

THE

# NITTANY PRIDE

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**The Cultural Rebirth of Downtown New Kensington**

**Already Famous on Penn**

**Your Vote Matters, My Vote Matters, All Votes Matter**

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

Cover photos courtesy of Millie Brasseur at voting event and Darren Myers at Already Famous on Penn gallery opening.

Staff photo by Jon McCade.

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# MEET THE STAFF

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

**Penn State New Kensington**

**3550 Seventh Street Road**

# CAMPUS LIFE

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## Your Vote Matters, My Vote Matters, All Votes Matter

By Darren Myers

*Managing & Online Editor*

MONROEVILLE, Pa. — It's election season and a new organization on campus wants you to know that every vote counts.

My Vote Matters is an organization on the Penn State New Kensington campus that's main goal is to inform students that not only does their vote matter, but their opinion matters too. The college student demographic is known for not being politically involved, but this group is attempting to change that.

It all started when Corporate Communications student Millie Brasseur read "Soul of a Citizen" in Dr. Andrea Adolph's Fundamental of Civic and Community Engagement course during the Fall 2015 semester.

"I was touched by the book and wanted to make a difference in the community," Brasseur said. With that, Brasseur emailed Paul R. Loeb, the author of "Soul of a Citizen." He responded by encouraging Brasseur to make a difference of her own by starting her own campus chapter of My Vote Matters at PSNK. Loeb is also the Campus Election Engagement Project founder, which supports a number of voting education organizations throughout the country.

The most important factor in Brasseur's creation of the organization is that she didn't want any hierarchy involved. "No President, no Vice President, no nothing," said Brasseur. This, however, caused a potential red flag with the Student Government Association

(SGA) on campus because, in order to be considered a club, those positions need filled.

After careful consideration and countless meetings with Chancellor Snider, the resolution was made that My Vote Matters would be an organization on campus, not a club. This way everyone can work together as a team without titles or different positions of power. However, the organization will be sponsored by SGA and can still apply for funding.



From left to right: Dr. Hammond, Sarah Steighner, Boderick Gerano, Millie Brasseur, Derrek Koblinsky, Jon McCabe, Aaron Holness, and Professor Aima all pose during their first registration event held on campus on Feb. 2 (Photo by William Woodward).

"We're just a group of students with a similar interest," said junior Psychology major Jon McCabe. "It started as a small idea and just snowballed from there."

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My Vote Matters has plenty of goals for the rest of the semester and they look to capitalize on their terrific start.

“Our goal is to register 100-150 students from campus,” Brasseur said. And they’ve started off their first sign-up day with upwards of 30 students registering.

Sophomore Political Science major Derrek Koblinsky is a key component to the group’s success. Koblinsky, has already been offered an internship with Pennsylvania State Representative Eli Evankovich, and also has interviews for internships with Senator of Pennsylvania Pat Toomey and U.S. Representative Keith Rothfus.

“College kids are so incredibly apathetic when it comes to this,” said Koblinsky in reference of voting. “We want to inform students beyond just registering to vote.”

My Vote Matters is a completely non-partisan group, meaning that they do not have any party affiliation, nor do they collectively advertise or endorse any specific candidate. They simply want to inform students of politics and gain an interest in educating them on things that matter.

To help inform students, My Vote Matters will be screening pieces of each debate, both Democratic and Republican, in Café 780 throughout the semester. The assumption is that if the students are surrounded by current political rhetoric, it will spark conversation.

Sparking conversation doesn’t seem to be a problem. Everyone seems to have their opinions, be them informed or not, and that is the focus of this group. Ac-

ording to Koblinsky, “We don’t care what your party affiliation is. The meetings we conduct are essentially just everyone venting their ideas. We don’t want people to feel pressured to talk, but we also want people to speak their mind and create conversations.”

My Vote Matters will be hosting an event known as the Diplomatic Dinner on Feb. 25 in the Conference Center. Key note speakers attending this event include Eli Evankovich and Erin McClelland, whom is contesting Keith Rothfus in Pennsylvania’s 12th District. Reservations are in the works for other potential speakers.

The hope is to have local and state-level politicians come in, explain how voting matters, and to inform the audience of political problems facing our area.

This organization couldn’t function without the help and support of everyone involved: Aaron Holness, Danielle Richardson, Jon McCabe, Cecily Petrarca, Kyle Waraks, and Broderick Gerano are the key members to this organization and people who Brasseur has very high respect for.

Dr. Hammond, Dr. Andrea, Chancellor Snider, and Professor Aima are among the staff who are affiliated with My Vote Matters and they are there to give a helping hand to Brasseur and the organization whenever needed.

The organization meets once a week on Wednesdays during common hour. The room changes on a weekly basis based on availability, but it’s an outlet to spark creative conversation through promoting political education.

# CAMPUS LIFE

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## **A Glimpse Into the Communications Department**

By Archie P. Ort

*Staff Writer & Reporter*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — The Communications Department at Penn State New Kensington (PSNK) is comprised of a small group of professors and students who focus on the study of communication practices and strategies from a professional aspect.

The Communications program at PSNK is a four-year bachelor's degree and is one out of 10 bachelor's degrees offered at the university. The Department of Communications at PSNK offers training in advanced multimedia skills with the development of critical thinking and strategic communication competencies. These skills prove vital as communications is becoming extremely important within the workforce today.

There is a creative and award winning staff here at PSNK . The professors currently consist of Dr. Jennifer Wood, Dr. Allen Larson, Professor Abhinav Aima, and newly hired adjunct instructor Dr. Laura Wilson. Dr. Wood has been teaching for approximately 15 years and has been at PSNK since 2002. During an interview with Dr. Wood, she spoke about communication skills and how proper use enables the department to lead good lives and to be happy. Dr. Wood takes great pride in the Conflict Resolution and Business and Professional Communication courses that she instructs.

The Conflict Resolution course focuses on how individuals find peaceful solutions to resolve discrepancies such as personal, financial, political, and even emotional conflict. The class is used to look into different perspectives of conflict. An additional class taught by Dr. Wood, Business and Professional Communications, gives the opportunity for students to become comfortable with professional based communication skills that they will find use of in most organizations. Dr. Wood mentioned how helpful a class Business and Professional Communications can be preparing for first internships or entry into the workforce.

Dr. Allen Larson has been a Professor in the Communications Department since 2004 and has been making his presence clear, recently having been awarded in 2015 with the Alumni Association & Student Award for Teaching Excellence with Dr. Wood receiving the award the year prior.

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Chancellor of PSNK, Kevin Snider, gave his opinion of the awards received saying, "It was a really good feeling to see that the things that we know about those two were verified by an outside committee looking at their record and acknowledging their work." Snider also mentioned his remembrance of Dr. Larson's involvement in the history presentation of *New Kensington Is...*, which is a video that has acted as an oral presentation that takes a look back into the New Kensington community's roots and industrial booming past.

The Communications program often tries to work with the community; working side by side with organizations such as Westmoreland Community Action and the Valley News Dispatch. Dr. Larson teaches courses in Television Production, Public Relations, and the Art of Cinema. He takes on the task of advising most communications undergraduates' final research studies, and helping them to build impressive projects. The latest from Dr. Larson and his educational practices was a campaign with his Public Relations class, creating the release of the new common schedule change that will come to affect all Penn State campuses as of the 2016 Fall semester. Dr. Larson is also the go-to-guy for academic advising within the department, as he works hand in hand with the school in the creation of the courses offered by the program.

An important club the Communications students hold dear is the campus newspaper, The Nittany Pride. The paper is advised by Professor Aima and is a way for students to voice opinions, cover stories and current events, and generate information around the university campus. The Newspaper Club is also the only club on campus that is directly associated with the PSNK Communications Department. The student-run newspaper acts as an informational source for the university's public.

The Communications program here at PSNK gives students an opportunity to work in a hands on environment and also allows students to produce creative work that they can be proud of. The most recent graduate out of Penn State New Kensington's Corporate Communications program is Brooke Churma who was a THON dancer last year while attending PSNK. Churma spent time studying at Penn State University Park, but loved the family atmosphere that Penn State New Kensington and the program here provides. Churma stated, "because of the phenomenal professors at our campus and the well-constructed courses it makes the program run like a well-oiled machine." Churma continued with saying that she'll miss the program and the school, noting that it will feel weird finally being out of school, but also mentioning that if she could do it all over again she would.

All of the combined professors, classes, and students within the Communication program helps it continue to evolve day in and day out.

# SPORTS

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## PSNK Basketball Season Is Coming To An End

By Jay Wu

*Staff Writer & Reporter*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — As the Penn State New Kensington basketball team continues to work hard and play hard, their regular season is coming to an end. This season introduced new freshmen to the team, and welcomed back seasoned players who have all worked together as a team to improve tactics and be successful.

Since the team's newest freshman players graduated high school, they made the transition to our college campus and are playing for our college basketball team. However, they may have seen some differences from the way their high school team was set up and what our college team had in store for them.

Tony Hill (Guard), who is a freshman Information Science and Technology (IST) major, and Minhea Dinu (Small Forward), who is a freshman Engineering major, both stated that competition is different between high school and college. Hill stated that a college team is, "more serious and more independent which helps them get better."

Brandon Burchette, a sophomore Communications major, stated that there were challenges along the way, such as the work ethic needed to meet the team standard. Burchette stated, "We had to condition a lot more than high school. High school has about three practices a week while college has five or six." Shane Barroner (Forward), a freshman Business major, stated that college is "more physical, [the players are] more skilled, and the game is a little bit faster."

Jordan Williams (Shooting Guard), a junior Psychology major, stated that "between the semester breaks, you lose some players and gain some players." Williams went on to say that "our team chemistry seems



Freshmen guard Alex Smith (#22) shoots a three-pointer in Penn State New Kensington's 61-59 win on Jan. 16 over Penn State Hazleton in the Athletic Center (Photo by William Woodward).



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to be a little better after we grew over the semester and got some new people.” Dorian Broadwater (Small Forward), a sophomore IST major, mentioned that he thought the team chemistry got better as the season progressed. Lou Payne (Point Guard), a senior IST major stated, “The team has evolved pretty well; we’re actually playing more as a family.”

The basketball team has seen various support throughout the season. Broadwater stated, “I think we got the best fans. The school, they’re always supportive and they always got our back at whatever we do!” Meanwhile, Payne took the time to appreciate the students who live at the neighboring apartments and even some of the faculty who come to the home games.

The team has certain methods to help them balance athletics and academics. Tony Hill stated that the players have group studies before practice. Shane Barroner stated that he goes, “to the Academic Success Center for two hours a week so we have to study there and then every night, we study 6-8pm. We have a study table, so we have to go down there and we bring our homework to the computer lab.”

Jordan Williams highlighted their teamwork, “The team works together very well. We practice almost 7 days a week.” Williams also went on to say that the team is always together and even in the classroom, the teammates are willing to help them out with classes that they have already had. Dorian Broadwater stated, “We have a good amount of [time] playing together, so we know what we can all do.”

When participating in our college basketball team, the freshman team would have their pros and cons when it comes to their high school team and college. Tony Hill stated, “high school is more like a certain family. You’re sure that they’re going to be there for the whole season.” Hill also went on to say that “as for college, you can have a family for a semester and have a different family for the next.”

Jordan Williams stated that the team’s rival is Beaver and they just beat them on Jan. 26th. Broadwater stated that the team’s rival is Greater Allegheny. Broadwater said, “We beat them two times last year on two buzzer beaters, so I would say that’s our rival.” Lou Payne, however, stated that everybody is their rival, “We just beat Beaver. We played against DuBois and we play against Fayette coming up,” he said.

The team remains hopeful as the end of the season nears. “I’m feeling confident! I’m excited for the end of the season! I think that we can make the playoffs and I think we can go deep in the playoffs,” Burchette stated.

The team’s next game is Tuesday Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. at Penn State DuBois. Their next home game is against Penn State Fayette Wednesday Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.

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## Steelers Look to 2016 Season After Playoff Loss

By Monica Fiore

*Staff Writer & Reporter*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — It was a sad night for Pittsburgh fans on Sunday, Jan. 17 when the Pittsburgh Steelers were forced to pack their bags and head home after the Denver Broncos captured the win for the AFC Divisional Round game, with a score of 23-16. The first score of the game gave the Broncos a 6 point lead, after missing the extra point attempt. However, by the end of the first quarter, the Steelers were ahead by one point, with the score being 7-6, with Steelers fans excited as usual.



During the AFC Divisional Round on Jan. 17, 2016, wide receiver #10 of the Broncos, Emmanuel Sanders, tries to get past defensive back Ross Cockrell, #31 of the Steelers (Photo Courtesy of Flickr.com).

Megan Bardolph, Assistant Professor of English, who is not only new to the Penn State campus, but to being a Steelers fan, gave her point of view on being a new Steelers fan. “After being here for five months, I feel a real energy in the city when the Steelers are playing. I’m happy to adopt the Steelers as my second favorite football team,” Bardolph stated. Professor Bardolph teaches Rhetoric and Composition at PSNK, but is originally from Detroit, Michigan. “The Steelers definitely have more paraphernalia. Every article of clothing I see on game day is Steelers related which is something you don’t see in Detroit. It’s exciting!”

The Pittsburgh Steelers’ placekicker Chris Boswell was able to score a field goal during the second quarter, making the score 10-6 in favor of the Steelers. By the end of the second quarter, Pittsburgh was still ahead with a one point lead when the score was 10-9 after the Broncos’ placekicker Brandon McManus scored a field goal.

During the third quarter, Steelers’ wide receiver Martavis Bryant was in the end zone ready to catch the ball and score a touchdown that may have changed the outcome of the game, but Broncos’ player Aqib Talib interfered from behind, resulting in the drop of the ball and no touchdown for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Two field goals were scored during the third quarter from both placekickers, Chris Boswell (Steelers) and Brandon McManus (Broncos). The score at the end of the third quarter was 13-12 in favor of the Steelers.

The Broncos managed to stay one point behind the Steelers at the end of each quarter. However, the fourth

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is where it went uphill for the Broncos and downhill for the Steelers. With three minutes left on the clock, Broncos' quarterback Peyton Manning threw a pass to wide receiver Demaryius Thomas for a two point conversion, leaving the score 20-13 with the Broncos in the lead. Fast-forward down to the 0:53 seconds mark where Brandon McManus kicks a field goal for the Broncos, with the score now 23-13. 0:19 on the clock, Chris Boswell kicks a field goal, which may have tied the score if the Steelers had scored the touchdown back in the third quarter.

With a field goal that left the Broncos with a 7 point lead and slim chances of the Steelers being able to make a comeback with only 0:14 seconds left on the game clock, the Broncos took a knee on the next play, were able to run the remaining time on the clock, and took the win of the evening against the Steelers. With the win, the Broncos headed to the AFC Championship Game where they defeated New England Patriots on Jan. 24, 2016.

Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin got tearful at the press conference that followed after the game. "We fought hard, just not enough today," Tomlin said. "I appreciate the efforts of our football team. There can only be one [champion]... and this year, it's not us."

The Steelers almost did not make it to the AFC Divisional Round. The previous week, an outrageous game against the Cincinnati Bengals was played, with an outcome of 18-16, with the Steelers barely capturing a win. With a minute left in the fourth quarter, the score was 16-15 Bengals and the Steelers were 47 yards from their end zone. However, with a major hit from Vontaze Burfict to Antonio Brown and Adam Jones' altercation with Joey Porter, the Steelers were put ahead 30 yards, leaving them at the 17 yard line. The Steelers then won that game with a field goal.

Roethlisberger's shoulder injury from the Bengals game left the Broncos wondering if it was a fake injury or not. "I personally think he's one of the most underrated quarterbacks in history," said Adam Johnson, a freshman at Penn State New Kensington. "The guy led us to two Superbowl Championships and I don't believe the league gives him enough credit."

The Steelers may have lost, but there is always next year. "They don't call it 'six-burgh' for nothing," said Bardolph. "I was hoping they'd make it 'seven-burgh.'"

The Steelers kick off the 2016 season on Sept. 11 with the opposing team to be announced. It was announced on Feb. 2, 2016 that the Steelers have officially signed former Chicago Bears' wide receiver Levi Norwood. Norwood played college football at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Norwood's father is a Penn State alumni and Baylor assistant coach of football. Norwood's brother, Jordan Norwood, ironically, plays as a wide receiver for the Denver Broncos.

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## **New Kensington Better Block Under New Leadership**

By Danielle Richardson

*Staff Writer & Reporter*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — The New Kensington Better Block, which is under new leadership, will be on Saturday, April 30 from noon to 8 p.m. Autumn Walker is the new coordinator of the Better Block event this year, along with Andre Carter.

Walker, who moved to New Kensington nearly five years ago, is a strong advocate for the city's revitalization. She expressed her concerns over the stigma that New Kensington faces.

"New Ken has so much potential, but it is fighting against a few problems before it can be great again," Walker said. "One thing that it needs is to shake the stigma that it got from how it was 10 years ago. It is not a scary place, but people seem to think it is. I have lived here for 5 years without incident." She hopes to eliminate this through initiatives like the Better Block.

Walker also runs her own business in downtown New Kensington and participated as a vendor in last year's Better Block. "Small businesses are the lifeblood of small cities," Walker said. "They can offer employment opportunities for the locals, for whom travelling into a larger city is not possible, as well as events for the locals to participate in."

Andre Carter, the owner of Jams Avenue Music, is co-coordinating the event with Walker this year. "He and I are to be heading up this event due to in large part both of us loving this city and always popping up with new ideas and support for new ideas around town," Walker said. "I think we will be leaning on a lot of the previous leaders from the past two Better Block events to help guide the process."

Last year, Jessica Levine was the coordinator of the Better Block event. Levine is the manager of the Habitat for Humanity building in New Kensington.

"One of the neat things about the way the Better Block events have worked is that each one is headed up by another group of folks, so each one has a very distinctive vibe, and is constantly in flux and improving in one way or another," Walker said.

Walker expressed her confidence in Carter's experience with the local talent which will be his focus for the Better Block event. "He will be focusing just on the music and entertainment portion of the event, so I expect we will have an amazing collection of entertainment," Walker said.

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Walker was an outside vendor for the first Better Block in May 2014 and a shop owner for the October Better Block. With her experience, Walker hopes to improve the process for the upcoming event.

“I have come up with a survey for anyone who participated in the previous Better Block events to see what they would like to see as visitors, shop keepers, and vendors,” explained Walker. “There has been a number of ideas batted around for how to improve upon the other two events.”

In addition to surveys, Walker has also developed a website for the event with the help of a local shop owner. The website includes updates about the event, discussion forums, and staff and volunteer application forms.

“I hope to be able to create a spectacular event and have a lot of resources to pass forward to the next lead on the project for next October's event,” Walker said.



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## The Cultural Rebirth of Downtown New Kensington

By Nico Regoli

*Staff Writer & Reporter*

NEW KENSINGTON, PA – Friday, Jan. 22, 2016, will go down a proud day in New Kensington’s history, as several of its citizens braved the cold, snowy roads, packing the house for the New Kensington Art Center’s opening night.

Originally a Career Training Academy building that had been one month vacant, local real estate agent, Marvin Birner brought together the 950 Fifth Avenue location’s owner, John Reddy, with New Kensington Camera Club president and professional graphic designer, Don Henderson. After some discussion, a deal was reached, and the Camera Club was loaned the building for four months, completely free of charge, for them to turn into an art gallery.

The Center debuted with its very first Art Night, granting a platform for the Camera Club’s members and other local artists to display their work for the community to see and purchase.

Such artists included 28-year-old medical worker and Valley High School and Penn State alum, Anton Bachman, who showcased his unique, digital prints of celebrity faces made entirely out of geometric shapes.

“This style of art, I call it ‘Trubism,’ based off of kind of an enhancement or an offshoot of the style of Pablo Picasso or Georges Braque of Cubism, where the figure is fragmented and seen from different

angles simultaneously,” Bachman explained. “However, in this instance, the characters are still recognizable, thus more to their true self.



Some of history’s greats, portrayed in Penn State alumnus Anton Bachman’s unique, abstract art style, called ‘Trubism’ (Photo by Nico Regoli).

Among the celebrities Bachman featured in his prints were music legends Jim Morrison and David Bowie, film icons Audrey Hepburn and Darth Vader, basketball “King” LeBron James, Pennsylvania legends Andy Warhol (whom Bachman shares a birthday with) and “Mister” Fred Rogers, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Bachman’s personal favorites, however, were prints of Picasso himself and Brooklyn-based African American artist, Jean-Michel Basquiat.

Providing the music for the night was local entertainer, Jimbo Jackson, lead vocalist and guitarist of

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“Jimbo & the Soupbones.” Starting out his entertainment career later than most, Jackson can teach the New Kensington-Arnold community that creativity and self-expression has no age limitations.

“[I] bought a guitar at 35 years old and that sort of started everything, just learning to play the guitar,” said Jackson. “Then the singing came and once I sang a song, people liked it, and it snowballed.”

In terms of his musical range, Jackson thinks he can “play Mary Had A Little Lamb on any instrument ever,” but considers himself to be more of an entertainer than a well-rounded musician.

“It’s about being yourself, and communicating with an audience for me, more so than technical ability. I just don’t give a damn about stuff like that,” he explained.

What Jackson, along with the Camera Club and the other artists at the grand opening did give a damn about, however, is bringing New Kensington and Arnold back into the spotlight. And the way they intend to do so is through art.

“It [art] is life itself. Without the arts, I think humanity would be stagnant,” said Tommy West, a community activist, artist, photographer, and videographer who recently entered retirement.

“If we can create something cultural that all different walks of life can participate in, I think that’s the best way to start,” West said.

“Art, it’s the keystone. It drives people to the area,” said Bob Carney, of the New Kensington Cam-

era Club and photographer from Deep Creek, Maryland, who grew up in New Kensington.

“Everybody appreciates art and different mediums will draw different crowds,” Carney explained.

“With drawing a different crowd, the diversity of that crowd helps give vision to a community, and hopefully open up more doors for people that see that it becomes more viable.”

“To me, it [art] means community,” said Joni Marcy, another member of the Camera Club and the unofficial face of the event. “I like to share what I take with the public, with the community, and I like to bring people together that are doing different things. To just be creative together and learn from each other.”

“We have a rich history here [New Kensington-Arnold] that’s almost being lost, because that part of our area isn’t shared with one another,” said Jackson. “I look at it [the Art Center] like a jumpstart for this town. It is a reset button that’ll give us a fresh start or some start. Not so much fresh, but some start, and I think it’ll bring us [the community] together.”

Considering the opening night saw a full house, despite the worst weather conditions possible, it’s safe to say the New Kensington Art Center is off to a great start of uniting the community.

The Center’s next scheduled Art Night will be Friday, Feb. 5 from 6 to 9 p.m. More information can be found on the New Kensington Art Center’s website, [www.nkartscenter.org](http://www.nkartscenter.org), and on its self-titled Facebook group.

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## The Original, the Unique, the Already Famous on Penn

By Paige Owens

*Co-Editor-In-Chief*

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — On a crowded street, in the heart of the city, Penn Avenue in the Cultural District sees the hustle and bustle of the city goers, the art addicts, the theatre junkies, and the bar crawlers. The Cultural District is home to countless restaurants and eateries, theatres, galleries, and more. On Jan. 30, the Cultural District became the home of a new, brilliant, second-floor art gallery, Already Famous on Penn.

Already Famous on Penn resides on the corner of 9th Avenue and Penn Avenue above the gourmet chocolate and ice cream shop, Sinful Sweets. The owner, operator, and brains behind this new gallery, Nolan Sanders, is a former Sinful Sweets employee with a passion for photography and a love for undiscovered, unexposed art.

The gallery has been in the production process for approximately three months and was an idea crafted by Sanders and his friend and business partner, Patrick Howerter.

“The layout [of the gallery] came straight out of my head,” Sanders explained. “I saw this place empty and white and took mental notes of what would look right. The colors were my attempt to make it more than just a whitewall gallery. Allowing the artists to paint murals behind their paintings was really important for me, being that I am the only gallery that does that.”

The art gallery began as a dream and an idea for a studio space that Sanders would be able to sell his photography from. Yet his dream snowballed into a unique, innovative, and new art space dedicated to helping the “starving artist” grow and strive.



Already Famous on Penn opened their doors for the Grand Opening event on Saturday Jan. 30. The main wall showcased gallery owner, Nolan Sanders’ photography (Photo by Darren Myers).

“My mission is to expose underground artists that I know; I call them under rock artists,” Sanders said. “The mission here is to make starving artists fat! That’s what I want to do. I’m tired of hearing my friends that are starving artists and just don’t have the exposure.”

“The location is key; being in the Cultural District, being right here on Penn and 9th,” he added.



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“My main goal is to expose all of these other artists. My photography started first, but now it’s taken a back burner to this.”

Already Famous on Penn is not only an opportunity to reel in artists and art lovers, but party goers, dancers, and skilled musicians. Sanders plans to have a unique combination of artists and art forms on the walls and throughout the gallery. Unique to this venue alone, Sanders will be renting out the venue to outside parties for private events, dinners, yoga classes, ballet classes, and music competitions; something no other art gallery in the area permits.

“The art will move whenever there are big parties,” Sanders explained. “Obviously, we don’t want anything damaged, but the art will be around. What I’m trying to do is relate the art to whatever is going on and music wise too. We’re going to have hip-hop nights, we’re going to have DJ competitions, have singing competitions. So I’m pretty excited about that part.”

The tone of the gallery radiated with appreciation for art as artists lingered in every corner of the room, eager to share a small piece of their world with guests. To the unknowing eye, you may only see paint on the walls, frames, and tables throughout the gallery. However, the gallery permeated the room with original, unique, and bizarre art forms. The tables and furniture, perfectly placed in the room, were created by local artist Wade Calhoun.

Featured in the Grand Opening was also Patrick Kelly, an illustrator; Jamie Apgar; a painter with his Insidious Collection painted directly on to the art

gallery walls; David Calfo, a salvage artist who creates a story and art with old material from steel and saw mills; Lindsey Brown, a photographer; and Rob Morris from Kittanning where Sanders grew up. Neatly placed across the center wall of the gallery were Sanders’ photographs.

“I think art is important to everybody whether they know it or not,” illustration artist Patrick Kelly said. “I think it’s essential to human life; it’s so important. Some people create it, some people just view it, but it’s necessary. I think it’s part of what keeps us going.”

The Grand Opening of the gallery filled with guests of all ages, friends, family, musicians, artists, and media to have a first-hand look into the world of an artist and to praise Sanders on his success. Guests had the opportunity to purchase art, enjoy wine and refreshments, and listen to internationally known saxophonist, John Petrucelli, and jazz, electric guitar played by Max “the Wax” Snyder.

“It’s about the exposure, it’s about the art, it’s about the people here in Pittsburgh; I feel like they’re hungry for something like this,” Sanders said.

Only time will tell where the future lies for Sanders and his newly opened gallery, all we know is he’s Already Famous on Penn.

# POLITICS

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## Storm Jonas Doesn't Stop March for Life

By Sarah Steighner

*Co-Editor-in-Chief*

WASHINGTON D.C. — As winter storm Jonas closed schools and sent government officials home early in Washington D.C., thousands of people drove into the epicenter of the storm and filled the national mall Jan. 22.

The annual March for Life first started after the 1973 court case *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion. Every year since, peaceful pro-life protesters have gathered on the National Mall for a rally to protest abortion, followed by a march to the Supreme Court.

As Washington D.C. was put under a state of emergency, a press release from the March for Life Education and Defense Fund was issued. Jeanne Mancini, President of the March for Life warned participants to use their own judgment when deciding their travel plans and attendance.

“We are very concerned for people’s safety and want everyone to be cautious,” wrote Mancini. “However, the pro-life community is also concerned for the safety and well-being of the innocent, unborn in the womb. This movement to end abortion in this country is bigger than us and it is bigger than a weather event. This is a cause that is worth our best efforts and dedication, despite difficult circumstances.”

The rally began at a quarter to one as the Washington Monument loomed over the politically and

religiously diverse crowd. The rally itself lasted approximately an hour and a half and consisted of an array of speakers from presidential candidate Carly Fiorina, to Jewels Green of the Silent No More campaign and even former Baltimore Ravens player Matt Birk.



Thousands gathered on the National Mall in Washington D.C on January 22 to protest abortion at the annual March for Life (Photo by Sarah Steighner).

Spoken word performance poet Shawn Welcome started out the ceremony with an emotional spoken word poem that paralleled the injustices of abortion to slavery.

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“No formal funerals, nor miniature caskets. Only the likes of medical waste management. Tell me: How many pounds of flesh do you pick up for profit? And when will that weight begin to weigh down on your conscience?” questioned Welcome.

Welcome’s closing call to action encouraged peaceful dialogue within the movement, in order to promote an ongoing dialogue of abortion. “I’m all for non-violence, because words can change trends. But worse than words from my enemies is the silence from my friends,” Welcome said.

Cheers welcomed Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina to the stage. Fiorina discussed the sanctity of the life, and the need to defund Planned Parenthood before turning the tune of her speech into campaign discourse. She tried to appeal to conservative single issue voters, by specifically challenging Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton’s pro-choice ideals.

Mixed applause was frequent, but Fiorina’s pleas for the value of life to be recognized received the loudest cheers of support. “I have battled breast cancer; I have buried a child; I have read the bible. I know the value of life,” Fiorina said.

The rally ended about the same time as the flags surrounding the Washington Monument picked up the first winds of the impending snow storm. Nevertheless, protesters entered on to Constitution Avenue and began the march to Capitol Hill. Amongst the thousands of peaceful protesters was Amy Buchwald. Buchwald has been going to the March for Life for 21 years. For the past eight years

she has also organized a bus from her church St. Joseph in Cabot, Pennsylvania to go to the march.

Buchwald described the March for Life as a day of both joy and sorrow. “It’s a sad day because we’re reminded in a very big way of all of the lives lost – people killed – since 1973, especially when we hear the testimonies of women & men who regret their abortions & lost parenthood,” Buchwald said. “And yet, it’s also a joyful day because we come together & support each other’s efforts to let our lawmakers know that we don’t think abortion should be allowed.”

While many people at the march have been going for years like Buchwald, the March for Life gets new protesters every year as well. This year was Becky Adams first year at the march. The 35-year-old stay at home mother of four, travelled from Philadelphia with three friends from the Grace City Church Northeast.

“It was wonderful for me to see so many young people making a stand for life,” Adams said. “I loved all the signs, the cheers, the prayers and the smiles. This group of people are not “crazy” like the media likes to make us out to be, but rather we are passionate to defend those who cannot defend themselves.”

As many people on the east coast left work and fled the roads during winter storm Jonas, the March for Life continued as the largest annual civil rights march in America, and plans to continue until *Roe v. Wade* is overturned.

**“My vote matters because I want the next generation of children to live in a country they are proud of.” - Aaron Holness**

**“My vote matters because I want to build a better future for my daughter.” - Dr. Andrea Adolph**

**“My vote matters because I want to secure a better America for generations to come.” - Derrek Koblinsky**

**“My vote matters because I want a say in things that affect my own life.” - Katie Miskanic**

**“My vote matters because it is the responsibility of the people, particularly the youth, to take responsibility for the direction of the country.” - Christian Kamenic**

