

THE

NITTANY PRIDE

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Good-bye and Good Luck: A Farewell to Seniors

Students Learn Proper Etiquette At Annual Dinner

Avengers Assemble: The Age of Ultron is Upon US

MEET THE STAFF



The Nittany Pride staff would like to dedicate this issue to all of the graduating seniors at Penn State New Kensington. We would especially like to thank staff writers, Ryan McLaughlin and Eric Bennardo, for the hard work and dedication they have contributed to the publication of numerous Nittany Pride issues. We wish Ryan and Eric the best of luck in their future endeavors.

The Nittany Pride is a Student Newspaper of the Penn State New Kensington Campus

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CAMPUS LIFE

Good-bye and Good Luck: A Farewell to Seniors

By Eric Bennardo



Craig Synan:

Synan will be completing his Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice. He has been at the campus since his freshman year. Synan's most memorable experiences have been attending the student acceptance dinners as a Lion Ambassador. He enjoyed seeing the new students interact with each other as well as some of their future faculty and staff. After graduation, Synan plans to start a career in the criminal justice field.

Amy Bennardo:

Bennardo is completing her Associate's in Business Administration this semester. She has been at the campus for five semesters. Her most memorable experiences at the campus were karaoke events in Café 780, as well as her work study with Nurse Elaine during the 2014-2015 school year. After graduation, Bennardo plans to work for a bank while obtaining her real estate license.



Regina Cherish:

Cherish is completing her Bachelor of Arts in Communications with a focus in Corporate Communications. She has been at the campus for five semesters. According to Cherish, her most memorable experience at the campus was when Dr. Larson, Associate Professor of Communications said, "Come back tomorrow." After graduation, Cherish plans to start a career in either Marketing or design.

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Ryan McLaughlin:

McLaughlin is a Communications Major with a focus in Journalism. He has been at the campus for the eight semesters of his college education. His most memorable experiences while at the campus were working for the Nittany Pride, and his senior research project, where he conducted a content analysis of video game reviews. After graduation, McLaughlin plans to pursue a career in journalism with emphasis on investigative reporting.

Kelsy Marshall:

Marshall is completing a Bachelor of Science in Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology. She has been at the campus for three years. Her most memorable experiences were talking to her professors outside of class about her other classes. She also had many positive experiences during school breaks. Marshall enjoyed working on her senior research project, which was the Maze Solving Drone. After graduation, Marshall plans to begin a career in EMET and travel.



Carly DeMao:

DeMao will be completing her Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice. She has been at the campus for nine semesters. Her most memorable experiences have included meeting many of the international students, and forming friendships with these students. DeMao also has had a great experience in the Administration of Justice Major that she is completing this semester. After graduation, DeMao plans to start a career in juvenile probation.

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“Into the Woods” Goes onto the Stage

By Paige Owens

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — Last semester, Penn State New Kensington’s Drama Club put on a performance of “Beyond Therapy” in late Nov. with freshmen, Jon McCabe and Laura Gensamer, leading the cast.



Klase Danko, a member of the community, rehearses one of her songs for “Into the Woods.” (Photo by Regina Cherish)

This spring semester, the Drama Club held open auditions in Jan. for a production of “Into the Woods” that took place on April, 16, 17, and 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Forum Theatre at Penn State New

Kensington. Director Bill Mitas had explained earlier in the semester that allowing the community to audition for the production would give his students a chance to work with seasoned professionals and that a production as large as “Into the Woods” would need a big cast.

Klase Danko, one of several actors to audition, graduated from the Conservatory of Performing Arts at Point Park University in 2013 with a Bachelor’s degree in Acting and a minor in Broadcasting. “‘Into the Woods’ is my third show with Penn State New Kensington,” Danko said.

“My sister is a student at Penn State and before transferring to University Park, she attended New Kensington. In the fall of 2013, she was cast in *Batboy the Musical* for PSNK. Due to some complications, they needed someone to come in and play Meredith Parker, the mother role in the show. My sister told Bill Mitas that I was available and I was offered the role.”

Danko explained that she had received an email to come to the open auditions and then later spoke to Mitas on the phone about attending auditions. After auditioning, Danko was cast as the Baker’s wife, the female lead of the musical.

Gensamer, who was involved in theatre throughout high school at North Hills, was enthusiastic about her multiple characters and the turn out the musical generated this semester.

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"I played the narrator, who was basically the moderator between the audience and the characters," Gensamer said. "I basically gave an overview of each scene and gave some information in the scenes that helped progress the story. I also played the mysterious man who turns out to be the Baker's father, who was played by Matthew Mlynarski. He often comes into the scene to help out the characters, but no one really knows why he's there."

After the final production on Saturday night, Gensamer found out that she is to be awarded "Best Performer" of Penn State New Kensington. She will receive her award on May 1.

Throughout preparation for "Into the Woods," Mitas' Production Practicum course put in a lot of hard work and dedication especially in the last month before the production. Senior Information Science Technology major, Balaji Rajan, explained that it was his first time working in theatre and how much he enjoyed the experience. Rajan, along with the rest of the Production Practicum course, were responsible for making the props, set, and running the sound board for the play.

"'Into the Woods' was a great choice for a musical," Rajan said. "It was my first experience doing anything like this and it was a good experience for me. A lot of people came out to see the performance and I think the play raised a lot of money for the Drama Club."

Preparing for "Into the Woods" was not an easy production to accomplish or to prepare for. Students involved in the musical had to attend re-

hearsals Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday evenings for the first couple of months. However, as the performance dates approached, rehearsals became lengthier and more frequent in order to perfect the performance.

Gensamer expressed her concern that there were no rehearsals with the piano until the Sunday before opening night, and the cast was not able to rehearse with the orchestra until the Monday before opening night. However, the opening performance brought in an almost full audience of students, family, friends, and faculty to support the cast.

At the Friday evening performance, the cast and crew experienced a technical difficulty involving pre-recorded sound that was meant to be played in a scene featuring the Giant.

"There was a Giant voice that was meant to play in a particular scene, and in the middle of the scene right as the recording was supposed to play, the software crashed out of nowhere," Rajan explained. "One of the other members on the sound and light crew started yelling out the Giant's voice, so we were able to fix that issue and cover it up."

After several months of hard work, hours of rehearsal, and dedication, the Penn State New Kensington Drama Club were able to put on an outstanding performance of "Into the Woods." The Drama Club will soon decide next semester's play and will hold auditions sometime in September.

CAMPUS LIFE

Students Learn Proper Etiquette at Annual Dinner

By Ryan McLaughlin



Students, alumni, and faculty gathering for the Etiquette Dinner.
(Photo by Ryan McLaughlin)

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — Students and several professionals from Penn State New Kensington learned about proper etiquette over a four-course dinner on March 31.

The Etiquette Dinner is a traditional event at the Penn State New Kensington campus, but the sponsors have changed hands over the years. This year, Student Government Association and Career Services co-sponsored the event for the students.

Danielle Richardson, Vice President of Student Government Association, helped to co-organize the event. “This is my first year actually attending and co-organizing the event, so it was unique for me,” Richardson said.

She said that she felt the event was successful. “Last year they had around 20 something people who attended, as opposed to this year, we had around 50 plus people,” Richardson said.

Michael Daly and Jennifer Phillips both attended the Etiquette Dinner in previous years. They both said that were attracted by the food and possibility for new tips. “Food’s always good, and you never know what kind of new thing you might learn,” Phillips said.

They also enjoyed speaker, Marc Schuler, that was there for the dinner. “He did a good job,” Daly said. “He kept you engaged.” “He was really energetic,” Phillips agreed. “He liked to joke a little bit. He kept it fun.”

The speaker was a last minute change, according to Richardson. “Melissa Spencer (the original speaker) fell very ill, so they had to find somebody else,” she explained. “He was still involved with the AVI. He’s the resident director at CCAC (Community College of Allegheny County).”

Richardson also agreed that Schuler did a fantastic job. “He had a very nice presence. He was very upbeat and very engaging.”

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Attendants were treated to a full, four-course dinner. Salads were already waiting at the table as students entered, along with glasses of water and tea. Once the salads were completed, servers came around and took the plates away, replacing them with wedding soup. As the attendants ate, the speaker talked about the proper etiquette for each course, such as which fork is the salad fork.

Following the soup course, attendants received either their selection of chicken or shrimp. Here, the proper etiquette was to begin eating, even if the whole table was not served. The speaker explained that this was fine, because it is better to eat a dish while it is hot, rather than wait and have it cool. It would be disrespectful to the chef.

For desert, attendants received a chocolate dish inside of a chocolate cup, garnished with caramel and an edible flower. The speaker said that it was fine to eat the garnish, but not in one solid bite. Director of Student Affairs, Theresa Bonk, also attended this year's dinner. "I particularly enjoyed this year, I think, because of the alumni and professionals that were invited and then strategically placed at every table with students and professional staff and faculty," she said.

Several alumni and professionals were invited to the dinner, as well. This was to give students a chance to network with others outside of the school. "I think adding that element really raises the level and the bar for the dinner," Bonk said. "I really appreciate the work that was done to get those folks here."

Bonk also commented on the design of the program. "On the back of the program were some gentle reminders about networking at the dinner," Bonk said. "Danielle did a nice job of including them."

Throughout the dinner, students and professionals asked a myriad of questions about etiquette. The speaker covered a wide variety of topics, including what might be proper etiquette in one part of the world, and what might not be proper etiquette in another. It was a very educational night for those that may not understand the intricacies of proper etiquette.

"It's a situation that pretty much all of us are going to be in at some point," Phillips said. "We get invited to a fancy dinner, and we have to be a little more proper than we might be in day-to-day life."

Bonk also recommends the dinner for the experience. "We shouldn't make assumptions that everyone has had that kind of experience," she said. "It's good to have that kind of experience here, where we can experiment."

CAMPUS LIFE

PSNK Lion Ambassadors Host Senior Citizens' Prom

By Darren Myers

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - On Friday, April 10, the Penn State New Kensington (PSNK) Lion Ambassadors hosted their first-ever Senior Citizens' Prom. The event was held at the Logan House, an assisted-living facility in Lower Burrell. The Lion Ambassadors took it upon themselves to organize an event that gave the senior citizens of the area something to look forward to.

In typical prom fashion, the senior citizens were treated to dinner followed by dancing. While the senior citizens ate, the PSNK students warmed up the dance floor for all to watch. The PSNK Lion Ambassadors invited other students to partake in the festivities as well.

The event was considered a success by both the Penn State New Kensington staff and the Logan House.



Photos Courtesy of Penn State New Kensington.

CAMPUS LIFE

PSNK Public Relations Class Teams up with Local YMCA

By Sarah Steighner

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — The Penn State New Kensington COMM 471 Public Relations Methods class has partnered with the local Valley Points Family YMCA for a real life hands on project.

The goal of this semester-long project is to focus on boosting membership recruitment and retention at the local YMCA through the class's use of Public Relations (PR) which is being taught by Professor Rosemary Martinelli.

Mike Newell is the CEO of the Valley Points Family YMCA and spoke about his experience working with the class during a phone interview. "Professor Martinelli reached out to United Way for an idea of a local community agency that may benefit from PR work and in turn recommended that we speak with the class," said Newell.

Cindy Elliott, Director of Associate Advancement at the YMCA, has also been working with Newell and the PR class on this project. "We had a great initial meeting with the class, talked through our goals and answered their questions," said Elliott. "They also visited us at the YMCA and we tried to provide them with information that we wanted feedback on as to how we can better serve families in the communities."

Newell explained that their YMCA offers a broad range of activities and programs. However, their main areas of focus include youth development and social responsibility. In addition to the Valley Points Family YMCA, they also operate the Kiski branch YMCA.

During an interview, Martinelli explained that the Public Relations classes she had taught in the past have always had her students take on real life projects and this class would be no different. "We're technically in the classroom but I want and expect the students to think outside of the classroom and this project absolutely requires that," said Martinelli.

Martinelli expressed that this semester-long project is much better than simply only using a textbook to teach. "This project has given the students an opportunity to network within the community, and gives them true ownership of the work they do," said Martinelli.

Martinelli explained that by week 15 of the class, the course will come full circle as her class rolls out an entire campaign and all their ideas in the form of a presentation to the YMCA, communications department, and other faculty on campus.

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Along with developing ways to boost PR for the YMCA, the class is in complete charge of planning the presentation. This has included finding funding for linens, food and beverages, as well as the printing costs for invitations, brochures and other print samples.

Senior Communications major and student in the Public Relations Methods course, Regina Cherish, described some of the class dynamics during an interview. "The class is very stressful and full of absolute chaotic planning," Cherish said. "The experience relies heavily on learning as you go, and a type of thinking on your feet problem solving."

Cherish explained that the class is graded very subjectively and that it requires a considerable amount of work to be done outside of the classroom. As to what the class has specifically been doing, Cherish explained that along with much additional research, they have been taking the information that the YMCA originally provided and have been working to organize and compile it into brochures.

Cherish has been working as the Project Manager and Graphic Designer producing and designing these brochures and other documents. "The main thing that I have learned from this class is how to manage," said Cherish. Cherish explained that while she does not want to go into working in Public Relations after graduation, she does want to create things similar to what she has been doing for this project.

The rest of the class is broken up into three groups. Each group focuses on a specific target audience; Students of Higher Education, Family, and External and Internal Communication. "The class is a unique situation where all of us have a mutual respect," Cherish said. "We have all been in COMM 371 together and worked together in the class. We know each other well enough to play at our strengths. It's easier to get three people to communicate than 10 people to cooperate."

Junior Communications major Evan Keener, is also a student in the Public Relations Methods course and offered up his perspective on the class during an interview. "Having groups and team leaders help to make this project more efficient. I think this class is a great opportunity for our students to provide a real life experience to help us after graduation," said Keener.

Keener elaborated on how he believes this class will help him in the long run. "I think taking this class and doing this project will help me to be more well-rounded for Communications," said Keener.

The COMM 471 Public Relations Methods class will be hosting the formal presentation on April 29 in the Art Gallery at Penn State New Kensington. Other than the class and staff from the YMCA, other members within the communications department and additional PSNK staff are invited.

SPORTS

Bring Back Boys' Baseball

By Darren Myers

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — Penn State New Kensington (PSNK) boys' baseball team is on its way back. The team is currently in its club phase, meaning that all of their games are exhibition games and they are not eligible for a playoff run. The idea for the team was brought to the attention of Athletic Director, Dave Murray, by Electro-Mechanical Engineering major, Cody Shoemaker.

Shoemaker, a member of Student Government Association (SGA) last year, used that position to plant the idea of a baseball team in the head of Chancellor Kevin Snider and other faculty members. "I started talking to a few students to see who was interested and I found three or four that were interested in bringing back baseball," said Shoemaker.

Once the baseball club began gaining interest among the students, they asked Murray to be the club advisor.

The team is led by head coach, Jim Perry. There was very little time for Perry and the team to conduct any type of off-season training program. "The team was already in place when I got here," mentioned Perry.

Perry, previously the head coach at Valley High School, enjoys the college atmosphere. "Before Coach Perry came, we were definitely less organized," Shoemaker said. "I think it's coming along decently, it's a long process to revive a sport on a campus as small as ours, but we're making strides."

The team has 10 scheduled games for this season, but has been unable to play some of them due to the extended winter we had. They will participate in the Pennsylvania State University Athletic Conference (PSUAC) where they will face other Penn State branch campuses, as well as local community colleges. "Next year there will be a different atmosphere," stated Perry. "I hope to have enough people recruited to be able to have tryouts."

Perry is enthusiastic about building this team through the connections he has made from being involved in the Western Pennsylvania Coaches Association. He will use the connections he made as a high school coach to bring in enough talent to be a force to be reckoned within the PSUAC.

The club will run through spring of 2016 and will then make the attempt at becoming a varsity sport.

COMMUNITY

Charity Spar-a-Thon to be held in New Kensington

By Darren Myers

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. – On Saturday May 16, Grand Master Philip Ameris' Cho's Taekwondo Center, located on Carl Avenue in New Kensington, will host a charity Spar-a-Thon event for former taekwondo student, Michael Fraser.



The flyer is for the "Warrior Mike SPAR-A-THON" event. It features a dark background with white and yellow text. At the top, "Warrior Mike" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "SPAR-A-THON" below it in a similar but slightly smaller font. Underneath, "EVENT INCLUDES:" is followed by a list of activities: "SPONSORED SPARRING", "BASKET & CASH RAFFLES", "LA TACO TRUCK", "DJ PRETTY LOU", "CHIN UP CHALLENGE", and "AND MUCH MORE!!!". A starburst graphic on the right side of the flyer says "Grand Prize: iPad Mini!!". The event date and time, "May 16 (10 am - Noon)", are prominently displayed in a large, bold font. Below this, the website "Taekwondo-Ameris.com" and the address "619 Carl Ave. New Kensington, PA 15068" are listed. At the bottom, it states "All Proceeds Go Directly to the Warrior Mike Fund" and lists event sponsors: "Taekwondo-Ameris.com", "LA TACO AUTÉNTICO-FRESCO", "DJ Pretty Lou", and "CLOCKWISE".

Spar-a-Thon official flyer to support "Warrior Mike" Fraser. (Created by Phillip Ameris Jr.)

Fraser is a Vandergrift native and student of Philip Ameris Sr., who has been teaching taekwondo since 1977. Ameris Sr. is the owner of Grand Master Philip Ameris' Cho's Taekwondo Center that will hold a charity event for Fraser.

Fraser was paralyzed from the waist down during a swimming accident in July of 2013. He was a student of Ameris Sr.'s for 10 years prior to the accident and was a 3rd degree black belt. Fraser, 21 at the time of his accident, broke three different vertebrae (C4, C5, and C6) as well as bruised his spinal cord. He fought through multiple life-threatening surgeries and is now working towards his Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science as a senior at Robert Morris University, where he lives on campus.

Fraser's accident has left him in a wheelchair, but his spirit still stands tall. "There's no quit in him whatsoever," Ameris Sr. said of his former star pupil. Fraser, who was once considered a quadriplegic, is now able to go to college, finish his degree, live on his own, and "drive an amazing, tricked out van," said Fraser's mother, Mary, with a humorous tone in her voice.

After his accident, Fraser's friends all banded together to form the "Mike Fraser Benefit Fund," which is an organization created to help Fraser along his journey. Unfortunately, not all of the life-saving procedures that Fraser endured were entirely covered by his insurance. In order for Fraser to stay on the right path, he looks to the generosity of others for help. This benefit fund will help Fraser continue on the right path and continue the rehabilitation he needs.

"He never feels sorry for himself," mentioned Mary. For that reason, Ameris Sr. gave him the nickname "Warrior Mike" after the accident, and it stuck.

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The license plate on Fraser's van reads "Warrior Mike." "He's the epitome of a warrior," Ameris Sr. said. "Usually, after an accident like that, you see kids become defeated and feel down about themselves, but not Mike. When you go to cheer him up, you go there and he cheers you up instead."

When asked about the Fraser family and how his relationship was with him, Ameris Sr. said, "They're like family to us. We got the phone call (of the accident) and we all went to the hospital." "I've never seen a closer, harder-working family."

"Words can't describe how amazing they are," said Mary of the Ameris family. "They're the most amazing people you can meet." There was nothing but appreciation from one family to the other.

Philip Ameris Jr., son of Philip Ameris Sr. and friend of Fraser, was the brains behind the operation of the Spar-a-Thon. He is the one who created the flyers, brochures, and made all of the phone calls that helped put this plan into action.

"The support of the students has been overwhelming," Ameris Sr. said. "When we call a meeting about Warrior Mike, its 70-100 people (attending)." Students offer their assistance wherever it may help. Students previously volunteered their time at the Fraser household to assist in building a ramp to make the house more wheelchair-accessible.

All proceeds of the charity Spar-a-Thon will go to the "Mike Fraser Benefit Fund." The Spar-a-Thon will be a two-hour-long sparring marathon with participants ranging from six years old to 65. Peo-

ple attending the event include, Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) fighters Chris Dempsey and Dom Mazzotta, a previous student of Ameris Sr. They will be there to support Fraser and the event.

Participants will be sponsored to fight and the cost of the person will be based on how many rounds they plan to spar. Participants may also make a flat donation to the "Mike Fraser Benefit Fund."

All expenses of the event will be paid for through Ameris Sr.'s Taekwondo Center's scholarship program. The event is also sponsored by the Laborer's District Council of Western Pennsylvania, which Ameris Sr. is the President and Business Manager of.

The event will also include a live DJ, a bake sale, and 50/50 raffles in the parking lot of the gym. LA Taco, the Pittsburgh based taco truck that travels to cities around the area will also be there to serve their Pittsburgh famous Mexican cuisine.

For more information on the "Mike Fraser Benefit Fund," go to www.warriormike.com.

COMMUNITY

Local Writer Explores Heavy Metal Music in Africa

By Paige Owens



Author Edward Banchs. (Photo courtesy of LinkedIn)

OAKMONT, Pa. – Pennsylvania native, Edward Banchs, 35, has incorporated his three passions into a project he has been working on since 2010: Africa, heavy metal music, and writing.

Banchs has been writing his first novel, “Heavy Metal Africa,” since 2010 after the idea came to him while he was attending graduate school. He first graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Anthropology. He then obtained his Master’s degree in African Studies from University of London at the School of Oriental African Studies.

Banchs’ first love for music is what inspired him on his journey. Right out of high school, Banchs went to Penn State Altoona in his hometown to study art, but was soon unsatisfied. After three semesters, he dropped out of college to join a touring heavy metal band, Negative Theory, as a guitarist.

After taking several years off from college to play music, Banchs decided to leave the band, and with the support of his mother, moved to Florida, where she lived. There, he told his mother that he was going to go back to college, but that he was going to study Africa.

“When I was in school as a Political Science major, all of my professors were really cool with me reworking all of the assignments I was given to cater towards Africa,” Banchs explained.

“While I was in graduate school, I had this idea with my friend there who was studying metal culture. One of the things I said to him was that I wanted to bridge Africa and metal together because I knew that there was metal in Africa, but there’s nothing going on in terms of promotion there.”

Throughout Banchs’ college career, he immersed himself in the metal and African culture. Although Banchs was drawn to Africa, for an indescribable reason, he was able to learn more about the culture, music scene, and people by living in Florida. Banchs started ransacking the bookstore he worked at to learn as much as he could. Florida had a large migrant community from around the United States, but also from other countries and continents around the world, Banchs explained.

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“I was meeting a lot of Africans while I was living in Florida,” Banchs said. “The way I would talk to them they would say that I spoke like an African because when I talked about Africa my face would get lit up.”

After graduating with his Master’s degree in Africa Studies, Banchs moved back to the United States from London and worked as a substitute teacher. He had begun his writing and research on the heavy metal music scene within Africa, conducting interviews through emails. He wrote the first two chapters of “Heavy Metal Africa” and hated it.

“All I was doing was interviewing people through emails, but I couldn’t write about the place,” Banchs explained. “I couldn’t write about the people and the way their voices sounded, I couldn’t write about the sounds or the air blowing in through the window. I had a ‘what the hell’ moment and I said let’s go. I sold my guitar amps and a lot of my guitars and I bought an airline ticket to go on a six week trip to Africa. I used all that money to fund my trip.”

Each time Banchs has gone on a trip to Africa in the last several years, he has kept his experiences as genuine as possible. Banchs stayed with friends and people who live there rather than staying in a hotel because he did not want to compromise his experience with fancy hotel rooms, he wanted to live like an African.

“Heavy Metal Africa” is going to include eight chapters and Banchs’ introduction to the content. He explained that this book isn’t just about the music or Africa; it’s his personal story about the places he’s been, the people he’s met, and the journey that has brought him to where he is today.

When Banchs initially began his journey to write a book that was going to bridge Africa and heavy metal music, he did not realize that he would also be connecting the “metal heads” throughout the world. Banchs has spent years of hard work, dedication, blood, sweat, and tears into turning his dream into a reality. Through “Heavy Metal Africa,” Banchs has given the metal community in Africa a voice.

Banchs is planning his final trip to Africa in Oct. 2015, which will turn into the eighth chapter of his book. He hopes that when he returns from his trip, he will have “Heavy Metal Africa” finished and ready for publication by spring 2016.

ENTERTAINMENT

Kickstart My Career

By Ryan McLaughlin

KICKSTARTER

The largest crowdsourcing website for independent developers. (Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

You have an idea for a video game. However, you find yourself a little short on funds to produce said game. Lucky for you, the Internet has answered your prayers and has created numerous methods for crowdsourcing your

video game, or asking perfect strangers to fund your game. However, problems can arise when people abuse these systems for a quick buck and fail to fulfill promises they made.

Kickstarter is the world's largest funding platform for creative projects. It can fund numerous projects, from movies to video games and more. They only have three rules: The project must be something to be shared, projects must be clearly represented, and projects can not offer financial incentives nor offer prohibited items.

Though there are several examples, the most prominent case of violating these rules comes from Peter Molyneux, developer of the game Godus. Molyneux was famous in the gaming community for developing the Fable games. He was famous enough that his independent venture, Godus, raised over half a million pounds for his return to the god game genre without much promotional material.

However, problems arose when it was time for fans to start receiving their rewards. Kickstarter programs offer rewards based on tiers of donations. However, none of the rewards were ready, because Godus had gone way over schedule. In 2012, Molyneux promised that Godus would be finished in seven months. Yet, it still is not complete today. The game has reached Steam Early Access, but it's still not complete. In fact, many of the rewards promised may never come to fruition, such as a Linux version of the game and an art book. In the rewards tier, the art book is listed, but later described as a "making of" book.

Since then, 22 Cans, the company developing Godus, has released an update, asking the community which they would rather have. Still, these people were waiting over two years for rewards that they were originally promised in seven months.

Molyneux's Godus is only one example of this abuse of a system. Molyneux's fame makes this story more prominent, as the man is already famous for "overpromising" and disappointing his fans. He has already announced his next game, The Trail, while Godus has yet to be finished. Molyneux has promised to stop talking to the press, but he made this promise to multiple outlets, so only time will tell if this holds true.

ENTERTAINMENT

Early Access to Cash-Ins

By Ryan McLaughlin

A few years ago, Steam, the popular online game service, decided to try a new approach to their games service. They decided to allow developers to put up games in Alpha, or not finished states, and have users look at them and download them, called Early Access. “Discover, play, and get involved with games as they evolve” proclaims the banner. However, many games never make it past Early Access, and some of them intend to.

Day Z started as a popular mod for the game Arma 2. It added zombies into an otherwise realistic, military shooter. The mod gained popularity through the PC gaming crowd, until the designers decided to try it out for real. The game hit Steam’s Early Access in December of 2013. Two years later, Day Z is still in Early Access, and fans are not appreciative of this. In the reviews and comments sections, many fans are calling it a joke, saying that the game had potential but squandered it through Early Access.

At least Day Z seemed to have started with good intentions, and was playable for the most part. Many games on Steam’s Early Access are not even games and are not playable. The most recent example of this is Skate Man: Intense Rescue. This “game” will not even show up on Early Access, because they pulled it. However, it was on there long enough to have people start reviewing it. The game was filled with pre-bought assets that were cobbled together to make money and good screenshots. They also filed copyright claims against anyone who reviewed their broken mess that was supposed to be a game.

Another “game” is After Reset RPG. Jim Sterling discussed this and Skate Man in his latest video on Early Access. After Reset RPG is on Early Access with a hefty retail price of \$50. It has no gameplay to speak of, as the player can only run around empty hallways, and dares to ask for \$50. “Games” like this show how easy it is to abuse Steam’s systems to make a quick dollar. They try to hid behind the banner of Early Access, claiming more is to come. Yet, nothing does. Instead, we are left waiting for content we were promised when we paid you money.

However, some games do make use of Early Access. An article on MakeUseOf described how Arma 3, Divinity: Original Sin, and Wasteland 2 all used Early Access, released, and were successful. These three show how Early Access is meant to be used. It’s supposed to allow consumers to buy into a game at a lower rate, which supplies to developer with some funds to work on finishing the game. The game isn’t supposed to sit there for two years and not progress, and it is not meant as a quick way to earn a dollar.

ENTERTAINMENT

Avengers Assemble: The Age of Ultron is Upon Us

By Nico Regoli



Photo Courtesy of Flickr.com

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — Nearly three years since the first "The Avengers" film premiered, producer Kevin Feige and director Joss Whedon reunite "Earth's Mightiest Heroes," to save the world from mass destruction once again, in "Avengers: Age of Ultron."

On Oct. 22, 2014, the official teaser trailer for Marvel Studios' newest Avengers film was released to the public. Within 11 seconds, millions of ears across the globe were treated to James Spader's

voice, powerfully proclaiming through the villain Ultron, "I'm gonna show you something beautiful." He wasn't lying. For two minutes and 16 seconds, fans witnessed the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) in a state of chaos and rubble, and the protagonists shaken to their cores, accompanied by a bone-chilling rendition of Pinocchio's "I've Got No Strings."

After many trailers, television spots, and press events later, the wait is over. On May 1 (April 30 for early screenings at the Pittsburgh Mills), the Age of Ultron begins.

Considered to be the masters of film continuity, Kevin Feige and Joss Whedon have brought the band back together, and more, for another Marvel-ous adventure. Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Captain America (Chris Evans), Thor (Chris Hemsworth), Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), War Machine (Don Cheadle), Falcon (Anthony Mackie), Maria Hill (Cobie Smulders), and Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) are back, and this time the Avengers face Ultron.

Introduced in a 1968 comic, as a creation of the first Ant-Man (Hank Pym), Ultron is a robot with artificial intelligence that learns to resent humanity, and ironically develops its worst qualities. Filled with rage, Ultron betrays his "father," Robert Downey Jr.'s, Tony Stark, and attempts to extinguish mankind, and its flaws, looking to remake Earth in his own image.

Adding to the Avengers' troubles, the threat of Hydra still lurks. Scientist, Baron Wolfgang von Strucker (Thomas Kretschmann), from last year's Captain America: The Winter Soldier, is in possession of Loki's (Tom Hiddleston) scepter from the first Avengers film, and is experimenting with "powered humans."

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Among Strucker's test subjects are the Maximoff twin "miracles," Pietro and Wanda, Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch (Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Elizabeth Olsen). The question remains however, whose side are our miracles really on?

Making things more interesting, and slightly more complicated, is the introduction of the density-manipulating android, The Vision (Paul Bettany). Although created by Ultron in the comics, not much is known about this cinematic interpretation of the beloved android, leaving a lot of questions from fans to be answered on May 1.

Penn State New Kensington sophomore Biology student, April Clark, states her love of the Avengers blossomed from being a "huge fan of the Iron Man movies," and that she is "really looking forward to seeing how they (Feige and Whedon) pull the Avengers back together in this movie."

Movie buff, Joaquim Atayi is hoping to see Hulk be "let off the leash," and "go crazy." He also hopes to see Hulk "use Loki as a ragdoll again," referencing a favorite scene of his from the first Avengers film.

Freshman, Derrek Koblinsky, who has not seen a Marvel Studios film before, and admits he has "never been a comic reader," is looking forward to simply seeing a good movie. He says, "I'm going in to see the movie, and I'm going to tell you how I liked it based on the movie."

Meanwhile, other students had the future of the widely interconnected Marvel Cinematic Universe in mind. Longtime comic book reader, Rachel Lojas, a junior at Penn State New Kensington, is very excited to see Thor return, and is curious about how Age of Ultron will set up his next solo film, Thor: Ragnarok, premiering in Nov. of 2017. Lojas feels that the first film "didn't do him (Thor) much justice, the second one was impeccable, and then this third one, I hope just blows it out of the water."

With so many questions, so much anticipation, and only so few days left of waiting, "Avengers: Age of Ultron" is shaping up to be one of the best films of 2015. To any moviegoers who are looking for a good time, assemble with the Avengers on May 1, and watch "Earth's Mightiest Heroes" hit another cinematic homerun.

ENTERTAINMENT

Upcoming Summer Concerts

By Sarah Steighner

Big & Rich

Pittsburgh Pirate and country music fans alike should mark their calendars come June. On Saturday June 13 the Pirates will play the Philadelphia Phillies at 4:05 p.m. After the game, Big & Rich will take stage on the field for a concert. Everyone with tickets to the game are welcome to stay in their stadium seats afterwards for the concert at no extra charge. However, special access tickets may be bought at the general admission price of \$25 to gain access to a standing area on the field to be closer to the stage.

Rolling Stones

Those who are more partial to the Rolling Stones when it comes down to the timeless question of Rolling Stone versus The Beatles are in luck. The Rolling Stones will be performing on June 20 at Heinz Field. However, with such high demand, obtaining tickets might be quite the task.

Tame Impala

Fans of the band or simply music lovers looking for a fresh sound will want to check out Tame Impala. They will be performing at Stage AE on June 3. Tame Impala originated from Australia in 2007. While probably best described as psychedelic rock or psychedelic pop, Tame Impala is only a few degrees behind the trippiness and wonderful weirdness of The Flaming Lips. Along with the release of their album, *Lonerism*, Tame Impala is seeming to make themselves prominent in the music festival circuit. In fact, Billboard's music charts recently listed them as #3 out of the Top 10 best performances at Coachella this year.

Dave Matthews Band

Dismissed by many, and dearly beloved by others, Dave Matthews Band (DMB) will be performing at the First Niagara Pavilion on June 6. The diehard Dave Matthews Band fans surely already have their tickets, as the DMB culture is almost comparable to the sub-culturally passionate and loyal Deadhead fans eager to make it to each show. But even if you are not a DMB fan, unbeknownst to you, you've probably heard their music playing in the background of shoe stores or while you flip through the radio trying to avoid Justin Bieber. So whether you know every song or simply "Crash Into Me," nothing really beats a summer concert dancing on the lawn in Burgettstown and listening to a classic American band.

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Taylor Swift

Whether you like Taylor Swift or not, it is unquestionable that you probably know all the words to more than one of her songs. Swift is now a legend whether we like it or not. So whether you are a fan or a bored music aficionado, you might want to make your way to Heinz Field on June 6 to hear Swift perform. With numerous musical awards and top chart albums, Swift will no doubt be able to effortlessly get the crowd singing along to her songs matched with her entertaining stage presence.

Ed Sheeran

Sheeran's concise and powerful vocals paired with his heart wrenching lyrics have already earned him awards worldwide, and even a nomination for Best New Artist at the 2014 Annual Grammy's. His song A-Team even earned him a nomination for Song of the Year at the 2013 Annual Grammy's. His musical brilliance and accomplishments, have also led him to numerous opportunities including singing alongside everyone from Taylor Swift to Elton John and writing songs for One Direction. Along with touring as the opening act for Swift's The Red Tour, he also personally held three sold out shows performing at the Madison Square Garden. If his resume alone isn't enough to impress then hearing him live definitely should. Sheeran will be performing May 12 at the Consol Energy Center.

Foo Fighters

From "Everlong" to "Pretender," the Foo Fighters have made quite a name for themselves over the years. Their music provides not only nostalgia, but new age rock as their career continues. Then again, greatness is expected considering the band was formed by Dave Grohl, former drummer for Nirvana. While each band member brings something essential to the band, seeing the Foo Fighters perform live might be worth it just to see Grohl; the legend who played alongside Kurt Cobain. Luckily, the Foo Fighters will be coming to town on Aug. 25 at the First Niagara Pavilion for such an opportunity.

Fall Out Boy & Wiz Khalifa

Our younger selves are already in nostalgic debt to Fall Out Boy in "Thnks fr th Mmrs." Thankfully, the opportunity to see them perform is happening this summer on July 2 at First Niagara Pavilion. Also performing with Fall Out Boy on the Boys of Summer Tour is Pittsburgh native Wiz Khalifa. Despite all of Khalifa's hits, Pittsburgh-er's might be most familiar with "Black and Yellow" that you've probably heard if you've attended any Steeler's pre-game party. Also performing will be special guest rapper Hoodie Allen. While, the tour pairing performance of Fall Out Boy and Wiz Khalifa in concert might seem like an odd line up together, this will undeniably be a concert worthy of attendance.



Photos courtesy of Penn State New Kensington Student Life Office