

THE

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Penn State Soccer Program: Family is Everything

Student Government: Campus Leaders

Pittsburgh Goes Black & Brown for "The Comedy Get Down Tour"

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Photo on the cover features the PSNK soccer team, courtesy of Penn State New Kensington Athletics.

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CAMPUS LIFE

PSNK Student Funds Semester Through GoFundMe

By Danielle Richardson
Staff Writer & Reporter

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — A student at Penn State New Kensington has successfully funded their senior year through GoFundMe. GoFundMe is the world's number one fundraising website. Users can create a campaign and share it on their social media accounts.

Louis Payne, who is a second semester senior majoring in Information Science Technology, found out about GoFundMe through Facebook. "I saw people sharing someone else's story on Facebook, so I thought it would be a good way to try to get my story out there," Payne said.

Payne says he did not expect his own campaign to be successful. His GoFundMe campaign raised over \$1,500, which was enough to fund his senior year. "It was enjoyable seeing how successful that was," he said. "I didn't think I had that many friends."



Senior Louis Payne funds his final year at PSNK thanks to GoFundMe donations.
(Photo Courtesy of Louis Payne)

The Maryland native is a member of Penn State New Kensington's men's basketball team and works two jobs while maintaining a 3.13 GPA. Payne shares his perspective with many other students who struggle to finance their education. "It's not really asking for a handout. It's a need. It's asking for help. Especially if you put the work in. You never know what people are going through," said Payne.

Theresa Bonk, the Director of Student Affairs on campus, expressed her support for the initiatives of these students. "Access and affordability to education is so important," Bonk said. "I think that our campus is becoming a leader in helping students to be more financially literate with the ASPIRE program."

Payne is a member of the ASPIRE program, which is a way for students to learn about making sound financial decisions. "It is a model for helping students to understand that and helps them to get funding for their education," Bonk explained.

Payne shared his new perspective since his success with the website. "It changed me a lot," Payne said. "Some girl I didn't even know messaged me on Facebook and told me 'just keep fighting.' Just having that support from other people made me realize that I am still going to graduate no matter what. It made a big impact on me to know that there is people out there willing to help."

Upon graduation, Payne says he has two jobs lined up. "I have one for Verizon as an IT back home, and one here as an entry level position. I also want to get into coaching."

CAMPUS LIFE

Student Government: Campus Leaders

By Sarah Steighner

Co-Editor-in-Chief

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. —Another semester has arrived, and the Penn State New Kensington (PSNK) Student Government Association (SGA) is bringing vast opportunities and resources for students.

SGA is mainly responsible for overseeing the management of campus clubs and exists to help PSNK students voice their opinions in regards to everything campus related.

The six SGA executive representatives this year include President Marissa Russo, Vice President Cody Shoemaker, Treasurer Adis Juklo, Secretary Aarush Gupta, Upperclassmen Faculty Senate Representative Bill Carney, and Underclassmen Faculty Senate Representative Jon McCabe.



Tom Krieglstein gives a dance theory presentation during the leadership training for club officers Sept. 18 headed by SGA. (Photo Courtesy of Student Life)

President Russo is currently a 21-year-old senior majoring in Information Science and Technology. Russo explained that she wanted to be SGA President in order to give fellow students the same opportunities and experiences that she has had on campus.

Her duties as President include being Chair for the Student Activities Fee (SAF) and Student Facility Fee (SFF) committees, holding public meetings, talking with students, and overseeing campus clubs with Vice President Shoemaker.

Russo has also been actively involved on campus throughout her time here. Aside from her involvement in SGA, Russo's past activities and club involvement include the Outdoor Adventure Club and being a Lion Ambassador for the Admissions Office.

Russo explained exactly what SGA does for the school. "We exist to make the student experience at PSNK a great one. We listen to students and try to improve based on their feedback on everything from common hour activities to the classroom," said Russo.

Russo explained one of the major goals that SGA hopes to achieve as it exists. "I believe we [SGA] help to promote the sense of community on campus. In our network of clubs, you can meet so many people and it really makes you feel welcome at home," said Russo.

Director of Student Affairs Theresa Bonk and Student Life Coordinator Lauren Blum, work together to help oversee the SGA staff and their needs.

CAMPUS LIFE

Bonk described the numerous responsibilities of SGA. "The SGA is responsible for maintaining the fiscal accounts of the various clubs and organizations on campus. Along with their primary responsibility of representing the student body on campus, they must oversee the registration of the clubs and organizations on campus," Bonk explained.

While Bonk works perhaps most closely with SGA President Russo in her leadership responsibilities, she gets to oversee the majority of the SGA executive team.

"I believe that this team is working well together, but as with any team it takes a little while for members to understand their individual roles in an organization and then how those roles compliment and support each other in order to accomplish the mission and goals of that organization. They have a lot of responsibility," said Bonk.

Vice President Cody Shoemaker is another vital part of the executive staff of SGA. Shoemaker is a 24-year-old senior majoring in Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology.

In previous years, Shoemaker has been a part of THON, Drama Club, CAB, and Outdoor Adventure Club. He has also held the positions of SGA Treasurer and Baseball Club President, while also being an Orientation Leader and working in the Athletic Center on campus.

"I think the SGA at PSNK brings people the opportunity to have an opinion on what happens on campus. Through SGA, we provide the students an opportunity to have input on where their activity fee and facility fee money gets used on around campus," Shoemaker said.

The PSNK SGA also has an official office on campus. This office is located in Café 780 near the pool table.

"The office is open as long as someone from SGA is there, which usually amounts to about four hours of the day. The main purpose (of the SGA office) is for SGA staff. However, we encourage people to stop in when the office is open," Shoemaker said.

Bonk also encourages students to stop by the numerous offices on campus that aid in anything they need. "Students should feel free to stop by the Office of Student Affairs to share any concerns or issues that they may have and tell us how they are doing. In addition, students are also welcome to go to the Director of Academic Affairs and the Chancellor," Bonk said.

"Students involved in clubs should stop at the Office of Student Life first to ask questions and get assistance for club needs. All of us are here to work with the students to help them succeed at Penn State New Kensington. I'm sure that any faculty or staff member would be happy to meet with individual students or student groups," Bonk said.

The next public meeting for SGA will take place at noon in the Art Gallery on Wednesday Oct. 21. SGA meetings are required for all club officers. However, they are open to anyone from the public who wants to be more involved and hear about what is going on around campus.

ATHLETICS

Penn State Soccer Program: Family is Everything

By Archama P. Ort
Staff Writer & Reporter

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.— While fall creeps up on our campus in New Kensington, the weather gets cooler while the soccer season heats up.

Coming off a strong season last year the soccer organization here at school looks to have another great season. Leading the team this year is ,newly hired head coach, Samuel Lauris. Lauris took over for former coach Jordan Valentine who recently left for the head coaching position at Defiance College in Ohio. Players on the team describe Lauris as a motivated person that wants to win just as badly, if not more than themselves. He is new to the program with high hopes of making a mark at Penn State.

Assistant coaches Pat and Casey Cavanaugh also act as a key empowerment to the team’s success. Pat has dedicated years to this organization and continues to give contribution to the lions through his great knowledge of the sport. His son, Casey Cavanaugh, was even named to the all-conference team last year for the third consecutive time.

Casey continues making a very large impact on the soccer program at Penn State by being a big brother and a great coach to the entire team. Every player on the New Kensington team has no difficulties expressing how fond they are of the Cavanaugh’s and their support.

This season, the team makes it clear that family is everything. They work in unison to accomplish their goals of becoming the best they can be. One of the newest editions to the team is junior Roya Fashandi. Fashandi describes how being a woman in a men’s league only pushes her harder to become as fast and as physical as everyone else on the field.

Another new face on the field is freshman Cole Wilson who says he appreciates the small campus atmosphere and the tight knit soccer program that he plays in. With many young players on the team this year, the team has had several students step up as the leaders of the team.

While only playing his second season at the New Kensington campus sophomore Joaquim Atayi, better known as Joc is coming into the new season knowing he needs to step up and become a front-runner for the creation of a successful season.

Atayi plays the demanding position of center back and sticks with the mentality of staying driven and being a key role for the Lions. Atayi was born in West Africa and states that his motivation stems from being blessed with the position he is in currently.

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He says, “How many kids from my country make it to the U.S. and get a chance to play and be a part of a family and program like the one we have here in New Kensington?”

Another teammate who is making a hefty impact on the team is sophomore striker Pascal Bikanura, who is also appreciative of the situation he has found himself in. If you catch yourself around Bikanura and the slight mention of soccer comes up, you will notice a certain type of sensation and charisma that emits off of him.

The love for the game and the people he plays it with mean everything to Bikanura. He says, “This is not a game that you can play by yourself, you need teammates and mine are also my brothers.”

He continues with expressing how happy he is with the time he has got to spend with friends and family at Penn State. Bikanura explains how he wants to continue to challenge himself in hopes of becoming a better person and player every day.

Some season games that the players and their fans are looking forward to will be the long awaited game that is coming up on Oct. 3 against Penn State York and the much anticipated game at Brandywine on Oct. 24. With the season shaping up, these games will be essential to the team’s success this year.

Get out there and support your men and woman in blue and white and see for yourselves the hard work and dedication that makes this team push themselves, and the family that has been brought together solely through the love for the game.



Sophomore Pascal Bikanura puts his best foot forward as this years soccer team begins a new season. (Photo Courtesy of Penn State New Kensington Athletics)

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SOCCKER SCHEDULE

September 30	Westmoreland Community College	HOME	4 P.M.
October 3	Penn State York	HOME	1 P.M.
October 4	Penn State Worthington Scranton	HOME	1 P.M.
October 7	@ Penn State Beaver	AWAY	4 P.M.
October 10	Lorain County Community College	HOME	1 P.M.
October 14	Mercyhurst NE	HOME	4 P.M.
October 18	@ Penn State Mont Alto	AWAY	3 P.M.
October. 24	@ Penn State Brandywine	AWAY	2 P.M.

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VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

September 29	@ Penn State Greater Allegheny	AWAY	7 P.M.
October 3	vs. Penn State Wilkes Barre @ Penn State Fayette		2 P.M.
October 3	vs. Penn State Worthington Scranton @ Penn State Fayette		4 P.M.
October 4	vs. Penn State Lehigh Valley	HOME	12 P.M.
October 4	vs. Penn State Hazleton	HOME	2 P.M.
October 6	@ Penn State Beaver	AWAY	7 P.M.
October 15	vs. Penn State DuBois	HOME	7 P.M.
October 17	@ Penn State Brandywine	AWAY	2 P.M.
October 17	vs. Penn State Schuylkill	AWAY	4 P.M.
October 18	@ Penn State York	AWAY	2 P.M.
October 18	@ Penn State Mont Alto	AWAY	4 P.M.

ATHLETICS

PSNK Volleyball Digs Into the Season

By Jay Wu

Staff Writer & Reporter

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. – As the upperclassmen students on the New Kensington branch campus have noticed from past experience, the first month of this school year has been about welcoming the new freshmen to our Penn State campus.

As expected, a college environment includes more challenges and a different set of rules for participating in athletics and being involved around campus. Women’s Volleyball is one of three fall sports that students can get involved with on campus.

Assistant Coach, Brad Sauder, explained that there are certain standards that students are expected to meet while playing a sport. “From an academic standpoint, we are actually implementing around the athletics. All athletic departments need to have a 2.5 GPA or above which is starting this week. This is something that we are mimicking from Penn State Fayette,” Sauder said. “A lot of times, students come here and have the idea that they’re just going to play sports but really, this is about a campus with academics and then athletics.”

These new standards fall into effect in the fifth week of the semester since there have been several weeks for the students to become accustomed to their courses and to do testing, completing homework assignments, and working on projects.

Sauder also added that the New Kensington branch and sports’ team coaches recognize that they are facing other universities with higher education standards and levels. However, as a team, they are working day in and day out to provide students with what they need. Sauder explained that the team is made up of quiet individuals, but communication between the players and the coaches is essential in order to be successful

The Women’s Volleyball team and coaches are already aware of the teams that are going to provide the toughest challenges. The team will be playing the Penn State University Athletic Conference (PSUAC) and the remainder of their games are against other Penn State branches.

Sauder explained that the Western Penn State teams such as Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Du Bois, and Beaver are the biggest rivals because they are all branch campuses in the same region and each of those teams are faced twice. Meanwhile, Eastern teams are only faced once throughout the fall semester.

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Freshman, Bethany Weiblinger, from Apollo-Ridge compared her high school team experience to her new college experience. "I think college is more involved. It's more serious. Volleyball games in high school were just about playing for fun" Weiblinger said. "The environment is a lot different too. The girls are more into it like they've been playing more."

Weiblinger also explained how she feels more accepted and supported by her Penn State New Kensington team, while in high school it was more about cliques with more bickering and gossip between people. However, playing on a high school team allowed her to know her team and the people she attended school with for a long time, which made it easier sometimes to work together and play the game.

On Sept. 17, the Women's Volleyball team played a home game against the Penn State Beaver branch campus. After a strong effort and team work, the New Kensington women were defeated with a score of 3-0, Beaver. However, the team will have a chance to redeem themselves against the Beaver campus.

As mentioned from the assistant coach, they get to have a rematch but it's an away game. Their rematch against Beaver is on Tuesday, Oct. 6. Let's hope they can win their rematch and continue to demonstrate teamwork and courage! WE ARE...PENN STATE!



ENTERTAINMENT

Pittsburgh Goes Black & Brown for “The Comedy Get Down Tour”

By Nico Regoli

Staff Writer & Reporter

Editors Note: This article contains quotes from a live comedy show that might be unsuitable for children and offensive or vulgar.

PITTSBURGH, Pa. – Friday Sept. 18, hundreds, if not thousands, gathered into the Consol Energy Center, as “The Comedy Get Down Tour” touched down in Pittsburgh for a night of laughs, as provided by five comedy icons.

Stop number three on the 10-stop tour, the home of the Pittsburgh Penguins, was graced by the presence of stand-up heavyweights, Charlie Murphy, Eddie Griffin, George Lopez, D.L. Hughley and Cedric ‘The Entertainer’. Nicknamed the “Black & Brown Tour,” each comic had the audience gasping for air from start to finish. The comedians discussed multiple topics ranging from their childhoods, relationships, their views on America, Donald Trump, and more.

The night got off to an interesting start by beginning late, leaving fans wondering if they still had time to use the restroom and buy refreshments. It wasn’t until 20 minutes after the expected start time that the Consol was filled with the sounds of War’s “Low Rider,” best known as the theme song to George Lopez’s self-titled sitcom. The audience thunderously applauded as host, George Lopez, walked on stage for the opening set.

Lopez began his act by apologizing for the late start, stating, “My ticket said eight (o’clock).” He jokingly blamed the show’s tardiness on his fellow comedians, noting that he was always on time before he “started working with black guys.” Lopez was also the first of four performers that night to go on the attack against leading Republican Presidential Candidate Donald Trump, for his racist tendencies and proclamations...and hair. Among other topics, Lopez discussed growing up Mexican, learning by making his own mistakes, marriage, his Darwinist views on food allergies and, to the delight of attendee ‘Big’ Antoine Pendleton, the softening of today’s youth, stating “that’s what (joke) I liked the most.”

Once he was finished with his set, Lopez went into host mode, introducing the next comic of the night, Charlie Murphy, the great Eddie Murphy’s older brother. The first half of Murphy’s act was primarily about his marijuana experiences. He discussed how in Colorado (where marijuana is legalized), you can smoke near a cop, tell them you’re lost and they’ll drive you home, but in New Jersey, you have to smoke into the vent above your hotel bathtub to avoid trouble.

He also talked about the moment one realizes their high has kicked in, recalling a personal experience involving Shaquille O’Neil in a Buick Lacrosse commercial. Murphy also noted how he could further explain why he believes Caitlyn Jenner is not a hero, but remembered that Jenner “knows how to throw a javelin.” Murphy ended his set by listing the four things he looks for in women: 1.) She’s funny. 2.) She can cook. 3.) She’s sensual. 4.) That none of these three women find out about each other.

ENTERTAINMENT

Next on stage was Eddie Griffin, who was a true thief in the night, as he stole the show with his no holds barred routine. Nothing was off limits for Griffin, as he joked about anyone and anything imaginable. He talked about the ridiculousness of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), how terrorists never fly late at night and explained using the N-word in biracial terminology.

Griffin's main topic, however, was his views on religion, calling out Jehovah's Witnesses as a multi-book publishing company with relentless sales tactics, asking Muslims why anyone would want 72 virgins when one woman is challenging enough (Griffin has been divorced three times) and discomforting Christians by quoting Bible verses which state that Jesus had "skin of bronze" and "hair like a sheep," implying Jesus was black.

As Griffin left the stage, George Lopez returned to talk about The Original Kings of Comedy (Steve Harvey, Bernie Mac, D.L. Hughley and Cedric 'The Entertainer'). Two of those kings were closing the night's show.

The first king, D.L. Hughley made his way to the stage and began his set by describing the terror of driving through Pittsburgh's Hill District. Hughley also discussed his childhood fear of angering his mother, stating that he wouldn't disobey her rule of never leaving the house, even if it was on fire.

He also talked about the extreme honesty of his autistic son's sex life and joked about marriage, which Pittsburgh Public Schools employee, Raeshonda Wellen really enjoyed.

"I liked the jokes about the kids and marriage," said Wellen.

Last, but certainly not least was legendary comedian Cedric 'The Entertainer,' the second original comedy king on the tour and a hardcore fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers Hall of Famer Franco Harris being one of his all-time favorite players. Unlike his fellow comics, Cedric avoided bringing up the GOP, instead taking an active and musical approach.

Cedric discussed southern black people speaking too fast to interpret, and taught the audience how to out a gay man (see how long that man can last without jamming to Beyoncé's "Single Ladies").

The show came to an end with Cedric singing a chicken-inspired parody of America's National Anthem, followed by a photo-op with all five comedians on stage, where Lopez revealed a Pittsburgh Pirates Roberto Clemente jersey underneath his suit to demonstrate his own Pittsburgh pride.

ENTERTAINMENT

Halloween Costumes That Are to Die For

By Paige Owens
Co-Editor-in-Chief

PITTSBURGH, Pa. – As the leaves change and begin to fall, the beloved summer air turns crisp and cool, and as Halloween is creeping up quickly, it's never too early to start planning the perfect costume.

This year, a lot of Halloween costumes for men, women, and couples are going to be inspired from pop culture and films that have recently been released or films that we are eagerly anticipating.

Some of the notable films of 2015 are *Fantastic 4*, *The Avengers: The Age of Ultron*, and *Antman*, which will all bring in a high volume of both superhero and supervillain costumes. Yet, highly anticipated films, such as *Suicide Squad*, *Batman vs. Superman* and *Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens* are creating a costume frenzy of famous and notorious characters.

Junior Communications major, Chris Lucidi, expresses his love for Halloween, costumes, and special effects. "Halloween comes only once a year, I have a lot of time to think and plan out what I want to do" Lucidi says. "Since I'm really into special effects, I always do something wild."

The Mad Hatter

One of the costumes Lucidi is considering for this Halloween season is his own rendition of the Mad Hatter, which could be a popular choice this year with the May 2016 release of *Alice Through the Looking Glass* around the corner. Lucidi says, "For when I go to parties, I plan on doing an eerie and terribly mad hatter, since I'm really into *Alice in Wonderland*."

Jack and Sally

Although a little old school, Jack and Sally from *The Nightmare Before Christmas* makes a beautiful, zombie-esque, living dead couple's costume (or as individual male and female costumes). This costume is one that can really highlight the use of well-crafted cosmetics, but can also be created entirely out of thrifted clothes for a costume on a budget.



You can dress like Jack and Sally if you want (Photo Courtesy of Flickr)

ENTERTAINMENT

The Joker and Harley Quinn

After a sadistic photo of Jared Leto portraying the Joker for 2016's *Suicide Squad* was released earlier this year, this costume idea is certainly going to be a popular one. This also pairs perfectly for a couple's costume with Harley Quinn, who is also featured in the film. There are so many different ways to pull off these crazed costumes, it'll be hard to decide the one that fits best.

Queen of Hearts

When you think of *Alice in Wonderland*, typically you think to dress as Alice. But spice things up this year and ditch the blonde locks. The Queen of Hearts costume can be a variety of different looks that range from the film adaptation of this character to an original, new look. Not to mention – this costume would look amazing and original paired in a group or as half of a couple's costume.

Anything Dead

Think of what you want to be for Halloween and do what needs to be done – make it dead. Halloween is supposed to be about being scary and what better way to do that than to make your costume into a zombie? Maybe you want to go as a flapper, a cheerleader, a pirate, or a clown. Spice up these looks with a little fake blood and create an original, living dead character. This is also a great way to turn an innocent Disney princess or storybook character into something a little creepier. Instead of Little Red Riding Hood, try Little Dead Riding Hood.

With so many great things happening in pop culture and the film world, not only are there a ton of costume ideas to choose from, but it's going to be difficult to pick the best, most original one! It's never a bad choice to go with the classics though: Batman, Catwoman, a witch, or a vampire are never going out of style. Once you pick your poison, make sure to have fun with your friends and significant others getting dressed up and stay safe on Halloween night, which falls on the last Saturday of October.

COMMUNITY

Haunted Houses: You're in For a Scare

*By Darren Myers
Managing and Online Editor*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — The best season is upon us: Fall. The days, once long and warm, are now short-lived. The nights now creep up on us faster than before. There is a crisp chill rushing through the air. Leaves are falling as the wind is blowing. The weather is more comfortable. The fashion is better. The colors you see outside almost leave you in disbelief, and the longer nights that accompany fall open the doors to haunted houses.

Whether you enjoy a good scare or you are interested in the behind-the-scenes make-up that is involved with a haunted house, you can't help but to see them popping up all around the city. From small-town, family-organized ones to The Scarehouse, people from all areas gather to face their fears. You can go on a date or you can go with a group of friends, either way you're guaranteed a frightening time at these top-notch haunted houses:

Hundred-Acres Manor

Just 20 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh, tucked away in South Park, Pennsylvania, Hundred Acres Manor has been featured on The Travel Channel, USA Today, Yahoo News and has been selected as "Pittsburgh's Best Haunted House" by Haunt-World Magazine. Back for its 12th year, Hundred-Acres Manor offers five haunted attractions for the price of one. The only way to escape is by finishing the maze at the end.

General Admission: \$20

Kennywood's Phantom Fright Nights



(Photo Courtesy of Flickr)

Celebrating their 14th year, Phantom Fright Nights is a main attraction in the Pittsburgh area. Filled with over a dozen haunted houses and attractions, Phantom Fright Nights is certainly worth the costly ticket. In between haunted attractions, Kennywood also has some of its popular roller coasters open for those daring enough to ride. Passengers experience all of the whips and turns of a normal Kennywood day, but in total darkness.

General Admission: \$32.99



(Photo Courtesy of Flickr)

COMMUNITY

The Scarehouse

Located, in Etna, just ten minutes from downtown Pittsburgh, The Scarehouse is for the advanced-level haunted house goers. Shuttles take guests from the free parking available at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium on a short five minute ride to the line outside of The Scarehouse. Short lines keep this haunted attraction continuously running on schedule and keep the scares at an all-time high. An attraction at The Scarehouse is what they call "The Basement." The Basement is a different part of the haunted house and requires a separate, more expensive ticket. The reason being is that in order to go into The Basement, guests must sign a waiver. This waiver allows for the actors to touch, blindfold, handcuff, write on, and pull the hair of the guests and allows for a much deeper, more fearful experience.



(Photo Courtesy of Flickr)

General Admission: \$24.99

The Basement: single ticket: \$34.99

2 person pass: \$49.99



(Photo courtesy of Wikimedia)

West Virginia Penitentiary

"Where history meets mystery." Located about an hour and a half from Downtown Pittsburgh, the former West Virginia Penitentiary is considered one of the best haunted attractions around. Paranormal activity is a common occurrence at a place that was once considered one of the bloodiest institutions in the nation, where former inmates were housed in a maximum security area. Throughout the haunted attraction, guests will be locked in cells, trapped in a maze, and walk through the dungeon of horrors.

General Admission: \$25-\$28 depending upon the weekend

EDITORIAL

Soul Of A Citizen: Book Review and Thoughts

By Millie Brassler

Contributing Writer

The Penn State New Kensington Fundamentals of Civic and Community Engagement course taught by Dr. Andrea Adolph has been assigned to read “Soul of A Citizen” by Paul Loeb this semester.

After reading the book, I felt very positive and motivated. I was feeling connected with the characters and totally inspired by her story. One of the points that touched my soul was the how she discovered her hidden inner strength. The character Virginia Ramirez came to realize the importance of what is in her heart. This led her to challenge her community.

She underwent the process of finding her voice. This process helped to strengthen her faith. Ramirez’s journey was difficult. She stood up for herself including when her husband criticized her involvement. He told her, “That’s not your role. Hispanic women weren’t supposed to do these things.” I relate to this because I have heard this quote many times before from family and friends. Personally, I feel that it is difficult not to have a voice when you have different cultures than those around you. I feel like no one listens. However when you look at Ramirez’s story, she spoke out and stood up for her beliefs. No matter what she did she made a difference.

Throughout the book, Loeb uses different stories to show how people were involved in their community to make a difference and why we should do the same. Loeb conveys that we are all able to fight in this life. He tells us how sometimes when we are silent, we keep our opinions to ourselves. This has happened to me. Sometimes I stay silent either by fear or society itself. Silence hurts and can be frustrating.

Paul Loeb expresses his thoughts on having everyone’s voice heard. We all have to fight for our rights. We must change and fight for what is true. We must also get involved to enrich our own spirit. Loeb tells us not to be victims. This way we can choose to be larger than the result we are seeing. If only we look within ourselves, since the power to enforce is our hands.

Loeb conveys that perhaps the most challenging experiences teach the most valuable lessons. He also expresses that when times are difficult we must not pretend. We must confront the reality and do something about it. This makes us understand that getting involved will give us a greater sense of satisfaction and helps us grow as people.

I encourage everyone to read this book, and if possible take Dr. Adolph’s Civics class.

THON SCHEDULE

September 16— Meeting/Canning Sign Ups
September 21—Canning Sign Ups
September 23— THON Kick off Party
September 25-27— Canning Weekend 1
October 8— Rock-a-THON
October 14—Meeting
October 19—Canning Sign Ups
October 23-25—Canning Weekend 2
October 28—Pumpkin Carving in Café 780
November 3— Meeting
November 7—5K at University Park
November 9—Canning Sign Ups
November 11—100 days till THON Celebration
November 13-15—Canning Weekend 3
December 6—THON family carnival at University Park
December 7—Meeting
January 15—Meeting
February 1 —Meeting
February 15—Meeting
February 17—Sendoff Dinner
February 19-21—THON WEEKEND!!



Editorial Staff

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