



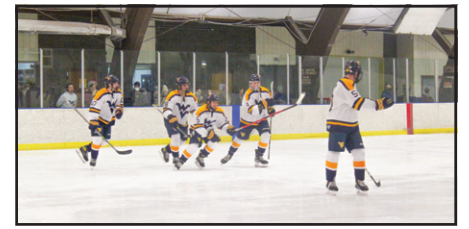
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WVU's Independent Student Newspaper

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5, 2022

www.thedaonline.com

President Gee, Provost Reed: Combating student decline is 'everybody's responsibility'

BY TRENTON STRAIGHT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In his annual State of the University address Monday, WVU President E. Gordon Gee highlighted the school's ongoing challenges with enrollment and retention, saying a greater investment needs to be made in students inside and outside the classroom.

He delivered these remarks just a month after university administrators reported a "significant decline" in student retention for the fall 2022 semester, which they attributed to the pandemic and a growing need for mental health support on campus.

"We are undoubtedly in tumultuous times," Gee said. "We are confronting considerable headwinds with the enrollment demographics before us."

Referencing national and state-

wide declines in college enrollment, he added that an "increasing loss of confidence in higher education" has led people to question the "value of a college degree."

"The national narrative of high cost and low value has shown distrust and encouraged the debate of whether college is worth it," Gee said. "Now I want you to know that I am happy to end that debate today. The answer to the question of whether college is worth it is an emphatic yes."

Despite an increase in first-time freshmen this semester, far fewer students returned to WVU this fall, and enrollment numbers have steadily declined in recent years.

From 2017 to 2021, there was more than a 10% decrease in undergraduate enrollment at WVU, and statewide enrollment rates in the past decade have dropped by the same amount, according to Gee.

Addressing a room full of faculty

in Monday's meeting, Provost Maryanne Reed said "retention is everybody's responsibility."

"I know how much that you all do to support our students and how you take your mission as educators, so I don't have anything specific to say other than just to be mindful that students who come to your classroom may be coming with challenges that you're not aware of," Reed told faculty members.

"Look for ways to support your students if they're not coming to class, you know, really be active. Retention is everybody's responsibility, and it's everybody's effort that is needed."

The provost also noted the growing mental health and financial challenges facing students, saying administrators are considering ways to provide additional support —



PHOTO BY SOPHIA VALACHOVIC

Gee delivers his annual State of the University address on Monday, Oct. 3, 2022.

See **Decline** page 4

WVU students to face rising study abroad costs, officials say

BY ASHLEY CUMPSTON
CORRESPONDENT

Students at West Virginia University may face higher costs while studying abroad this school year due to a policy change in the Office of Global Affairs. Now, all faculty-led study abroad trips will require at least two chaperones, and students are footing the bill.

In the past, these trips only required one chaperone, which some school officials say posed a serious challenge in the case of an

emergency.

Amber Brugnoli, associate vice president and executive director of the Office of Global Affairs, said the policy change was for risk management.

In recent years, Brugnoli said there have been a number of situations where students on trips required a faculty member's full attention due to some type of emergency, which took away from the other students' experiences.

During the pandemic, for example, there were instances where students tested positive for COVID-19

while overseas, requiring an advisor to stay in quarantine with them until they could return safely to the U.S.

Despite an increase in risk management, not all faculty members were in favor of the policy change.

In a Faculty Senate meeting last month, professor Lisa Di Bartolomeo, senior advisor for the Office of Global Affairs, raised concern about the new chaperone requirement, saying it would penalize students who want to study abroad.

She added that the cost-factor of these trips is often the "biggest obstacle" for students.

"I understand from a risk management point of view that it's probably necessary, but I also think that if the University is instituting this change and requiring this, then they need to help pay the additional chaperone's airfare and hotel," Di Bartolomeo said.

In short, students are responsible for covering the cost of travel expenses for the faculty member leading the study abroad experience. If the trip is part of an instructed course taught by a faculty member, then students are also responsible for part of the faculty member's salary.

The second chaperone, however, doesn't have to be a faculty member, so students, in that case, would only have to cover the cost of travel.

"There doesn't have to be extra cost of salary or work expectations on the second chaperone. We've got student life professionals and people that work in housing," Brugnoli said.

Still, there are concerns from faculty trip leaders that address the policy requiring students to pay for a second chaperone's travel expenses.

See **Abroad** page 3



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FRIDAY 10/07
CLOUDY WITH RAIN SHOWERS
HIGH 56° - LOW 40°



SATURDAY 10/08
INTERVALS OF CLOUDS AND
SUNSHINE
HIGH 54° - LOW 35°



CRIME REPORT

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Oct. 02
10:02 P.M. | Resolved
WVU Stadium
Unsecure Building.

Oct. 02
10:03 P.M. | Resolved
University Park Apartments
Prop Alarm.

Oct. 02
9:49 P.M. | Resolved
Spruce Street
Vehicle Accident.

Oct. 02
9:39 P.M. | Resolved
Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority
Fire Alarm.

Oct. 02
9:10 P.M. | Inactive

Mountainlair Parking
Vandalism.

Oct. 02
7:39 P.M. | Resolved
University Place Townhomes
Prop Alarm.

Oct. 02
2:54 P.M. | Resolved
Stalnaker Hall
Elevator Rescue.

Oct. 02
12:31 P.M. | Resolved
College Park
Prop Alarm.

Oct. 02
12:29 P.M. | Resolved
University Place North
Prop Alarm.

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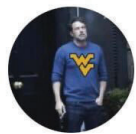
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SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENTS



Afton
@affy304

I dislike losing WVU twitter almost as much as political twitter
The hot takes are exhausting



Jeff Ruff
@jeff_ruff

When WVU football sucks and your Saturdays are now free for those home projects you've been putting off:



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WVU's INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Did you know the DA is editorially Independent from the University?

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What WVU students need to know about flu season

BY JULES OGDEN
NEWS EDITOR

As flu season approaches, West Virginia University is working to make vaccines accessible for students, faculty and staff.

Although the past two flu seasons have been mild, health officials predict a greater spread this year. They attribute the less intense seasons to widely practiced COVID-19 safety measures like social distancing and masking.

Students, faculty and staff can receive their flu shot for free by walking into WVU Medicine Student Health during their normal business hours. Student Health is located on Birch Street and is open on weekdays from 7:45 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Additionally, pop-up flu vaccine clinics for the University community will take place at the Student Rec Center on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Oct. 12, 18 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Those with insurance are encouraged to bring their insurance card.

The WVU Medicine Urgent Care and Primary Care locations are also offering flu shots by appointment or walk-in for \$25. Appointments can be made by calling 855-WVU-



Mountaineer Mascot Mary Roush gets flu shot.

PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

CARE or via the MyWVUChart platform.

The University Town Center WVU Medicine location also offers drive-thru flu shots Monday through Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to residents of Monongalia and Preston counties through Nov. 14.

For WVU employees insured by PEIA or The Health

Plan, flu vaccines are fully covered for them, their spouses and their dependents. Flu shots are also covered for students insured by the Aetna Student Health insurance plan.

Those insured through providers aside from those may also bill their insurance as most providers cover the cost of flu vaccines. Uninsured individuals may be subjected to

a \$30 cash payment option for the vaccine.

For those not insured with the University or wishing to utilize WVU Medicine's services, the University recommends getting a flu vaccine from their primary care provider.

Other opportunities in the Morgantown community include appointments with the Monongalia County Health

Department (MCHD) or through local pharmacies like CVS, Kroger and Walgreens.

This year, MCHD will offer a new higher dose vaccine designed specifically for seniors to adults 65 and older. To schedule an appointment with MCHD, call 304-598-5119.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), flu vaccines develop antibodies around two weeks after the

vaccine. The University, following the CDC's guidelines, recommends receiving the flu vaccine by the end of October to ensure protection during the peak of flu season this fall and winter.

For more information, visit health.wvu.edu or talentand-culture.wvu.edu.

Pop Up Flu Clinics

Where:

- WVU Rec Center

When:

- Oct. 5 (10 a.m. -4 p.m.)
- Oct. 12, 18, 20
(10 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Who:

- WVU faculty, students and staff

More Info:

- Bring health insurance card to appointment
- Can't make it? Get your vaccine at the Student Health Clinic or Urgent Care

Meet Charlie K: WVU alum specializes in balloon art decor, event planning

BY SABRINA SIEGAN
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

Each gameday in Morgantown, hundreds of football fans staying at the Hilton Garden Inn walk past an archway made of gold and blue balloons. The artist behind the design is WVU alumna Charlotte Kwofie.

Kwofie started out at WVU Potomac State, enrolled in the interior design program. Now, she leads a full-service event planning and decor company in Morgantown, Charlie K Events and Decor.

In college, she said she dreamed of becoming an interior designer, fueled by her obsession with HGTV shows.

"I started in the interior design program because I really wanted to be an interior designer. At one point I was ob-

sessed with HGTV," Kwofie said. "I did go through some family issues during that time, so that year was like a lot for me."

Kwofie left her home in Canada to pursue higher education in the U.S.

"I came out here by myself — am still here by myself — so it was really difficult," she said. "I had to take some time off of school because I was paying out of state and out of pocket the whole entire time."

Despite the struggles Kwofie faced, she said she commends WVU for supporting her during her time in school.

"This school is really good with supporting their students, especially within the art programs," Kwofie said. "I appreciate the professors. They helped out a lot. I had a lot of things going on with my family at that time."

While Kwofie took a more

nontraditional path in college, she would end up graduating from WVU with two degrees in event planning entrepreneurship and agricultural business.

These skills allow Kwofie to bring a lot to the table and make things easier for her clients.

"I can cover everything. I can do the decor. I can find a venue for you. I can find the caterer," she said. "But if you don't need all of those things, we can customize it to your needs."

Events are Kwofie's opportunity to indulge in her creative side and make something unforgettable with her products.

"So my thing is always bringing somebody's vision to life, but also adding the fact that it's a piece that's timeless," she said. "There's no real process of what I do. I just go with it. I keep in mind what

they want, and I try to bring it to life."

With every custom piece of Kwofie's being truly one of a kind, she hopes to open herself up to her interior design dreams by opening a decor department.

"I can provide custom furniture or custom wall paintings or we can do your countertops or flooring. So it's the decor side of it," Kwofie said. "And then I have the event planning side of it."

Kwofie will be at this upcoming art walk sponsored by Main Street Morgantown Friday, Oct. 14, from 6 to 9 p.m.

More information on the event can be found on Main Street Morgantown's Facebook Page.

To learn more about Kwofie's business check out her Facebook page, Charlie K Events and Decor, or her Instagram @charlieevents.

Abroad

Continued from page 1

"It's still not going to be affordable for everybody because some people are working three jobs. They're sending money home. Obviously, a three to four thousand dollar trip is beyond their means," Di Bartolomeo said in an interview with The Daily Athenaeum. "But every little bit the University adds to that cost is going to make it harder for more students to participate in that life changing opportunity of study abroad."

There are a few ways students can fund their study abroad trips or cover a portion of their expenses.

"Sometimes the departments themselves provide subsidies that the students don't even see," Brugnoli said. "Once a trip is approved, the college or the department puts money toward the program to reduce the overall cost."

"Individual departments and colleges also have scholarships that students can ap-

ply for, and the Education Abroad Office has several as well. Some of them are applicable to any program. A student can actually apply for the scholarship and then decide how they want to use it. Others are program specific, so we draw on foundation accounts similar to other scholarship funds at the University."

According to the Office of Global Affairs, each trip has a set minimum number of participants. This can vary from trip to trip since some countries are more expensive than others, a factor in the cost of airfare.

While the cost may continue to be a factor in students' lack of participation in study abroad, the Education Abroad Office website states, "WVU is committed to providing unique, educational, and rewarding international opportunities to its students."

"I never want cost to be a reason that a student doesn't get to travel abroad. If they have concerns, I really hope they will reach out to our office and we can work with the hub to see what we can make work for them," Brugnoli said.

Parents of Nolan Burch hold anti-hazing presentation

BY CHRISTINA RUFO
BREAKING NEWS EDITOR

West Virginia University held its first-ever Prevention Summit Friday, covering issues of mental health, sexual health, gender-based violence and bystander intervention.

The event wrapped up the University's annual Prevention Week, which raises awareness about the dangers of hazing.

Nolan Burch's parents, Kimberly and TJ Burch, hosted a Q&A session following the annual screening of Emmy-award-winning documentary, "Breathe, Nolan, Breathe." Members of WVU Greek Life were in attendance for the presentation.

After the death of their son in 2014, the Burches created the Nolan Michael Burch Foundation as part of their commitment to educating students across the country about preventable deaths caused by hazing.

Nolan's death also sparked action on WVU's campus with the launch of the Would You? Campaign.

The Burch family visits the University every semester to meet with the Burch Fellows, members of the Nolan Burch Greek Leadership Academy. The group engages in a 10-week program on hazing prevention, leadership development and siblinghood, according to Matthew Richardson, director of the Center for Fraternal Values and Leadership & Project 168.

"We have to acknowledge that the behaviors that cost Nolan his life are behaviors that occur in Fraternity and Sorority Life," Richardson said. "There have been so many significant changes at our university because of the tragedy that has befallen us with Nolan Burch."

The hazing prevention pre-



PHOTO BY ASHLEY CUMPSTON

Nolan Burch Greek Leadership Academy members, Burch Fellows, pose for a group picture with Kimberly and TJ Burch at Q&A presentation.

sentation was led by Richardson and highlighted the ways in which hazing occurs, the importance of calling for help and other resources for students to use if they find themselves in any instance of hazing.

He said there is no federal definition for hazing, which makes it difficult for students to identify.

"So when we talk about hazing, we're talking about anything that could cause physical, emotional, psychological, mental or any form of distress," Richardson said.

Kimberly and TJ Burch have traveled to various high schools and universities to share their story and talk about the dangers of hazing, as well as how to recognize and stop it.

"We say it's the kids. You can't be with the kids every day, so it really needs to be on them to watch out for each other," Kimberly Burch said.

Richardson also spoke

"We say it's the kids. You can't be with the kids every day, so it really needs to be on them to watch out for each other."
-Kimberly Burch, mother of Nolan Burch

about medical amnesty and how it works for university students.

Under the University's Student Code of Conduct, and the laws of West Virginia, bystanders and those affected by drug or alcohol overdose may be safe from prosecution and may not face charges under the campus student Code of Conduct if they seek medical assistance in an emergency.

Although no students directly came forward to ask any questions during the Q&A, the Burches reflected on their partnership with the

University.

"We're proud of it [the documentary]. It's difficult for us to watch a lot of times, but we're very proud of it," TJ Burch said. "We're proud of our partnership here with WVU and with a lot of the other schools that have seen it."

He added that many high schools use the documentary in their health classes and other educational programs.

"When we see something, again, just do something," TJ Burch, said. "It's really that simple."

WVU hosts 2022 campus read author

BY NICHOLAS JOHNSON
CORRESPONDENT

Every year, the WVU Humanities Center organizes a campus read to engage members of the University through a common reading experience that fosters dialogue, critical thinking and community participation.

As a part of the Hardesty Festival of Ideas, Charles Yu, author of WVU's 2022 campus read, "Interior Chinatown," spoke to the community, students, faculty and staff Tuesday evening via a Zoom webinar to answer questions and share inside information, thoughts and feelings behind his book.

The campus read event introduces students to the intellectual climate of the campus, facilitates discussion and provides a platform for deeper learning across disciplines.

Yu is the author of four books and has received the National Book Foundation's 5 under 35 Award. He has also written shows for many major networks and has been nominated for two Writers Guild of America Awards for his series on HBO, "Westworld."

"Interior Chinatown" was published in 2020 and was Yu's second novel. The book received the 2020 National Book Award for Fiction and was coordinated to be this year's campus read by Susan Lantz, professor of business communications.

The novel is formatted as a screenplay and follows a "generic Asian man" who plays background characters on a police television show but dreams of being somebody bigger in front of the screen. The story critiques Asian American stereotypes in American society and culture and also touches on themes of self-identity.

Renée Nicholson, direc-

tor of the Humanities Center, hosted the webinar and conducted a Q&A with Yu.

At the start of the webinar, Nicholson presented a short TikTok made by Emma Walker, a freshman Honors College student, who had a unique and personal perspective on "Interior Chinatown." The TikTok expressed Walker's interpretation of Yu's use of John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads" in the book as it might relate to Asian Americans in the U.S.

"The 2020 National Book Award winner challenges us to consider race, pop culture, immigration and assimilation in ways both intellectual and personal," Nicholson said.

"Interior Chinatown" was intended to discuss the idea of racial representation within American society by putting an Asian man in the background of a television show with desire to become something bigger and better, said Yu in the webinar.

Yu says he got his inspiration from the popular show, "Law and Order." He said he often watched the show episode by episode when he had nothing better to watch while caring for his young baby. Yu created his own police show, "Black and White," which was the show that the protagonist acted in throughout the novel.

Yu said he had been working on the book for about a decade, changing its format multiple times. He added that it took him years to find the perfect way to tell the story, eventually deciding on a second-person point of view for the main character's thoughts.

"Sometimes it's not until page 50 or 60, and I realize there's another door here on the side, and this is actually where I meant to go with this," Yu said. "The main story is still the story, but there's just so much more to this that I didn't think about."

Decline

Continued from page 1

particularly to those who are Pell Grant eligible.

According to university officials, the annual federal student loan debt for WVU students is much lower than the national average.

April Kaull, director of communications for University Relations, said students in Morgantown owe \$12,000 on average. Last spring, she said 41% of undergraduate students graduated debt-free.

Still, the cost of being a WVU student has gone up in

the past decade, and many continue to face rising living costs on and off campus.

For the most part, WVU students have witnessed a consistent increase in tuition costs since 2014, and Gee told The Daily Athenaeum in an exclusive interview that tuition hikes are likely in the coming years.

Over the years, the University has relied less on state funding, and students are ultimately footing the bill. This year, tuition and fees make up the largest proportion of university revenue.

To offset student decline, Gee said the administrators

and faculty need to engage students on all levels — a driving aspect of his newly created Purpose Institute.

"As we take a look at enrollment and a variety of factors, the way we're going to keep our students here and happy is a 360-degree engagement by all of us in terms of what our students are doing and how we can impact them inside and outside the classroom."

"I can say without a doubt that there is no other university that is more committed and deeply rooted in its mission to help the students and the people have a safe ... That mission is our polar star."



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Balloons take to Morgantown sky

BY SABRINA SIEGAN
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

Hundreds of local residents packed the parking lot of the Morgantown Mall Thursday evening to get a glimpse of more than a dozen hot air balloons that would pattern the sky the next day.

As part of the NightGlow celebration, balloons were inflated at dusk and illuminated the parking lot for all to see. The nighttime festivity kicked off the annual Balloons Over Morgantown event, where hot air balloons would drift across Morgantown skies for the next three days.

Balloon pilots who took part in the event traveled from all over the country, some from as far as Tennessee, Michigan and Connecticut.

Over the weekend, marketing major Emily Cecil was one of the many WVU students who witnessed this celebration.

"My mom told me about it," Cecil said. "It sounded fun and it's like something cool to do and it's fall-ish."

Members of the University's Muslim Student Association took part in the fall activity as well. The organization's president, Shahd Hanif, said she heard about the event from other students.

"We're excited to see the balloons. We saw pictures online," Hanif, a junior psychology major, said. "They look really cool. It's like a tangled moment."

Some members of the club even took photos as the balloons inflated, according to the organization's vice president, Rama Al-Omar.

"We're here as a board. We basically invited all of our friends from the Muslim Student Association to take some pictures, get some nice views," Al-Omar, a junior computer science major, said.

Ahead of the NightGlow, pilots and event staff gathered to discuss weather conditions. Attendees gathered in the parking lot and waited with great anticipation.

According to Andy Claydon, event organizer of Balloons Over Morgantown, wind had to be at just the right levels to inflate the balloons.

Once wind levels were just right, event staff did a quick countdown, and the pilots conducted a synchronized glow. This was achieved by using both of the burners within their hot air balloon, according to Claydon.

"One is a blue flame which removes a lot of heat into the envelope, and the other one is a yellow flame, which lights it



PHOTO BY RYLAN NEMESH

Morgantown residents gather at the Morgantown Mall for the NightGlow event on Sept. 29, 2022.



PHOTO BY RYLAN NEMESH

Morgantown residents watch as pilots inflate balloons for the NightGlow celebration on Sept. 29, 2022.

up like a Christmas bulb," he said.

Originally from England, Claydon now lives and works in Morgantown. He said his involvement with the group was mostly by chance.

"I just saw the balloons one morning and I thought, 'gosh, I'd love to be part of that,'" he said. "So, I started going to the festival."

As the president of University Toyota, Claydon has been able to sponsor the event in association with the company, which was established in Morgantown in 1933.

Photos from the weekend and additional information about Balloons Over Morgantown can be found on the festival's Facebook page.



PHOTO BY RYLAN NEMESH

Pilots ignite hot balloons in the Morgantown Mall parking on Sept. 29, 2022.

Three things to do in Morgantown this weekend

BY LARA BONATESTA
CULTURE EDITOR

Fall break is just around the corner, and if you can't wait for the long-weekend, start planning out the fun now. Whether it's trying new foods, listening to live music or getting into the Halloween spirit, there are plenty of options within a short walk of WVU's downtown campus.

Check the following suggestions for three things to do in Morgantown this weekend.

1 International Street Festival

More than a hundred different flags will line High Street this Saturday, Oct. 8, with the return of Morgantown's annual International Street Festival.

The festival will include exhibitors from more than 10 different countries and will feature a diverse mix of music, dance, food, art, games and more.

The festivities will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. More information about the event is available on Main Street Morgantown's Facebook page.

2 DURRY Concert at 123 Pleasant Street

Head to 123 Pleasant Street

this Saturday night to hear the Minnesota-based band DURRY, known for their hit "Who's Laughing Now," alongside local artists What's Missing and Porch Geese.

The concert will begin at 8 p.m. with tickets available for purchase online for \$10.

3 Morgantown Zombie Walk 2022

Embrace the start of spooky season this Saturday and head to the annual Morgantown Zombie Walk.

The event will start with two pre-parties beginning at 4:30 p.m. hosted by Gibbie's Pub & Eatery and the Morgantown Art Bar. The walk will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the corner of Walnut and High Street.

Head to the Morgantown Zombie Walk's Facebook page for more information about the event.

Tracks of the week

BY TRISTEN RODRIGUEZ
U92 MUSIC & CO-PROGRAM DIRECTOR

"Cross the Sea" - Alex G: Folk, neo-psychedelic and electronic experimenter Alex G embarks on an ethereal and spiritual journey in his brand new album, "God Save The Animals." In one track, "Cross the Sea," Alex G ambiguously muses on about something or someone taking care of him, which is more so used as an extension of the instrumentation. He employs a spacious mix on all of the instruments introducing elements as the track goes on.

"Fuchsia & Green" - billy woods & Messiah Musik: Aggressive. Raw. Unflinching. This album is an exercise in spellbinding subtlety and a specialty of billy woods in his



natural habitat. Before the year could end, billy woods surprised the hip hop community with a surprise release of the new album "Church."

However, in an unsurprising fashion, the artist flexes his lyrical prowess throughout the entire record. On "Fuchsia & Green," ELUCID joins woods on this track to form as Armand Hammer where they ambiguously rap about revolution.

Editor:
Luke Morgan
lim00002@mix.wvu.edu

OPINION

Food Review | Black Bear Burritos: New flavors, same great experience

BY MADELINE HARRIS
FOOD CRITIC

I am thinking of a restaurant: three words, all starting with the same letter of the alphabet.

The restaurant is located on campus, just a mile away from the football stadium and the Coliseum. Its meals include a wide variety of international flavors, with the main attraction being their burritos.

They take pride in their family friendly atmosphere, casual vibes and appreciation for our Appalachian culture. Any guesses?

Welcome to Black Bear Burritos, located in Evansdale at 3119 University Avenue. Its location makes it easily accessible for all WVU students. With four-and-a-half stars on their website, this restaurant is well known for its casual atmosphere, live music and artistic design.

This Mexican-inspired restaurant is open every day except Sunday, with the hours being a steady 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. New menu items offer different options for a familiar Morgantown favorite.

I was accompanied by my friend and her father when we visited the restaurant last Friday. The entrance to the restaurant was difficult for

us to spot because the sign was faded on the front of the building.

We walked through the outdoor-seating area, which was decorated with string lights and bicycles, filling me with anticipation for what I was going to be greeted with upon entering.

As I walked into the restaurant, I was filled with awe as my eyes darted from painting to painting. Colorful hues stretched as far as the eye could see. With lime green walls, orange booths and rainbow chalk displaying the menu, my creative mind was at peace.

Most of the art inside the restaurant was West Virginia themed, with the state being displayed all over with wood carvings, mossy replicas and all sorts of creative designs. Additionally, there is art for sale on a wall where paintings from local artists are displayed and available for purchase.

Even before ordering, I knew this place would be a good fit for me.

At Black Bear Burritos, you seat yourself after you order. I am becoming particularly fond of restaurants that are set up this way because it gives off a casual vibe.

The menus are located at the bar, where you order your



PHOTO COURTESY MADELINE HARRIS

Art available for purchase on the walls of Black Bear.

meal whenever you please. You pay right away, so you don't have to worry about the check at the end.

When we were ready to order, my friend ended up getting the Pesto Quesadilla, a delicious addition. Her father and I chose the Build Your Own Burrito off of the Featured Acts menu. It seemed like a must have, given the B.Y.O. Burrito is the focal point of the restaurant.

The burrito itself comes with cilantro rice, beans, cheddar cheese, Monterey Jack cheese and salsa.

To customize it, the cus-

tomizer chooses tortilla type, sauces or dressings, a meat of choice and any additional toppings. I chose the flour tortilla with sirloin steak added.

When we finished placing our orders and went to pay, we were shocked at just how cheap our meals were. My food ended up being \$13 for the burrito and a soft drink, which in my opinion is shockingly low for just how massive this burrito was.

I was also impressed with the speed our meals came out, and the burritos made me audibly gasp. Adorned with salsa, those burritos were the biggest



PHOTO COURTESY MADELINE HARRIS

A B.Y.O. burrito with steak and cilantro rice, served with chips and coleslaw.

I have ever seen. As I cut it in half, all the beans, rice and steak were stacked beautifully.

The spicy aroma filled my nose perfectly. I could barely pick up half of it to take a bite, but it was worth the challenge. Don't feel bad if you need to use a fork and knife.

I have never been a huge rice fan, but the cilantro rice is definitely one of my new favorite burrito additions. The spice mixed well with the steak, which was just as juicy — just how I like it.

This mixture was just a perfect combination for me. The salsa was a great addition to

the burrito in my opinion, all the spices blended so well together.

The burrito also came with coleslaw and chips, which was an unexpected surprise.

Overall, this was another wonderful restaurant experience. The combination of a welcoming and chill atmosphere with inexpensive food that tastes wonderful. What more could one ask for in a restaurant?

Next time you are near Evansdale and craving a good meal, be sure to check out Black Bear Burritos and take it all in.

Album Review | 'Darklife' kickstarts new era in EDM

BY TRISTEN RODRIGUEZ
U92 MUSIC & CO-PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Getting a hit of nostalgia can feel like a refreshing escape from the current ills of our lives. It's an incorruptible innocence, a momentary period of bliss and what we long for. It's pure.

Like our memories, music can be that periscope into the past we look so fondly upon. It is in death's dynamic shrouds' "Darklife" where this feeling is uplifted to a transcendental level, a profoundly unique experience where music is pushed to its limit.

Akin to Daft Punk's "Discovery," this album is a truly groundbreaking and revolutionary experience that eviscerates boundaries, laying the foundation for a new benchmark in electronic music.

Leading the charge in this new movement is the super trio that comprise death's dy-

namic shroud: Tech Honors, Keith Rankin and James Webster. In anticipation of the new album, the group released four singles over the course of the year — "Judgment Bolt," "Neon Memories," "Messe de E-102" and "Fall For Me." Two of these songs stand out as some of the best songs of the year.

"Judgment Bolt" is a track of two parts, one being an abrasive dance track with a dose of chopped vocals that provide a layer of protection against the harsh bassline. The other section is a surreal, ominous and beautiful breakdown of synths that lead back into its catchy counterpart.

While not being directly in the middle of the album, "Messe de E-102" stands alone on top of the entire record. The track is a gradual progression building into a crescendo of ethereal strings, angelic vocals, otherworldly synth pas-

sages and an immense set of drums to create the most triumphantly overwhelming sequence in the entire record.

Although "Darklife" reaches its highest peak with "Messe de E-102," the album opens with a commanding statement with "Stay." The song provides a grand cinematic backdrop to the auditory odyssey that lays ahead, bombarding the listener with an intense techno sequence that would find air time in Berghain and then immediately halting the noise with a beautifully orchestrated number that rounds out the second half of the track.

"After Third Heaven" takes what you might hear off of Michael Jackson's "Bad" and puts a vaporwave and glitch pop twist on it. In the middle of the song, a long-winded industrial passage enters into the realm of glitch, evolving into a dance floor breaking psy-trance sequence which then circles

back to the MJ-esque part of the track.

Other massive highlights include the breathtaking "Before I Cool Off," the jubilant "Fade Persona," the angelic "Light Left The Garden" and the cool "Rare Angel."

Since the conception of death's dynamic shroud in 2014, the group has stuck to their vaporwave and plunderphonic roots; however, "Darklife" marks a new path in their career, a path of trailblazing and a point of exponential creativity.

The complete electronic conversion positions them as one of the most important electronic acts for the remainder of the decade. By beginning this journey with putting their strongest foot forward, "Darklife" will stand as their magnum opus and easily the best album of 2022.

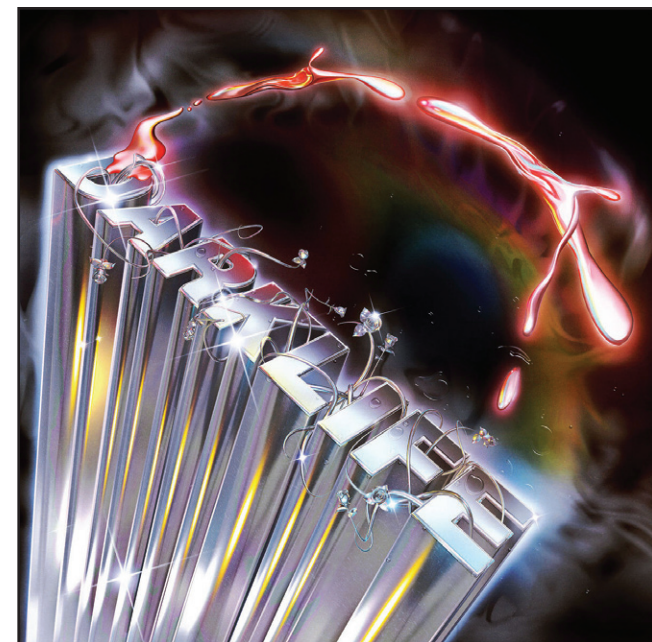


PHOTO COURTESY DEATH'S DYNAMIC SHROUD

Darklife by death's dynamic shroud is a collaborative project between artists James Webster, Tech Honors and Keith Rankin.



CROSSWORD

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5 Insane
9 Swabs
13 ___ around
14 Pedestal part
15 W. Australian capital
16 Opera solo
17 Brand of sandwich cookie
18 Treed (2 wds.)
19 Rump (2 wds.)
21 Beano
23 Genius
24 Dozen
25 Islands off of Portugal
29 Foreign Agricultural Service
30 Former magistrate of Venice
32 Good grief!
33 Beat it!
36 German word for leader
37 ___ Lanka
38 Trim
39 S.E. Asian mammal
40 Tier
41 Clod
42 Cowboy show
43 Abstains from food
44 Lube
45 Mined metals
- 46 Total
47 Had a dream
49 Male sheep
50 Last day of the wk.
53 Prayer ending
55 Burdensome
57 What people do in their sleep
60 Alleviate
62 Evils
63 Enter
64 Germany-Italy and Japan
65 In ___ of
66 Adolescent
67 Teepee
68 Folk story
- Down
- 1 City in Nebraska
2 Style of Greek column
3 State as an opinion
4 Learn
5 Handsome man
6 ___ Gras
7 Lyric poem
8 Misfit
9 Ditto (2 wds.)
10 Ball
11 School group
12 Timid

- 15 German tank
20 Test
22 Willing
26 Turns orange, as in metal
27 Heron
28 Invasion fleet
29 Wave
30 Fools
31 American river
33 Got up
34 Head of a committee
35 Infantryman's weapon
36 Disappear
39 Light cake
40 Surface to air missile
42 German general
43 Be mad
46 Least nuts
48 Moses' brother
49 Stringed instrument need
50 Folded sheet of paper
51 Dynast
52 Distribute
54 In order
56 Stream
57 Place
58 Compass point
59 Lode yield
61 Hatchet
- For answers, visit thedaonline.com



Pet of the Week



PHOTO BY ALICYN CRAIG

Meet Artichoke and Spinach, sisters who have come to love each other. Their favorite activity is to make biscuits and purr at a fast rate. When they fight, it is usually over a treat found on the floor. The sisters tag team in the kitchen when dinner is being made, one distracts while the other grabs.

Submit your favorite pet photo at da-classifieds@mail.wvu.edu

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

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7			2					
	9			6			3	1
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Brown concerned for Donaldson, critical of devastating first half in Texas defeat

BY ZACH ANDERSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The West Virginia football team was defeated by the Texas Longhorns 38-20 on the road Saturday. WVU head coach Neal Brown was vocal about the team's poor performance, but first of all was concerned with the health of running back CJ Donaldson.

In his first comments following the loss, Brown addressed the condition of Donaldson and his status at the hospital and his status according to the WVU's medical staff.

"He's alert, stable, has movement in his extremities, and he's awaiting further testing," Brown said. "Our thoughts and prayers since that happened have been with him. We've got a hurt football team in there for multiple reasons, that being the first and foremost."

"That was scary. The first time I've ever had something like that as a coach on the field, credit to our medical team and appreciate UT's medical team for being of assistance as well."

In a press conference Tuesday, Brown said Donaldson is in concussion protocol and will be absent in matchup



PHOTO BY AVERY YEAROUT

WVU head coach Neal Brown stands on the sideline against Towson on Sept. 17, 2022, at Milan Puskar Stadium in Morgantown, West Virginia.

against Baylor.

Moving into the Texas game however, it was a lost first half for the Mountaineers, going down 28-7 to Texas at half-time, and being held to only 168 yards of offense in the first two quarters.

"Disappointing first half for us, credit Texas I thought they

outplayed us early. They took control and I really felt like they won the game in the first 15 minutes," Brown said.

"We just didn't make any plays in the first half. We had five drops, three of them were either on third or fourth down, we missed a bunch of tackles, and they were running around

like they were playing on air in the secondary."

Brown following the game compared the first half to the second, one where West Virginia competed much closer to the Longhorns by outscoring them 13 to 10, only allowing one touchdown and completing defensive stops on

multiple Texas drives.

"I thought that we played better, competed better in the second half, but it was a little too late," Brown said. "But I do credit our guys for coming out and competing in the second half. I thought we played much better on defense."

The Mountaineers under-

stand the expectations for this season, but Brown believes that they have the players to win games like Saturday's, and that the team's performance must improve with many more Big 12 games on the slate.

"We got to get better we know that," Brown said. "But I do think we have some pieces that can win games like this, in our league, and that's what we got the rest of the way is league games."

"You got a chance to win them all and you got a chance to lose them all and it's going to be really tightly contested, not just for us but for everybody," Brown said.

Going into next game against Baylor, Brown is looking forward to having the weekend off leading into a Thursday night home matchup, giving him and his team time to regroup as Big 12 play continues.

"It's been a tough first five games, we got a beat up crew, we got about half a bye-week not a full bye-week," Brown said. "We need some time to regroup."

West Virginia will host the Baylor Bears on Thursday, Oct. 13, at 7 p.m., looking for redemption in front of the home crowd at Milan Puskar Stadium in Morgantown. The game will be televised on FS1.

WVU rifle opens fall slate with impressive home victory over Memphis

BY RACHEL LIBERT
STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia rifle team opened its season with a win against Memphis on Saturday morning, scoring an overall 4,712 points against the Tigers.

No. 7 West Virginia hosted the season opener at the WVU Shell Building and the newly named Bill McKenzie Rifle Range in Morgantown, where the event consisted of two competitions: smallbore and air rifle.

Olympic silver medalist Mary Tucker led WVU in the smallbore competition, totaling 587 points. This marks Tucker's first performance as a Mountaineer, as she transferred from Kentucky following her junior year.

Senior Malori Brown and junior Becca Lamb took sec-

ond and third place following Tucker in smallbore.

Memphis' Angeline Henry led her team in smallbore, totaling 580 points and placing ninth overall.

West Virginia took the top eight spots in the individual smallbore standings. The Mountaineers outscored the Tigers 2337 to 2291, giving them a 46-point lead heading into the air rifle competition.

West Virginia's Tucker also led the air rifle competition, finishing first in the individual standings with 597 points. Combined with her smallbore results, Tucker finished with 1184 total points, winning the overall individual competition.

Second in the individual air rifle standings was WVU junior Matt Sanchez with a score of 593 points in the competition. Sanchez finished fourth

overall with 1167 points between the two events.

Henry was once again Memphis' top performer in the air rifle competition, falling just one point behind Sanchez and finishing third.

At the conclusion of the air rifle competition, West Virginia earned 2375 points while Memphis finished with 2354.

Overall, West Virginia made up seven of the top ten spots in overall individual competition.

In team competition, No. 7 WVU defeated No. 14 Memphis 4712 to 4645. This marks the first win of the season for head coach Jon Hammond and the Mountaineers.

The Mountaineers take on match number two next Saturday against Ole Miss. The match is set for 10 a.m. at the WVU Shell Building and Bill McKenzie Rifle Range.



PHOTO BY AVERY YEAROUT

WVU's Verena Zaisberger adjusts her sights against Memphis on Oct. 1, 2022, at the Bill McKenzie Rifle Range in Morgantown, West Virginia.

How WVU club hockey competes at the NCAA level

BY LUKE BLAIN
STAFF WRITER

Four years ago, Wyatt Murphy was convinced his hockey career was over. In high school, he suffered an injury during his junior year and ended up missing his entire senior season.

Now, he's a captain for the WVU Division I men's hockey team.

"West Virginia hockey is one of those things people kind of find by accident," Murphy said. "It's one of those things where people don't realize that hockey here is legit. It's here to stay. It's growing."

The WVU hockey program is unlike any other sports program within the school. It's defined as a club team and isn't affiliated with the University.

The team is run through the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA), which is separate from the NCAA. WVU's team, however, still plays against NCAA teams.

The ACHA allows schools to have multiple teams. WVU has men's teams in all three divisions as well as a Division II women's team.

One major difference between the hockey program and other WVU sports is that the team is self-funded aside from

a stipend from club sports. The team has to pay for ice rentals from the Morgantown ice arena — where they practice and play — equipment, hotels, referees and travel costs.

Each year, this costs players roughly \$2,500.

The team is able to recruit but cannot offer scholarships. Some players, like Murphy, try out and make the team.

The team also operates much like a regular collegiate sport.

"We're practicing three days a week. We're working out twice a week," WVU D-I hockey head coach Shane Buckley. "We're doing video sessions and study halls. And so from that aspect, there are a lot of elements that would be similar to an NCAA hockey organization. The biggest difference that we have is that we're not fully funded by the school."

While the team can recruit, many may wonder how a program that players have to pay to be a part of appeals to players.

There are only 176 total men's hockey programs in the country with 123 on the women's side. The ACHA makes collegiate programs more available than the sparse selection in the NCAA.

While not an NCAA program, Murphy and Buckley



WVU hockey players skating on the ice at the Morgantown Municipal Ice Arena on Jan. 14, 2022.

PHOTO BY EMMA SCOTT

have confidence in the future of the teams and hope to eventually become an NCAA program.

"I think we'd all be lying if I said we were completely satisfied with where we are right

now," Buckley said. "Obviously, the ultimate goal would be to have an NCAA hockey program at West Virginia. I think we're a long ways off from that right now."

"In the meantime, I think

what's most important for us is getting into the conversation of getting to national tournaments, competing for national championships."

Even at their current level, Buckley said the team is hav-

ing fun and is getting better each year.

"We're really excited to keep growing as an organization, as a program," Buckley said. "I know our guys are proud to represent WVU."



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Why WVU men's soccer falls short of No. 6 preseason ranking

BY JAKE HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia men's soccer team came into the 2022 season with high expectations, following a No. 6 preseason ranking. Just last year, head coach Dan Stratford led WVU to its first NCAA Tournament quarterfinal appearance in 40 years.

Needless to say, those expectations haven't been met so far this season. The Mountaineers are 2-6-2, winning just one of their last nine games — a streak that quickly lost them their ranking altogether.

Stratford regularly points out after games that the team has dominated on the stat sheet but couldn't get ahead on the scoreboard. There's quite a lot of truth to that.

In their 10 games, the Mountaineers have only had less shots than their opponents twice. They've also dominated in possession, having over 58% possession in half their games, only trailing in possession three times.

This season, the Mountaineers have led their opponents 113-83 in shots and average 55.7% in possession. However, they trail 10-14 in goals.

After a 2-1 loss to Yale that saw WVU drop out of the rankings, Stratford said the team can't take much solace in this if they're not winning.

"I'm getting a little tired, and I think that the players are going to get tired of hearing that, 'well, we were the better team or we had more chances or we had more possession,' at some point something's got to shift and we have to have this mentality that we're going to win the game by the margins that we should," Stratford said.

So, why hasn't West Virginia turned this into wins? The stats suggest WVU is more prolific at creating chances than actually finishing them.

Of the 113 shots they have attempted, 45 have been on goal — a shot accuracy of 39.8%. This statistic ranked them 143rd out of 203 Division I teams, with the median shot accuracy being 42.7%.

The Mountaineers may be getting shots off, but they're inaccurate with them.

A big reason why WVU's struggles are so confounding is because it's mostly the same aforementioned team as in 2021. While they may miss goalkeeper Steven Tekesky, center back Kevin Morris, and midfielder Pau Jimenez Albelda, they returned nine players who made a significant amount of starts for the Elite Eight team and also added new players for this season.

With how this factor relates to the current season, Stratford says it makes the season confusing, but when combined with the mental attitude



PHOTO BY BY AVERY YEAROUT

WVU's Sergio Ors Navarro (20) passes the ball during the game against the University of South Carolina on Oct. 1, 2022, at Dick Dlesk Soccer Stadium in Morgantown, West Virginia.

of the team, gives them hope that they can turn it around.

"It's probably a little bit of both [confounding and encouraging], quite honestly. I think we're obviously exploring everything right now, and being really thorough, and showing a lot of humility as far as how we assess our current circumstances," Stratford said.

"There's some challenges with it, obviously, because it's a lot of returning players, a lot of players that were part of something successful last year. But at the same time, it just shows how volatile this game can be, how fine some of these margins can be, and those same players know what momentum we were able to

gather last year, and have done it on the big occasion plenty of times before," Stratford said.

"Unfortunately, it hasn't fallen our way just yet, but the season is by no means over and I think that's been the real encouraging part, is that there has been very, very little indication and certainly very short-lived and in terms of

any indications, that anyone's ready to kind of feel too sorry for themselves or give up on what can still be a really successful season," Stratford said.

The Mountaineers face off against the Old Dominion Monarchs on Saturday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m.

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WVU is such a big school with so many opportunities that there's always something fun and interesting to do. So tune in every Friday wherever you listen to your podcasts and get inspired to go out and try something new!



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GradLife 601 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.



Every Wednesday, Wellbeing Wednesdays is a weekly podcast exploring what wellbeing means at West Virginia University. Listen to get to know more about the folks doing work on the ground at the university in addition to some light-hearted fun as we take a look at wellbeing in popular culture.

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WVU STUDENT MEDIA

THE DAILY ATHENAEUM



For over 134 years, the DA has been the independent student newspaper of WVU. Our newspaper, printed every Thursday during the Fall semester and Wednesday and Friday during the Spring semester, has a circulation of 12,700, placed across WVU's Morgantown campus and inserted in the Dominion Post to all of Monongalia and Preston counties. Our website also serves as a vital news source in and around WVU.



@dailyathenaeum



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@DailyAthenaeum

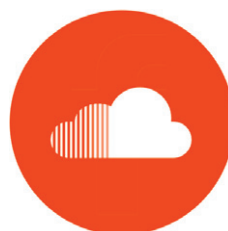
U92 THE MOOSE



U92 the Moose, WVU 91.7FM, is the pioneer college radio station of WVU. Since 1982, U92 has been rocking the airwaves with new and alternative music, specialty music shows, news, play-by-play sports, and sports talk. We also produce podcasts and other audio content, as well as offer DJ services, recording, and more. Our terrestrial radio station can be also heard online via our website, TuneIn, and Alexa device.



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U92 The Moose

OUR LOCATION

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