

THE
NITTANY PRIDE

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Adulting In Disney

Franklin Regional Stabbing Suspect Sentenced

Oh What a State the Union is In

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CAMPUS LIFE

Campus Safety: A Different Perspective

A look at another Westmorland County university and its unique challenges in an urban setting

*By: Scott Sinclair
Staff Writer & Reporter*

GREENSBURG, Pa.- The campus of Seton Hill University in Greensburg sits in the middle of the city, with some of its off-campus buildings occupying space on city blocks. So, what of its safety record in that environment?

Penn State New Kensington was recently voted the safest campus in Pennsylvania by Niche, a company that surveys and reviews colleges nationwide. This campus sits in a rural setting with ample property surrounding it and a relatively small, two-building layout. By contrast Seton Hill is located just on the edge of the city of Greensburg with multiple buildings on campus, and some off-campus sites; including the Performing Arts Center and the “Art Yard,” a visual arts building, located on city blocks.

Police Chief Scott Kinnie and Deputy Keith Rosky spoke about the logistics of student and campus safety at Seton Hill.

“We have two patrol vehicles that drive both on campus and in town.” Rosky said. “They are patrolling 24-7.”

When asked if there is cooperation between the Greensburg Police and the Seton Hill Police Kinnie said “Yes, provided the student that may be involved in an incident identifies themselves as a student, we will intervene.”

Both Kinnie and Rosky noted that there are not any particular dangerous areas or blocks in Greensburg that students should avoid when they are off campus, but did note that one area of slight concern is located near to Westmorland Hospital.

Senior biology major Jim LaGrosse echoed the sentiments of the Chief and Deputy. “We tend to hang out in most of the same places,” LaGrosse said. “There are some stores and coffee shops near campus that are known of by the upperclassmen and we make these known to the incoming freshmen.”

“We communicate to new students during orientation that if they get lost in Greensburg they should call us immediately and we will get them back to campus safely,” Kinnie said.

There are safety measures in place to ensure students feel secure on campus as well.

“The campus itself is not gated,” Kinnie said, “but the buildings are limited access [by way of swipe cards, much like the PSNK Gym] and there is campus wide patrol and camera surveillance.”

“This is a major university campus with plenty of valuable assets,” Rosky added, “so the job is both based on protecting the students and the campus.”

According to the Pennsylvania State Crime Report from 2014 through 2016, which is available on the official Seton Hill website, reported violent crimes were non-existent. During this time there were no aggravated assaults or robberies.

The report also states that there were no reported cases of either rape or any other type of sex offenses.

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Some crimes that had taken place over this time period included violations of liquor laws, which had been in decline. There were 17 reported cases in 2014, falling to 16 in 2015 and 11 in 2016.

The crime of vandalism is also on the decline, with 27 reported cases in 2014, dropping to 23 in 2015 and 14 in 2016.

This report also shows there was only one motor vehicle theft during this time and one report of stolen property.

A major concern of college campuses nationwide can be that of disorderly conduct among its students. Seton Hill's numbers concerning this also show a declining trend within its student population. This number dropped from 17 in 2014, to 8 in 2015, down to only 2 in 2016.

The report does not make clear who the actors may have been in some of the crimes committed, in terms of students or the general public.

With the relatively low numbers of incidents and the trend towards the number of incidents falling in some categories year by year, Chief Kinnie, Deputy Rosky, and their staff appear to be providing a safe environment for the students of Seton Hill in an urban environment.

As LaGrosse puts it, "Nothing really happens here, it's kind of boring."

Editor's Note-The Nittany Pride wishes continued success to The Seton Hill Police in continuing to provide a "boring" campus to its faculty, staff, and students.



CAMPUS LIFE

Hail to the Extinct Lion

By: Rachel Queck
Staff Writer & Reporter

Hello my fellow Penn Staters. We are Penn State are we not?

Being Penn Staters we love our Nittany. Across the street we have the Nittany Highland Apartments, and up at main we have many different things named after Nittany. One of these being named the Nittany Lion Inn.

The Nittany Lion became Penn State's mascot in 1904 during a baseball game against Princeton because it was strong enough to beat Princeton's Bengal Tiger. The rest is history.¹

The Nittany Lion is also known as the Eastern Mountain Lion. It is supposed to be a brown, cat-like, animal that weighs 100 to 150 lbs and is 5 to 9 ft in length.²

This animal is supposed to be legendary to our school, however perhaps it is even more of a legend. The Nittany Lion, otherwise known as the eastern mountain lion, is said to be officially extinct.³

The northeastern population was said to be diminished by the 1930's. This leaves the idea that the Nittany Lion has not lived here in a long time.³

However, this is up for debate as many people in Pennsylvania still state that they have seen Nittany. I went to some people to find out what they thought about this and whether they thought that the animal was extinct.³

A student who wished to remain anonymous stated, "if the experts believe that the animal is extinct, then it must be. People make mistakes and could have easily mistaken another animal to be the lion."

Another student did not quite agree: "The experts do not always know everything and if people say that they see a huge lion then they must be telling the truth."

What you would like to think of it is completely up to you. Despite this extinction, this does not mean that the Penn State morale, pride, or strength has lessened in any perspective. To honor the sad extinction (or non-extinction) of this animal Penn State can forever leave people with the Nittany Lion representing strength, courage, and distinction.



The Nittany Lion.
(Photo Courtesy of Google Images)

1. http://www.pennlive.com/wildaboutpa/2018/01/eastern_mountain_lion_official.html

2. <http://www.blueridgeoutdoors.com/go-outside/eastern-mountain-lion-mystery/>

3. <http://www.psu.edu/ur/about/nittanymascot.html>

CAMPUS LIFE

How to Not Want to Give Up Your New Year's Resolution

By: *Kierstin Flickinger*
Staff Writer & Reporter

As the first month of the year comes to a close, many people are probably thinking about giving up their New Year's resolutions. After all, we tend to come up with seemingly impossible things that we want to get done in the newest year. We want to go to the gym, we want to eat healthier, we want to be our best versions. Too bad we've all been saying these things to ourselves for literal years.

But, not all is lost when it comes to these wishes. Because there are ways to keep your New Year's resolutions and actually be proud of what you can accomplish in a year. Here's my tips for how to keep them.

1. Focus on One Resolution

Firstly, trying to do too many things at once can become stressful and unlikable, which are both things that make you want to give up whatever it is that you're trying to achieve. By focusing on one resolution instead of multiple, you can put all of your effort into one thing instead of trying to balance yourself between multiple goals. After you're not spending so much effort on one thing, only then should you pick up a second goal, which maybe will take months, but it will be so much easier to keep at least one of the things you want to achieve. Pick the thing that is most important to you, and stick with it.

2. Don't Go All in At Once

This probably especially happens when one's resolution is to go to the gym. Anyone who is a member at any gym knows that right after January 1st, the gym is packed for roughly a month, and then it really isn't anymore. This year, I was guilty of buying my gym membership right after the new year started. However, it's only because I had recently quit going to one gym and was waiting for the discounted price that would come at the start of the new year. But, if you do decide to get a gym membership, start out by going two or three times a week and bringing that number higher as the year goes on. If you want to eat healthier, start by just changing one meal and working your way to all healthier meals. If you want to save more money, start by saving a small amount and work towards saving larger amounts. This will leave you less stressed and keep you more on track to actually completing your goal.

3. Don't Feel Pressured to Always Keep Your Goal

Sometimes, you're just going to not feel like keeping your goal. Maybe it's Saturday and you only made it to the gym two times that week even though you had said you were going to go three times. Maybe you're eating healthier but you're really craving a slice of cheesecake. Maybe you're supposed to save five dollars each week but you're not able to one week. All of this is fine. Forcing yourself to do something just because "it's your resolution" will make you resent doing that thing, since we all hate doing things that we are forced to do. So, go ahead and skip the gym one day, have a cheat day, and don't stress out if you really just can't afford to put away five dollars one week – just don't make a habit of not meeting your goal, because then you really will be not completing it.

These three things are not the only ways to help you keep your goals, so find what is right for you and stick with that. I've been making resolutions for years and last year just finally found that these three methods have helped me to keep my resolutions.



COMMUNITY

Franklin Regional Stabbing Suspect Sentenced

By: Ryan Fiore
Copy Editor



Franklin Regional stabbing convict, Alex Hribal.
(Photo Courtesy of *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*)

Nearly four years after the Franklin Regional High School stabbing, 20-year-old convict Alex Hribal has received a sentencing of 23 ½ to 60 years in prison.

Hribal, a sophomore at the time of the stabbing, is accused of entering Franklin Regional High School before classes on April 9, 2014 and stabbing 20 students and a security guard with two eight-inch kitchen knives over a course of five minutes. Miraculously, all victims survived.

Hribal made the following statement in court January 22nd: “I would also like to say that bullying is such a problem these days. Treating each other the way people would like to be treated is the solution.”

He went onto say, “I feel horrible about everything. There’s no words I can use, and nothing I can say, to make it all better. There’s nothing I can say to fix it.”

Terry Bachner, whose daughter Erica was a junior at the time of the stabbing, remembered what the day was like for her and her daughter.

“I first heard about it because my mother in law was watching the TV and I think they did some kind of announcement on the news and right after that, the phone call came from the school district,” Bachner said. “I remember I just didn’t know what to do. I started texting Erica and I found out that she was okay. That kind of let some of my stress go away, but still you have this anxiety of ‘Where is she? Did she see anything?’”

Bachner then revealed a horrific memory of her daughter’s.

“I remember her saying when they were being ushered to the middle school, she walked past one of the boys who was severely injured. She said, ‘I just remember seeing blood all over him and there was another person on top, just pressing down on his wounds to try to keep him from bleeding.’”

Savannah Smith, a Penn State New Kensington student, recalled how thankful she was that she was late to school that morning.

“My mom drove me to school everyday and this time she was taking forever to get ready,” Smith said. “On the way to the school I remember I was mad at my mom for taking so long and almost making me late to school because I wouldn’t get to walk and talk with my friends. If I would have been walking with my friends that morning I would have been one of the victims. My one friend was slashed in the face and my other friend’s white sweatshirt is still stained from my other friends blood.”

A former Franklin Regional student, who wanted to remain anonymous, recalled the events that took place the morning of April 9, 2014.

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“April 9th, 2014 started off as any normal day. I had missed the previous day of school, so I quickly went into my 1st period classroom to talk to my teacher. Seconds after I put my school bag down at my seat, the fire alarm went off. I thought nothing of it, considering I felt safe in my school; I just thought it was an accident or a prank.”

The source went on to talk about how that mindset quickly changed.

“I went to walk out of the classroom door and two students proceeded to run into my classroom screaming. I turned around to see why the one student was holding his back, only to see a huge gash in his lower back. I then realized this wasn’t a prank or an accident; there was something scary about to happen. As we were running to the exit, we could see students screaming and running for their lives, as Alex was only a few classrooms down from us. We got outside and all we could do was just run into the parking lot where we stood there waiting for further instructions as the fire trucks and ambulances started to arrive.”

Hribal was detained by the school’s assistant principal, Sam King, with the help of another student, shortly after. Hribal pleaded guilty to 21 counts of attempted homicide and aggravated assault in October 2017.

Hribal’s sentencing expressed many emotions among the former students and parents of former students.

“I personally feel that this is a good sentence, though if I would be able to pick I’d put him away for life,” said the source.

“Him going to jail is not going to correct his behavior or help him in any way,” Smith said. “I think that he should be receiving some sort of cognitive therapy or be in a mental institution. I also do not think that a minimum of 25 years is harsh enough. I think that a minimum of 25 years is disrespectful to the victims. Many of them live a few doors down from him, and they shouldn’t have to live their lives fearful of him attacking again. If he never receives treatment what is to say he won’t do something similar to this again?”

“I don’t know how I feel about his sentencing,” Bachner said. “It’s hard to say because I don’t know all the details of his story. I don’t know if he was being bullied by certain people and he was going in there being intentional about really wanting to hurt certain people or because now he says he has a mental illness, was he struggling with something else? Maybe he was dealing with his own demons and going, ‘I’m hurting, so I just want to hurt other people.’”

According to the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, Hribal’s mother, Tina Hribal, “said she would have helped her son if she had known about his mental illness.”

“I’m the one who needs sentenced, not him,” Hribal’s mother said in court.

Westmoreland County judge Christopher Feliciani rejected Hribal’s “plea of guilty, but mentally ill.” Patrick Thomassey, Hribal’s lawyer, plans to appeal.

“I would rather be in jail getting treatment for mental illness than free without it,” Alex Hribal said in his statement.

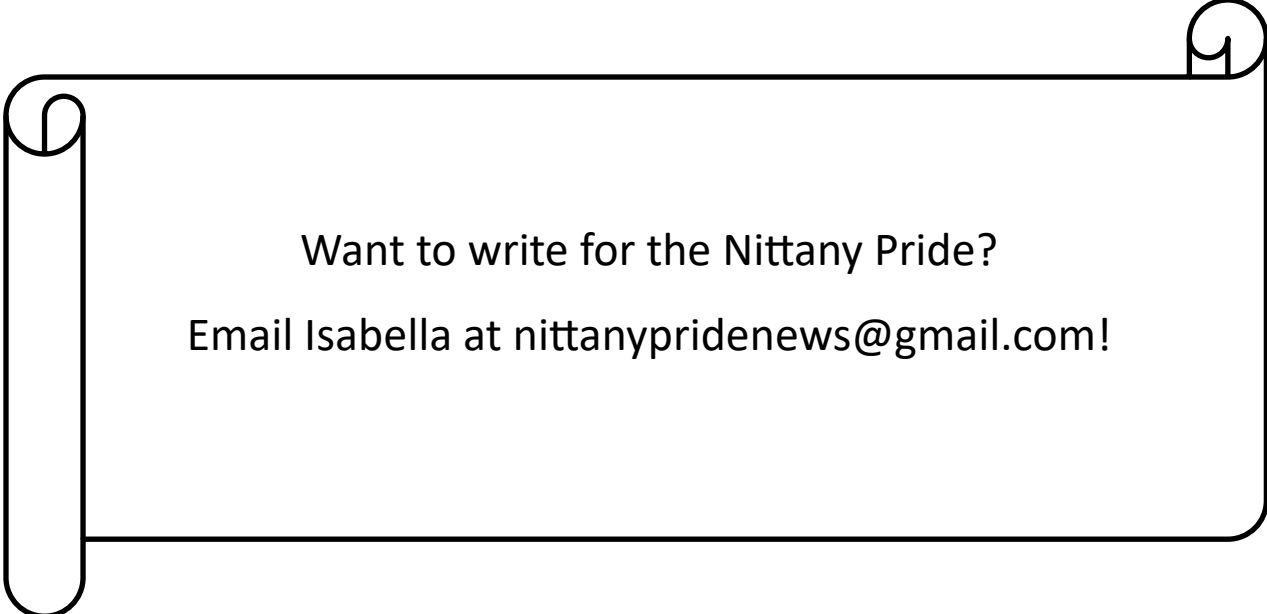
Hribal’s mental illness and being a target of bullying is believed to be his motive.

“I think society tends to focus more on security, who should and shouldn’t have guns, training your teachers and staff, how to react if there’s a shooter in the building,” Bachner said. “I think that’s all good, but ultimately, I think the main issue is what brings people to that point of wanting to come and shoot people or wanting to come and stab people. I think the focus needs to be on being more preventative from that end of the scenario and whether that’s focusing more on the mental health of students as they’re growing up...We’re so busy with life that you might not recognize the signs that someone’s crying out for help.”

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Hribal also admitted in his statement that “he thought his biggest mistake was falsely believing that if he took revenge, he would be happy.” In addition to time served, Hribal was also ordered to pay more than \$269,000 in restitution.

“I am just glad that this nightmare is over, and Murrysville and FR can go back to trying to be normal again,” the anonymous source said.



Want to write for the Nittany Pride?
Email Isabella at nittanypridenews@gmail.com!



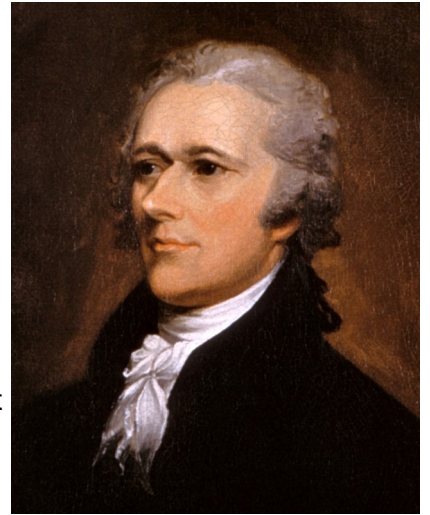
COMMUNITY

The Parentless Winners

By: Rachel Queck
Staff Writer & Reporter

The musical “Hamilton” has become a major hit all around the world by representing a man who got his start being an orphan. It is about an outstanding man who came from nothing and became something. In one of the songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda for the musical called “Alexander Hamilton” it is pointed out that one of the bigger struggles that he faced was being an orphan.

According to Unicef, an orphan is “a child under 18 years of age who has lost one or both parents to any cause of death.”² Just like it happened to Hamilton, this unfortunately happens to kids all around the world. In 2015, there were 140 million orphans around the world.² This type of struggle is everywhere and not as uncommon as one may think. Many of these people tend to be misguided, mistreated, or left on their own to fight for their own.



Alexander Hamilton. (Photo Courtesy of Google Images.)

What is the result of this, one may ask? Depending with whom you converse, some might say that orphans have more of a chance of being successful than traditional children and others say that they have less of a chance of being successful.³

Such example of someone saying that orphans have less of a chance of being successful in life is within the statement of a psychologist named Felix Brown. Brown stated in 2013 that “prisoners are two to three times more likely to have lost a parent in childhood than the population as a whole.”³

While Brown more than likely had statistics to back his statement, he still has somewhat of the opposite view of the future of orphans than that of Malcolm Gladwell.

Gladwell believes that because of the shock of losing a parent the children have to grow up and become mature faster. Therefore, they would have more of a chance of being successful as they had to get through things themselves.³ However, to each his own opinion.

With all opinions aside, the success of these people depends on the path they choose just like everyone else. They could make themselves into something great or they could make themselves into something bad. Despite the loss that these children (or minors if they so choose to be called) have gone through, they can still go on to do great things just as Hamilton did.

Some famous orphans include Edgar Allen Poe, J.R.R. Tolkien, George Lopez, Ice T, John Lennon, and Steve Jobs. These people were either adopted or lost their parents at too early of an age.¹ Despite this, they still managed to power through their struggle and go on to do great things. Just like you may have known that some of these famous people were orphans, there could even be people around you who have been through something similar to the people listed above.

From the perspective of an orphan themselves: If you are an orphan or have lost a parent, it may be rough at times, but you can still do amazing things if you power through. If you are neither of the aforementioned, you can do amazing things too and remember to be thankful for your parent(s) who are there for you and help you through life.

1. <https://www.babygaga.com/18-celebrities-that-grew-up-orphans/>

2. https://www.unicef.org/media/media_45279.html

3. <https://www.npr.org/sections/krulwich/2013/10/15/234737083/successful-children-who-lost-a-parent-why-are-there-so-many-of-them>

ENTERTAINMENT

Adulting in Disney

By: Isabella Bordonaro
Editor In Chief

As a child, one of the most famous family vacation destinations is Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Since 1971, with the opening of Magic Kingdom[1], the Disney theme park domain has stretched to 4 different theme parks, covering over 30,000 acres of land.

It's a dream destination for any kid that gets to experience it, and gives kids the chance to live like they're the characters in their favorite film.

Well, I never got to have that dream vacation. With the average Disney trip for a family of 5 costing close to \$8,000, it was just never in the books for my family.[2]

After years and years of yearning for this magically life changing trip, my family of now all adults finally were able to make the dream come true.

Through my grandparents' generous gift of a trip to Florida through their timeshare, and the fact that my dad, an air national guard member, could get discounted park tickets, all the ducks were in a row and WE WERE GOING TO DISNEY.

If you couldn't tell by my unnecessary capitalization, I was obviously very excited. Not only were we visiting the most magical place on earth, we were also going to the Universal theme parks. This includes the Wizarding World of Harry Potter (which gives me a lady boner just thinking about). Needless to say, I am a bit more than obsessed with the Harry Potter book series and movie franchise, so all my childhood dreams were about to come true in one whole week of wonderfulness.

So, I thought.

While Disney is a pretty magical place, adulting there is just too much. Between the price of alcohol and food, I easily could have spent an entire semester's worth of tuition in that place.

We spent our first day in Universal, at Harry Potter World. I was literally panting with excitement walking through Diagon Alley and Hogsmeade, which really looks like the films, and bathing in the delicious butter beer, that I barely realized I spent \$200 on food and souvenirs in barely 2 hours. They pull you in with the amazing décor and effects, that you don't even bat an eye spending \$50 on a plastic wand that sometimes makes shit move in a store window.

Although the prices were ridiculous, the rides themselves were pretty spectacular. The effects are other worldly, and you definitely understand the price of the tickets as you fly with Harry Potter through a quidditch pitch, saving the world from Lord Voldemort.

Next, came Magic Kingdom. Now this place is magical, with Cinderella's castle gleaming in the sunlight, and Mickey walking down Main Street U.S.A, waving to the crowd, with the smell of fresh baked cookies in the air.



Cinderella's Castle at night. (Photo Courtesy of Isabella Bordonaro)

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I didn't even get a picture with a princess, because there were 60 screaming kids in line and I had nothing to numb my pain during the 45-minute wait.

Which leads me to another point- the lines. We, at one point, waited 2 hours in line for the 7 dwarfs mine train (which sucked). So, after a day of walking 20 miles, you then stand stationary for 2 hours, with no real place to sit. Thankfully, we were able to get a fast pass for most of the other rides, but I will never not have those passes for a ride ever again. It just is not worth it.

Now, you'd think I maybe saved some money during a day of no booze, but alas, you would be wrong. With just eating breakfast and dinner, I still spent over \$60 just on myself.

Pretty much everything in all the parks is overpriced, and while Disney Food Blog may make it seem like the food there is top notch, don't be mistaken. It's all just overpriced theme park food that's all shaped like a mouse. Even the Starbucks there is more expensive; it's somehow special just because Peter Pan is flying away on your cup.

There was a silver lining to the driest place in all of Disney- the light show at the end of the night. At 9:30, the entire park gathers around Cinderella's castle to watch the light show, and see Tinkerbell fly over the park to close it out. It was incredible. There's laser lights all over the park, and the entire castle becomes a movie screen. I was Kim Kardashian ugly crying by the end, as I heard "Go The Distance" and "Part of Your World," while seeing my favorite characters fly up the castle. If you have the chance, see this show as much as you can. It really made my whole trip.

If I were suggesting any Disney park to someone old enough to enjoy the finer things in life, I'd say skip all the kid stuff and just go to Epcot. You can drink around the world for only \$100 a day!

You can enjoy margaritas in the tequila cave in Mexico, or take sake shots in Japan, and even have wine off a donkey cart in Italy. Epcot is definitely the best park for adults, but be ready to spend a pretty penny while you travel the world in a day.

Overall, while I may sound very cynical about how much the trip costs, and how the hype really is overdone, I do think Disney and Universal are worth visiting as an adult. Just make sure you save enough money to really enjoy it, and don't bring your kids until they're at least 14, unless you want to carry a screaming 5-year-old in 90-degree heat for 6 hours a day.

(Check out the next 2 pages to see some more photos from my trip!)

[1] <https://www.tripsavvy.com/when-was-disney-world-built-3266423>

[2] <http://time.com/money/4749180/walt-disney-world-tickets-prices-cost/>



Me enjoying double fisting before noon. (Photo Courtesy of Isabella Bordonaro)



ENTERTAINMENT



ENTERTAINMENT



POLITICS

U.S. Government Shutdown

*By: Ashton Caldwell
Staff Writer & Reporter*

As I am sure you are aware, the U.S. government had temporarily shut down from January 19th to January 22nd. Now, you might ask why that is. Well I will try to explain it to the best of my ability. Please note that within this article I do not side with the Democrats or the Republicans.

Before I go any further I would like to clarify what negates a government shutdown.

According to Jennifer Earl, who is a Fox News writer, “a shutdown occurs when Congress and the President fail to sign into law 12 appropriations bills (which determine spending for specific government agencies) in order to continue providing funding for government operations.”¹

In this case, the Senate could not come to an agreement on the bill H.R. 195-Federal Register Printing Savings Act of 2017. The House of Representatives voted on this bill on January 18th and it passed with a 230 to 197 vote.

According to Thomas Kaplan and Sheryl Gay Stolberg, who are writers for the New York Times, the bill “would fund the government through February 16... the bill would provide funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program for six years, and it would delay or suspend a handful of taxes imposed by The Affordable Care Act.”²

The President commented on the House’s vote in a tweet stating that a, “Government Funding Bill passed last night in the House of Representatives. Now Democrats are needed if it is to pass in the Senate - but they want illegal immigration and weak borders. Shutdown coming? We need more Republican victories in 2018!”³

In an attempt to try and prevent the shutdown, the Senate reconvened at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 19. They had until midnight to try and pass this bill. There were 99 Senators present that day. Senator John McCain was the one absent due to health reasons. This bill needed 60 votes out of the 99 senators to prevent the shutdown.

Our Senate, also known as the 115 Congress, is composed of 100 Senators. It is broken down like this; 51 are Republicans, 47 are Democrats, and 2 of them are Independents who can side with either party, and the President of the Senate, Vice President Mike Pence. Pence only will cast a vote in the event of a tie.

As the day progressed, the Senators had a chance to give speeches to express their views and opinions.

The Democratic senators were not too pleased about the bill. According to the article by Thomas Kaplan and Sheryl Gay Stolberg, “Senator Chuck Schumer, the Democratic leader, said, there will be no incentive to negotiate, and we’ll be right back here in a month with the same problems at our feet.”²

The Republicans, on the other hand, tried to get the bill passed.

As the debates continued in the Senate, there was an attempt by President Trump and Chuck Schumer to try and prevent the shutdown and at the same time, ensure that both parties had their desires met. So there was a meeting held in the White House.

President Trump tweeted that there was an “Excellent preliminary meeting in Oval with @SenSchumer - working on solutions for Security and our great Military together with @SenateMajLdr McConnell and @SpeakerRyan. Making progress - four week extension would be best!”³

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Senator Schumer on the other hand had different feelings. When he returned to the Senate he made the following statement, “during the meeting, in exchange for strong Deferred action for Childhood Arrivals protections, I reluctantly put the border wall on the table for discussion...even that was not enough to entice the President to finish the deal.”⁴

With that, the Senate continued its debates as America watched on with anticipation.

Finally at 10:14 EST, the Senate began to vote. The final vote was not cast until after midnight (after the shutdown began). The final senator to cast his vote was Mitch McConnell. The final vote according to senate.gov, were 50 YEAs, 49 NAYs, and 1 Not Voting (John McCain).

Due to this, our government shut down on January 20. Throughout the weekend, the Democrats and the Republicans blamed each other for the shutdown.

The President was not happy either with the shutdown, especially since January 20 marked one year of him being President. He tweeted “This is the One Year Anniversary of my Presidency and the Democrats wanted to give me a nice present. #DemocratShutdown.”³

Throughout the country, people were angry at their congressmen and the President for the shutdown. This was due to the fact that many federal employees were “furloughed.” It was clear that the shutdown needed to end for the sake of the people, the congress, and the President.

The Senate, on Monday, Jan. 22, met to try and accomplish this very thing. After much debate and compromise, they passed the bill. This bill will now, according to an article by Carl Hulse who is a writer for the New York Times will, “fund the government through Feb. 8 and extended funding for the popular Children’s Health Insurance Program for six years.”⁵

Once it passed the House, President Trump signed it into law, allowing the government to reopen on Jan. 23.

However, this is only a temporary solution. Our government is still running on borrowed money. There is also still issues surrounding immigration reform.

But there is hope from the President that there will be not be another shutdown in February. He provided the following statement on Jan. 22, “ I am pleased that Democrats in Congress have come to their senses and are now willing to fund our great military, border patrol, first responders, and insurance for vulnerable children. As I have always said, once the Government is funded, my Administration will work toward solving the problem of very unfair illegal immigration. We will make a long-term deal on immigration if, and only if, it is good for our country.”⁶

- 1.<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/01/23/what-happens-during-government-shutdown-7-things-should-know.html>
- 2.<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/22/us/politics/congress-votes-to-end-government-shutdown.html?>
- 3.<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/954478044487520257?lang=en>
- 4.<http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/370327-schumer-offer-on-border-wall-is-off-the-table>
- 5.<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/22/us/politics/schumer-democrats-shutdown.html>
- 6.<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-president-donald-j-trump-8/>

POLITICS

Net Neutrality Frugality

By: *Nathan Traini*
Managing and Online Editor

The Internet isn't as complex when thinking about how your computer connects to it. The internet is a collection of servers in different locations connected together, sharing information along a wire or signal. That is why someone can't point to one computer or server say the internet is here or there. It is the collection of servers that makes the Internet.

The original creators of the Internet were government employees working on the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network funded by the Department of Defense, according to *History.com*. That means that the Internet was paid for by your tax dollars and the citizens of America own it. Of course, other countries came up with their models of it and it grew from there.

Today, we pay a company to connect us to the internet. Nobody owns the Internet itself, but ISPs (Internet Service Providers) like Xfinity, Verizon, and Comcast own access to the internet. Since they are the gatekeepers, they could speed up or slow down your connection to specific websites, or servers.

Net Neutrality is the idea that everyone who has access to the Internet should be able to go on any website and the speed should stay the same. This policy was enforced by the FCC until recently and a court will decide if it should end it. ISPs could make a lot more money if they charged you for specific websites instead of just the connection to them all.

This isn't just about the money; it's about the control of information. The ISPs could only give you access to the websites that benefit them only and negative information they don't want you to know would be kept from you.

There are countries which don't have Net Neutrality today and they are paying for it. For instance, Portugal is one of these countries and there is a base charge for very limited access. There, you have to pay extra for access to Netflix and Hulu, in addition to the membership fees you have to pay to even use those sites, according to *The LA Times*.

The other danger is that new websites wouldn't get traffic; even though they might be revolutionary, they wouldn't be included in the bundles. This inevitably brings website innovation to a screeching halt. Imagine a world where you have to pay extra to even get on Facebook. That sounds completely ridiculous.

The vast majority of people who know what Net Neutrality is, which now includes you, don't want to end it. Companies have picked up on that, so even though they could make a killing if they used the end of Net Neutrality to their advantage, they would lose most of their customers if they did.

There is still the danger that all of the ISPs could do as they wish. Chattanooga, Tennessee has already found a solution to the crisis. Their electric provider is the city itself. In 2008, they took on the project of creating a smart power grid that could reroute "electricity on the fly to prevent outages, in addition to carrying Internet traffic," according to *CNN*.


What is amazing is the internet speeds they have and the price they charge for it. For unlimited access to any website, Chattanooga charges its customers for \$70 1000 megabits/sec and \$58 for 100 megabits/sec. That blows the other ISPs out of the water because their average internet speeds are 9.8 megabits/sec.

This development has brought in tech businesses that want a piece of the blazing fast pie that is the Internet connection of Chattanooga. It also protects the people and businesses that use the service because the ISP is publicly owned.

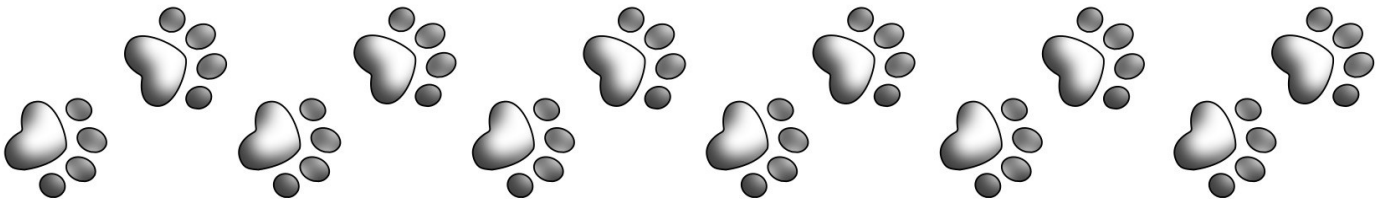
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The people in Chattanooga are living in the future in two senses. The first sense is that the access to information will never be curtailed due to public ownership. The second sense is that since a person can get information nine times the speed of everyone else, you are on to the next thing and a person in PA is still on the last task.

Every city should follow Chattanooga's lead if possible. The stakes are very high for discovery, research, and the survival of the human race in general. If the person who would discover the cure to cancer or faster than light travel never has access to the information to make that discovery, we are as good as dead.



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POLITICS

Climate Change in the U.S

By: *Brandon Burchette*
Copy Editor

As of late, major weather storms have brought natural disasters that have affected major cities across the United States. This past year, U.S citizens bore witness to record breaking storms that left some stranded and endangered. Climate change has been a subject heavily up for debate, even in politics. But given the nature of recent events, is it possible for us to continue to ignore the signs of significant differences between how weather has affected our society historically and the point that it has reached now?

In Erie, PA, a record setting four feet of snow buried the city on Christmas day. Tim Craig of the Washington Post covered the incident[1].

It was reported by the National Weather Service, that Erie received 34 inches on Christmas day alone, exceeding the 24-hour snowfall record that had been previously set. That following day, 24 more inches of snow accumulated breaking the previous all-time two-day state snowfall record, set in 1958 when Morgantown received 44 inches.

Lastly, the city of Erie received 97 inches of snow in the month of December alone, making it the snowiest month in the history of the city. Reports say that the city averages roughly 100 inches during the winter season.

What is dubbed as a bomb cyclone took over Boston this past year as well, with strong winds, thundersnow, and a high tide that pummeled the city. Spencer Buell of the *Boston Magazine* found that tides came close to reaching historic levels that hadn't been documented since 1921[2].

Slushy water that was knee deep, flowed through the city. Certain parts of the city warned residents to stay indoors out of fear that ice acting as "shrapnel" could harm denizens of the area.

Arguably the biggest weather story to discuss from this past year would be Hurricane Harvey. When the Hurricane made landfall, inflicting an historic amount of rainfall over Texas that lead to severe flooding, questions of climate change became more pressing. It didn't help that not long after Harvey caused devastation along coast lines, a deadly trio of hurricanes soon followed.

Chanh Kieu of CBS News conducted a report on the increase in temperature of the ocean's surface, which essentially provides "fuel" for forming hurricanes.[3] Studies conducted have confirmed that future hurricanes will tend to be stronger if the sea surface temperature will continue its current "warming trend" into the future. But this is ultimately only in regards to hurricanes and the paths that they expectedly take during tropical storm season, so whether weather as a whole is drastically changing is still up to date.

Unfortunately, the idea of global warming is largely still up to date in our society. Despite what seems to be increasingly dangerous weather storms, whether or not the Earth's climate is truly shifting has yet to be proven. Until then, I imagine that citizens will wait and prepare for any circumstances that they may be faced with as the years pass by. It's my hope that eventually everyone from varying perspectives, can look deeper into the issue to collectively formulate the best option to deal with the changes in weather.

[1] <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/12/26/record-setting-christmas-storm-buries-pennsylvanias-fourth-largest-under-more-than-4-feet-of-snow/>

[2] <http://www.bostonmagazine.com/news/2018/01/04/boston-flooding-bomb-cyclone-2018/>

[3] <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/does-climate-change-affect-hurricanes/>

POLITICS

The Year of Trump

*By: Ashton Caldwell
Staff Writer & Reporter*

Well everybody, we have done it. We have made it through one year under the Trump Administration. We have survived the fake news, the firing of 59 Tomahawk Missiles into Syria, the emotional outbursts, bullying on twitter, the potential outbreak of WW3 with North Korea, a new tax bill that will help the wealthy, and the continuing effort to repeal and replace Obamacare.^{1&2}

After reviewing all these major events that have taken place while Trump has been office, I started to ask myself a question, "How do people at PSNK feel about living one year under the Trump Administration?"

To answer this question, I went around campus to ask people how they felt. Here is what they had to say.

One student, who wished to remain anonymous said, "I hate him. He scares me because he does not know how to keep his mouth shut. Most Americans value a leader like that, but there are a lot of mentally unstable people who probably will attack us, if you make them mad."

Another student had similar feelings. This student said, "I do not think that he is qualified to be president. I feel like he cares more about the bottom line than the people. I think he should be impeached as he is both immature and a threat to our nation, which makes me believe that he is beyond unqualified for the position."

I have mixed feelings about President Trump.

When he was inaugurated on January 20, 2017, I was very happy. I enjoyed listening to his inaugural address. There was one part that stuck out to me. In his address he said "that whether we are black or brown or white, we all bleed the same red blood of patriots, we all enjoy the same glorious freedoms, and we all salute the same great American Flag."³

I really believed that he was going to unite this country. I thought that he was going to be a good leader. I thought that he was going to truly fix the problems that the country is facing. However, as time went on my feelings began to change.

Reading the news about potentially going to war with North Korea did not make me happy. Listening to my family constantly worry about their health care going away because of the effort to repeal and replace Obamacare made me lose respect for him. Even now I still go back and forth. There are some days that I like him and there are others where I cannot stand him.

Despite all of this, we all should still have respect for the position of the presidency. By this I mean that we should not take what Trump has done in the past year and let it purely define our perception of the position of the presidency. Think of it in the perspective that there were 44 men before him. Men like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy helped truly define what it means to be President of the United States. The president is supposed to be an individual who is intelligent, charismatic, and have the desire to lead and serve the United States.

I would like to bring to everyone's attention to a quote by President George W. Bush. He stated that, "Leadership to me means duty, honor, and country. It means character, and it means listening from time to time."⁴ This quote I believe, whether you like George W. Bush or not, truly defines the position of the presidency.

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When I bring all of this to your attention, I do not want to give the impression that we all need to respect Trump and not disagree with him and give up our rights as American citizens. As a matter of fact, I am implying the exact opposite. I encourage all of you, to speak up about our thoughts and opinions and to be proactive with them. We need to participate in the democratic process. We need to write and speak with our representatives to let them know about the issues that we are concerned with.

We need to speak our minds (in a respectful manner of course). Now, I know that this sounds cliché, and I am sure that a lot of you have heard this many times, but it is the only way that things will change in the United States. If we do this then hopefully our country will turn over a new leaf and the opinions that were previously mentioned will change.



(Photo Courtesy of whitehouse.gov)

1. <http://abc7.com/politics/president-trumps-first-100-days-a-timeline/1924621/>
2. <https://www.cnn.com/2017/12/20/politics/major-moments-from-trumps-first-year/index.html>
3. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/the-inaugural-address/>
4. https://www.brainyquote.com/lists/authors/top_10_george_w_bush_quotes

PennState



Nittany Lions



POLITICS

Oh What a State the Union Is In

By: Nathan Traini
Managing and Online Editor

The level of hypocrisy and half truths extruded by the President during The State of the Union was made known to me by my mother making groans and jeers in the next room. I hurriedly turned it on and to my delight, I was not disappointed. With no statistics, facts, or sources to support his outlandish claims, Trump was supported only by the zombie-like applause that took up 40 minutes of the hour and included a 20-minute-long speech.

Trump started the State of the Union Address by pandering for applause. This is a tradition that Obama and George W. Bush took very seriously, where they honor people who went through ordeals. They do this at the beginning to start off on a good and happy note. They pick outlying situations to support their narrative. What really depresses me is that these are true stories and real people who are but pawns on the national stage, unwittingly being exploited.

Trump described a fruitfully exploding economy which has no basis in reality. While the stock market goes up to break records, the wages of poor and middle class workers have not gone up. With Walmart being this nation's largest employer, the country is exactly where it was five years ago.

My dad works at PGW, a windshield manufacturer in Creighton, which is moving his job to Mexico. This was announced after the tax cuts were. This personal story concerning my father is not an outlier. AT&T and Walmart did give \$1,000 bonuses, but right after that, they fired tens of thousands of people, according to Newsweek and Reuters. Not only were these bonuses and pay increases a pittance in comparison to the multi billion dollars in pure profit, but they were offset by the firing of thousands.

The tax bill, when mentioned, got massive applause and again with zero context. According to *Business Insider*, millions of middle class families "making between \$48,600 and \$86,100 — will see their tax bill increase." During the same time period, businesses will not see a tax increase.

The most surprising detail was what Democrats would give standing ovations for. The resistance, or lack thereof, was in full display. They cheered enthusiastically for Trump's promise to lower pharmaceutical drug prices, even though they didn't support a bill put forth by Bernie Sanders to import cheaper drugs from Canada just last year.

The faux resistance showed their true colors again by standing up in exuberant support for an increase in the military budget. Trump talked about "fully funding our military," implying that there will be another increase in the military budget. This statement is unthinkable after we just increased the military budget by billions.

The Intercept had a great take on this. "With a \$700 billion military budget, the U.S. would be spending more than three times as much as China on its military, and 10 times as much as Russia." The recent increase of \$80 billion to the military budget in 2017 would have been enough to pay for tuition free college for people who make less than \$150,000 a year.

The Democrats gave a standing ovation for many policies which normalized Trump and represented their spineless nature. Their resistance is similar to the resistance a sieve provides for water. A better depiction that the resistance is flaccid, in the rebuttal by Joe Kennedy, cannot be imagined. Kennedy, a congressman who thinks marijuana prohibition should continue, which goes against the vast majority of Americans, started on the right foot. He identified the problems with a soaring economy that leaves the middle class wanting.

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When you contrast Joe Kennedy's rebuttal with Bernie Sanders', one thing is obvious; Sanders has policy solutions and Kennedy does not. Whether you agree with them or not, at least Sanders offers real policies and nuanced rebukes of Trump's claims. Kennedy's speech did not offer one policy solution for the millions of uninsured people (Universal Healthcare), massive college tuition debt (free tuition), and a crumbling infrastructure (publicly paid for instead of privatizations of roads).

The issue that I've always had with Democrats is that they'll pander to the real problems but they never offer real solutions to them. They'll give you vague platitudes that make you feel better for a while, but nothing will be done. Whether the reason for the inaction is laziness or corruption, the continuance of it will not help the Democrats in 2018

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-walmart-wages/walmart-hikes-minimum-wage-announces-layoffs-on-same-day-idUSKBN1F01N8>

<http://www.newsweek.com/christmas-att-layoffs-midwest-bonuses-trump-758391>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/will-my-taxes-go-up-or-down-under-trump-tax-reform-bill-2017-12>

<https://theintercept.com/2017/09/18/the-senates-military-spending-increase-alone-is-enough-to-make-public-college-free/>



Valentine's Day Heart Shaped Donuts

Since the holiday of love is right around the corner, here's a fun treat to make for your sweetie, or someone who brings love to your life!

(recipe from sugarandcloth.com)

Makes about 12 donuts (2" round)

You'll need:

1 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
2 tsp baking powder
1/4 cup granulated sugar
3 eggs
8 oz (1/2 lb) ricotta, whole or skim
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 tbsp grated lemon zest
Canola oil, for frying (or another oil with a high smoke point)
Confectioner's sugar, for dusting
Deep-fry thermometer



Photo Courtesy of sugarandcloth.com

In a medium bowl, sift together the flour and baking powder. Add sugar, eggs, ricotta, vanilla extract, and lemon zest. Mix until just combined.

Pour the oil into a deep, heavy pot. Leave at least two inches of space at the top for safety. Using a deep-fry thermometer, heat the oil over medium until it reaches 325-375 degrees F.

Fry a test doughnut: Using a small ice cream scoop or a spoon, drop a scoop of batter in and turn it occasionally. It should take 3-4 minutes to turn golden brown. Carefully remove and cut in half to check if it's cooked all the way through. Test another if needed.

Fry the remaining doughnuts. Don't overcrowd the pot; fry in batches. Place doughnuts on a plate lined with paper towels to soak up any excess oil.

Ingredients for the glaze:

1/4 cup whole milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
Pink food coloring
Sprinkles

Combine milk and vanilla in a medium saucepan and heat over low heat until warm. Sift confectioners' sugar into milk mixture. Whisk slowly, until well combined. Remove the glaze from the heat and set over a bowl of warm water. Dip doughnuts into the glaze, one at a time, and then place them on wax paper to set.