

THE  
NITTANY PRIDE

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**Remembering Officer Brian Shaw**  
**PSNK students learn Global Leadership at GELE**  
**Silent Night? Not Here, This Weekend**

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# COMMUNITY

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## Remembering Officer Brian Shaw

By: *Monica Fiore*  
Copy Editor

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - Since Brian Shaw was young, he knew he wanted to be a police officer.

“Ever since he was 17 or 18, that was all he talked about,” said friend Allie Wilhelm, in an interview with *TribLive*. “He was like, ‘It’s my calling.’”

Unfortunately, Shaw’s dream to become a police officer was short-lived. Shaw was killed in the line of duty Friday, November 17, when a routine traffic stop became an on-foot pursuit and ultimately resulted in at least six shots being fired at Shaw. Shaw was 25 years old.



New Kensington Police Officer Brian Shaw during the July 8, 2016 parade in Springdale.

According to his obituary, Shaw is survived by both parents, Stephan and Lisa Shaw, brother and Penn Hills police officer, Steffan Shaw, as well as his maternal grandmother, Bernadine Kristofik, and girlfriend, Haylee Oliver.

Shaw’s alleged killer, Rahmael Holt, was captured the morning of November 21 after a three day manhunt. He was arrested and taken into custody in Shaw’s handcuffs.

Shaw was a 2010 Burrell High School graduate, as well as a 2015 Slippery Rock graduate, graduating with a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice.

Shaw previously worked for the Frazer Township Police Department and East Deer Police Department, as well as the Cheswick Police Department. He was sworn in by the New Kensington Police Department in June of this year.

Funeral services for Shaw were held on Monday, November 20 and Tuesday, November 21. Shaw’s police car sat draped in black ribbons outside the funeral home, Rusiewicz Funeral Home in Lower Burrell, while hundreds upon hundreds stood in line to pay their respects to Officer Shaw.

Hundreds of Lower Burrell and New Kensington residents lined the street on the morning of November 22 for Shaw’s funeral procession. Thousands of police officers came to pay their respects and say their final goodbyes to Shaw at Mount St. Peter’s Roman Catholic Church in New Kensington.

“This is a very beautiful thing that this town is doing,” said New Kensington resident, Jason Marciniak, in an interview with *TribLive*. “They’ve come out to respect this officer. He gave everything he had for this town, and I just think it’s a heartwarming feeling to be out here and experience this. It’s a sad thing to say but it’s something you don’t get to be a part of every day, and I think we’ll remember this for as long as we live.”

In addition, New Kensington-Arnold students were given the day off from school, with hopes that they would pay their respects as well.

The Pittsburgh Penguins honored Shaw before their game against Chicago Saturday night. “Last evening,

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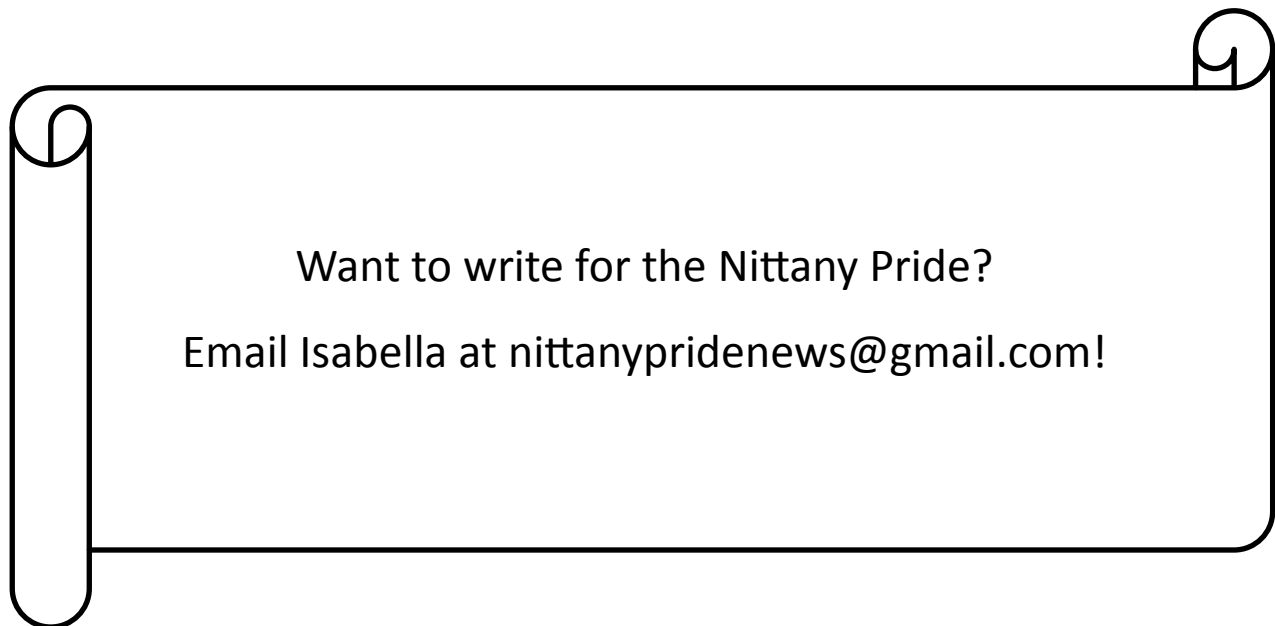
The Pittsburgh Penguins honored Shaw before their game against Chicago Saturday night. “Last evening, our community suffered an immeasurable loss. During a routine traffic stop, New Kensington Police Officer Brian Shaw lost his life.” The arena was then met with a moment of silence in honor of Shaw.

Steeler’s coach, Mike Tomlin, sent his condolences out, as well, on Twitter. “My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Officer Brian Shaw and the entire New Kensington Police Department. So sad. RIP.”

“Brian, you will be missed by your fellow brothers of this department, but never forgotten,” New Kensington Police Chief, James Klein said at Shaw’s funeral service. “To say goodbye is to let him go. I promise you; we will never let him go. He will forever be a part of me, the New Kensington Police Department, and the many other lives he has touched during his young life.”

“According to the Lower Burrell Police Department, official Officer Brian Shaw shirts will be sold at the Lower Burrell Municipal Building, 2800 Bethel St., from 3 to 5 p.m. Dec. 2 and 3. No pre-orders are being taken. Shirts include the latin phrase, ‘Non Timebo Mala,’ which translates to ‘I will fear no evil.’ Shirts will cost \$10 for sizes small to extra large, and \$15 for 2XL to 4XL. Wristbands will cost \$5. Proceeds will go to Shaw’s family,” according to *TribLive*.

“Brian, your shift here on Earth is done,” said Klein, fighting back tears. “Heaven is calling. Your brothers here at the New Kensington Police Department will continue to fight the good fight, knowing that you are with us, as our backup, as one of our guardians from above. Until we meet again, my friend.”



# CAMPUS LIFE

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## How to Deal with Conflicts with Professors

By: *Isabella Bordonaro*  
Editor In Chief

One of the most difficult things a college student may have to deal with during their college career can be handling conflicts with professors.

This can be a daunting task, because students pretty much have no power when it comes to how their work is graded/assigned, and the professors hold all the power.

In my conflict resolution negotiation class that I am currently taking with Dr. Jennifer Wood, we have learned several skills that could help students deal with a conflict they may have with a person of high power, when they are in a position of low power. There's actually an entire chapter on balancing power in our textbook, *Interpersonal Conflict by Hocker and Wilmot*.

The book describes several different types of power, which include designated power, distributive power, and integrative power. Designated power is given to you through your position. For example, professors have power because they have the position of professor. Distributive power is the power you have over or against the other party in the dispute. So, in the example of student and professor, the professor dominates over you because of the power they already are given through their position. Lastly, there is integrative power. This type assumes all parties in the group have power, it focuses on "both/and," and each party has to achieve something in the relationship. This type would not really apply to the student/professor situation, because in most situations, the power balance will not be equal.

This explanation of power is important, because in order to understand how to solve conflicts like this, it is necessary to understand how power works, and where it comes from. To explain how to use power to help solve conflicts with professors, I am creating a situation that I can "analyze."

Finals week is rapidly approaching, and you have a D in Biology, a class you need to have at least a C or higher in to pass. You have really tried hard to excel in this class, but you are a Communications major, and Biology is really difficult for you to understand. You have decent grades (B or higher) on all the written work for the class, like essays and presentations, but the tests are multiple choice, and you have failed almost every single one. You haven't missed a class, and are active during class, but your professor will not give you extra credit points.

Your professor has all the power here because they get to dish out the extra credit. Although it may feel like there's nothing you can do, don't fret, there is! When you are of low power, one thing you can do is try to describe the situation. Maybe your professor doesn't realize how much effort you truly are putting forth, so by describing your side of the story can help them to understand why you need this extra credit.

You can also use your "I statements" to let the professor know how you feel. For example, you could say, "I feel that I have really put my best effort forth to try and excel in this class. I show up to every class, I am active during class, and I do well on the non-test assignments in this class. I would appreciate the consideration for extra credit, because I feel I am not being given a fair chance to succeed."

By stating your feelings this way, the professor cannot discredit it, because they cannot tell you how you feel. This can help them to see that you really care about this class, and are not just asking for credit because you don't want to try.

Even though you may have low power in this situation, hopefully you can now see that there are constructive ways to try to solve the conflict, and maybe come out on top!

I hope my sharing of knowledge can help those stuck in these situations to find a way out.

# CAMPUS LIFE

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## “We Have Nothing to Hide”: PSNK and the LGBTQ+ Community

by Monica Fiore  
Copy Editor

"Courage is being yourself everyday in a world that tells you to be someone else." -Unknown

More than once, someone has approached me and asked me why I go by Ryan on social media, with the exception of Facebook. I've always told people I wanted to "protect my identity" and that that was just a name I picked to go by on social media. I lied---big time-- because I wasn't strong enough then to tell people the truth. Yet, somehow, I feel I finally have enough strength to tell a lot more people about this, or I am just tired of lying to myself and everyone else.

I revealed my identity as transgender on Instagram on October 11 --National Coming Out Day---but I didn't feel I was reaching a lot of people. Sure, posting on Facebook would be a huge outreach, but I guess I'm not ready for that yet.

I feel that one of the reasons I have the strength to come out and talk about this is because of Penn State. I never thought I would be so blessed to meet so many wonderful people here. I know that to be at a campus like Penn State New Kensington is truly and wholeheartedly a blessing. I know it's one of the best decisions I've ever made. If I had gone somewhere else, would I have found the same amount of love and support that I receive now? Would I have even discovered that Criminal Justice isn't what I truly wanted to do and that Communications is where my heart really belongs?

According to a survey about “The Facts on Transgender Student Mental Health” by *ActiveMinds*, “40.4% of transgender college students feel isolated from campus life.” I feel that I am truly blessed because I have this very outgoing attitude and I don't feel isolated from campus life. I feel that despite my difference from everyone else, I fit right in. Penn State New Kensington is nothing short of a loving and welcoming campus. The environment is nothing short of welcoming and accepting. The acceptance and love I receive from friends and professors is nothing like I have ever known.

I especially want to reflect on the staff and faculty. I feel like there are so many professors and staff members that I can come to if I ever need to talk. I want to especially thank staff and faculty members Professor Abhinav Aima (my awesome advisor), Dr. Penelope Morrison, Professor Laurie Durzo, Dr. Megan Bardolph, Professor Melba Amador, Dr. Allen Larson, Professor Marilyn Bartolacci, Professor Adam Robinson, and Malinda from The Junction. I also want to thank a really important teacher from my old high school; Daniel Pounds. Anytime I was stressed or upset, or if I just wanted to talk, I knew I could go to him and he would listen. Sure, it is awesome to have one person you can talk to, but to have all these people that I know I can go to means a lot more than they'll ever know.

According to a 2016 article on the *Penn State* website, Penn State University was included in the “Top 30 LGBTQ-Friendly Schools’ by Campus Pride”. The article reads, “The University once again received 4.5 out of five stars for overall campus climate by Campus Pride, a national nonprofit organization for student leaders



The logo for Safe Zone, a Penn State University program created to raise awareness for the LGBTQ+ community. (Courtesy of Penn State Berks.)

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It made me really happy to see this because I couldn't agree more when it comes to how friendly the environment is. I can't personally speak for the environment up at University Park, but the one we have here at New Kensington is incredible.

I've noticed that to my knowledge, the LGBTQ+ community at PSNK is very small. I only know of a few people who identify with this group. I think another reason I'm publishing this is because I want others to have the strength to come out and be who they really are. I want them to feel safe like I do, to have the courage to be able to talk to someone if they need to. I'm sure everyone has different reasons for why they think we were chosen, but I think Penn State New Kensington was chosen safest campus in the state and ninth in the country for a reason. Like I said, the atmosphere is nothing short of where I want to be.

Another *Penn State* article from November 2016 discussed the expansion of gender neutral restrooms at University Park. This is something that again made me happy. It clearly shows that Penn State is making an effort to recognize students who identify differently than others.

I think what has also helped me to build up this strength and courage to talk more about this is what took place six months ago. In May of this year, I was asked to step away from the children's ministry at a church I was a part of for nine years. It was more of, "We don't think you should be volunteering with kids until you get through this 'phase'", which is funny because not only had I been volunteering with the kids for 8+ years, but I had all of my clearances which legally said I could work with children. However, that's not the point and I digress. They still wanted me to attend church there and told me I was loved, but that wasn't an act of love. It was an act of betrayal from a place I willingly dedicated half of my life to. But still, I digress. I ended up leaving because I know myself better than anyone else. I know that this is not a phase and if people who I've known and loved for nine years couldn't accept that who I am isn't a threat, then that meant a bridge had to be burned. You shouldn't have to wear your armor in a place where you're told to lay it down.

After I left, I burned everything I owned from them: shirts, cards, sermons, etc. My friends and I filmed it on Snapchat to let everyone see. We called it a healing ceremony. I wish I hadn't burned it, not because I made people upset. I couldn't care less that I "embarrassed" my father. Maybe I'll care when he can acknowledge my identity. Anyway, the only reason I wish I hadn't done it is because I was very emotional during that time and I found after that some of that stuff were things I would've wanted to keep. I should've listening to my really good friend when she said, "Don't do anything when you're emotional."

It really came down to respect in the end. I feel like I relate respect to everything now because you can't trust anyone. I was so disrespected and treated unfairly at my old church, but I'm glad it happened because it's helped me to become the person I am now. At this point, I won't stand to be someone's doormat. I won't stand to be taken advantage of. I am the one holding the match, willing to burn bridges. I'm not asking anyone to love or accept me because I know that I have a lot of people who do love and accept me. I started going to church again at the church I've been going to youth group at for the past few years. They knew what happened at my old church and they told me that no matter what, they accept me and this is where I belong. I truly do believe this is where I belong.

I think one of the biggest things people need to realize is that though we can change our genders, it doesn't change who were are inside. Don't let people tell you it's just a phase or, like I was told, that "every teen goes through identity crisis, but you'll figure it out." What is there to figure out? Being any letter in the LGBTQ+ community isn't a choice. If it were, why would I choose this life with all the hatred, rejection, and lack of acceptance I get from people, especially family and church? The only choice you make is choosing to acknowledge you're a part of this community.

"It isn't about 'becoming' another person---I'm already who I am---I just want my body to reflect that. It's not like I'm suddenly changing from the person you've always known---this is more about your willingness to see who I've always been." -Cooper Lee Bombardier

# CAMPUS LIFE

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## PSNK Students Prepare for THON

By: Lauren Lizik  
Contributing Writer

UPPER BURRELL, Pa— The Penn State New Kensington THON members are preparing for a life changing event, the 46-hour dance marathon that is fast approaching.

The THON dance marathon will be held at University Park at the Bryce Jordan Center the weekend of Feb. 16 and run the whole weekend.

The exact dates of this event are Feb. 16, 17, and 18. Last year only 12 members went to this event. This year Penn State New Kensington plans on taking 30 THON members, hoping all 30 spots are full.

Paulina Iniguez, a junior at Penn State New Kensington said she is putting all of her free time into THON. Iniguez is THON Co-Chair. Iniguez and the rest of the THON chairs are managing their time wisely as they get closer to the big event. "Communication is key, we always have group chats talking about what is going on for that week," stated Iniguez.

The THON members have weekly meetings, and the THON Chairs have weekly meetings. The meetings last about an hour and they go over upcoming information and events happening around the school involving THON.

"I am working on a design for the shirts as we speak," stated Iniguez. "We like to have the shirts bright and cheerful."

The students are working on a lot of fundraisers to raise money for THON and a lot of fun activities to get everyone excited. The spaghetti dinner is coming up and so is the Basket Bingo. There is also a cancer ribbon key chain going on now during common hour in the cafeteria.

The THON members are going to be gift wrapping at the Pittsburgh Mills Mall the week before Christmas. Bring out all your gifts that need to be wrapped, and donate to a great cause said Iniguez.

"Thousand's of students go to this event from all the Penn State campuses it is such a life changing experience, I always try to encourage new members when I can here and there so they can experience it too," stated Iniguez.

The THON members are hoping to arrive early at the Bryce Jordan Center. "The line of people waiting to get in is like a mile long," stated Iniguez.

The students will be leaving early Friday morning on the 16 of Feb. At this event, the students and dancers are broken into shifts and the groups are formed randomly. The entire event lasts 46 hours total.

"Each year a line dance is taught to the students, this dance is repeated every so many hours throughout the 46 hours just to keep everyone excited and pumped up," stated Iniguez. The line dance is an easy fast moving dance that everyone will learn.

Being a featured dancer at an event like this is a lot to take on. There are a lot of specific rules to follow when you are a featured dancer that a lot of people don't even know about. "Being a featured dancer would be amazing but it is a lot to take on physically and emotionally, there is a lot that goes into it," stated Iniguez.

Nick Roth, who is also a junior at Penn State New Kensington, is getting excited for the event. Roth is THON Chair. He said it is getting pretty busy with a lot of the upcoming fundraisers they planned.



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Roth has been thinking about being a featured dancer but he said it is really a big decision. “Twelve students went to the 46 hour dance marathon last year, this year we have 30 spots for students and I hope each spot gets filled,” stated Roth.

“This event is life changing in so many ways,” added Roth. It is also just a great experience being at University Park as well. As the time gets closer to 100 days til THON, the members and chairs try to pump the students up as much as they can. “We even go around the school in crazy costumes just trying to get the students attention to join such a great cause,” stated Roth.

Gina Batiz, a Penn State New Kensington sophomore, is also preparing for this life changing event. This will be her first time at the 46 hour dance marathon, and she is really looking forward to it.

Batiz is THON Inspiration Chair. “We are working on posters now to get the word around and get people excited,” stated Batiz. This coming Wednesday is 100 days until THON, and the THON chairs and members are trying to get as many people as they can on campus to be involved and donating to such a good cause.

Batiz said a lot of work goes into this event behind the scenes, such as having to book hotel rooms. “The rooms have been booked for awhile now because of how fast they fill up,” stated Batiz. There are so many people at his event, it is crazy, and They are even in line at the door just waiting to get in, said Batiz.

Batiz said she is considering being a featured dancer, but only if she is chosen to be one. “The featured dancers have to follow strict diets and rules before the big event, it is a really big responsibility,” stated Batiz.

April Andreozzi is a freshman at Penn State New Kensington. She said she joined THON this year and is very happy she joined. She said it can be hard at time managing her time and being involved in clubs, but it is all worth it in the end. “So far, I really like THON, it is a great way to meet new people everyone is super nice,” stated Andreozzi.

Andreozzi marked her calendar and hopes to be attending the dance marathon. “It would be such an awesome experience, it’s all for the kids,” stated Andreozzi.

As Andreozzi takes on her Penn State career she hopes to stay involved with THON and even take on a chair position if the opportunity knocks. “It sure would be an honor,” stated Andreozzi.

Michele Marcks works in the Student Life office and she helps out all the clubs as best as she can. Marcks is looking forward to the 46 hour dance marathon as well.

Marcks has a long talk with the students before they head up to University Park. She tells them to remember they are Penn State students and they are here to represent themselves. She said they also take the first aid kit with them because safety always comes first.

“The students usually car pool to University Park,” stated Marcks.

Marcks said she usually goes up a day early with the featured dancers. Marcks oversees the club and the THON chairs. She said the chairs take care of everything; they just run everything by her and ask for her advice.

Each year the students set an ultimate goal and that is to beat the money that was raised last year. “This



year I hope we raise, or raise over \$50,000,” stated Marcks. It is such a great cause and everyone has such

# CAMPUS LIFE

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## PSNK students learn Global Leadership at GELE

*By: Isabella Bordonaro  
Editor In Chief*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.- Two Penn State New Kensington (PSNK) students share their experience at the Global Engagement and Leadership Experience (GELE).

GELE is a two-and-a-half-day conference that brings together international and U.S. students to discuss and learn about aspects of global leadership. According to the conference website, the two main purposes of GELE are, “it provides a space for diverse populations of international students and the diverse populations of U.S. students to talk about cultures and think through leadership through the variety of global perspectives. Second, for GELE participants to positively impact the global climate at Penn State, inspiring fellow Penn Staters—future leaders—to transform themselves into globally engaged and responsible citizens.”



Brunner (left) and Clark (right) share an embrace at GELE. (Photo Courtesy of Clark)

Raven Brunner and Alley Clark both attended the conference on October 13-15. Brunner, a senior corporate communication major, attended GELE as a student coordinator, and Clark, a business/marketing management major, attended as a participant.

“I attended GELE 2016 as a participant, and I really enjoyed the conference,” stated Brunner. “I made lifelong friends, and learned greatly about other cultures. That inspired me to reach out, and apply to be a student coordinator.”

Clark stated, “I wanted to attend GELE because I wanted to get more experience talking to people from other cultures and learn from their heritage. With my major, I feel I need to be familiar with as many cultures as possible.”

Since GELE is a leadership conference, Brunner having a leadership role within the conference, was a great experience, she felt.

“I was able to experience GELE from more of an outside point of view. It allowed me to see how this program helps others and it allowed me to assist with the leadership experience,” Brunner said. “It was great to apply the knowledge that I obtained from GELE 2016 and my leadership skills during GELE 2017. Being a student coordinator meant that alongside the other student coordinator, we were responsible for giving a 20-30 minute presentation and facilitating a discussion pertaining to it.”

According to Clark, GELE helped her personal and professional development as a student.

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“I feel that GELE really helped me become more culturally and socially aware. GELE taught me to not make baseless assumptions on others cultures,” she said. “As a domestic student, I learned to engage with international students on a personal level which creates friendships. Professionally, I feel more prepared to enter an international workplace and engage with others without being offensive and ignorant.”

Both students expressed how much they enjoyed GELE, and that they made great friendships through it.

“My favorite part of the weekend was the cultural showcase,” stated Clark. “In the showcase, most students gave a short presentation about their home country/culture. It was a fun way to talk about students’ everyday home lives rather than just seeing them generalized on television,” she added.

Brunner stated that her favorite part was also the showcase, stating that it was the most enjoyable part for her during both her experiences at GELE.

She also explained the benefits of the exercise they do at the end of the conference, which is a reflection of what GELE means to each participant.

“At the end, we always reflect on all the we've learned and what GELE means to us. Both years, that is a very eye-opening moment where we get to conclude as many of our experiences and findings from GELE. It's always great to hear all that GELE has done to help all of its participants,” Brunner said.

Clark felt that she learned the most from the conversations. “I learned to not make assumptions and just start conversations. Rather than being afraid or intimidated go talk to someone from another culture. Most times they are feeling the same way and would love to answer your questions or may even have questions of their own,” she said.



# EDITORIAL

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## Silent Night? Not Here, This Weekend

*By: Scott Sinclair*  
*Staff Writer*

Like many college students, I earn my money by being employed in the wonderful field of retail. And every year, towards the end of the fall semester, comes the annual ritual known as The Holiday Shopping Season. For college students there is no greater joy than balancing the end of a long semester, with all of its deadlines and preparations for final exams, against an over-caffeinated manager who swears hitting this year's sales goals is the most important event in human recorded history.

The sudden influx of extra inventory around Halloween signals the beginning of the impending Apocalypse. The staff is already starting to feel the strain at this point; one, because they are no longer able to walk two abreast through the store for lack of floor space, and two, because even now in their effort to sell a given product, it always seems to be at the bottom of the @#\*\$! Pile.

After a few weeks of this, any working college students tend to have a fall or Thanksgiving break. Time to rest and recharge for the push to finals, yes? Well, actually, No! In recent years retailers have decided that Black Friday wasn't quite long enough, so it has become common practice to absorb Thanksgiving into the shopping mayhem making it what, Grey Thursday? Brown Thursday? Either way, this is not an article meant to be critical of retail business practices, it simply serves in this case to be another day that would be a psychology major's dream in terms of people watching and studying behaviors.

One of the all-time favorites of the staff is that conversation with the 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> person in line when the store only had 20 of the popular item. "But you don't understand, I spend a lot of money here," is the popular argument as to why I should be able to channel my inner Star Trek and suddenly have the ability to materialize an extra widget from thin air and hand it to them with the appropriate amount of deference, reserved typically for heads of state. And this should be done based on the whole \$20 they spent last year.

This same inability to defecate an extra door buster also leads to the ever-popular hymn "You Ruined My Christmas." Now this is the extra special skill of those of us in retail to be able to time travel a month into the future and ransack their home or kick their dog or something to cause this December 25<sup>th</sup> drama in late November. If time travel was an option, I would have placed a rather substantial sports wager, thereby making the need for this job moot. Thereby not being involved in this truly mind-numbing conversation. Did I mention finals are coming? I definitely prefer my mind in a state of non-numb, thank you.

"Sorry you had to work on Thanksgiving!" is a popular refrain among well-meaning people. And that would be a wonderful sentiment if they weren't expressing it from inside the store, while shopping. At this point the internal monologue is in full volume; "Well you know, if you didn't happen to be here, like oh I don't know, RIGHT NOW....." Hopefully this stays part of the internal monologue, using the external monologue at this point could lead to a sudden lack of employment. While tempting, this is not good for long term financial health.

Some of the other wonderfully astute observations by the general public include; "Gee, it sure is busy in here!", "Man, I'm glad I'm not working tonight!", and the favorite among the staff; "It's not scanning in the register, it must be free tonight!" These comments are much like playing the lottery; somewhere in some store these comments will win the deserving customer a trip to the proctologist to extract the product that they had recently purchased. Luckily these types of behaviors by employees are discouraged by corporate, I believe there is an online training video which covers this topic thoroughly.

# EDITORIAL

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In a recent computer-age twist, The Weekend That Lacks Sanity gained an extra day; Cyber Monday. The well-meaning yet cryptic pricing incentives by companies for online sales that day tend to lead to some conversations that simply defy logic. For as much as the early part of this essay poked fun at the customer side of Retail-mageddon, this next one has me lighting a candle and praying for humanity on all sides:

“Hello sir”

“Hello, I’d like to buy this, but it’s \$10 cheaper on your website, can I get a price match?” [A standard policy]

“Sorry, no sir, we are prohibited from doing that on Cyber Monday” [A true statement]

“Well how do I get the better price?!” “Do I have to order it online?!” [A fair question]

“Yes, sir and if we have it in stock, you can pick it up today.”

“Have it in stock?! I’m holding in my hand!” [A good observation]

[Customer places online order, walks directly to customer pick up]

“I’m here to pick this up”

“When did you place the order?”

“Just now on my phone”

“It may be a while sir, there are hundreds of online orders, and the stock team is processing as fast as possible” [Also a true statement]

“But you don’t understand, I spend a lot of money here, I should be first!” [And there it is!]


“Sir, they can only fill orders as they get them” [Hey, common sense]

“I don’t want it anymore, cancel my order!” [Really? Hope that’s not a gift!]

“OK sir, your order is cancelled, have a nice day” [Keeping it positive]

“I will not!” [Perhaps a diaper change is required?]

The frightening thing is that this was a conversation between three adults. Happy Holidays, I can’t wait for the start of class so I can do something restful, like write a thousand page paper.



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

# EDITORIAL

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## Blacklisted YouTube Channels and Logic

By: Nathan Traini  
Managing and Online Editor

In the world of YouTube news, there are many sources to choose from. Left leaning or right leaning, YouTube has a channel discussing the news for you. What is special about YouTube as a media conveying platform is that creators have nothing to do with advertisers. YouTube can't tell you what your content is allowed to contain unless it is illegal or inappropriate and offensive. YouTube was a content creator's paradise for a long time, but that world is coming to an end.

This year, ads were shown on a Neo-Nazi YouTube channel. The advertisers were obviously upset and didn't want their ads to show up on that channel anymore. To assure all of their advertisers, YouTube wrote an algorithm that would select videos that had certain controversial words and demonetize them and hide them. The algorithm would do this by pulling ads, stopping comments, not allowing people to share the video, taking the video off of the recommended list, or stopping the embedded link from working. It is known that it is an algorithm responsible, and not employees, because the number of videos and the many different channels affected are too numerous to be done by hand.

The Sun did a story about this that states that, "Criticism of YouTube's policies is most acute among people on the right of the political spectrum, who fear that Silicon Valley is dominated by the left and determined to silence opposing voices." This is not true, progressive left wing sites like, *Secular Talk*, *The David Packman Show*, *The Humanist Report*, and *The Jimmy Dore Show* all have had videos taken down or demonetized. Each channel has done videos on this issue and after having watched each channel's response, their story seems to check out. Each show explains what the censoring has done and their stories are too similar to be coincidences.

At the start of this censoring all of the videos were demonetized on all of these channels. After two weeks only some of the videos were allowed to have advertisements. Each of the left wing channels I listed tell the same story of their videos being taken down or demonetized because the videos had a religious term, the term 'terrorists', or the word 'gender'. The purpose of the YouTube censorship was to assure that ads were only on content that didn't incite violence or hatred. Also the purpose was to stop ISIS and other terrorists from making money on videos promoting killing people.

*Secular Talk*, *The David Packman Show*, *The Humanist Report*, and *The Jimmy Dore Show* have a combined number of subscribers that totals 1,314,000 people. Videos from the channels listed above talk about and describe what other news organization say about a terrorist bombing or religious gathering. They critically evaluate what the news organization said about a news piece and if it was accurate according to other sources in the area. They are news critics and also develop their own original news stories.

If people actually watched the videos and saw the context there would be no doubt that the progressive channels are exercising their freedom of speech. That's the issue with this censorship. The algorithm only looks at the title and description. The algorithm doesn't watch the video for context/content. It arbitrarily deletes or demonetizes videos based off of one or two words. This limits the ability of the content creators to create which, in turn, narrows political debate online and therefore hurts our country more than it helps.

Hate speech and supremacist lingo have been around for a long time, and unfortunately they will be with us in the future. The proven way to overcome hate and bigotry is more speech, not the blatant censoring of words. To restrict speech is to fight in a battle of ideas with one hand tied behind your back. That hurts my

# EDITORIAL

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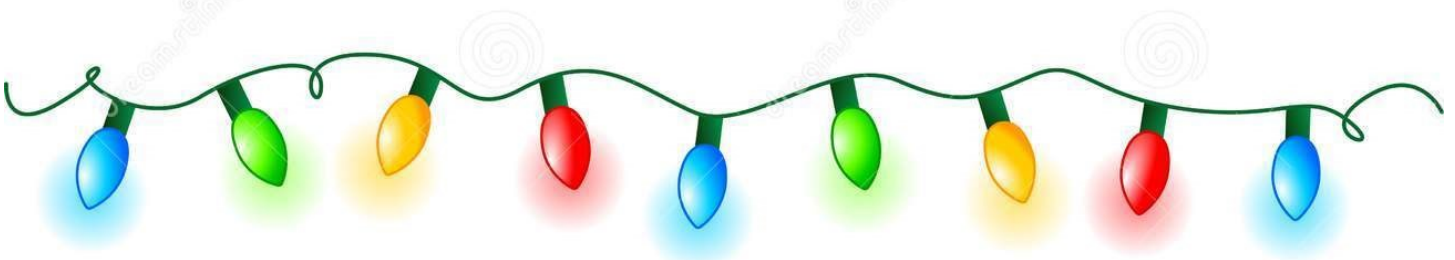
People who follow liberal philosophy are liberals. John Locke founded liberalism on the concepts of equality and liberty. The marketplace of ideas is a liberal notion. It states that everyone has the opportunity to express their idea and the best one would naturally win through deliberation. The act of putting into effect an algorithm that lazily and arbitrarily chooses singular words to judge a video's content goes directly against the liberal philosophy that right wingers cite as the problem with media.

I like to think of conflicting ideas in a if, then format. We will see how someone can prove that liberals don't control YouTube. If YouTube is controlled by liberals, then free speech is their top priority. If that statement isn't true, try the opposite: If free speech is not YouTube's top priority, then they aren't controlled by liberals. That was a simple exercise in logic that anyone can do with any objective idea. If someone calls themselves a liberal and reduces your freedoms they aren't liberal. The right wing people are wrong and YouTube is controlled by authoritarians. The people at YouTube have dictated what can be said and they paint a broad brush and forget nuance. That is a close definition of authoritarianism, restricting what can be said in a broad way.

Who is and is not liberal is a big discussion in America. To find out which side is more correct, look to the rest of the world and their political spectrum. A Bernie Sanders type politician in England, France, Germany, and Brazil is a center left or center politician. The American political spectrum is so skewed to the right that when a guy like Sanders comes around he looks like a far left wing nut job. To the rest of the world he's a reasonable politician. Reasonable, because they have done all the things Sanders advocates for decades ago.

Definitions of words and the context they're used in has allowed the human race to find common meanings and has brought us to the technology filled future we enjoy. Keeping definitions consistent is hard over the years and so meanings can be distorted. It is important then, that when someone calls themselves a liberal they should not be hypocritical. It is not enough when self proclaimed liberals say they are for liberty, when they support profits made on the backs of the sick. It is not enough to preach racial justice, and ignore the economic realities that had those races longing for justice in the first place.

Liberals don't run YouTube. YouTube is censoring non-offensive and factually accurate content that hundreds of thousands of people watch for news. That should scare everyone who is also concerned about net neutrality. Internet providers and YouTube want to restrict your online freedoms because they think of you as children. In their minds, the public can not be trusted to gather, process, and determine whether information is true or false, right or wrong. Don't allow people dictate what you think or say. Going against the grain is a bad way to clean a wooden table, but great for coming up with revolutionary ideas. Continue to imagine things outside of the box, but filter them through logic afterwards.



## Super Cute & Easy Santa Cookies!

Holiday baking season is right around the corner!! Start your holiday off right with these adorable, and easy Santa cookies that everyone (even St. Nick) will love!

### Ingredients:

- \* 1/4 ( 1 1/8 lb.) basic butter cookie dough (find recipe on [Southernliving.com](http://Southernliving.com))
- \* Sugar
- \* 1 tube red decorating frosting
- \* 1 tube white decorating frosting
- \* 1/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- \* 1.4 cup red cinnamon candies
- \* 20 mini marshmallows
- \* 2/3 cup flaked coconut



Photo courtesy of [southernliving.com](http://southernliving.com)

### How to Make It:

1. Shape basic butter cookie dough into 1-inch balls, and place on lightly greased cookie sheets. Dip a flat-bottomed glass into
2. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove to wire racks to cool completely.
3. Spread red frosting on top portion of cookie to resemble a hat; spread white frosting on lower portion of the cookie to resemble a beard. Attach 2 chocolate morsels and 1 cinnamon candy with a small amount of frosting to resemble eyes and nose. Gently press coconut into the white frosting. Press a marshmallow onto red frosting to resemble a tassel on the hat.

(recipe courtesy of [southernliving.com](http://southernliving.com))