at West Virginia University have been presented in some virtual capacity.

In a press release is-

sued in October, WVU announced that 54% of online courses this semester are synchronous,

meaning that they will have class sessions in real time.

"I never know what my setting is going to be, sometimes I don't have time to put myself together as what I like to be."

-Natalie Watson, WVU sophomore psychology student

Instructors more confident with online instruction this semester

BY CRYSTAL CHECK

STAFF WRITER

This being the second semester with a large portion of classes taking place online at West Virginia University, many professors and instructors now feel more confident helping their students make the most of their courses remotely.

"A difference from when I first started online to now is that I think that I feel more comfortable with the awkwardness that sometimes comes up when we're online, and I think that my

students do too," said Jenny Johnson, an assistant professor of creative writing at WVU.

Johnson is now a fan of using breakout rooms on Zoom. The feature has not only helped her students connect in the classroom, but she said that she had an instance of a group of students stay after class in the Zoom meeting, talking for hours after class with each other.

"It just made me realize that I can at least give people the opportunity to connect," Johnson said.

Jesse Wright, instructor in the Reed College of Me-

dia and a contributing editor with 100 Days in Appalachia, utilizes online polls and exercises during his synchronous classes to keep his students engaged. He also says that although he didn't really struggle with instruction last semester, the learning tools he developed then were readily available for use this semester.

"So I'm not trying to build the plane as it's flying, I have a plane and I'm just making sure it can go faster," Wright said.

Wright also said that the University offered resources for professors

when it came to online instruction. Using the already existing online courses and their instructors, they outlined standards and basics for classes that had never been taught remotely before.

"I think it's definitely gotten a bit easier in terms of knowing what to expect," Maria Gladstone, instructor and doctoral student at WVU, said, "so that's been really helpful, because I don't have to recreate things from scratch, I can just use the materials I've created in the past."

Gladstone teaches yoga and meditation at WVU, and she says her department has now required students to obtain fitness trackers that connect to a website to help guide the students through their courses and ensure they are doing what is required of them.

Another difference for how some instructors run their online courses this semester in comparison to the previous is that they may be more compassionate to students who are having difficulties in class

during the pandemic.

"We have to be ultra compassionate. Both to our coworkers and to our students, because nothing is normal. Nothing that we do from day to day is going to be normal," Wright said. "I don't want to be the person that keeps somebody from graduating."

"I think being open and being genuine and caring is really important right now, because we're all going through a lot," Gladstone said.

Mountainlair

Continued from page 1

Freshman engineering student Jake Fiorito is eager to have new dining options made available on the downtown campus.

"I usually go to Summit (Hall) to get food from the dining hall since I stay in the Honors Dorm downtown," Fiorito said, "but now that Panda Express will be nearby, I'll definitely go to the Mountainlair more often to get dinner."

In regard to why the decision was made to add Panda Express to the list of available dining options in the Mountainlair, Peden said, "WVU Dining Services is always aiming to enhance the student experience on campus. We listen to the feedback of the students, faculty and staff on campus, and it greatly influences the enhancements we make, including bringing in this new location."

Myers agrees that many students are anticipating

the latest take-out spot. She said, "I think it'll be super popular on campus because the current dining hall food can get a little old after you eat it everyday."

It is still unsure whether the on-campus menu of Panda Express will differ from regular locations, but many popular items should be available.

"We are confident the WVU community will enjoy the new Panda Express," Peden said.

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WELLWVU
well.wvu.edu

Editor:
Raeanne Beckner
rmb0035@mix.wvu.edu

CULTURE

Assistant Editor:
Craig Weimer
ctw0012@mix.wvu.edu

Self-swabbing for COVID-19 a new option at WVU

BY CRAIG WEIMER
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

By now, having to get tested for COVID-19 is a normal part of people's lives. It's a required part of participating in any formal aspect of public life, from sports and clubs, to merely attending class.

What happens when you introduce a new element to this well-known routine?

"Whenever I got there and checked in, the [healthcare worker] sent me to lane one and hadn't given me any information," said Maya Huggins, a senior psychology student at WVU. "Then, I was handed the bag with everything, and I was like, 'Wait, am I supposed to be doing this?'"

After a bit of confusion and lane switching, staff discovered that Huggins had not signed up for self-swab. When presented with the option, she decided to go the old-fashioned route. She cited a minor fear of medical instruments as the reason for her decision.

"If it were my choice, I would have chosen someone else to do it for me," Huggins said. "I'm just overall not good with injection things, just a personal phobia. Having someone else do it with my eyes closed was just best for me."

All fears aside, self-swab-



PHOTO BY WVU PHOTO/BRIAN PERSINGER

The School of Pharmacy administers a COVID-19 test.

bing has provided a working alternative to students at WVU in recent weeks. The college has found many willing to take matters into their own hands.

"I didn't have a problem with it," said Brian Sherry, a temp with WVU Mail Services. "You had someone walk you through it and supervise... I think I've taken the other [non-self administered] test too, and that was a little bit more intimidating because they were the ones going up your nose rather than you."

Sherry said he believed self-swabbing would make people more comfortable

with testing.

"I think it was better than what may have been happening where people were going too [deep] at the beginning to other people," Sherry said. "[It was presented as] a horrible experience, I remember, and that's part of the reason why when I first got tested in the fall, I was not looking forward to it. A couple people had said it hurt."

According to Carmen Burrell, medical director for WVU Student Health Services and Urgent Care, Sherry wasn't so far off the mark. WVU uses a less invasive testing strategy than the ones Sherry may



PHOTO BY WVU PHOTO/BRIAN PERSINGER

A self-swab COVID-19 test at WVU.

have been talking about. The University's new self-swab option and less-invasive tests were chosen to increase testee comfort.

"We found that some people were slightly anxious or concerned about the swab and may have felt more comfortable doing it themselves," Burrell said. "We wanted everyone to feel more comfortable. We found that some preferred someone else to do it, but some like to control it themselves. It's an easy pro-

cedure to do."

When asked whether taking matters out of medical professionals' hands threw test results into doubt, Burrell said evidence suggests it's still effective.

"There is evidence that people have done this elsewhere, and it has been effective, so it's something we wanted to look into," Burrell said. "And since we've started [self-swabbing] at return to campus testing, we've actually had a really good re-

sponse. We do have instructors that are there with you to walk you through the process, and step-by-step instructions, so there's really no way you could swab incorrectly."

Burrell said, in her opinion and experience, the test was comfortable and effective either way.

"I have done it both ways," Burrell said. "I think either way is fine. You can get an adequate sample. It's just a personal preference."

WVU philosophy professors to hold discussion on presidential pardons

BY CRAIG WEIMER
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

When asked, Scott Davidson, a philosophy professor at WVU, said the presidential pardon seminar is more like an "open discussion."

"The starting point for the discussion is going to be an article that I published with The Conversation," Davidson said. "So people are going to read that in advance, and then we'll have a discussion about the issue of pardons — first in the presidential context — and then we'll branch out to talk about the concept of the pardon on a more general, philosophical level."

Having heard about recent presidential pardons in the



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WVU PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

Scott Davidson, WVU philosophy professor.

news, Davidson and his colleagues thought it would be beneficial to hold a discussion.

"We just saw Trump issue over a hundred pardons just a few weeks ago, so it's rele-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WVU PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

Daniel Miller, WVU philosophy professor.

vant in that way," Davidson said. "But it's also important for thinking beyond the issue of presidential pardons. It's important to think about the question of pardons in the

question of the division in the U.S. and people's calls for renewing a sense of unity and shared purpose."

Davidson said the presidential pardon contradicts the idea of the rule of law. Rule of law, here, means a situation in which written law, with the help of a judge and jury, decides who is guilty, not a leader.

"[The pardon] is an element of the constitution in the U.S. that I think is worthy of scrutiny," Davidson said. "I want to bring out, for the sake of discussion, questions of whether we ought to, as a society, reconsider presidential pardons."

Daniel Miller is Davidson's fellow philosophy professor

and member of the Speculation Academy, which is holding the discussion at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 10 over Zoom.

"I'm currently interested in the nature and norms of forgiveness. What exactly is forgiveness? Who has the authority, or standing, to forgive?" Miller said. "Do only victims of wrongdoing have the authority to forgive, or can there be third-party forgiveness? Questions like this reveal both similarities and differences between pardon and forgiveness."

Davidson claimed that the pardon, as an analogue to forgiveness in general, could be used as a way to examine our own interpersonal relationships. He said that these ex-

aminations could focus on and expand upon the current political climate.

"The second reason this is of importance now is that political polarization has overflowed into the personal sphere with very destructive effects," Miller said. "Political division has caused rifts in interpersonal relationships between friends and family. Forgiveness, as an analogue of pardon, is the best means that humans have of restoring broken relationships. A recognition of what makes forgiveness and reconciliation possible is essential in this regard."

Anyone interested can visit the WVU philosophy department's website for more information.

Editor:
Emily Rexroad
err00002@mix.wvu.edu

OPINION

WVU's McNeil, Culver were the shining light in the Florida loss

BY TERENCE CHURCH
CORRESPONDENT

This year's Big 12/SEC Challenge game included a pair of four-loss teams facing off in the WVU Coliseum, which for the first time this season allowed a limited number of fans in the stands.

The Mountaineers faced off against the Florida Gators in an intense back-and-forth interconference matchup. The Mountaineers came into the game on a two-game winning streak, with previous wins against Kansas State and then-No. 10 Texas Tech. The Gators went into the matchup on a three-game win streak coming off a recent defeat against Vanderbilt.

The Mountaineers started the game off with a lot of effort in comparison to the Gators starting a little slower, but Florida was able to still make its presence known by dominating inside the paint. Another noticeable thing about the first four minutes of the game was how hot sophomore guard Miles McBride was coming out of the gate, scoring six of WVU's first 11 points. Unfortunately, McBride was unable to make another shot from the field the whole game, but he did shine in the assist



PHOTO VIA WVU ATHLETICS

WVU guards Sean McNeil and Miles McBride high five during the game.

category by having a career night finishing with nine.

Another teammate who finished the game with a career night was Derek Culver, who looked absolutely magnificent in the first half. Culver ended the first half shooting an efficient 6-for-6, while shooting 9-for-11 from the free throw line. At the end of the first half, WVU led 42-37 over Florida in

a back-and-forth affair.

The second half started off with the Mountaineers coming out of the half extending their lead to seven points. The Gators were able to come out hot also by executing their offensive possessions well, but they failed to have an answer for Culver on the defensive end. The Mountaineers also failed to make adjustments



PHOTO VIA WVU ATHLETICS

Mountaineer junior forward Derek Culver attempts a layup against the Gators.

at the end of the first half on the defensive end in regards to decreasing Florida's activity in the paint. Florida continued to dominate in the paint, and on top of that they then began to get hot from behind the arc.

WVU's Sean McNeil often helped calm Florida's offensive outbursts as he had more of an offensive presence because of a poor shooting game

from McBride. He made a whopping six threes off of 11 shots, and he ended the game with an impressive 21 points off the bench.

Culver's offensive usage increased in the game, and he ended the night with a career-high 28 points and 12 rebounds. The majority of Culver's points were made from the free throw line as he made

14 free throws, but in the second half he was unable to capitalize from the free throw line like he did in the first. Overall, Culver and McNeil both performed very well on the offensive end contributing to 63% of WVU's points, but ultimately it was not enough to maintain Florida's inside presence as they fell short, 85-80.

'Mainstream college experience' a reality for some, a fantasy for others

BY EMILY REXROAD
OPINION EDITOR

Let's face it, not all of us are going to be the "main character," and that's okay. Main character culture has ruined many of our perspectives on things, especially on what our college experience should look like.

For some unknown reason, American culture has hyped up the dorm experience, making it seem perfectly normal to live in close quarters with a total stranger, if not more, and share a bathroom, either a floor bathroom or your own, with people you barely know.

Most other European countries provide their students with a single room at the very

least. After all, we are adults, not children.

Like most universities in the U.S., WVU has a requirement for freshmen to live on campus. And like many other students, I watched video after video on Youtube trying to get a feel on what I'd like my dorm room to look like.

The reality, however, is that the University doesn't provide enough information on what our rooms actually look like. Sure, they've produced hype videos and provided some virtual programs to see what our rooms might look like, but it isn't exact. That, of course, stems from the fact that most rooms have varying sizes and furniture. When you're planning on what you have room to bring, however, it can make

"...it almost makes one feel like they aren't experiencing college the right way."

-Katie Webster, freshman English student

move-in day tricky.

Lauren Gould, a freshman social work student living in Boreman South, said that the desk chairs are uncomfortable and worn down to the point there's no cushion left.

On top of that, the shower situation is another bad part about the dorm.

"[The showers] are awful, they are so small you can barely move, and the water

pressure sucks," Gould said.

Although the roommate profile students living on campus are required to fill out provides a simple questionnaire detailing how their personalities are like, the reality is that your college self is much different from the self you grew up being.

Because of this, sleep schedules and cleanliness can be much different than what

you originally planned, making it difficult to match with someone who can click with your living style.

"My roommates aren't very clean and love to have people over. [We're] definitely not as close as things seemed when we first started texting over the summer," said freshman Katie Webster, an English student living in Seneca Hall.

I truly wonder why colleges and many people believe that having a roommate in your dorm is "part of the college experience." In reality, even if you do end up getting an apartment after freshman year, you each have your own rooms, and you can easily find much cheaper options than the dorms on campus with nicer utilities.

"I think the stereotypical college life has become such a mainstream thing in our society today... so when reality is not like that, it almost makes one feel like they aren't experiencing college the right way," Webster said.

It's okay to not have a crazy freshman year where you meet tons of people and the friends you're supposed to have for the rest of your life. You're still adjusting to college life, and we're still dealing with COVID-19, which makes an already difficult year even harder.

Cut yourself some slack and try to make the best of your situation, no matter how disappointed in your dorm choice you may be.

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- Across

1 Swiss mountains

5 Ice cream holders

10 Cheese

14 French Sudan

15 Terminate

16 Comedian Jay

17 Middle East dweller

18 Chest wood

19 Prohibits

20 Climbing vine on walls and buildings

21 Eye infection

22 Houses

24 National capital

26 Chew

27 Central nervous system

28 Can develop into new

29 Kitten's cry

32 U.S. Department of Agriculture

35 Lawn and meadow covering

36 Environmental protection agency (abbr)

37 Bitten

39 November (abbr.)

40 Holder

42 Air blower

43 Japanese city

45 Tints

46 Caustic substance
- Down

47 Ripped up

48 Eye infection

50 Curled

51 Rush

55 Shape

58 A piece of bedroom furniture (2 wds.)

60 Evening

61 El ____

62 Urge on

64 Capital of Western Samoa

65 Allege

66 Whining voice type

67 Religious division

68 Plateau

69 Dales

70 Hebrew 8th letter
- 21 Brought into life

22 Annex

25 Rush

27 Dynamite

29 Girl in "Beverly Hills, 90210"

30 Brand of sandwich cookie

31 Open tart-like pastry

32 Respiratory organ

33 Ship initials

34 Walking stick

35 Rear

36 What dogs sit on

38 Friend (Sp.)

39 Shirt protector

43 Rapid eye movement

45 Coming down

46 Fox holes

49 Gone by

51 Banquet

53 Indifferent

54 Started

55 Many months

56 Baby sheep

57 Opera solo

58 Air intake

60 Proper

61 Weary

62 False god graven image

65 Heavens

67 Short-term memory

For answers, visit thedaonline.com

PET OF THE DAY



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SARAH HENDRICKSON

Meet Elsie May, a Golden Retriever mix. Elsie is a big cuddler, except on gamedays when she knows it's time to party. Elsie fetches tennis balls and frisbees and returns them back to us, and her favorite treat is Banana Peanut Butter Home-made Treats.

Submit your favorite pet photo at danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.

Sudoku puzzle brought to you by Jim Bumgardner at krazydad.com

For answers, visit thedaonline.com

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Editor:
Charles Montgomery
ccm0019@mix.wvu.edu

SPORTS

Assistant Editor:
Nick Kremer
nrk0009@mix.wvu.edu

Sherman, WVU looking for spark against Kansas

BY NICK KREMER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

On Saturday, No. 17 West Virginia will host the No. 23 Kansas Jayhawks for the teams' second matchup of the season. In the first meeting, the Jayhawks came away with a 79-65 victory over the Mountaineers.

The Mountaineers (12-5, 5-3 Big 12) have won three of their last four with the most recent victory coming against Iowa State on Tuesday. Against the Cyclones, Taz Sherman led all scorers with 18 points including his two free throws in the final seconds of the game to secure a 76-72 WVU win. Junior forward Derek Culver also had a great game for the Mountaineers, notching his ninth double-double of the season with 13 points and 12 rebounds.

The Jayhawks (12-6, 6-4 Big 12) are coming off of a 74-51 win over Kansas State. Kansas had three players score 15 or more points as David McCormack and Christian Braun led all scorers with 18 each, followed by Ochai Agbaji with 15 points. Kansas has struggled in

its last few games going 2-4 in the last six.

The last time these two teams played, each team was ranked in the top 10 with identical records of 7-1, with each team's loss against Gonzaga. The game came down to three-point shooting.

The Mountaineers shot 8-of-23 from behind the line. Junior guard Sean McNeil led the team with six made threes. Kansas dominated from three-point range, shooting 16-of-37 and was led by Braun with six threes.

Since their victory over the Mountaineers on Dec. 22, the Jayhawks have lost five games, and in those five losses Kansas has given up an average of 78.2 points.

West Virginia has lost two players, Oscar Tshiebwe and Isaiah Cottrell, that played in the first matchup. Tshiebwe and Cottrell combined for just three points in that game and were largely a non-factor.

The biggest difference for the Mountaineers between the first game and now has been the emergence of Sherman. In the first game, the senior guard played just 14 minutes

and scored only two points.

Since the departure of Tshiebwe and the injury to Cottrell, Sherman has seen a large increase in his minutes. In the last five games, Sherman has averaged nearly 29 minutes per game, with double-digit points in each of the five games. The junior college transfer has also started in four of those five games.

West Virginia struggled defensively in the first game giving up 79 points. That struggle has continued with WVU giving up more than 70 points in five of its last seven games since playing the Jayhawks.

The Mountaineers are 5-15 all-time against Kansas with the most recent win coming in Morgantown on Jan. 19, 2019. The unranked Mountaineers upset then-No. 7 Kansas, 65-64. Only two current Mountaineers played in that game with Culver scoring 11 points while Jordan McCabe had no points and a steal in five minutes of play.

The Mountaineers and Jayhawks will tip off Saturday at 2 p.m. from the WVU Coliseum in Morgantown. The game will be televised nationally on CBS.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WVU ATHLETICS

West Virginia guard Taz Sherman (12) attempts a shot against Florida on Jan. 30.

COVID-19 casting shadow over college basketball conference tournaments

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY
SPORTS EDITOR

A debate has circled sports all season at every level on whether or not sports should continue to play even though the COVID-19 pandemic persists throughout the United States and the world.

The NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament normally covers the entire country with game sites in multiple states at multiple schools and arenas. This year, the tournament will be held in one location in Indianapolis with the Final Four set to play at Lucas Oil Stadium like originally planned.

The NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament will play entirely in San Antonio with the Final Four being played at the Alamodome.

With the NCAA seemingly answering the most important question that clouded the college basketball season for most of the year, the de-

bate has shifted to the conference tournaments on whether or not those should be played prior to the NCAA Tournament.

West Virginia men's basketball head coach Bob Huggins sees the conference tournaments being played mainly because there is too much money involved for the conferences and schools.

"I don't know why there's a discussion, I think they're going to be played," Huggins said. "At least the Power 5 tournaments are going to be played because there are television contracts. Television contracts and a lot of money, of which the conferences and schools get their fair share."

For now, all conference tournaments are expected to be played as scheduled. However, many people within college basketball believe there is too much risk involved for the NCAA Tournament if conference tournaments are played.

In early January, the NCAA



PHOTO BY DALE SPARKS

West Virginia head coach Bob Huggins questions a call made by the officials during WVU's game against Northeastern on Dec. 29.

released its COVID-19 health guidelines to ensure that the tournament would be played as safely as possible. The guideline that has caused many people to reconsider playing the conference tournaments is that "all Tier 1 travel participants will be required to undergo and document seven consecutive neg-

ative COVID-19 tests prior to arrival into Indianapolis."

People are using this guideline to reconsider the conference tournaments because most conferences have their tournaments playing the week before the NCAA Tournament is expected to get kicked off.

The ACC, Big 12, Pac 12 and Big East all have their confer-

ence tournament championship games scheduled for March 13. The Big Ten and SEC conference championship games are scheduled for March 14. Selection Sunday for the NCAA Tournament is March 14 with the First Round beginning on March 19 and 20.

West Virginia women's basketball head coach Mike Carey expects the conference tournaments to be played as well, and he is more than ready to have those tournaments.

"We want to play every game we can play," Carey said. "We want to play the conference tournament, hopefully we can get in the NCAA Tournament and play in that, and if they want us to play something after that, we'll play in that. These are basketball players; they want to play games and we're coaches, and we want to coach games."

Some coaches have discussed the possibility of teams opting out of their conference tournaments. Louisville men's

basketball head coach Chris Mack sees teams opting out as a very real possibility.

"I do believe there will be some teams that opt out of conference tournaments knowing they're a shoo-in for the NCAA Tournament," Mack said in a USA TODAY article. "I would consider it. It probably wouldn't be my decision alone. That'd be a hell of a choice."

As of early February, the Phillips 66 Big 12 Men's Basketball Championship is expected to begin on March 10 and play through March 13. The tournament will be held at the T-Mobile Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Phillips 66 Big 12 Women's Basketball Championship will begin on March 11 and play through March 14 in Kansas City Missouri.

According to the Big 12 Conference office, details surrounding the Big 12 Conference Tournaments are still fluid at this time.

Mountaineers piecing together incredible win streak

BY ETHAN BOCK

SPORTS WRITER

For the past six weeks, the No. 21 West Virginia women's basketball team has emerged as one of the hottest teams in the country. The Mountaineers are rocking an eight-game winning streak as they head into their game against Iowa State on Wednesday night.

The Mountaineer team that was once winless in conference play after two games has now risen to second in the Big 12 conference. West Virginia started out last year just as well as this year's team, but WVU coach Mike Carey sees this team clicking more together as a unit.

"I think we've won seven league games so far. So, that's better than where we were at this time (last year)," Carey said. "We need to stay focused; we need to continue to do the things that we're doing well right now and not get caught up in everything else. This team is very focused. I feel very good about this team."

To find the last Mountaineer loss, you have to go back



PHOTO VIA WVU ATHLETICS

West Virginia guard Kysre Gondrezick (2) puts up a shot against Texas on Jan. 9.

to Dec. 18 when Oklahoma State beat WVU in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Since the loss to OSU, West Virginia has knocked off Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Texas Tech

(twice), Oklahoma State, Kansas State and TCU. The only threat WVU has had during this stretch was against KSU on Jan. 20. The Mountaineers were down 12 points

with three minutes to go but thanks to a 20-0 run, WVU was able to win by nine points and keep the winning streak alive.

During the eight-game

stretch, Kysre Gondrezick leads the team in scoring, averaging 24.1 points per game. The redshirt senior guard has hit 2.6 threes per game during the winning streak.

Sophomore forward Esmerly Martinez has given WVU great play on both sides of the floor, recording five double-doubles in the last eight games. Martinez averages 14.3 points and 12.2 rebounds per game.

Mountaineers such as Jasmine Carson and Blessing Ejiofor have stepped up their games, as they continue to get increased minutes.

After knocking off Texas Tech and TCU last week, the Mountaineers moved up in the AP Poll to No. 21 and were recognized by ESPN as the "Women's Basketball Team of the Week."

Going on a long winning streak brings attention to the team from everyone else in the country. With a target on their backs as teams are trying to end the streak, Carey isn't worried about the winning streak.

"We don't really talk about it to be honest with you," Carey said. "We just talk about the next game, so we really don't get into that. We know we have Iowa State, which is a great team. It's going to be important that we're focusing on Iowa State."

Emery Martinez developing into formidable post player

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY

SPORTS EDITOR

The West Virginia women's basketball team currently sits in second place in the Big 12 as its win streak has reached eight games.

Many things have melded together to put the Mountaineers in position to compete for a Big 12 regular season title and an NCAA Tournament berth. One of the most significant aspects of this team has been rebounding, and that could not be possible without the play of sophomore forward Esmerly Martinez.

Martinez joined the West Virginia program prior to the 2019-20 season ranked in the top 100 of ESPN's women's basketball recruits out of high school. In her freshman season, Martinez had

solid numbers averaging six points and seven rebounds in 29 appearances.

With the cancelation of postseason play and the uncertainty heading into the summer about the upcoming 2020 season, Martinez had time to hone her skills. WVU head coach Mike Carey credited Martinez's work ethic during the pandemic as she was unable to have a full offseason of workouts in Morgantown.

"She really didn't have full workouts because of COVID-19," Carey said. "You have to give her a lot of credit. She was getting in places and working out on her own."

Whatever Martinez was able to do, it worked. In 15 games this season, Martinez has started all of them, has more than doubled her points per game average and has nearly doubled her rebound-

ing average.

Martinez currently ranks No. 3 in the Big 12 in rebounding as she averages 12 boards per game. She sits at No. 16 in the conference in points per game with an average of 14 points per contest. West Virginia has three players ranked in the top 20 in the Big 12 in scoring with Kysre Gondrezick and Kirstin Deans also joining Martinez.

When Martinez was able to return to Morgantown, Carey focused on getting her to work out with the guards to develop her scoring ability.

"When she was here, we were able to work with her and she did a great job," Carey said. "We put her with the guards a lot. We put her with the guards to help her with her ball handling and outside shooting. She always was a great rebounder, and she could always finish around

the rim, but you have to keep adding to your game."

Martinez utilized that development in her scoring as she has become a force scoring the ball as much as she has been a force on the glass. Martinez currently ranks No. 10 in the NCAA for double-doubles this season with nine. Arguably her best double-double performance of the season came early on against North Alabama in December when she scored 17 points and had a career-high 22 rebounds.

With that stat line, Martinez became the first Mountaineer to score 15-plus points and grab 20-plus rebounds in the same game since 1992.

"She gets to the ball," Carey said following the UNA game. "She chases the ball when it's in the air, and that's why she's a great rebounder."



PHOTO VIA WVU ATHLETICS

West Virginia's Esmerly Martinez looks for a basket against North Alabama.



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West Virginia wrestling adds depth with Jeffery Boyd

BY DANNY KUHN
SPORTS WRITER

This year, the West Virginia wrestling team features one of the most top-to-bottom teams in recent memory, including four wrestlers who are currently nationally ranked: redshirt juniors Noah Adams and Killian Cardinale, freshman Peyton Hall and redshirt freshman Jeffery Boyd.

Boyd — an Erie, Pennsylvania, native — has been wrestling since the age of five. Boyd wrestled at the highest level at Erie McDowell High School, where he was a state finalist all four years, including three PIAA District 10 AAA championships and a state title in 2018 at 132 pounds.

In addition to the championships on the regional and state level, Boyd amassed a 99-22 overall record while at McDowell, a school record. He was a two-time All-District 10 selection, which recognizes the top 10 wrestlers in each respective weight class in the entire state of Pennsylvania.

During his freshman year, Boyd redshirted, waiting for his opportunity to be a consistent starter for head coach Tim Flynn, while also gaining muscle mass to jump up

to the top 10 wrestlers in each respective weight class in the entire state of Pennsylvania.

“Jeff has been one of our most consistent performers,” Flynn said. “His dedication to the program, whether it be weight management or his training, is some of the best I’ve ever seen. He’s been a huge addition to our roster.”

This past weekend, the Mountaineers took on No.

Mountaineer Nation stand on their feet as he scored a take-down and four nearfall points for the win.

Boyd’s career has been closely followed by his family, specifically his father, Tom. During his tightly-contested match Sunday, the cheers of the socially-distanced crowd

Compared to the rest of the roster for the Mountaineers, there isn’t another wrestler wearing the old gold and blue who utilizes pace and movement quite as much as Boyd does. During his matches, often enough both wrestlers will be circling around the mat almost the entire time.

In a sport where the majority of your time is spent on the ground, no wrestler spends less time on the mat than Boyd. His different move set and non-traditional style have led to the honor of being ranked nationally for the first time in his collegiate career.

“He works hard,” Flynn said. “A leader in the practice room, it doesn’t matter how old you are or what year you are, if you’re ranked nationally, the guys on the team are going to turn to you, and you have to turn around and be that leader for them.”

In NCAA wrestling, there are multiple different polls and ranking systems that recognize individual wrestlers and the programs itself. The

most commonly referenced and well known rankings is The Open Mat.

The Open Mat is the rankings that the NCAA uses to rank its wrestlers and set up the national tournaments at the end of the season in May. Following his aforementioned win against UNC on Sunday, Boyd currently appears at No. 32 by The Open Mat.

As the season continues on, Boyd will be riding a five-match win streak, which helped boost his ranking among the wrestlers competing at 141 pounds across the country. He has proved his worth in the middle-weight range for the Mountaineers and will be an anchor of this WVU squad for years to come.

“His role on this team is to be the leader, you know, moving forward,” Flynn said. “Jeff is young and has a lot of time left on this team, and from now — year one — to four years from now when he’s a senior, I expect him to be a leader, and I know he will be.”

“...from now — year one — to four years from now when he’s a senior, I expect him to be a leader, and I know he will be.”

-Tim Flynn, head coach of WVU wrestling

in the weight classes.

Despite the current challenges of the 2020-21 season, Boyd has become a consistent mainstay on the starting roster card for the Mountaineers at 141 pounds. Through seven matches this season, Boyd finds himself at 5-2, with four of those wins being decided by major decision.

17 Northern Colorado. Boyd successfully picked up his first win over a ranked opponent with a 7-1 decision over No. 24 Chris Sandoval.

With the score knotted at one point apiece, the two grapplers entered sudden death overtime. However, it wasn’t until the second overtime period that Boyd made

were drowned out by Tom constantly yelling words of encouragement to his son.

“Come on Jeff! Keep him down!” Boyd’s father said on Sunday. “Keep up the pace, wear him out!”

These same words of encouragement have been prevalent at Boyd’s matches since he first began 16 years ago.

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How are you taking care of yourself and our community during these times?

The Office of Health Promotion and Wellness is recognizing students and employees who are working on wellbeing!



Janelle Williams

During Black History Month, WVU’s Office of Health Promotion and Wellness is proud to recognize African American faculty, staff, and students who go above and beyond their typical roles at the University to help people feel connected, engaged, and safe in their community. It is our pleasure to recognize Janelle Williams, Human Resource Partner for West Virginia University Institute of Technology.

Janelle provides significant service to the institution and to her community. Janelle is a member of the University’s Priority Action Team addressing purposeful wellbeing. A member of that team wrote, “She has many gifts and talents, and she uses those talents to help leave individuals and groups better than she found them.”

Janelle has been instrumental in training and development, including coordinating active learning experiences that facilitated culture change at the University. She was named the WVU Tech representative to the

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council. Janelle is also a member of the Social Justice Committee and WVU Women’s Leadership Initiative.

She has facilitated programs, including food drives, voter registration events, cancer walks, Bundles of Love, heart health awareness, credit education workshops, and tributes to Martin Luther King, Jr. Janelle was recently the featured vocalist at the MLK Unity Breakfast, and is an active member of the Charleston Light Opera Guild (having performed in productions including Ragtime, The Wiz, The Color Purple, and Dream Girls).

Janelle has been an active participant in Alpha Kappa Alpha programs. Her sorority believes in service to all mankind. That commitment to service extends to her membership in The Links, Inc., one of the nation’s oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry. Her chapter provides service to the Charleston and Beckley community. Janelle Williams is truly an extraordinary woman.

Do you want to nominate someone for the Building Community Wellbeing Wherever You May Be campaign? Send your nomination to amsidwell@hsc.wvu.edu.



PHOTO BY SETH SEEBAUGH

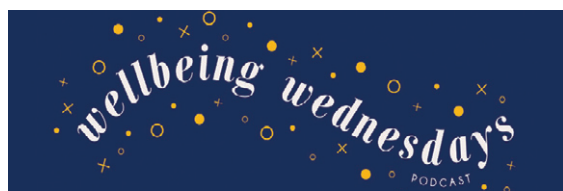
West Virginia freshman wrestler Jeffery Boyd has become a major part of the starting lineup in his first season.



The DA Podcasts



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| | | |
|--|--|--|
|  <p>AD DESIGN Market your business or clients with creative ads for publication, digital, social media and more.</p> |  <p>BRANDING & LOGOS Our graphics team is ready to create your message, whether it is logo design or a full re-branding.</p> |  <p>ADVERTISING Reach audiences in print, broadcast and online with targeted ads, sponsorships, paid content and more.</p> |
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CONTACT US TODAY

284 Prospect Street
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