

THE

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Student Government Says Goodbye to Leaders

Jazz Nights at Andy's Wine Bar

Cleveland Rallies for Bernie Sanders

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CAMPUS LIFE

Penn State Gets Contaminated with “The Toxic Avenger”

By Nico Regoli

Staff Writer & Reporter

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. – On Nov. 19, 20, and 21, at 8:00 p.m., Bill Mitas will direct his final show before officially retiring, bringing the hit musical based off the movie, *The Toxic Avenger*, to Penn State New Kensington.

Co-written by playwright, Joe DiPietro and David Bryan, the Bon Jovi keyboardist, the musical is based on the 1984 horror-comedy film of the same name. “Toxic Avengers” tells the story of a young nerd trying to save his home from an environmental disaster, while also trying to win the heart of a young lady with a backstory filled to the brim with irony.



Penn State New Kensington’s theater rehearses for their musical performance of *The Toxic Avenger*.

(Photo by: Nico Regoli)

Taking place in the fictional cesspool city of Tromaville, New Jersey, Earth Scientist Melvin Ferd III, played by Colin Bibza, an outside actor, is set to uncover a corruption plot within the Mayor’s office; the Mayor is played by freshman Sam Kravits. With the aid of his longtime crush, the beautiful, blind librarian and aspiring author, Sarah, is played by sophomore Laura Gensamer. Melvin finds documents that prove the Mayor is lining her pockets through illegal and hazardous waste dumping practices. Unfortunately for Melvin, his attempts to woo his blind maiden go unreturned, and his attempts to confront the Mayor play out even worse, as her two goons, played by Nathan Traini and Joh McCabe, toss him into a vat of toxic waste.

Miraculously, Melvin survives the exposure, but is transformed into a Hulk-like monster with a hideously disfigured face, and a slight bloodlust for those who wish to harm Mother Earth. Thus, leading him to adopt the secret identity of “The Toxic Avenger,” except around Sarah, who instead calls him “Toxie,” not knowing the monster’s true identity.

The musical does a great job of being lighthearted, which works greatly for the actors involved by allowing them to have more fun with their roles. Sophomore and psychology major, Jon McCabe, who has been singing for three years and acting for five years, will be having a lot of that fun on opening night, considering he will be playing multiple roles throughout the show.

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He will be portraying characters such as, “Black Dude,” “Coco the Drag Queen,” and “Lamas the Gay Hairdresser with an accent of unknown ethnicity.” However, the role McCabe is looking forward to playing the most is “The Folksinger,” which allows him to showcase his six years of experience as a guitarist.

“I’m really happy I’m a folksinger,” said McCabe. “That’s my favorite [character to be playing]. I get to use my guitar, and I get to dress up like a folksinger, and just be a modern-day Bob Dylan, but not nearly as good, but it’s going to be fun, it’s going to be so fun.”

And of course, it helps that he already has a personal love of folk music.

“I love folk music, and I love folk singing, and I’m going to make that character amazing”, says McCabe.

The Folksinger’s main song is titled “The Legend of the Toxic Avenger,” and it’s just one of many songs on a long list of hilarity that will be sung on opening night. Other songs include “Hot Toxic Love,” “Big Green Freak,” “Kick Your Ass,” “Everybody Dies!,” “Choose Me, Oprah!,” and “My Big French Boyfriend,” which is a personal favorite of the show’s female lead, Laura Gensamer.

Gensamer has been acting for about 10 years, and has been performing in musicals since grade 7. However, this is her first time playing the lead in a show, and she actually got the role as a fill-in.

“I was originally cast as the mother [to Melvin], and we had one of the main girls drop out about a month into rehearsals, and I was then given the part,” Gensamer explained. “It’s been interesting, trying to play catch-up with the other people.”

It’s especially interesting, considering Gensamer is playing Sarah, a sexy, but blind librarian, and arguably the ultimate personification of irony.

“She [Sarah] has a couple of interesting parts about her,” says Gensamer. “She’s very proud of how she looks, which is part of the humor of the show. Since she is blind, it’s a bit ironic that she is very attractive.”

Gensamer, nor any of her co-stars would be able to pull off these complex roles as well as they could without the help and guidance of their director, Bill Mitas. This will be Mitas’ last show before he retires at the end of the year, when he will be very missed by the cast.

CAMPUS LIFE

Student Government Association says Goodbye to Leaders

By Danielle Richardson

Staff Writer and Reporter

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. – The Penn State New Kensington (PSNK) Student Government Association (SGA) will be saying goodbye to two of its members at the end of the semester. Aarush Gupta and Adis Juklo, the secretary and treasurer, are transferring to University Park to complete their degrees.

Gupta is a sophomore majoring in computer engineering and serves as SGA secretary. Since beginning his career in January, Gupta described his experience as a learning process. “How I began my first semester has impacted how I do things now,” Gupta said. “I didn’t just jump into things; I learned my way through my first semester.”

During his time in SGA, Gupta developed a new way to vote that has saved paper. “I came up with the idea for online forms,” Gupta said. “I wanted to implement something that the SGA could continue to do even after I’ve left.”

Although Gupta will be leaving PSNK’s SGA, he plans to stay involved with Student Government at University Park. “I’m planning on running for a position in CCSG; either President or Vice President,” said Gupta. “I want to stay involved.” CCSG, which stands for the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments, serves as the representative for Penn State’s 19 commonwealth campuses. The council meets once a month to discuss matters that pertain to the entire university.

Gupta hopes to improve the communication and follow-up practices of this organization. “I feel like we never really know what happens once we leave the CCSG meetings,” Gupta said. “I want the staff to communicate better about what they are doing in between council meetings to the Student Governments.”

Juklo is a sophomore meteorology major and serves as SGA treasurer. Juklo, was elected to the organization at the same time as Gupta, during which time he’s said to have grown close with the other members. “I’ve bonded with the other SGA members and we’ve established ourselves as a little family,” Juklo said.

Juklo remarked that he will miss the relationships he has built and the experiences he’s had. “Being in SGA taught me leadership skills,” said Juklo. “I’m more outgoing. It’s made me new friends. Overall, SGA has made me a better communicator and a better leader.”

Although Juklo says he enjoyed his time as treasurer of PSNK’s SGA, he will not be able to continue his involvement. “It’s been great, but once I transfer to University Park, I’ll be getting involved with clubs that are related to my major,” said Juklo. “So, unfortunately, this will be the end of my SGA career.” Despite this end, Juklo says he will use the leadership skills he obtained in SGA to improve his experiences in other clubs.

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Ashley Worlds, a freshman biomedical engineering major, serves as the executive assistant to the treasurer. She plans to run for the position following Juklo's leave. "Adis has been training me on the treasurer duties and it's helping me to be more comfortable," Worlds said. "Next week I'll be working on billing, so I'm just taking it step by step. I feel very prepared."

If she is elected, Worlds hopes to shed more light on clubs regarding their finances. "I just want to help clubs realize that they have money to spend this year," Worlds said. "Adis told me there hasn't been a lot of spending, so I want to push clubs to do more activities."

Worlds is already heavily involved on campus. She is an honors student and also participates in the GREAT Program. Worlds says she would be able to handle the role of treasurer should she be elected. "In high school, I was in a lot of clubs and I was an honor roll student," Worlds said. "I think my experience from high school and the part time job I have now have taught me how to manage my time and prioritize tasks."

Jonathan McCabe, a sophomore psychology major, serves as the Underclassmen Faculty Senate Representative. "I came into SGA at the same time as Adis and Aarush, so we all have that in common," McCabe said. "Not only that, I feel like I have a lot of chemistry with them. Since day one, we've grown a lot closer and have a great group energy." McCabe said it will be much different without Juklo and Gupta. "It won't be the same without Adis's weather reports and Aarush's shenanigans," McCabe said.



SGA prepares to fill the positions that will become available after Aarush Gupta (right) and Adis Juklo (left) transfer to University Park at the end of this semester. Photo By: Danielle Richardson

On the other hand, McCabe says the incoming executives will allow for new experiences. "I think that these new executives will enhance the group," McCabe said. "There's only been one girl in SGA and she's the president. I think it's nice to have different perspectives on things, and having more girls in SGA would help to diversify it."

Gupta and Juklo will be leaving the campus when the semester ends, but their impact will not be forgotten. "I want people to know that I took this role because I care about this campus," Juklo said. "I wanted to make it better for myself and everyone else here." Gupta had a similar response. "Being in SGA has helped me to be more caring for other people," he said. "I like to be involved in solving issues that help others, and I was able to make a difference by joining SGA."

CAMPUS LIFE

PSNK Students Celebrate 100 days until THON

By Jay Wu

Staff Writer & Reporter

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.- There are many clubs and organizations at Penn State New Kensington (PSNK), but often times the THON organization vividly stands out the most. THON is an organization that fundraises money for kids with pediatric cancer. Additionally, every year a 46 hour dance marathon is held at Penn State University Park featuring student clubs fundraising and includes activities and support for families dealing with pediatric cancer. The organization also does canning events, and various other fundraising methods throughout the year.

On Nov. 11 at PSNK, the THON chairs prepared for the 100 days until THON event and celebrated with cake. One of the THON chairs this year includes PSNK student, Shannon Josefoski. "100 days till THON is a kick-off celebration to the final major countdown to THON weekend at University Park," Josefoski said .

Every year, this event not only helps spread the word around the campus, but it also helps contribute to the THON organization. Josefoski said, "For our campus, we use it [100 days until THON] as an awareness tool to get our name out around campus more."

Josefoski said that the event is "another day of life and celebration for the four diamonds kids and families." She also stated, "We also use it as a way to get people more excited for the big [THON] weekend."

The THON organization has been with the Penn State community for a long time, but the students may not know how long 100 days until THON has been with the community. Josefoski said, "As far as I am aware of, this day has been celebrated in the majority of our history."

For organizations like THON, the chairs do need tactics in order to help spread the word around PSNK about the organization and the cause. Josefoski said, "Anything we do around campus is a way for us to get our names and cause out."

Students and faculty at PSNK may think that this campus is the only one that does the event, but in fact many others celebrate it as well. Josefoski said, "Everything from University Park down to the smallest THON organization."

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As far as financial situations are concerned, it could be difficult to come up with the costs to throw the event on campus. Also, it can be difficult to get other clubs to help out with the event. Josefoski said, "For our event here at PSNK, we have the cost of the cake." She also stated, "The funds come from the Student Government Association (SGA) and the money each club has allotted to them at the beginning of the semester."

There is plenty of planning that goes into holding the 100 days until THON event in order to make it happen not only on our New Kensington campus, but at the other Penn State campuses as well. Josefoski said, "We don't pick the day of the event. It is literally 100 days until day one of THON weekend so we don't have much say in that."

She also stated, "Luckily, our campus has more people on campus on Wednesdays so we have a larger flow of people passing through." She went on to say that the planning aspect of the event is pretty simple for this day. They order a cake and fill up some balloons in an attempt to boost energy and morale for the THON cause. They also advertise to the other students on campus about the upcoming events, which helps to get the message out in order to raise more money.

While the THON organization and our campus continues to help raise awareness, there are always more events in the horizon being planned in order to raise more money for the cure. Upcoming events for the PSNK chapter of THON include an advanced screening for the Hunger Games movie on Nov. 19 at the Monroeville movie theater. Additionally, a Basket Bingo fundraising event will also be held on Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. in the PSNK Conference Center.

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CAMPUS LIFE

PSNK Adjunct Professor Brings Culture and Art to Campus

By Sarah Steighner

Co-Editor-in-Chief

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - Artistic. Humble. Genuine. These are just a few words that describe one of Penn State New Kensington's latest adjunct professors, Jia Li.

Professor Jia Li recently taught a Chinese Art History class at PSNK. The class was a three credit accelerated course that concluded after ten weeks at the end of October.

The class examined the history of various Chinese dynasties, studied famous pieces of Chinese artwork, and even dabbled in the practice of many Chinese art techniques.

Throughout the duration of the class, students had the opportunity to personally make a handful of paintings and calligraphy using ink on rice paper in which they presented for their final grades. Freshman and Chinese Art History student Cole Wilson said he decided to take the class based off of its interesting and cultural nature. "I really enjoyed the class, and learned more than I expected," Wilson said.

Li described her experience at PSNK as challenging, but rewarding. "At the beginning I felt a lot of pressure, but when I got here New Kensington's colleagues gave me the warmth of family both in work and life," Li said. "They were a great help."

One of the PSNK staff members that helped mentor Li was Professor of Philosophy, Dr. Irene Wolf. Wolf and Li first met in 2006 when Wolf was teaching at Jinan University in Guangzhou China where Li served as her English translator.

In light of Wolf's previous extensive knowledge of Chinese culture, she mentioned how surprised she was regarding how much she learned while sitting in on a few of Li's classes at PSNK. "I really liked her emphasis on paintings from certain periods and dynasties," said Wolf. "Just the few classes I sat in on, I learned so much."



Professor Jia Li (far right) and her parents all received the opportunity to display and present their artwork at Penn State New Kensington this semester while Li taught a Chinese Art History class on campus. (Photo Courtesy of Student Life)

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Since the class ended, Li has returned to her hometown of Beijing. However, during her period of teaching at PSNK, she brought her daughter to America with her, as well as her parents whom are also artists.

In fact, PSNK allowed Li's parents to have a small exhibition of their artwork in the campus knowledge commons study lounge on Oct. 31.

Li also gave a presentation of her personal artwork on Oct. 21. Staff and students all attended an hour long exhibition in which Li explained her artwork displayed on various mediums including themes representing landscapes, friends, family, cars, and flowers. Her art ranged from traditional classic to modern contemporary all of which she explained offer a snapshot of surrounding life.

"Painting to me is an expression of the inner self," said Li. "It is the flowing emotions from my heart to pictures. One word in a sentence is not enough. You need more power such as through art."

Some of her artwork vividly expressed family and friends that she personally knew. Meanwhile, other portraits expressed detailed attention to the action, posture, and composure of her subjects.

Li explained that she draws her inspiration from her experiences and life around her, such as her daughter who was born in 2012. "Before her birth, my art was dark," said Li. "Afterwards, my art was more colorful and fresh."

Her passion for her artwork was evident through her teaching and presentations of personal artwork on campus at PSNK. "For me, painting involves a lot of imagination," said Li. "It can record some touching moments of life and create a new reality. It can be found in the heart or the mediocrity of life. My painting is an expression of my inner self. I love and want to share my feelings with people through painting."

Before teaching at PSNK, Li had previously taught at Shenyang University, Luxun Academy of Fine Arts, and Tsinghua University. Currently, she is teaching at New Media Art and Design School at BeiHang, University. However, she plans to be a visiting scholar at the German Cassell University for six months where she will teach a course on art practice. During that time, she also has plans for a solo exhibition in Hamburg, Germany.

Li received her Bachelor of Arts and Master's degree from LunXun Academy of Fine Art. In 2009 she received her PhD from the Academy of Design and Art at Tsinghua University.

Li's artwork has been exhibited in various places including Beijing, Shanghai, Paris, Seoul, and Singapore. Some of her artwork also appears on various stamps, postcards, and handbags sold in China.

POLITICS

Cleveland Rallies for Bernie Sanders

By: Sarah Steighner

Co-Editor-in-Chief

CLEVELAND, Oh. — Ohio might be Governor Kasich's state, but you would not have guessed so if you attended the Bernie Sanders rally at Cleveland State University Monday night November 16.

An American flag hung inside the Wolstein Center over a politically energized crowd holding signs in praise of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders.

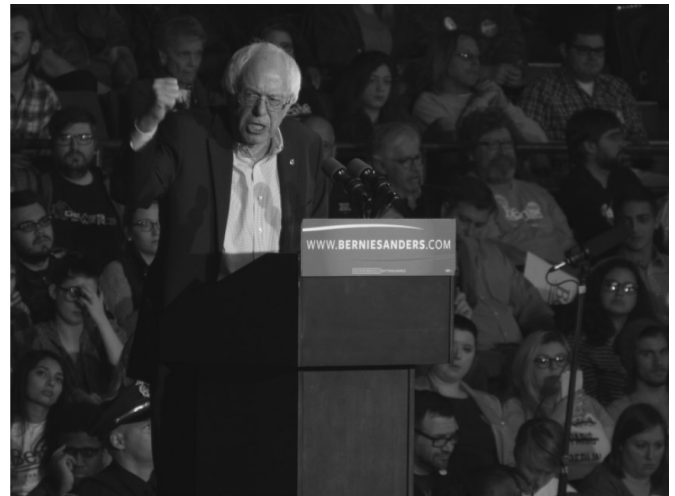
With an extremely age diverse demographic, the crowd rose and never fell while cheering after each statement Sanders brought up from fighting terrorism, and the cost of education to unemployment rates and women's rights. Thousands stood to their feet while a wind of applause swept throughout the stadium carrying their promise of a brighter future.

In a time where many American voters are disheartened by present day politics, and apprehensive over current affairs, supporters at the rally seemed reinvigorated at the thought of Sanders for President. His audience was held captivated as he discussed his campaign platform including a national health care program that would guarantee health care to all people, high quality and tuition free public education, and a firm call to action regarding global warming.

His revolutionary political agenda seemed to promise or at least outline a platform most attractive to the younger generations. However, his plans to lower the cost of prescription medications, and expand social security have older generations interested in what he has to say as well.

Unlike Republican candidate Donald Trump who prides himself on funding his own campaign, Bernie Sanders' campaign funds rely on the 750,000 grassroots donors instead of the billionaire class that his campaign so passionately resists.

Sanders dissatisfaction with Wall Street normally scores high on his agenda list of talking points and this rally was no different. Sanders proclaimed his frustration against the billionaire class with a rousing speech that would have left even the ghosts of old Occupy encampments cheering.



Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders' campaign trail lead him to Cleveland where he rallied supporters (Photo by Archama Ort)

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“When Wall Street, as a result of their greed and recklessness, crashed they came running to the Congress and begging us to bail them out,” Sanders said.

“Now it is their turn to help bail out the middle class. What I hope that we can do as a nation, and as a people is to think big not small. We today are the wealthiest nation in the history of the world. But most people don’t know this because almost all of the wealth is resting in the hands of a few.”

While terrorism is an issue that scores as the most important issue for other presidential candidates, Sanders acknowledges the threat of terrorism but places global warming as a higher priority.

In a recent interview with Rolling Stone magazine, Sanders was quoted as saying, “Everything being equal, climate change is a greater threat to this country than terrorism. We spend \$600 billion a year on our military. We have got to begin to summon the resources and the political will. We gotta look at it like it was a Manhattan Project.”

Sanders continued to support this school of thought with his blunt rhetoric on climate change during the rally.

“And when we talk about our responsibilities as adults, as citizens, as parents; One of those responsibilities is to make sure that we leave future generations a planet that is healthy,” Sanders said. “The debate is over. Climate change is real. We have a moral responsibility to work with countries around the world to transform our energy system.”

Without putting too much faith in the disparity of poll numbers for an election close to a year away, the size of Sanders supporters is undeniable and growing.

However, when the 2016 campaign trail is smeared with seemingly unanswerable global issues, and a roster of heavy career politicians, it begs the question of who is sane enough to vote for out of a lineup of political caricatures that seem like a better fit on the cartoon pages of newspapers than within the sacred walls of the White House.

Yet for some, a 74 year old former conscientious objector and folk singer who grew up in a rent controlled apartment in Brooklyn, holds the fierce vote of many.

To stay informed on other 2016 presidential candidates, the next Republican debate talks place on Dec. 15, while the next Democratic debate takes place on Dec. 19.

COMMUNITY

Jazz Nights at Andy's Wine Bar

By Archama P. Ort

Staff Writer & Reporter

PITTSBURGH, Pa - Find yourself in downtown Pittsburgh on a Wednesday night and you will be swallowed beneath the sky scraper buildings of UPMC (The U.S. Steel Tower), BNY Mellon Center, and One PPG Place. The streets where Liberty Ave and Blvd of the Allies collide, as well as the three rivers lying to the east, seem questionably quiet and vacant.

You'll walk into a side entrance of a hotel named Fairmont Pittsburgh and instantly hear the comfortable sound of music vibrating off the recently waxed marbles floor-tiles. Stepping up to the dimly lit bar you can partake in any beverage from your good and trusted favorite brew, to a house wine that would meet most unpretentious people's standards. Sit at the bar, or enter a lobby that is hidden beneath a crystal staircase that leads up to luxuries suits. As you cozy up in a plush swivel chair you will enjoy the views of downtown Pittsburgh from the open window panes, and the smooth sounds of classical and jazz stationed around a grand piano.

Andy's Wine bar, located in the heart of Pittsburgh, hosts jazz nights from Tuesday to Saturday every week. Now I know by this point some of this sounds too posh for my fellow students to be caught at, but if you are looking for a place to unwind and still feel classy while doing so, this is the place for you.

A spectator enjoying the event, Sarah Boykin, commented saying "I come here because it's creative and different, I've always like the atmosphere that Andy's gives off."

This wine bar tucked into the lobby of a high end hotel offers the opportunity to enjoy fine music and wine, without high budget prices. Don't believe me? They even have happy hour where you can get a Yuengling draft for two bucks. The only steal you can find in Pittsburgh better than that is Starling Marte stealing second base for the Pirates.



Andy's Wine Bar, brings the sounds of jazz to life in Pittsburgh. Photo By: Archama Ort

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Pittsburgh is known for its dive and grunge bars that host loud music and the smell of sweat, or the up-beat club where you'll get more drunk than first planned proceeded by dancing your face off on the party floor. Andy's is there for the nights recovering from that nasty hangover, just having a relaxing night out, or for that hot date you are trying impress.

There are two Andy's that come to mind when mentioning Pittsburgh. These historically known "Yinzers" act as hefty inspiration behind what the bar is today. The first is Andy Warhol; the art museum dedicated to Warhol's artistic productions is the largest tribute to a single artist in America. The highest price ever paid for a Warhol painting reaches \$100 million for a 1963 canvas named Eight Elvises. Warhol's Pittsburgh heritage roots even extend the Carnegie Institute of Technology, now Carnegie Mellon University where he studied pictorial design.

The second significant figure that adds to the inspiration of Andy's Wine Bar is Andrew Carnegie himself. Carnegie moved from Scotland to Pittsburgh with his family in 1848 at the age of 13. Carnegie was an American Industrialist who found a fortune in the Steel Industry. He sold the Carnegie Steel Company in 1901 to banker John Pierpont Morgan for \$480 million instantly becoming one of the wealthiest men in America at that time. Carnegie contributed \$36,000,000 for the library, museum, art gallery and technical school that are all home to Pittsburgh.

Andy's embraces Pittsburgh's rich history of art and industry. It also acts as a root for the city's artistic culture by having local artists showcase their work and performances. Andy's holds a variety of artwork; from the art on the walls, to the eclectic vases that sit on the shelves, and the menus and coasters that sit on the tables.

The bar is located at 510 Market Street and is open daily, Sunday through Thursday from 3 p.m. to 12 a.m. They extend their hours until 1 a.m. every Friday and Saturday. Andy's also offers a variety of culinary eats including homemade meatballs, mussels, and grilled octopus. Bringing a unique mixture of the area's finest culture, Andy's is an item that should be thrown on any Pittsburgh bucket list of things to do.

COMMUNITY

Thanksgiving: A Time for Family or Shopping?

By Paige Owens

Co-Editor-in-Chief

PITTSBURGH, Pa. - In recent years, Black Friday shopping has turned into a craze that is hard to avoid during the holiday season. In late October or perhaps early November store fronts, restaurants, and malls begin preparing and decorating for Christmas. However, there is another holiday that seems to be getting forgotten about between Halloween, Black Friday, and Christmas – and yes, Black Friday is basically a national holiday now thanks to American consumers. Nevertheless, the one holiday that has started to become overlooked is Thanksgiving.



The Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills celebrated Black Friday on Nov. 28 (Photo Courtesy of Flickr.com).

Thanksgiving is celebrated annually in America on the final Thursday of Nov. and is then directly followed by Black Friday. However, Black Friday has become such a consumer crazed day that it is extending its hours and becoming a two day event.

Many malls and large chain stores such as WalMart and Best Buy, will be opening their doors this year on Thanksgiving evening. This means that families and holiday celebrations will be affected by retail workers' schedules, traffic, and shoppers.

Alegha Didonato, a Communications major at Penn State New Kensington, has been working for both Starbucks and Charlotte Russe at the Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills for the past three years and has felt the effect of the mall opening its doors on Thanksgiving.

"I have worked two jobs in retail, and it has absolutely taken a toll on the way I get to celebrate Thanksgiving with my family," Didonato explained. "It can be really frustrating for employees who have to leave their family around 5:30 p.m. to make it to the mall by 6 p.m., knowing that they won't even be making a substantial amount of money for their store."

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The Pittsburgh Mills will be opening at 6 p.m. Thanksgiving evening, closing again at midnight, opening at 7 a.m Friday, and remaining open until 10 p.m. However, the larger department stores will hold longer, extended hours by remaining open after the mall closes at midnight.

“As you can see, the mall hours have changed since then, and so have my Thanksgiving celebrations,” Didonato said. “Not only do I have to open the night of Thanksgiving at Charlotte Russe, but being a supervisor at Starbucks forces me to work a 10 hour closing shift the day of Black Friday. At this point I honestly tell my family to plan accordingly to their schedules because the hours I work consume my life for those two days.”

For many, the meaning of Thanksgiving is no longer quality time with family, enjoying the annual Dallas Cowboys Thanksgiving football game, or enjoying a home-cooked dinner. Rather Thanksgiving has become part of the Black Friday shopping frenzy and those shopping hours continue to extend each year. It is only a matter of time until Black Friday is extended entirely into Thanksgiving and into Saturday as well. Thankfully for now however, not all retail workers are affected by the extended mall hours and sales. Freshman Cole Wilson claims that his holiday celebrations with his family will not be affected by his work schedule at Journey’s.

“This is my first year working retail so Thanksgiving has never been affected by the extended mall hours,” Wilson said. “I think it’s great that malls and stores are staying open on Thanksgiving and extending Black Friday sales. I’ll be working this Thanksgiving and it shouldn’t affect the way my family celebrates.”

Yet Didonato, whom has worked retail for several years, has felt the effects of extended mall hours in previous years and is sure to experience them again.

“I believe the meaning of Thanksgiving has changed over the years, and I also believe customers are blind to that change,” Didonato explains. “What amazes me more than the mall changing their hours is the fact that people actually show up to save a few extra dollars for their holiday gifts on a holiday.”

As the in-store shopping continues to grow, so does the online shopping. Following Black Friday, shoppers celebrate and take advantage of Cyber Monday, the equivalency of Black Friday on the internet. Unfortunately, Thanksgiving will continue to be missed or ignored, while shoppers try to get the best deals on their holiday purchases. Although customers may not see or feel the effects of keeping malls open on Thanksgiving and extending Black Friday sales, most retail workers have to suffer and miss valuable family time.

OPINION

Daily Fantasy Sports: Game of Skill or Gambling?

By Darren Myers

Managing and Online Editor

PITTSBURGH, Pa. – On Tuesday, Nov. 10, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman sent game operators of DraftKings and FanDuel cease-and-desist orders, declaring that playing daily fantasy sports is the same as gambling.

If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it is probably a duck. Well, in the case of FanDuel and DraftKings, two multi-billion dollar daily fantasy sports sites, if it looks like gambling and sounds like gambling, it is indeed probably gambling.

You have seen DraftKings and FanDuel before, even if you do not play fantasy sports. According to Legal Sports Report, DraftKings averages a commercial every 90 seconds. Then again it is almost impossible not to air commercials when most every major sports media network has a stake in your company.

Twenty-First Century Fox owns 11 percent of FanDuel and has participated in \$300 million worth of advertising. Walt Disney originally committed to investing \$250 million in DraftKings in order to make it their exclusive sponsor. However, Disney backed out at the last minute due to fear of illegal gambling repercussions. Although an advertising deal with ESPN is still on the table. Time Warner has also invested \$275 million in FanDuel's advertising.

To make this more clear, that means that ESPN, Sports Illustrated, Fox Sports, and most professional sports leagues have a stake in either DraftKings or FanDuel. How else could a fantasy sports company become a multi-billion dollar industry in less than three years of creation?

Both DraftKings and FanDuel argue that their games are a game of chance, stating in their commercials that "anybody can win." Sure, anybody can win, but when only 1 percent of players are winning 90 percent of the prizes, chances of winning are slim to none for the majority.

Fantasy sports is entirely a game of chance. There are certainly ways to predict the outcomes of games and the performance of players, but it is more of a guessing game than anything.

In fantasy football, players are given projections, and that is all they are – projections. Very rarely does a player hit that exact number. Sports, in general, are so unpredictable that predicting exactly how a professional player in going to play is almost impossible.

OPINION

However, collecting data and forming an educated prediction is certainly possible. For example, there are fantasy sports experts whose entire job is based around giving fantasy sports players the information needed to set the perfect lineup and even they do not always get it right.

You cannot predict injuries, you cannot predict big plays, and you cannot predict off-days.

DraftKings and FanDuel are both labeled as gambling in the United Kingdom. In fact, they are embracing that title as a step towards global expansion.

So, for as hard as both DraftKings and FanDuel are pushing to consider themselves a “game of skill,” they seem to be just fine being considered gambling in the U.K.

At this point, daily fantasy sites are putting on a great façade by trying to prove that they are not something in which they clearly are.

Their only response to being called a “game of chance” is the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA). The UIGEA "prohibits gambling businesses from knowingly accepting payments in connection with the participation of another person in a bet or wager that involves the use of the Internet and that is unlawful under any federal or state law."

The Act itself purposefully excludes fantasy sports, but only when met by certain requirements. Season-long fantasy sports are legal because of the timeframe it meets. There are factors of luck and chance involved, but due to the overwhelmingly different outcomes that could potentially happen over the course of an entire season, the ability to win a season-long fantasy sports league requires much more skill than in daily.

In the United States, gambling is heavily regulated, something that DraftKings and FanDuel are attempting to escape. One reasoning for this stems from the fact that more regulations would mean less money for particular companies.

Essentially, daily fantasy sports sites are taking advantage of a loophole from an Act that was created in 2006 and will be amended at the dismay of DraftKings and FanDuel.

In the words of John Oliver “daily fantasy sports combine everything dudes love: Sports, money, and a lack of commitment.”

