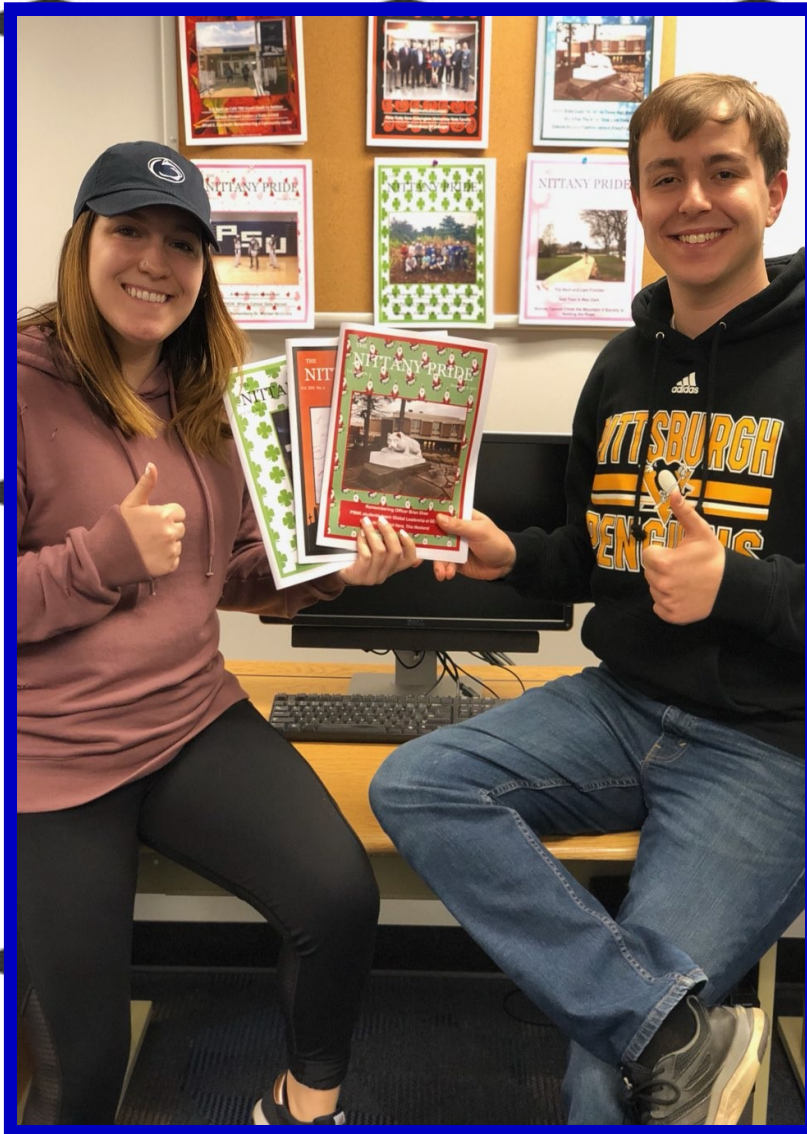


THE

# NITTANY PRIDE

Vol. XIII No. 6

April 20, 2018



**“Thank You, Chester”**

**Book Review: Asking For It**

**Opening Old Wounds**

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*The Nittany Pride is funded by the Student Activity Fee at Penn State New Kensington.*

# CAMPUS LIFE

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## Farewell, Class of 2018

The class of 2018 is going out into the real, professional world. The memories made with all of the people in our class and the younger students will never be forgotten. We will probably either need the help of our classmates to find a job or we might be applying to their business. That is why Penn State is one of the best colleges on the planet. The Alumni Association really helps students who are desperate to find a job.

A relief from group projects and exams will be happily welcomed. The uncertainty of the career search ahead of the 2018 class is quite daunting. It almost makes one wish for more exams... almost. The professors, who we will now see less of, will be missed for putting up with our hijinks.

The professional world may not be as forgiving. Many students graduating this year will continue their academic careers in graduate school or some other program. The payoffs for getting a graduate degree are real and quite attractive. For other students, that option isn't available for financial, family, or personal reasons. If that isn't in someone's plan that's fine. Whatever someone's idea of success is up to them.

Some of us won't even use our degrees in our jobs but will get the job because of the simple fact we graduated college. That is okay too. Our generation has some hang-ups about spending the money equivalent to a house, for an education. After spending so much money it seems like you have to get a job in the field of your major. In many cases that's the best bet. In others, it isn't, and only serves to damage people's sense of self worth and psyche in general.

A few things that any class of students would want to change about PSU is plainly evident. Reduce the college tuition, by any means, short of cutting teachers or classes. If the leadership of Penn State really has the interest of their students at heart they would push the PA Gov. to increase funding to public colleges. Advocating for reduced or free tuition for people under a certain income level who have above a 3.0 should have the opportunity we've had.

The world isn't getting any slower or less complex. Students for generations would thank us for our commitment to educate the able people of PA. We understand there are costs to running one of the best research universities in the country. Without students from different economic backgrounds, not just those who can afford to put themselves in \$40,000 debt, education and cultural understanding becomes stagnant.

The class of 2018, within the Nittany Pride, wishes for the students after us success in life and career. The world is changing and Penn State must help the people of PA prepare.



# CAMPUS LIFE

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## “Thank You, Chester”: Beloved PSNK Security Guard Retires

By: *Ryan Fiore*  
Copy Editor

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - March 29 was a bittersweet day for staff, faculty, and students as Chester Howell, one of Penn State New Kensington’s beloved security guards, began a new chapter of his life: retirement.

“We can’t thank you enough for your dedication to serving this campus,” said SGA President, Raven Brunner, to Howell during his retirement party. “On behalf of the entire Student Government and the entire student body, I would like to let you know that we value your time on our campus and it won’t be the same without you.”

Faculty, staff, and students gathered in the Cafe 780 that Thursday evening to celebrate Howell’s retirement.

“One of the things we’re really gonna miss is that [Chet] would make his rounds around the campus when he came in for the beginning of his shift,” Pat Hollinger, Director of Continuing Education, addressed the audience at Howell’s retirement party. “The thing that signaled us was that when we saw Chet, it was almost time for us to go home.”

The crowd laughed at Hollinger’s remark.

“In Continuing Ed, we always have a lot of programs going on, so there was always some food and snacks available in our office and Chet would never refuse to help us get rid of some of that stuff.”

Howell was then presented with a “basket of snacks and goodies” from the staff in Continuing Education.

Howell, who celebrated his 81st birthday the previous week, had been working at the campus for nearly 14 years.

“Chet has been there for us, he’s been there for students,” Theresa Bonk, Director of Student Affairs, tearfully recalled. “He also finds students on campus, so I do have kind of a funny story. They’d [students] sleep places that we’d never believe that they would sleep...To help those students, that’s what it was really all about. It was the concern for the student. It ended up kind of becoming a funny story, but certainly genuine concern on his part. I’ve not met many people that live up to your caliber and your standard.”

Bonk presented Howell with a Penn State blanket in honor of finding sleeping students around the campus.



Myself and Chester. (Courtesy of Ryan Fiore)

# CAMPUS LIFE

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“I’ve never met a man who has a nose for food like Chet,” Chancellor Kevin Snider joked. “He can smell food before it’s delivered.”

Snider recalled items off of a bucket list for Howell to complete. Items included coaching a little league team, setting the 40K cycling time trial record for pastors in the AK Valley, whale watching in Alaska, and a balloon festival in New Mexico.

Howell also worked and continues to work as an interim pastor at First Baptist Church in Tarentum.

“Chester, you do little things on a daily basis that you don’t even realize what you’re doing makes a difference to students,” student Carly Duncan spoke to Howell. “You just add a little bit of sunshine to our lives and it’s really going to be sad without you.”

“I had the pleasure of knowing Chester before he started employment here,” Director of Business and Finance, Jason Bush said. “We used to be in a golf league together and it was always a pleasure and a joy to golf with Chester. He was such a great addition to the campus with a wonderful personality; respected on the golf course and respected here by many.”

Howell’s official last day on campus was Friday, March 30.

Malinda Rocco, who formerly worked at the Junction, spoke of how much Howell meant to her.

“Chester, you changed my life when I started working here. At the beginning of the semester when we were so short-handed and I was working open to close and I was so exhausted, seeing your face come across that bridge every night smiling, helped me get through my evening.” Howell then gave a speech at the end of the party.

“I am so touched by all of you, just the number of people that just came to say hello or say goodbye. I’m awestruck and I will miss each and every face that I see in this room because I happen to know each and every face I see in this room and I love seeing them. I appreciate you and I will never forget you. I will be back.”



# CAMPUS LIFE

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## Spring Break Adventures We Will Never Forget: Shanksville

*By: Rachel Queck  
Staff Writer & Reporter*

It was a cool, breezy morning the day that a group of friends and I had picked to go to the Shanksville memorial during Spring Break.

We had decided to go to the Flight 93 Memorial because we had never been there, and also it was close to where a couple of our friends lived.

We were picked up and we were off to Shanksville. On the way to the memorial, we listened to Hamilton the entire way there. It took us about an hour and a half to get to the memorial by car.

As we pulled up, I began to ask myself, "why did we decide to go here for a spring break trip? This seems so sad."

After we got out of the car, and met up with the other group of friends who were travelling in the other car, we walked towards the statue that was the map of the memorial. I was amazed. My original feeling had changed. I was given a feeling like I had never felt before. It was a mixture of sadness, yet pride.

We decided to go to through the walls to the museum first. As we walked through this area, it was clear to me that much thought and much effort had been put in to preserving what little had been left of what happened to Flight 93 and some other parts of the plane crashes on 9/11.

It was really hard not to cry when I went. Going through the museum was like reliving the crashes all over again, except at an older age because when the attacks happened I was three years old. I saw the perspective of the memorial as this what happened on this day, and this is what it looks like now. That was truly an amazing feeling.

After walking through the museum, we took the hiking trail down to the crash site. We saw the memorial around the crash site. They had remembrance wall for the victims who died in the plane crash. There I found out very interesting, but still saddening, pieces of information about the victims who died. I found on one of the plaques that there was an Asiatic language inscribed underneath the name of the victim.

I came to later find out that this victim was from Japan. He was coming to America to look at graduate schools to attend. Unfortunately, these dreams of his never came to fruition.

Another thing that caught my eye and heart, was another name who had "and unborn child" inscribed in small letters underneath the name. This made my heart sink.

I found out later that this woman was not even supposed to be on the plane that day. She had just found out that she was pregnant and wanted to get home on an earlier flight. As a result, she re-scheduled her flight to flight 93.

# CAMPUS LIFE

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We then went further into the memorial. I swear the memorial was the like the end of a journey. It was like we relived the tragedy and we saw the end result. We stood behind a marble ledge and saw where the plane had crashed, which was marked with a rock.

After seeing the memorial, I asked my friends what they had thought:

Brandon Luker, a chemistry major stated, "I remember going there quite a number of years ago when it was only a makeshift sort of memorial. With our recent trip in 2018, preceded by recent construction, there seemed to be a presence of respect that wasn't there the last time I went. Even though the story may not be known to all, you and all audiences alike can benefit from experiencing the memorial. Like the speed of light to the speed of sound, the spark of hope remained forever instilled in the passengers of the plane from the moment our freedom was challenged, ending with the voice of Todd Beamer saying 'Let's Roll.'"

Ashton Caldwell, a journalism major/history minor stated, "The museum was wonderful. It was both educational and interactive, yet respectful to the disaster. The two exhibits that shocked me the most were the display of the remains of the crash and the display that contained the gifts that people left at the crash site."

Natalie George, a BBH major stated, "I remember going there when I was really young. It's been about 5 years since I was there last and the changes were very nice. They are doing a really good job making it look nice. It was really nice going there with my friends who have never been there. Even though I was two when 9/11 took place and don't remember what happened, I like history and learning about it and I now understand what happened a lot more. Just being there felt like I traveled back in time; from the visitor center with items that belonged to the victims, to the walkway where they placed a rock to show where the plane crashed and marbled plaques with the victims' names. You just got feelings that are hard to describe when you are there."

In conclusion, the trip to flight 93 was one that will never be forgotten by me, my friends, and hopefully the rest of the world.



Picture of the memorial where the plane crashed. (Photo courtesy of Natalie George)

# CAMPUS LIFE

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## The Family Jugs

*By: Isabella Bordonaro  
Editor In Chief*

As a young woman in my twenties, I never thought I would have to deal with the word “cancer” at this stage of my life. But, due to a genetic mutation passed on through my family, I was faced with a decision that has changed my life for the better.

My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008, at a very early stage. Thanks to this, she underwent surgery, had a few rounds of chemo, and was finished with it all in about a year. She just celebrated 10 years cancer free this past November.

Unfortunately, this was not my family’s last journey with breast cancer.

When my mother was diagnosed, her doctors found that her cancer was genetic. Her mother had died from it in the late 80s. This meant that her cancer was caused by a mutation in her genes, particularly the BRCA II gene. This also meant that she could have passed this gene on to her three daughters.

My elder sister found out she had the gene in 2010. She decided, through her doctor’s recommendation, that she would undergo a preventative bilateral mastectomy with reconstruction. This decision was made after learning that the alternative option was having to have a full MRI and mammogram every 6 months for the rest of her life. The surgery would cut her chances of developing breast cancer to less than one percent. She had the surgery in 2013, and has been in the clear ever since.

I knew that my chances of having this gene were 50/50. This past summer, I decided to have my genetic testing done, to just get it over with.

I got my results back in about two weeks, and found out that I did, indeed, have the gene. Unlike my sister, I did not wait a few years to have my surgery done. With my college graduation being at the end of the year, I didn’t want to have to deal with it years down the road, not knowing where my life will be at that point.

I also have really great insurance through my parents, and will lose part of that coverage after I graduate in May. I will entirely lose my coverage in July. So, I needed to get this done while I could still afford it.

I decided to have it done this past March, about 6 months after I found out I had the gene.

This seemed like the best option, because I knew that my work load for my final semester was reasonably light, and I knew that my professors would support me and work with me during my time off.

The time between the decision and the day of surgery seemed like years. I knew it was coming, and just wanted to get it over with so I could put this all behind me.



# CAMPUS LIFE

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Finally, after a long 6 months, it was time.

I was really scared the day before, mostly because I have never had any major surgery. I always see horror stories about waking up during surgery or complications with anesthesia, so I sufficiently freaked myself out.

Thankfully, I have two wonderful women in my life who have already gone through this, so they helped to ease my stress. I also had the support of my super awesome boyfriend, which helped a lot as well.

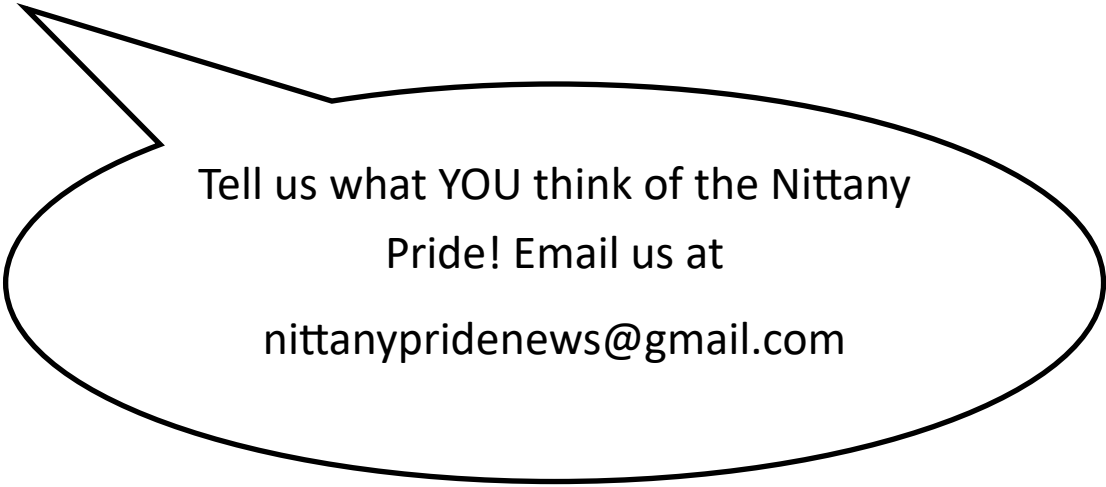
The surgery went extremely well. I barely had any pain other than the day after surgery, and other than some complications with the pain medication causing me to become sick, I've been recovering quite well.

The worst part of all of it were these little JP drains I had to have, which suck all the fluid out of the cavity where my implants are now. If you've never seen a JP drain, google it. They are terrible little blood grenades and make doing anything on your own extremely difficult (especially trying to dress, they are impossible to hide).

I also have had to come to terms with what I look like now. It seems superficial, but a woman's breasts are a really integral part of their body and you really get used to how they look. Even if you don't love how they look, it still feels like losing an arm or some other vital body part. I am pretty happy with my results, but it is still a lot to get used to.

I am extremely thankful for the support system that I had through this whole journey. I've learned that I have some pretty great family members and friends, and their support has helped this otherwise shitty situation, be a cake walk.

I am continuing to heal, and am happy to be back to school and work, and my otherwise day to day life.



Tell us what YOU think of the Nittany  
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[nittanypridenews@gmail.com](mailto:nittanypridenews@gmail.com)

# POLITICS

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## How Students feel about the Syrian Chemical Attacks

*By: Ashton Caldwell  
Staff Writer & Reporter*

In the news recently, there has been much talk about President Trump and Syria. Many students feel that the President is going to start a war with both Syria and Russia. Why do they feel this way?

It all began on Apr. 7 when there was a chemical attack in Douma. The result of that attack, according to a New York Times article, was “70 people died” and “about 500 people...had symptoms consistent with a chemical attack.” Those symptoms include “burning eyes, breathing problems, and white foam coming from their mouths.”

While the rest of the world mourned for the victims, Russia was making claims of their own. An ABC news article reported that “Russia’s Foreign minister Sergei Lavrov has claimed the suspected chemical attack in Syria was staged with the help of an unspecified foreign intelligence agency.” Russia called for the United Nations to meet in order to prevent war.

The world did not buy Russia’s claim. France’s President Emmanuel Macron, who was considering striking Syria, claims “he has proof that the Syrian government attacked the town of Douma with chemical weapons.” However, he did not release his evidence.

President Trump had similar feelings, only he brought Russia into the fight. On Apr. 11, he tweeted “Russia vows to shoot down any and all missiles fired at Syria. Get ready Russia, because they will be coming, nice and new and ‘smart!’ You shouldn’t be partners with a gas killing animal who kills his people and enjoys it!” Then on Apr. 1, he tweeted “Never said an attack on Syria would take place. Could be very soon or not so soon at all! In any event, the United States, under my Administration, has done a great job of ridding the region of ISIS. Where is our ‘Thank you America?’”

A sophomore majoring in Communications stated, “I think that these chemical attacks are a fucking atrocity. The fact that the president of Syria can sleep at night knowing that his people are suffering from gas poisoning is sickening. I believe that person should be overthrown or taken out of power. This way, the people of Syria will never have to suffer again at the hands of Bashar al-Assad. I applaud the president for wanting to take action against Syria. However, I do think another missile attack on Syria will cause a war. I say this because Trump is not only challenging Syria, but his tweets are challenging Russia as well.”

They continued, “I believe the president should evaluate the situation and ensure that we are prepared for a potential backlash from Syria and Russia before he strikes. When Trump attacked Syria the first time, he received backlash from his own people. I do not feel that this is right because the rest of the world, including Syria, can see that the U.S. is not unified under its leader. I would like to add something else too. The fact that Russia said the attacks were staged is bullshit. President Putin and his countrymen have no room to talk. Their country is full of corruption. So, how can we believe what the hell they say anyway?”

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“Although, I would like to point this out to your readers: Everyone is focused on Russian hacking in the election. They are so concerned with how Trump won the election that they are neglecting what is going on in the rest of the world. I feel like the country should just move on. Whether you like Trump or not does not matter. What matters is that we unite together and fight off the evil in this world. Only then, will there be peace in the world,” they added.

This is not the first time that President Trump has gone against Syria.

Last year on Thursday, Apr. 6, the President ordered 59 Tomahawk Missiles to be launched into “the Shayrat airbase near Homs.” The President did this because of a Chemical attack that had taken place in Syria earlier that week on Tuesday, Apr. 4. The result of the Syrian Chemical attack was that “more than 80 people were killed” and “hundreds suffered symptoms consistent with attraction to a nerve agent.” The result of Trump’s attacks was “nine civilians including four children were killed.”



Russian President Vladimir Putin, U.S. President Donald Trump, and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. (Photo taken from Google Images.)

1. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/11/world/middleeast/syria-chemical-attack.html>
2. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-13/russia-says-syria-chemical-attack-staged/9657314>
3. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-43740626>
4. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39500947>
5. <https://www.cnn.com/2017/04/06/us-military-has-launched-more-50-than-missiles-aimed-at-syria-nbc-news.html>

# POLITICS

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## Trade Wars and Economic Crashes

*By: Nathan Traini  
Managing and Online Editor*

Goods and services are the main ingredients that make up an economy. Some economies lack the necessary production and resources to produce everything they need in their countries. Some industries of one country might need tin to finish their production. That resource deficiency could be made up by trading. For either money or other resources, one country can trade with another to get the things it's economy needs in return for something another economy needs. This is called international trade. Sometime needs are met not by trading one type of good for another. In cases where the other country doesn't have enough of a good the other country wants, they trade money in supplication for the good the other country needs.

These transactions can get very large and very complex. In a perfect world, all of the world's localized economies would trade for the things it needs to function, and no more. This would result in a world economy with no deficits because all goods are supplied in proper quantity and exact prices are paid or goods traded. The same amount of goods are exported that are imported.

The world, unfortunately, is quite different from theory or expectations. When trading with another country, and being flawed humans, we always want to stay on top of a deal. We never want to owe something to another country because that puts us in a weak position to negotiate if things elsewhere don't go our way. For example, a trade deficit with another country says that we are buying more goods and resources from them than we sell back to them. This implies that one country is more of the producer and the other more than likely the consumer.

Due to China's vast population its main economic strength is cheap labor. That, in human terms, means that people are being exploited to make things for low wages while people who own those companies bathe in money. Since the cheap labor of China allows for things to be made cheaply, jobs naturally flow there. The loss of manufacturing jobs in America is known by the citizens. According to PEW Research, Americans know that jobs have left "as manufacturing output – the value of goods and products manufactured in the U.S. – has grown strongly". This is a hard thing to see but due to productivity increases and technology in general even though jobs have left, the U.S. is actually producing more.

Whenever one country sells the same thing your country sells, you'd want the people in your country to support the businesses in your country. How do you do that without violently forcing people to buy your country's manufactured goods? You impose a tariff or tax on the other country's goods. By imposing tariffs a country can protect its manufacturing jobs by protecting the supply and demand curves. If you impose a tax on something you make it more expensive and therefore less likely to be bought. Putting tariffs on goods can cause other economic problems, while it protects some workers.

# POLITICS

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What makes a trade war is tariffs and the overuse of them. Say the U.S. imposes tariffs on steel and aluminum. China wouldn't want to lose the money they would've made on those and if they're forced to they will make it so the U.S. loses money on some other good or service. This can go back and forth until there are some real, macroeconomic effects on the stock market and real economy. When imposing tariffs on a country like China, it's complicated to say the least. The U.S. needs many resources and goods to produce our own goods, which we get from China. China knows this and so it won't balk at our tariffs and will make us pay for them.

In a time such as ours in America, when millions of jobs have left or are simply gone, the American people need something to latch onto. Trump simply wants to protect an industry that helped build this country and save it from globalization. Globalization is an idea that, say with advancement of technology, "the expansion of international cultural, economic, and political activities. As people, ideas, knowledge, and goods move more easily around the globe, the experiences of people around the world become more similar," according to National Geographic.

That seems like a rosy picture but globalization in an economic sense isn't all that sweet of a notion. Through the negotiations of "free trade deals" trade barriers were lowered in the late 1990's and early 2000's. Trade barriers are taxes and tariffs that help protect workers. Then jobs are the thing that becomes global in nature, not workers. For millions of Americans they can't pay for, or would even want to go on a plane ride to China to work in the job that was moved there.

This all boils down to a country which is less and less hopeful they can provide the American dream for their children which brings them to elect a man with zero experience in politics but some in business. "Maybe Trump can help us win again because he's rich he knows how to handle money" is what voters thought. Even if Trump couldn't restore America to its post WWII manufacturing glory he's vulgar enough to upend the current political system which many blame for jobs leaving.

Trump gets into office and he has some type of expectation on him that he'll bring back jobs or at least keep more from leaving. Trump, in my opinion, is right to impose tariffs. Although the imposition of those tariffs are too little too late. Free trade has destroyed this country's middle class and a textbook on macroeconomics is wrong in its characterization of it. The book says that the average incomes increase \$7,000-\$13,000 every year because of reduced trade barriers. According to PEW Research, wages for the average and majority of people haven't gone up in nearly 50 years. Taking into account inflation average people have seen their real wages, what they can buy for the money they have, stagnate or decline.

Trump imposed tariffs on China's steel and aluminum earlier this year. He also put "25% tariffs on \$50 billion to \$60 billion in Chinese exports to the U.S., including aerospace, information and communication technology, and machinery," according to USA Today. Then China "placed fees on a wide range of U.S. products, including scrap aluminum, sparkling wine and apples." Then, Trump added more tariffs on 1,300 goods from China. China came out with more tariffs on Boeing and then Trump answered with \$100 billion worth of tariffs. This creates uncertainty in the stock market which investors don't like. Uncertain investors results in a selling market trying to cash out now before Trump's tariffs crash the economy.

# POLITICS

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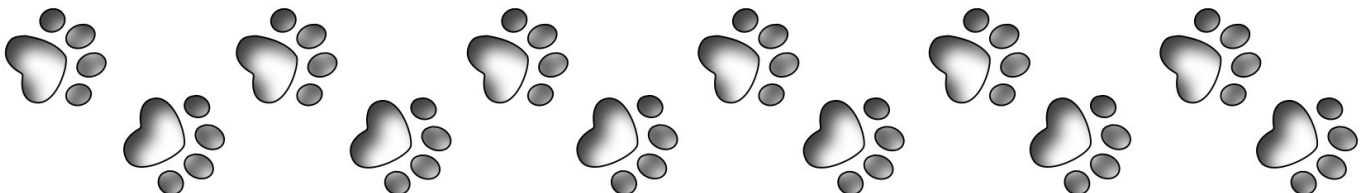
All of these tariffs haven't been put into effect. Even though Trump tweets that this isn't a trade war, it seems to be a cold trade war. These tariffs put forth by the Trump Administration and China could be implemented at any time and could hurt our economy. There is a way to talk with other countries and implement tariffs on them without creating a trade war. The U.S. used to do it all of them time.

The trade war will probably not occur. If it did occur Trump would be blamed for the resulting damage done to our economy and would lose reelection. That simple fact makes it clear that Trump will withdraw the tariffs and either not pursue them or do them in a way that doesn't spark a trade war. The real problem that the American people have to worry about is the next economic crash.

Business cycles occur every 10-12 years and our last crash/recession was in 07-08. It is now 2018 so, we are due for one. This coming crash could be worse than anything we've seen for a couple of reasons. One reason is that 90% of the U.S. population took in 70% of the income gained from WWII-1980s. From 1990 to today the increases in income went entirely to the top 10%, according to EPI. There is a concentration of money in very few hands, while millions of students can't pay off their student debt, which is now larger than credit card debt according to the *New York Daily News*. Those two factors combine to form similar conditions to the Great Depression.

The income and wealth distributions are similar to what they were and that's important because our economy isn't real investment in businesses. It is mostly speculation and therefore, gambling. The stock market used to equate in a loss sense to worker's wellbeing but now it is an indicator of the opposite. The ruin of the middle class American worker is shown by how high the stock market goes because the higher it goes the more speculation there is. Speculation, used by the wealthy to get wealthier without having to invest in any real goods and services, causes bubbles, and those burst.

A bubble burst is soon to come and will be the responsibility of the extremely wealthy.



# POLITICS

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## NRA Suing Florida Over New Gun Law

*By: Ashton Caldwell  
Staff Writer & Reporter*

The National Rifle Association or NRA and the Florida Legislature are currently in a legal battle. The reason for this is because the NRA is suing the Florida Legislature in light of a recent bill that was passed.

The bill in question is Senate Bill 7026. This bill was written due to the shooting that took place at Stoneman Douglas High School on Feb. 14, 2018.

According to this bill, which is called the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act<sup>1</sup>

“A person younger than 21 years of age may not purchase a firearm. The sale or transfer of a firearm to a person younger than 21 years of age may not be made or facilitated by a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer.”<sup>2</sup> The rest of this bill can be found on the Florida Legislature’s website [www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us). The Governor of Florida, Rick Scott, signed this bill into law on Friday, Mar. 9.



Florida’s Capital Building. (Photo taken from Google Images.)

In retaliation, the NRA took legal action against the Florida Legislature by suing them.

The NRA provided the following statement which was taken from [www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org), “Florida’s ban is an affront to the Second Amendment, as it totally eviscerates the right of law-abiding adults between the ages of 18 and 21 to keep and bear arms. The ban is particularly offensive with respect to young women, as women between the ages of 18 and 21 are much less likely to engage in violent crime than older members of the general population who are unaffected by the ban. Despite this fact, the State of Florida has enacted a sweeping law banning all young adults between the ages of 18 and 21 from purchasing any firearm from any source.”<sup>3</sup>

It was also argued by Chris Cox, the Executive Director of the NRA’s Institute for Legislative Action, that this bill will make many young adults in Florida “second-class citizens.”<sup>3</sup> Within the NRA’s lawsuit, which any reader interested in finding can find it on <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4406257-NRAdocument.html>, argues “The Second Amendment guarantee[s] the individual right to possess and carry firearms, and elevates above all other interests the right of law-abiding, responsible citizens to use arms in defense of hearth and home.”<sup>4</sup>

The argument then goes on to make the point that “at 18 years of age, law-abiding citizens in this country are considered adults for almost all purposes and certainly for the purposes of the exercise of fundamental constitutional rights. At 18, citizens are eligible to serve in the military—to fight and die by arms for the country. Indeed, male citizens in this age-group are designated members of the militia by federal statute, and may be conscripted to bear arms on behalf of their country. Yet, newly-enacted Section 790.065(13) of Florida’s criminal code prohibits law-abiding adults in this age group from lawfully purchasing a firearm of any kind. This blanket ban violates the fundamental rights of thousands of responsible, law-abiding Florida citizens and is thus invalid under the Second and Fourteenth Amendments.”<sup>4</sup>

# POLITICS

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This writer did some research and came to the conclusion that Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment is the part being argued by the NRA.

For the readers who are unfamiliar with the Second and Fourteenth Amendment, the Second Amendment reads, “a well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”<sup>5</sup>

No where within the amendment does it have an age requirement. The Fourteenth Amendment Section 1 reads, “all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”<sup>6</sup>

For any reader interested in following this case, the official name for it is “The National Rifle Association of America, Inc. v. Bondi.”<sup>3</sup>



NRA logo. (Photo taken from Google Images.)

1. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/09/us/florida-gov-scott-gun-bill/index.html>
2. <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/7026/BillText/er/PDF>
3. <https://www.nraila.org/articles/20180309/nra-files-suit-challenging-florida-gun-control-w>
4. <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4406257-NRAdocument.html>



# REVIEW

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## Book Review: Asking for It

April is "Sexual Assault Awareness Month." In order to help spread awareness of this month, I've decided to do a book review on a well-known novel about sexual assault. Since this is a sensitive topic, not only for me but women and men around the world, I've decided to keep my name off of this review.

Before the review starts, take a look around you. How many women do you see? According to an article about the documentary *The Hunting Ground*, 1 in 5 (or 20%) of college women have been sexually assaulted. And, the likelihood is, that you don't even know that they've been assaulted, because the article also states that around 90% of these women don't report the sexual assault to police.[1]

On to the review:

I'm twenty-one years old. I'm from the United States of America. I was not popular in school. I was never extroverted, extremely liked, or incredibly beautiful. I am a real person.

Emma O'Donovan is eighteen years old. Emma O'Donovan is from Ireland. Emma O'Donovan is (was) the most popular girl in school. Everyone loved her. Everyone wanted her beauty. Emma O'Donovan is a fictional character.

Though I've listed all of the differences between the two of us, we live through one similarity, one thing that both of us let dictate our entire lives: we were both raped.

Emma O'Donovan doesn't like that word. I don't like that word, and I probably stared at it for five minutes after typing it, wondering if I should really use *that* word. For the very few people I've told what happened to me, I've used the word molested. It sounds less harsh to me and made it easier for me to tell them. Emma O'Donovan thinks of what happened to her in terms of "pink flesh, splayed legs."

Emma O'Donovan was a teenager at a house party. I was an eight-year old at a family gathering.

Everyone knew about what happened to her. No one knows about what happened to me. And, I suppose, the point of this review of this brilliant novel by Louise O'Neill is not to tell you my story. It is to tell you Emma's. Her story is easier to talk about anyways.

The point of her novel is to take you into the mind of someone who has been raped. Someone who is not believed. Someone whose life has been destroyed by what happened to her. With all of the political controversy surrounding so many public figures in the United States, it's clearly something important to talk about and something that is not talked about enough.

And people don't like to listen to the real stories from real people, so Louise O'Neill created a fake world, with a fake girl, where people could maybe cope with the realities of sexual assault more easily than when someone that they know and love is telling them that they were sexually assaulted. Here's the thing, though: Emma O'Donovan may be a fictional character, but she embodies nearly every woman that you've ever met.

# REVIEW

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Emma embodies every woman who has been sexually harassed or assaulted and was then told that it was her fault. She embodies every woman who spent so long trying to believe that it didn't happen, who felt ashamed of themselves, or who couldn't tell anyone at all.

Celebrities go to award shows wearing black and holding white roses to stand with these victims, to give their message that #TimesUp, but people who aren't celebrities are still living in a world where they aren't believed. A lot of these people, myself included, love what these celebrities are doing in Hollywood, but don't feel that they're included in the group of people that the movement is about.

Emma O'Donovan embodied my worst nightmare. Her parents wanted nothing to do with her. Her father was disgusted by her, avoided any contact with her until the end of the novel (when she finally starts to believe that she is responsible for her rape), and her mother hated how Emma had soiled their family's reputation. In my case, I decided that I couldn't tell anyone in my family, especially because I didn't realize what happened to me until years after it happened. I couldn't tell them because of the conflict it would cause within my family, which is exactly what happened to Emma.

Her friends hated her until they heard the word rape, then they felt sorry for her (Emma wanted nothing to do with them anymore). Her brother yelled at her until he realized what happened, and it also ruined his relationships (with both his parents and his girlfriend). Emma, because everyone knew, got to be depressed about it, which I'm jealous of sometimes. When I get into a funk because I've been having nightmares again, I can't explain to someone why I'm feeling depressed again, I just have to pretend that I'm alright.

Emma embodies every woman whose feelings get confused because she's an object now. For a novel about a girl brutally gang-raped by four boys, you should know that this is not an anti-man novel. Emma's brother and childhood best friend are the two greatest characters in the novel, and they're both males. Emma has more females turn on her than males, especially her mother, who at one-point states that the whole situation just got out of hand and that "they really are good boys", even though she had seen pictures of what happened to her daughter.

I'd really appreciate if someone who has not been molested/raped/sexually harassed could read this novel. My boyfriend felt sad when I told him the plot of it, but I think that he felt sadder for me than about the actual plot of it, considering he hasn't read it (and he doesn't want to – the thought of any sort of pain toward anybody makes him queasy).

I've been feeling the intense numbness that Emma feels the entire way through the novel for thirteen years, which is more than half of the time that I've been alive. I felt numb reading the novel. I want to know. Did it make you sad? Angry? Numb, like me? Or some other feeling entirely?

Either way, I don't think that it makes a difference how you feel after reading this novel. All I know is that, at this time in our world, it's important to remember the victims more than the accused.

5/5

[1] <http://thehuntinggroundfilm.com/2017/01/the-truth-about-statistics-of-sexual-assault-in-college/>

# SCIENCE

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## Graphene: a Man Made Gold Mine

By: Nathan Traini  
Managing and Online Editor

Black Panther has broke many box office records and is a one of the best Marvel movies. The whole movie is a hunt to find, secure, and restrict the use of vibranium.

Vibranium is a fictional material, but what if a material could do the same science fiction-y stuff vibranium does in Marvel movies?

The fictional material exhibits traits futurists can only dream of. A super strong (Captain America's shield) and superconductive (Black Panther's suit) material that is also flexible and stiff. There is a material in the real world that exhibits all of these qualities and is being made by scientists all around the world.

Graphene is the real world equivalent to the fictional vibranium in the Marvel movies. The real world material is made of one atom thick sheets of carbon atoms. Graphene was first produced in 2004 by professors Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov, according to the University of Manchester. They simply stuck tape to a piece of bulk graphite, the stuff that makes pencils write. When the professors peeled the tape off they found one atom layer thick sheets of graphene arranged in a honeycomb geometry.

The properties exhibited by graphene are amazing. To visualize the strength of the material James Hone, head of the laboratory at Columbia, does a little thought experiment. If sheets of Graphene were stacked to the thickness of Saran Wrap it could support the weight of a 4,400 pound car. Not only is graphene strong under weight, it also can be flexed without breaking, and then go back to its original form.

Another set of researchers from the University of Manchester found these properties by letting a sheet of graphene to hang on its own. "A crystal supported on just one side extends nearly 10 micrometers without any support," according to *New Scientist*. That's the equivalent to a sheet of paper, the length of a football field, extending from a stable point, unsupported for over 300 feet.

Graphene has been shown to be strong, stiff, and flexible, but it's not finished bringing forth fruit. It is also the best at conducting electricity. In materials like copper or gold, there is resistance to the flow of electrons. In graphene, there is not resistance, so less energy is needed to establish a current, which is known as superconductivity. If you couple the mechanical properties with the superconductivity you can have flexible transparent tv screens. The newspapers in Harry Potter are almost exactly what is possible with graphene.

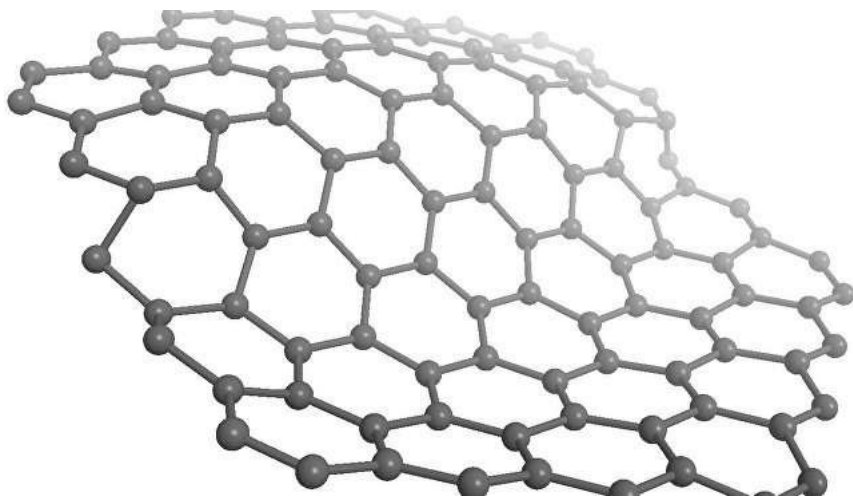
Instead of it taking hours for you to charge your phone or car, graphene makes it possible to charge both of them in a few minutes according to a TED Talk given by PhD. Physicist Mikael Fogelström. Since graphene is super thin it could be painted on to cars and houses making them more durable, but also solar power conductive. A car made with this material would never have to charge. It would get its power from the sun and never run out.

# SCIENCE

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Further, the material is biocompatible. It is possible to install a camera for a blind person, in their eye, and run the impulses from the camera into graphene which would impart those pulses to the visual cortex in the brain, according to Mikael Fogelström. Graphene could filter the dangerous gases expelled by the burning of fossil fuels. It is also capable of turning saltwater into fresh water which is one of the largest problems we face as a species.

The things depicted in Black Panther are possible and are being worked out as we speak. That's why these movies are important. It allows us to dream of a world where anything is possible. Although it may take time to discover how, mother nature hasn't given us a list of what we can and cannot do, so literally anything is possible.



Graphene model. (photo taken from Google Images)

Right now graphene is hard to produce on a large scale. With more funding and research it is possible that graphene will define our age. Just like the Stone, Bronze, and Iron ages all brought with them new capabilities, the Graphene age will create new possibilities, never before imagined. With promises of healing the blind and launching a new electronics and power generating revolution, the future looks bright through the graphene lens.

1. <https://www.graphene.manchester.ac.uk/learn/discovery-of-graphene/>
2. <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn14354-atom-thick-carbon-sheets-set-new-strength-record/>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eh3dA8xnZ4Y>

# ENTERTAINMENT

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## Hamilton Comes to Pittsburgh

By: Rachel Queck  
Staff Writer & Reporter

PITTSBURGH, Pa- The dream for anybody who is a Hamilton fan, history nerd, or just a fan of musicals in general, has become a reality. Hamilton is coming to Pittsburgh.

Hamilton, written by Lin Manuel Miranda, is a musical about the Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton. This musical is about how Hamilton was an orphan who made his way from having nothing to being the top of the chain in the government and in social class. This musical sheds light on that and tells his story.<sup>1</sup>

It goes on to talk about how Hamilton was in the military, married to Eliza Schuyler, and many other aspects you would find in the history books. However, you can also find within this musical the scandals and other things that went on in his life. Such as how he really loved Eliza's sister, Angelica, his love affair, and many other things that Hamilton went through within his life.

For locals this is very exciting as this is the first time that the musical has ever been in Pittsburgh. According to KDKA, Hamilton will be presented Jan. 1 to Jan 27.<sup>2</sup>

The show will be presented at the Benedum center. Ticket prices will be presented soon.<sup>3</sup>

1. <http://www.radiotimes.com/news/2017-12-20/the-true-story-behind-hip-hop-musical-hamilton/>
2. <http://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2018/03/24/hamilton-musical-pittsburgh-national-tour/>
3. <https://trustarts.org/production/58248/hamilton/>



Hamilton playbill image. (Photo Courtesy of google Images)

Want to write for the Nittany Pride?  
Email Isabella at [nittanynewstoday@gmail.com](mailto:nittanynewstoday@gmail.com)

# ENTERTAINMENT

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## Opening Old Wounds

**The HBO movie “Paterno” revisits a dark time in Penn State history.**

*By: Scott Sinclair  
Staff Writer*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa- John Spigelmyer was an undergraduate student at Penn State when the scandal surrounding Jerry Sandusky and Penn State’s leadership at large was at its height.

Now a Staff Graduate Assistant at Penn State’s New Kensington campus, Spigelmyer must relive the events from that time with the release of the new HBO movie “Paterno” which stars Al Pacino as the as the legendary Penn State football coach.

The movie takes place during the time of Sandusky’s criminal investigation and centers on the question of what Paterno knew about these events.

With the release of the movie the question can be raised about how this will potentially affect the Penn State community moving forward.

Spigelmyer remembers the that time of upheaval as he arrived at Penn State.

“I had just transitioned into Penn State from Community College during that time.” he said. Because of his role in education currently, he has paid attention to this situation both historically and how it relates to the current climate at Penn State, in terms of the University as a whole and the New Kensington campus.

“I think there might be a lot that is missed,” Spigelmyer said, “and I think people should go into it with a questioning mindset.”

“There have been reports of false information in the movie,” He continued.

The question can then be raised whether or not the revisiting of this situation could or would cause potential problems for the Penn State community at large, including its Commonwealth Campuses, in terms of enrollment and student engagement.

Spigelmyer gave his insight as a staff member as to how he feels this situation may unfold; “I think it will open up old wounds which can be dangerous, but I don’t think anything will happen with the campus.”

He continued, “This has been out of the media for many years now, as a Penn State community we have moved past this.”

A question can be raised as to how this situation was and is perceived by current students of a more traditional age. These students were still in the early stages of their high school careers when the Sandusky situation was at its height.

What were these students’ perspectives in terms of their decision to attend Penn State despite the events of a few years earlier?

# ENTERTAINMENT

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Savannah Smith stayed with her decision to attend Penn State New Kensington.

Smith, a junior psychology major, is the President-Elect of the Student Government Association at the campus. She stuck with her decision to attend PSNK and did think that the incident was an indictment of the University at large.

“I think Penn State did a good job getting those people out of the system,” Smith said. “They change what they needed to change, and it didn’t affect my decision overall.”

Smith is also second generation Penn State New Kensington, her mother had attended previously, and she intended to do the same. She did remember the situation, but felt she had no recourse to speak out against it.

“We felt out of touch as high school students,” she said, “We didn’t feel we had much of a say in anything.”

Penn State has overhauled its senior staff in the wake of this controversy and there have been many positive changes that have resulted. It remains to be seen whether or not this movie is simply viewed as a period drama with the knowledge that the university did overcome it and get to a better place, or if old stereotypes and suspicions return to hamper the good that Penn State has done since this dark time.

For his part, Spigelmyer feels that Penn State has too strong of a foundation to be shaken by Hollywood, whose purpose is to over dramatize for the sake of entertainment.

“This will not affect enrollment,” he said. “We have great educational and philanthropic opportunities such as THON.”

Smith also feels the university is on solid ground despite this renewed media attention.

“What happened did not have any stain on the degree that you get or the value of the education,” She said.

Ultimately the audience will determine what level of importance that it places on these events and what place it has in 2018 and beyond. This audience can come to understand that while tragic and horrible, these events are in the past, but can serve as to teach valuable lessons moving forward. The other alternative is that audiences are reminded of the tragic events and choose to look upon Penn State in those terms once again.

The former is a much more desirable option.





Graduation Caps. (Photo and recipe courtesy of [tasteofhome.com](http://tasteofhome.com))

## GRADUATION CAPS

With Graduation being less than three weeks away, here's a cute and tasty treat to make for a graduate in your life!

### INGREDIENTS

- 24 miniature peanut butter cups
  - 1 tube (6 ounces) decorating frosting in color of your choice
  - 24 After Eight thin mints
- 24 milk chocolate M&M's in color of your choice or 24 semisweet chocolate chips

### DIRECTIONS

Remove paper liners from peanut butter cups; place upside down on waxed paper. Place a small amount of frosting on each peanut butter cup; center a mint on each. Using frosting, make a loop for each cap's tassel. Place an M&M on top of each loop.

**Yield:** 2 dozen.