

THE

NITTANY PRIDE

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Penn State Students Get “Wicked” in the Big Apple

Pennsylvania Democratic Party, Alive and Well

2016 NFL Draft: Where Will They Land?

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The content of this publication resides solely with the authors and not with the Pennsylvania State University

The Editors of the Nittany Pride would like to extend our gratitude to the student body, Student Activity Fee organization, to all of the professors and staff members who have picked up a copy of the newspaper each month, and to our amazing staff who have worked diligently with us to make each and every issue possible. A huge thank you goes to the leaders of the Communications Department, Professor and Nittany Pride Instructor Abhinav Aima, Dr. Allen Larson, and Dr. Jennifer Wood. It has been an honor to work alongside and be taught by three of the most intelligent and inspirational leaders of our campus. It is with heavy hearts that we leave Penn State New Kensington and the Nittany Pride behind, but we are forever grateful for the things we have learned and for having the opportunity to run the student newspaper. Until we meet again, we are [forever] Penn State.

- Paige Owens, Sarah Steighner, Darren Myers

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MEET THE STAFF



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Staff photo by Jon McCabe.

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CAMPUS LIFE

Good-bye to Graduating Seniors 2016

By Jay Wu

Staff Writer & Reporter

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — Goodbye to the graduating class of 2016! Good luck with everything you do in the future and be proud of all that you have accomplished thus far in your careers.

Liam Fitzgerald

Major: Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology (EMET)

Dream job: His dream job is to be an automation engineer and work with factories in order to produce products.

Favorite memory: Fitzgerald stated that his favorite memory at Penn State New Kensington would be “blowing up an “opp amp” during Ron Land’s lab by wiring it wrong.”



Jamie Herstek

Major: Double major in Psychology and History

Dream job: Her dream job would be becoming a LPC in a crisis unit.

Favorite memory: Herstek explained her favorite memory at Penn State New Kensington as, “making a bond with other psychology majors in my 301W class because it was difficult and always leaned on each other in order to get through it.”

Christian Kamenic

Major: Information Sciences Technology (IST)

Favorite memory: Kamenic explained that his favorite memory at Penn State New Kensington would be “the trouble that I used to get into with friends when I was a freshman.”



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Watipaso Kumwenda

Major: Biomedical Engineering Technology (BMET)

Dream job: Her dream job would be performing on Broadway.

Favorite memory: Kumwenda's favorite memory at Penn State New Kensington would be "any of the "Open Mic nights" or Karaoke events because I love to sing and perform."

Archama Ort

Major: Corporate Communications

Dream job: His dream job is to be a part of human resources of a National Park.

Favorite memory: Ort said his favorite memory at Penn State New Kensington was "meeting a bunch of cool students and the communications department that he often friends with and that was my big pleasure. My favorite thing about it was the family oriented environment and having that small town commuter feel to happen at Penn State."



Nicholas Welsh

Major: Administration of Justice (AOJ)

Dream job: His dream job would be to get into the Pennsylvania State Police and plans to work there until he retires.

Favorite memory: Welsh stated his favorite memory at Penn State New Kensington would be "going on prison tours with other AOJ majors alongside with LaVarr McBride." He also stated, "It gave me a chance to explore the field."

CAMPUS LIFE

Penn State Students Get “Wicked” in the Big Apple

By Paige Owens

Co-Editor-in-Chief

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. – Each school year, Penn State New Kensington (PSNK) offers students a variety of activities and events to attend where they have the opportunity to connect with one another and visit places around Pittsburgh.

In the past, students have enjoyed events on campus, such as Wings and Sings karaoke and Midnight Breakfast during finals week, but have also travelled with the student body to events in the city, such as Pirates baseball games or Penguins hockey games. This year, however, PSNK offered students a unique, once in a life-time opportunity to attend a day trip to New York City with the campus on Saturday April 23.

Despite the interesting financial year most universities have seen this year, PSNK’s Student Activity Fee organization was able to cover a majority of the costs for this trip, making it an affordable \$50 for PSNK students. Staff members and professors on campus were also invited to attend the day trip, however, they were responsible for covering the full cost of the trip themselves.



A street view of Times Square’s most iconic buildings (Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons).

According to PSNK’s Student Life Coordinator Lauren Blum, the New York City trip had 45 slots available for students and staff members. However, only 3 staff members and 39 students signed up to attend the trip. The trip was originally scheduled for November 2015. However, Blum explained that, “Due to current events around that time [the Paris Attacks], University Park took a stance in regards to our students’ safety and as a precaution cancelled all trips University wide to any large cities including New York City and Washington D.C.”

Students and staff members departed the campus at 1:30 a.m. Saturday morning and arrived in New York City at approximately 8:00 a.m., earlier than anticipated. Despite the rainy forecast that greeted the group, everyone ventured several blocks to begin the day at the 9/11 memorial and museum. Nearing Ground Zero, the air stood still and a late spring breeze cooled the city while the rain persisted. While some

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students went off to take photographs at the memorial or to read the names engraved on the two memorial fountains, others ran to find shelter. Once inside the exhibit, students and staff members were divided into two touring groups that were scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. The guided tours through the museum gave the groups an insight on September 11, 2001 and the events that occurred throughout that tragic day nearly 15 years ago.

Chris Lucidi, a junior Communications major, explained that he was scheduled to go on the original New York City day trip in Nov. and was extremely disappointed when it got cancelled. "This was my first trip to New York City and I was so excited; I've always wanted to go, but I had never had the opportunity to do so" Lucidi said. "I was mostly looking forward to seeing Times Square and all the architecture as well. Overall I'm happy and excited that I got to get away from school and work stress and was able to hang out with great friends in the Big Apple."

In the past, PSNK has taken a group of students and staff members into Pittsburgh to see a show each year. However, due to the lack of interest and limited shows that are featured in Pittsburgh, PSNK Student Life thought there was no better place to have students experience a show than to see it on Broadway. While in New York City, the group enjoyed "Wicked" on Broadway after visiting Times Square and experiencing a ride on the Subway.

"Wicked" is the dark, untold story of Glinda the Good [played by Carrie St. Louis] and Elphaba [played by Rachel Tucker] of "The Wizard of Oz" and their unlikely friendship that led to unfortunate circumstances. "Wicked" has been shown at the Benedum Center in Pittsburgh, but is best known for its dark theatrics and high-tech special effects that only a show on Broadway can offer to an audience.

As the evening light crept up onto 51st and Broadway, the group was again given the opportunity to roam the city freely after the show, but were instructed to arrive back to the bus that would take everyone back to campus around 8:15 p.m. Students and staff buddied up with one another running off to Times Square to pick up last minute gifts, to Herald Square to visit the iconic Macy's, or to Fifth Avenue to enjoy some high-end shopping.

After a long, tiring day in the Big Apple, students reluctantly said goodbye to the city that never sleeps and welcomed tired eyes before arriving home early Sunday morning. For many, this will be a trip they never forget.

COMMUNITY

PSNK Students Help to Clean Up Arnold Riverbank

By Danielle Richardson

Staff Writer & Reporter

ARNOLD, Pa. - Students from the Leadership in Sustainability course at Penn State New Kensington (PSNK) and other various community members came together on April 5 to clean up the Arnold riverbank.

Arnold is a small community only miles from the PSNK campus. The riverbank cleanup was a collaboration between residents of Arnold, the Leadership in Sustainability course, and a Penn State Extension agent, John Turack. The sustainability course at PSNK is taught by engineering professor Joan Kowalski. Kowalski said that she has taught this course for three years, but this is the first time that a project of this size and scope has been started.

The cleanup is a small part of a larger initiative to improve the Arnold community. The other aspect to the project is a potential sign design for the city of Arnold. The sign would be displayed on the riverbank as a welcome beacon while inviting those who may be boating or kayaking on the river to visit Arnold.

Upon completion, the students will present the sign designs at the New Kensington Better Block event at the end of April.

Jon McCabe is a sophomore Psychology major who is taking Leadership in Sustainability this semester and whom also participated in the clean-up. "It's a rewarding experience because the sign is something the community members can be proud of," McCabe said.

The cleanup day that occurred on April 5 was facilitated by John Turack, a Penn State Extension Agent. Turack began his involvement with the Sustainability class at the beginning of the semester, when Kowalski reached out to him for a potential project to improve a nearby community.

Turack is an educator who specializes in Economic and Community Development. "My role is primarily as a 'Community Development Assistant,' which means that I do a lot of coaching of community leaders, community champions, and everyday citizens on practices that can lead to improvements in and of their communities," Turack clarified.



Students work together to pick up debris from the riverbank on the first cleanup day on April 5 (Photo by Jon McCabe).

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Turack further explained that projects undertaken, such as the Arnold sign project, are usually the result of agreed upon next action steps that communities identify through visioning and strategic planning processes, or workshops, where assets and community strengths are compiled.

“This Arnold sign project and riverbank clean-up seemed to be a good fit [for the Sustainability class] as it already had some construction funding allocated for it from a grant that the city manager attained last fall,” Turack said. “Doing a town name sign was identified as a next step to improve the riverbank and to enhance the sense of place and the community pride that Arnold is known for.”

The cleanup began with students and community members, along with Turack, working together to remove debris from the riverbank that had remained there for years and even decades. Objects ranged from old tin cans to tires and mattresses.

The next phase of the cleanup involved the group spreading hay across the newly cleaned area. Then, students and the community members placed large pieces of tarp over the hay and secured it with cinderblocks and metal stakes.

David Green, a senior Psychology major who is enrolled in the Sustainability class said that he felt good knowing he was making a difference. “It’s great to know that I could help this community and make it a little better,” Green said.

The cleanup day ended with a sponsored dinner at P&M Pizza, a local pizza shop near the riverbank. Students were treated to pizza and enjoyed conversation with Turack and Arnold City Manager, George Hayfield, who paid for the entire meal. Hayfield was also a participant in the cleanup day and said the pizza was his way of thanking the students for their volunteer work.

“John has been very helpful throughout this whole process,” McCabe said of Turack’s involvement. “He is an active participant and is always willing to help with any problems we may face.”

“The goals [of the project] are to enhance the community and its overall economic viability,” Turack said. “Leveraging the time, talents, and treasure of a major nearby institution like Penn State New Kensington greatly augments and enhances the internal resources of a community like Arnold.”

Turack said he hopes for future collaborations between the community and other PSNK courses. He explained that every effort and initiative is a new step towards the next successful project.

POLITICS

Pennsylvania Democratic Party, Alive and Well

By Sarah Steighner
Co-Editor-in-Chief

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - Within the nation's ever changing political landscape, the horizon in particular Pennsylvania areas is still a deep Democratic blue.

Even students at Penn State New Kensington (PSNK) have been active in Democratic events in Pennsylvania. Biology major and 21-year-old PSNK student, Broderick Gerano recently travelled to Youngstown, Ohio to see presidential candidate Bernie Sanders at a rally. He also recently attended Sanders' rally in Pittsburgh. Gerano described the atmosphere as "humorously serious." "We all were emotional, but we weren't just upset for the fun of being upset; Bernie Sanders clearly laid out why we were upset, giving our emotions credibility," Gerano said.

Gerano listed the environment and issues of equality as some of his biggest draws to the Democratic Party. "Democrats believe everybody deserves a fair chance at leading a successful, happy life, not just a select few," said Gerano. He further explained that he is excited to become a part of the Young Democrats, and other similar political groups, next year when he transfers to University Park to finish his degree.

In fact, University Park not only has a College Democrats group, but groups such as Students for Sanders, and Students for Hillary have popped up within the hype of the current presidential election. Senior Ryan Valencia is majoring in International Politics and History at University Park where he is also the Chair of Governmental Affairs and College Democrats, as well as the President of Students for Hillary.

Valencia said that he has certainly noticed a rise in the Democratic presence and activism lately at University Park. Valencia explained that the College Democrats is a recognized student organization that has been on campus for at least 50 years. Valencia continued to discuss the wide array of activities that the College Democrats participate in. "We register votes, knock on doors and do phone banking to get Democrats elected at the local, state, and federal level as well as plan programs that push forth progressive values," said Valencia. Aside from also occasionally partnering with the College Republicans group to engage students in the political process, Valencia said that their members have diverse backgrounds, yet many are Political Science majors.

While it seems as though there is a strong Democratic presence on college campuses lately, various grassroots organizations have also come into fruition, including Burghers for Bernie. Burghers for Bernie is a grassroots, volunteer led group with a core organizing committee of about 20 members including organizer Beth Ussery of Pittsburgh. Ussery explained that Burghers for Bernie started out in July 2015 after a small group of Sanders supporters held a livestream event which called grassroots organizers in to action. Burghers for Bernie has held debate watch parties, collected over 2,000 signatures to get Sanders on the Pennsylvania ballot, and also helped to organize a march for Bernie in Pittsburgh.

According to Ussery, their casual volunteer group numbers into the hundreds, while their march attracted thousands of people. Ussery described the diversity of the group, as well as their unity. "We've created this amazing coalition of people from all

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walks of life; students, minorities, middle class workers, academics, and people of faith. The list goes on,” said Ussery. Meanwhile, she also addressed that their Democratic movement goes beyond merely supporting Sanders. “We also have to support the political innovators in our local and state governments, which is what we plan to do,” said Ussery. She continued, “Even after this election cycle our group intends to continue its work to support grassroots Progressivism in and around Pittsburgh.”

Other Democratic groups that are more focused on engaging Democrats as a whole, versus existing just to support presidential candidates, also exists. One such group includes the Armstrong County Democratic Committee. Complete with a full executive staff, the committee meets every third Monday at 6 p.m. in the County Commissioner’s office at the Armstrong County courthouse.

Committee person for Kittanning Township, Rick Drumm, explained that one of the Armstrong County Democrats main goals is to raise awareness that they exist, especially in a county that is largely Republican. Drumm explained that they hold events such as their summer picnic, fall banquet, and annual breakfast in hopes to encourage local Democrats to come together as well as meet and listen to local Democratic politicians.

Drumm explained that their committee is trying to do more things to help support local Democrats and overall Democratic causes. “I believe that the Democratic Party stands for people having the ability to choose to be who they want to be, without fear of discrimination or retribution,” Drumm said. “They [the Democrats] want to help the people do things,

and the Republicans want to take that away.” During the Armstrong County Democratic Committee’s annual breakfast in March, Kittanning Mayor Kirk Atwood spoke about his journey to hopefully become a delegate for Sanders at the Democratic National Convention this July. He later explained that he used to be a Republican for many years, before switching to be an Independent, and then eventually becoming a Democrat which he has officially been for the past year. “As a liberal Republican, I was completely discouraged to see that even some of my former friends had begun to move further to the right and I soon realized that the ideological umbrella of that party had shrunk to a point that there was no room for me under it any longer,” said Atwood.

As Atwood has been busy collecting signature and fulfilling the requirements to become a delegate, he has also been actively supporting Sanders and even attended the Sanders rally in Pittsburgh March 31. “It is interesting to note that both of our [Democratic] candidates seem to square off over who can be more helpful, while the Republicans have been focused, in my opinion, on who should be left out of the American Dream,” said Atwood.

Pennsylvania is set to hold their general primary election on April 26. Voters must have been registered to vote by March 28, and are required to be registered as a Democrat if they wish to vote for a Democratic candidate.

SPORTS

Wrestling with Success: Is the WWE In A Good Place?

By Nico Regoli

Staff Writer & Reporter

With WrestleMania in the rear view mirror, World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) hits its annual reset button, plotting out the direction of the company for at least the next month or so.

Things seem to be off to a great start so far. Superstars from the developmental promotion NXT are having success on WWE RAW and SmackDown, like Baron Corbin, Apollo Crews, Enzo & Big Cass, the Vaudevillains, Kalisto, and Sami Zayn. Karl Anderson and Doc Gallows have finally debuted in WWE after conquering the Japanese circuit. Female wrestlers are no longer referred to as “Divas.” Meanwhile, longtime international sensation, AJ Styles is competing for the WWE World Championship after only three months in the company. Still though, considering the high number of roster injuries and numerous questionable booking decisions leading up to WrestleMania, can it perhaps be said that the WWE is currently on solid footing?

Mapping out the future of a wrestling company is difficult to do, as the slightest occurrence can result in serious directional shifts, lasting for unknown time lengths. Who knows what could happen in the wrestling industry during the editing process, or before or after the publication of this article, or even what kind of impact such occurrences could have?

Imagine, had John Cena not injured himself this past New Years, he would have competed against The Undertaker at this year’s WrestleMania. Instead, Shane McMahon was brought back to face The Undertaker, after half a decade away from the business, just so he could jump off of a 20-foot-tall cage, and make the audience go “OH SH*T!”

Granted, injuries are something that cannot always be controlled. Only precautionary measures can be taken to make sure injuries do not happen often. One measure that has not been tried yet, that professional entertainment reporter Jeffrey Harris feels could work, is lessening the show schedule.

“There are way too many shows and live events a year. It’s no wonder the roster are dropping like flies and constantly getting hurt,” answers Harris in a written Q&A.

This comes right after Bray Wyatt suffered a calf injury at the beginning of a match in Italy while on the WWE’s annual European Tour.

“Live events are very important to WWE’s business, but they need to figure out a way to not overwork their top guys halfway to death,” said Harris.

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Another thing that cannot be controlled is fan reactions. Bookers and writers can control the creative direction of storylines, but they cannot control whether the audience will like it or not.

A pertinent example of this is the new WWE World Champion, Roman Reigns. WWE has wanted to push Reigns as the top babyface for a few years now, but his good guy mannerisms have fallen flat amongst crowds. Feelings that Reigns has been phoning in his promos as opposed to just being his natural self have resulted in fans combating his main event push with a sea of “boos.” Co-host of “The Whole F’N Show” on YouTube, Ryan Van Vleet, has an idea of how to fix that.

“Roman Reigns should turn heel!” explains “Vleeties” in a written Q&A. “The entire crowd boos him relentlessly, make him a bad guy so he can allow us to feel sympathetic for the good guys that fans don’t boo.”

Current WWE Tag Team Champions, The New Day received similar backlash when they introduced their “Power of Positivity” gimmick [at the request of Vince McMahon] as white-meat babyfaces. However, once they were allowed the freedom to let their personalities shine, fans embraced the group, and The New Day became the best thing on WWE television. According to New Day member, Big E’s Twitter, New Day took first place in this year’s WrestleMania week merchandise sales.

Now, the same seems to be happening for Reigns, who has been acting more arrogant post-WrestleMania, showing signs of an actual personality in the lead up to his match with AJ Styles at the Payback pay-per-view. Perhaps WWE might finally be listening to fans like Vleeties, and a possible heel turn is in Reigns’ near future.

The writers and bookers may finally be realizing that while fans do enjoy a good promo, the majority of a three-hour wrestling show’s broadcast should emphasize the actual wrestling, as evident by the April 4 and 11 editions of RAW.

With Zack Ryder finally having a WrestleMania moment, Natalya and Cesaro being back on TV reminding fans why they’re awesome, and Dean Ambrose and Kevin Owens constantly stealing the spotlight with every segment they are in; perhaps things are working out for wrestling fans. The WWE may, in fact, be on the right track once again.

And even if they aren’t, Greg DeMarco, administrator for the “YES! Wrestling” Facebook group, still has high hopes for the future.

“Just remember – no matter what is going on in the world of wrestling... always be a fan,” says DeMarco.

SPORTS

2016 NFL Draft: Where Will They Land?

By Darren Myers
Managing & Online Editor

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - The 2016 NFL Draft will begin at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 28.

The National Football League's (NFL) highly anticipated event of the summer has shown the promise of drama and speculation in the weeks leading up to the Draft. The Los Angeles Rams are on the clock with the first overall pick in this year's Draft.

The Tennessee Titans traded the No. 1 overall pick to the Rams in a trade involving a plethora of draft picks. The Titans gave the Rams the No. 1 overall pick as well as their fourth and sixth-round picks in this year's draft in exchange for the Rams first-round pick, two second-round picks, and a third round pick in this year's Draft. The Titans also receive the Rams first and third-round selections in the 2017 Draft.

This trade allows the Rams the opportunity to draft the quarterback of their choosing, a piece that L.A. owners view as the missing piece to a Rams playoff push. The trade has NFL experts and fans alike speculating the deal.

A franchise quarterback is essential to any legitimate opportunity of a playoff push for an NFL team, however, if the Rams pick is a bust, then they not only wasted the No. 1 draft pick, they also jeopardized their future in the process.



The 2016 NFL Draft begins Thursday April 28 at 8:00 p.m. (Photo Courtesy of Turfshowtimes.com).

Multiple Penn State New Kensington (PSNK) students have their doubts as to whether or not the Rams choice to trade so many draft picks was worth it.

"[The trade] was very risky. You saw what happened when the Redskins gave up so much to get RG3," said sophomore Business major Ben Fertig referring to the Washington Redskins and the amount of draft picks they gave up in order to draft Robert Griffin III, whom is no longer with the team.

Dakota Testa, a freshman at PSNK, had a similar opinion. "If they can manage to get a star QB, then I think it is well worth it for them, but if it's a bust then they are in for a bad time throughout the next few years."

The Rams figure to draft either Jared Goff from the University of California or Carson Wentz from North Dakota State University.

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Expert opinions vary on which quarterback the Rams will select. With countless hours of analysis and a myriad of game film watched, it comes down to intangibles. Both quarterbacks are athletically capable of handling a job at the NFL level, but work ethic and dedication become the primary focus, not talent alone.

Only time will tell which quarterback would have been the better option, so until then, speculation will continue.

When asked which quarterback the Ram should take with the No. 1 overall pick, Fertig said, "Goff. With the Rams moving to LA, and Goff being from Cal, I think that makes the most sense."

Goff seems to be the consensus pick among students and experts alike because of where he played in college. "[Goff] played college ball at Cal and has seen better competition," said sophomore Political Science major Derrek Koblinsky. "Wentz played at North Dakota State, hardly comparable when it comes to competition," he added.

The Draft is where teams go to add talent to their roster. Teams hope to draft a bright future for their team, however, those picks don't always coincide with what the fans want.

Cornerback and Safety are positions on defense where fans and experts alike agree needs upgraded this offseason for the Steelers. Yet, sometimes what the people want and what the front office of the Steelers want are two different things.

"As long as they don't draft another linebacker in the first round again like they have multiple times throughout the last few years, I do think they can greatly improve their problems in defense," said Testa of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

With the Steelers playoff push in the 2015 season, fans are expecting their hometown team to go even further.

"The Steelers better go all in on defense for the remainder of the offseason," said Fertig.

Even with the suspension of Martavis Bryant, Steelers fans are saying to avoid drafting a wide receiver until the later rounds.

Fertig spoke confidently in the Steelers ability to win without Bryant. "Bryant is a very good receiver, but he does have a tendency to drop the ball a lot," he said. Bryant was sixth in the league in dropped passes in 2015 with nine. He also only played in 11 of the 16 games.

"I think you can plug Darrius Heyward-Bey in the second wide receiver spot and we would be just fine," Fertig added as a solution to the Bryant suspension. Other players who figure to be key contributors to teams in the years to come include Ohio State University's Joey Bosa and Ezekiel Elliot, both of whom Koblinsky and Fertig gave high praise to during their respective interviews.

ENTERTAINMENT

Pittsburgh Summer 2016 Round-Up

By Monica Fiore

Staff Writer & Reporter



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Beyoncé Knowles: Get ready to be “Crazy in Love.” Penn State New Kensington (PSNK) student Chad Bargerstock discussed the anticipation. “I expect to be surrounded by good vibes. I look forward to seeing her for the first time because she has a very beautiful voice,” said Bargerstock. Knowles will play a show at Heinz Field on Tuesday, May 31 as a part of her Formation World Tour. Her performance starts at 7:30 p.m. and it’s one you won’t want to miss.

Billy Joel: The “Piano Man” is coming back to Pittsburgh. As a part of the 200th anniversary of Pittsburgh, Joel and other musicians are coming to perform. Joel, who has released several singles since the 1970’s, including “Only the Good Die Young”, “We Didn’t Start the Fire”, and “Say Goodbye to Hollywood”, will be playing for the first time ever at PNC Park on Friday, July 1 at 8:00 p.m. The gates will open at 6:00 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia



Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia

Ellie Goulding: The pop singer is coming to Stage AE on Friday May 13, show starts at 6:00 p.m. “I’m most excited to be at Stage AE outside and have this concert be the kick-start to my summer,” said PSNK student Savannah Smith. “I have high expectations for the concert because I’ve heard she’s extremely talented.”

Kenny Chesney: The weekend of July 1 and 2 is going to be a memorable one for Pittsburgh. Along with Billy Joel playing at PNC Park, the singer of the popular county hit, “I Go Back,” Kenny Chesney, is coming to play a show on Saturday, July 2 at Heinz Field. His performance starts at 4:00 p.m., so raise your “Pirate Flag” and get ready for a show you won’t forget!



Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia

OPINION

“Batman vs Superman” vs the Audience

By David Green

Contributing Writer

What does a movie star mean when they tell the audience, “This movie is not for film critics?” Well, they potentially mean one of two things; that A) their movie is not very good and they want you to spend your money to see it, despite the fact it is being panned by critics, or B) they made a movie that is not trying to be an award winner, but an overall fun experience.



“Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice” opened March 25, 2016 (Photo Courtesy of Youtube).

For the film “Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice,” the filmmakers and stars have stood by their film and

claimed it was not made for critics. I suppose that is the only response one could give, considering it is receiving harsh reaction from critics. For the general public, the reaction is mixed. What some people find interesting and engaging, others find off-putting. But why is this movie so divisive?

The first thing that comes to mind is the tone of the film. The studio, Warner Brothers, wants to separate itself from its competitors, most notably Marvel Studios. Marvel movies, such as “The Avengers” and the “Iron Man” franchise, were successful because they gave the audience fun characters with witty dialogue. There is some criticism from people who believe Marvel movies are trying to be too funny, and cannot be taken seriously. Though that has never discouraged the viewers from coming out to watch the new superhero features rolled out year after year.

Warner Brothers believed that they could attract the audience by providing an alternative to the fun and games offered by others. Their tone is more dark and gritty; a tone popularized by Christopher Nolan’s Batman Trilogy. For the people that like the tone, they feel like the darkness suits the characters better, and in turn makes the stakes feel grander. On the opposing viewpoint, many argue that the dark tone makes the movie feel like a joyless trek to get through.

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Yet, what about the overall story? Having seen the movie a couple of times myself, I personally think it was a convoluted mess. Character motivations get lost in a shuffle of scenes that feel thrown together with no apparent order. It was probably one draft away from making a little more sense.

The studio made it no secret that “Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice” was going to introduce the viewers to more heroes that will probably “get” their own movie. Warner Brothers is hoping that this will incite more interest in characters that the average moviegoer may not be familiar with. After all, for those who loved the movie, they will most likely be excited to see more superhero films released by the same studio. For the ones who did not like it, they are probably a little more hesitant.

The movie made nearly 166 million dollars on the opening weekend. On its second week, however, it dropped 81% in the box office, being the lowest Friday to Friday drop seen by a major studio release. While the profit this movie generated is not bad, and by no means should be looked down upon, it does raise a red flag that the movie made a lot less the weekend following opening weekend. Could this possibly demonstrate negative word of mouth?

However, there is one thing that it seems the vast percentage of audiences can agree upon; Ben Affleck’s performance as Batman. When he was first cast as Bruce Wayne/Batman, it was met with a negative response. But as it turns out, Ben Affleck did a great job portraying the character. It should surprise no one to hear that the studio is already moving forward on a standalone Batman film. As for Superman, his character in the film is very much like the movie itself. Both are met with mixed views. Superman continues to try and act as a beacon of hope, but is either met with positive regards or extreme backlash.

The movie may not have been made with critics in mind, but when your movie is trying to appeal to the general public, it is probably not a good sign that it is this divisive. Warner Brother is hoping their next comic book release, “Suicide Squad,” will be met with a more universal response.

PSU NEWS

Since PSNK: Where Are They Now?

By Darren Myers

Managing & Online Editor

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. – As this year comes to an end, Penn State New Kensington (PSNK) says goodbye to another graduating class.

As seniors graduate and students move to University Park, they hold with them the respect that comes with being a Penn State student. But, a degree alone doesn't place a job offer in your lap. So, where are the graduated seniors and what are they doing? Also, where are the old PSNK'ers? You know, the ones who took their talents to University Park? How are they doing?



Where Are They Now? Graduates Edition:

Eric and Amy Bennardo are brother and sister, both of whom graduated from PSNK in the spring of 2015. Eric with a degree in Corporate Communications and Amy with an Associate's degree in Business.

Amy is the assistant manager at Yankee Candle at the Galleria at the Pittsburgh Mills. "I aspire to own my own business one day," she said. "Retail is a helpful way to learn how to run a business."

Eric is working with the campus' Development and Alumni Relations Office to help build his resume.

Advice for future graduates:

Eric: "My advice to graduating seniors is to concentrate on building your network. Go out and meet people, because having connections is the single most effective way to find a job."

Amy: "The advice I have for seniors is that it's totally acceptable to take some time off if you don't have anything 100% lined up yet, because once you start working, you never stop."

Where Are They Now? University Park Edition:

Jimmy Meyers is a junior at University Park studying Information Science and Technology, Info Context.

When asked about making the big move to University Park, Meyers said, "There's something about knowing everybody at PSNK that feels very comfortable." He goes on to add, "It's kind of like moving from a small town to a big city – I've had more people in one class than you see at PSNK daily." He hopes to find a job in the future that allows him to travel and enjoy life to its fullest, but for now, he's enjoying the experience at University Park.



