

THE  
**NITTANY PRIDE**

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**How “Surviving R. Kelly” Forced America to Acknowledge Survivors**

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**Penguins’ Matt Murray Makes Remarkable Return to the Ice**

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**Distant Stairs: Back Stairwell Project Prolonged Until Mid-Feb**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>“Hamilton” Causes Campout at Student Life Office.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PSNK THON Committee Plans to Raise \$35,000 in Lieu of Event.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Distant Stairs: Back Stairwell Project Prolonged Until Mid-Feb.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>How “Surviving R. Kelly” Forced America to Acknowledge Survivors.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Monster of the Month: Mothman.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>All is Not Lost, Even If the Election Is.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>President Trump Addresses the Nation on the Need For a Border Wall.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Social Media’s Effects in 2019.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>It’s Too Much.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Clemson Tigers Visit the White House After Championship Win.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Penguins’ Matt Murray Makes Remarkable Return to the Ice.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>The Standard is the Standard.....</b>	<b>24</b>

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# CAMPUS LIFE

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## “Hamilton” Causes Campout at Student Life Office

*by Scott Sinclair*  
*Director of Visuals*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.— It’s not often that an off-campus Student Life event creates such a demand that a line forms outside the Student Life Office, which is exactly what happened Jan. 10 when tickets became available to PSNK students for the uber-popular musical “Hamilton,” currently being performed at the Benedum Center in Pittsburgh.



The line for Hamilton tickets (Courtesy of PSNK’s

“The idea of doing something with my friends that was fun and interesting definitely appealed to me,” said Rachel Queck, a junior Spanish major.

The line started forming at about 11 am and reached as far as the Adult Learner and Veteran’s Lounge. As the students sat in the hallway, they talked, played cards, listened to music, and studied. Tickets went on sale at 12:15 and were snatched quickly by the awaiting students.

The PSNK Student Life Office is able to offer discounted event tickets to students for many different Pittsburgh events. The Hamilton tickets were no exception to this; the highly sought-after tickets were being offered to students for just \$50.

A lot of students including Queck sought the experience to meet new students and bond further with new people.

“Waiting in line allowed me to meet new people and talk with others that I didn’t know very well,” Queck said.

The wait seemed worth it, even with the idea of possibly being late for class. Freshman Bethany Baney was seen entering her Local News Production Class about halfway through but the huge smile on her face and the excited waving of the ticket envelope left little doubt as to where she had been.

The Hamilton event, which is among the most sought after “Penn State in Pittsburgh” in recent PSNK history, takes place on January 24th at 7:30pm

# CAMPUS LIFE

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## PSNK THON Committee Plans to Raise \$35,000 in Lieu of Event

*by Janet Surma*

*Videographer/Contributing Writer*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. – At a THON meeting held in Penn State New Kensington’s art gallery early in November, students discussed their goal of wanting to raise \$35,000 with the help of many participants and events.

Jonathan Schofield, president of Penn State New Kensington THON, said that THON is the largest student run Philanthropy in the world that raises money to help fight pediatric cancer. He said all of the money goes towards paying medical bills for the kids and paying for lab time so that the disease can be fought, and that THON raises money in hopes of finding a cure for this horrible disease.



Schofield and other members of the THON Committee during the meeting (Courtesy of Janet Surma).

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He said that this organization impacts the children with cancer and their families. Schofield said not only does THON raise money for them, but it makes sure the children have fun and feel strong at events including THON weekend at the Bryce Jordan Center at Penn State University Park.

Schofield said last year he was on the floor of the BJC where all the dancers were, and that there were several children there who are battling this disease. He said they were running around, having a great time, and a lot of them had squirt guns to chase him around with.

“To see the smile on their faces was amazing,” said Schofield.

At the meeting, Schofield said THON weekend 2019 will be held from February 15 to 17.

Schofield said his goal for the campus is to raise \$35,000, and in order to do so, he needs anyone and everyone, because the more people the organization has helping, the more it can do for the kids.

# CAMPUS LIFE

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He said the most important event coming up in support of THON is Basket Bingo because it is one of the biggest events THON has every year. In addition, he said that it has the most potential to make the most money and hopes to raise a few thousand dollars with it.

Aaron Dominick is a sophomore at Penn State New Kensington who has been a member of THON for 2 years. He said he will be attending Basket Bingo and will also be in attendance at other events when they get closer to the time.

“Helping people who need it is an important part of life. The kids carry heavy burdens, so trying to make that burden less is the least I can do,” Dominick said.

Aside from Basket Bingo, Schofield said THON also has a few small fundraisers such as a hoagie fundraiser and some dress down days at local high schools and would like to raise money from them. He said he doesn’t have a set amount he would like to raise from those because they are purposed towards slowly growing the total.

In order for the events and fundraisers to be successful, Schofield said students, most of them if not all of them, want to help. He said a lot of them are freshmen that THON members talked to during freshmen orientation because several of the orientation leaders were a part of THON and talked about it during the New Student Days.

As Schofield said, mostly all students on campus like to help out with THON. Alec Eshenbaugh, a junior, is not a member of THON. He said that even though he isn’t a part of THON, he still tries to help as much as he can by donating when he has extra cash.

“It’s a very hardworking foundation, and the kids deserve it. I think without the contributions of nonmembers, it would be difficult to do as much as they are able to,” said Eshenbaugh.

He said it helps a ton when people chip in because every little bit counts.

Other than students, Schofield said he appreciates the help of the public and reaches out to them by hanging up flyers and posting via social media. He said most flyers are posted at local churches, fire halls, and other places that members know have a large crowd intake.

It is a big time of the year for THON, so with many upcoming events, the organization hopes to achieve their goal and beyond, for the kids.

# CAMPUS LIFE

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## **Distant Stairs: Back Stairwell Project Prolonged Until Mid-Feb**

*by Scott Sinclair*  
*Director of Visuals*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.— The closest distance between two points is not a straight line at Penn State New Kensington.

This trend will continue until at least mid-Feb. according to Chancellor Kevin Snider, who spoke with a group of students in the campus' Local News Production class.

“We are convinced that we are cursed in this stairwell.” said Snider, “Because it has been one thing after another.”

The first issue that came up, according to Snider. was the difficulty in removing the floor tile and having to continue to explore different options to accomplish this. Upon deciding on a system that used water to remove the tile, the use of that water revealed a leak which then flooded the basement of the building. After tile removal began, asbestos was discovered in the floor tile and that added to the process because the asbestos had to be abated.

The ongoing construction requires everyone on campus to take route that requires students to briefly be outside to find their way to Café 780, the bookstore and the Success Center. This is not ideal during the harsh winter months of January and February.

The Success Center has seen a bit of a drop off in traffic because students aren't able to enter the front door as usual but must go down a set of isolated stairs next to Café 780's kitchen area and are typically used as a staging area for catering in other parts of the building.

Adam Robinson, the Learning Coordinator in the Success Center, noticed the lack of energy and is looking forward to having students coming in frequently when the construction is completed.

“I'm not used to it being so quiet down here,” said Robinson.

As for Chancellor Snider, he is just looking forward to the campus getting back to normal.

“I certainly appreciate the patience that you guys [students] have and the patience that the staff and faculty has while we get through this.”

# CAMPUS VOICES

## How “Surviving R. Kelly” Forced America to Acknowledge Survivors

by *Kierstin Flickinger*  
Managing Editor

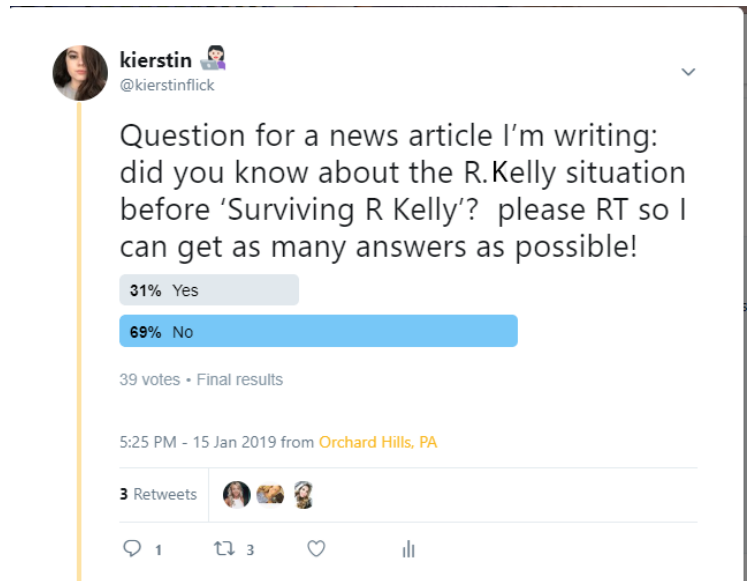
Before January 3, I didn’t really know who R. Kelly was. I knew that he sang “Ignition (Remix)” and “I Believe I Can Fly,” but that’s all. However, when Lifetime aired “Surviving R. Kelly,” I realized that I really knew nothing about R. Kelly. In addition, according to a Twitter poll that I took, others didn’t know about the allegations against him.

I watched the entire six-episode mini-series and found myself searching the internet to learn more about the R. Kelly situation. After all, his trial for 14 counts of child pornography happened before he released “Ignition (Remix)” which is arguably the most well-known song by R. Kelly. How did I, as someone who considers myself to be very up-to-date on pop culture, not know that he allegedly assaulted multiple girls and women?

In July of 2017, millennials started to become privy to the R. Kelly situation. A BuzzFeed article titled “Parents Told Police Their Daughter Is Being Held Against Her Will In R. Kelly’s ‘Cult’” told the story of two parents, identified as J. and Tim, and their daughter who they believed was being brainwashed and held in a cult-like situation.

The article identifies three former “members” of R. Kelly’s inner circle, who say that they lived in properties rented by R. Kelly and that he controlled every aspect of their lives (Parents Told Police Their Daughter Is Being Held Against Her Will In R. Kelly’s Cult).

These three women, along with many others, go on the record on air to talk about what happened to them, including being starved and beaten. Kitti Jones says that R. Kelly had complete control over her. She had to ask to use the bathroom, drink anything, go to sleep, and more (“Surviving R. Kelly”).



# CAMPUS VOICES

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Since the BuzzFeed article was released, media started picking up, once again, on what exactly R. Kelly has been accused of doing. “For more than two decades, the recording industry turned a blind eye to Kelly’s behavior as his career continued to thrive...,” a Washington Post article wrote (The Star Treatment). “Surviving R. Kelly” seems to reiterate that point with every witness, expert, and victim that spoke on the topic.

With movements such as #MeToo and #TIMESUP, R. Kelly’s reputation seems to be finally catching up to him. But while #muterkelly is trending on Twitter, it’s important to remember and recognize that R. Kelly should have been muted nearly two decades ago. R. Kelly married a 15 year-old when he was 27 and the first allegations of sex with minors happened in 2000. An indictment happened in 2002 and a trial followed in 2008. He was acquitted that same year (The Allegations Against R. Kelly: An Abridged History).

According to the “Ignition (Remix) (Official Music Video)” on YouTube, it was released in 2003, a year after he was indicted on 21 charges of child pornography.

R. Kelly has continued to have multiple, allegedly underage, partners since his acquittal in 2008. But, due to social media and movements encouraging people to stand with sexual assault survivors, R. Kelly may finally be seen as guilty in the court of public opinion.





# CAMPUS VOICES

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## Monster of the Month: Mothman

by Katie Pyle  
Staff Writer and Reporter



The Mothman statue in Point Pleasant, WV. (Courtesy of Google Photos).

Welcome to the first installation of the Nittany Pride's new series: Monster of the Month. In this series, I will give elaborate descriptions of monsters from folklore and legends from all corners of the world. I will provide chilling details of the chaos these monsters created, the terror they reigned, and more. Once I provide enough background on the monster, I will do something extraordinary and obnoxious: I will give my unwanted opinion of the monster and give them a score out of ten. Without further ado, let me introduce our first monster of the month: Mothman.

The story of Mothman starts in November of 1966 in Point Pleasant, West Virginia. Two young couples made a police report after being chased in their car by a "large flying man with ten-foot wings" through an area outside of town called the "TNT area;" the wooded area was

once the site of a World War II munitions plant. In the days following their chase by the monster, more sightings of the creature were reported by other people within the area. The creature was described as having both human and moth-like features such as having two hind legs, glowing red eyes, a brown colored body, and wings, thus earning the name Mothman.

From the time of the first sighting of Mothman in November of 1966 through the last sighting in December of 1967, at least 100 people claimed to have seen Mothman. Many believed that the creature's presence was connected to other strange happenings occurring in the area. Some of these happenings include claims of televisions producing nothing but static, family pets disappearing, encounters with "men in black," and even UFO sightings. However, the most notable connection took place on December 15th, 1967 when the Silver Bridge collapsed. The collapse resulted in the deaths of 46 people with two of those people never being found afterward. While some thought that Mothman was trying to warn the people of Point Pleasant of the impending bridge collapse,

# CAMPUS VOICES

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others thought that Mothman was the direct cause of it. Was Mothman a tragic hero or was the creature the epitome of terror and malice?

While researching the tales of Mothman, I had high expectations. I was expecting an eccentric monster that fed off of the terror of the citizens of Point Pleasant. Instead, I was presented with an overgrown moth that chases cars. I mean, who even does that? That sounds more like a nuisance than a terror. In fact, I'm surprised they even tried to link him to the Silver Bridge collapse. What, was he trying to chase a car over the bridge or something before it fell down? Yikes.

My final opinion: the idea of a Mothman is great in theory, yet disappointing in practice. Sorry, Mothman; I rate you 4/10.



# POLITICS

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## All is Not Lost, Even If the Election Is

by Kierstin Flickinger  
Managing Editor



Jon McCabe (Courtesy of Kierstin Flickinger).

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.— Penn State New Kensington alumni Jon McCabe recently ran for PA State House 54. While he lost the election, he isn't quite done with politics yet.

McCabe started his campaign at the end of his senior year at Penn State New Kensington. He ran under the idea that he wanted to give voice to the people in his district that he didn't believe had much of a voice in the current political system. McCabe ran in the Democratic party against Robert Bertha.

After a surprising win in the May 2018 primary election, McCabe was faced with running against Bob Brooks, an ex-mayor of Murrysville, Pa.

“If you work really hard, and have a good message, people really start to join your band,” McCabe said. “So, when I really started gaining traction, right when I graduated, I kept saying the same critical components of my message again and again.”

McCabe's ideology included giving voice to working families, making healthcare accessible and affordable, and making sure that the environment is stable for years to come.

“Those who need a voice are working families, students who are succumbing to crippling debt, and a lot of others in the United States,” McCabe said. “A lot of people in the nation think that the system is not working for them.”

McCabe said that he wanted to do something instead of continuing to just complain on social media.

“I think it's important that Jon [McCabe] ran,” said senior and “My Vote Matters” President Adam Johnson. “Younger people are more progressive and see the world changing. We're vulnerable, gathering tons of information, and see things in a different

# POLITICS

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perspective, I believe. We are the future, so that's why I'm glad to see someone so young run for office."

"I ran on a platform that I think we desperately need right now," said McCabe. "Nobody in the race had a platform like mine and I think that's why we stood out in the primary election."

Johnson wasn't the only one excited to see McCabe run for office. Ryan Fiore, a resident of Lower Burrell, voted for McCabe when he ran, and was sad to see that he lost.

"He wasn't just the kid in drama club or the kid who could sing," said Fiore. "He was this great kid who wanted to make a difference. He wants to fix the opioid crisis that's affecting our community. He wants to fix our state's infrastructure. He wants to make healthcare and education more affordable and accessible, which I believe is a right, not a privilege."

"I focused on students," said McCabe. "I lived as an independent student and it's hard. We have to work multiple jobs to live on a ramen noodle diet, and try to afford textbooks, which are just as much as bills."

McCabe explained that child poverty rates are some of the highest that they've ever been.

"I wanted a candidate that would go up against the status quo," McCabe said. "So I became that candidate."

In the November general election, McCabe lost 60-40 to Bob Brooks.

"Election night was fun," McCabe said. "We gathered a huge group of Grassroots people, people who wanted to be involved but never knew how. We were surrounded by them and our labor followers, who helped out our campaign more than any other campaign in western Pennsylvania."

McCabe detailed how he felt elated to be surrounded by so many people who were on his side. He described how he knocked on thousands of doors, noting that many people felt the same way as him about the political system.

"When ten o'clock rolled around and it was pretty clear that Brooks was going to have at least a ten-point lead on us, I still felt like it was a win," McCabe said.

# POLITICS

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“The campaign still doesn’t feel like it’s over. I’m still attending grassroots meetings and I’m still out there organizing.”

Fiore also felt conflicted as the loss happened to McCabe.

“I was disappointed that Jon lost,” he said. “I think it’s bittersweet because it gives him more time to become more acquainted with the community and determine all the policies and changes he wants to get behind.”

McCabe agrees that his role in the political system is not yet over.

“There’s an election every year,” he said. “Moving forward, I’m going to be trying to go to grad school, but I don’t know what for yet.”

Currently, McCabe is trying to get a fellowship to work under the Wolf Administration.

“If I can get into the William Penn Fellowship, it can help me stay involved,” he said. “I went to tons of school board and city council meetings when I was on the campaign trail, and one of my goals right now is to keep involved at the local level, no matter what I’m doing.”

He says that even if the fellowship doesn’t work out, he’s working with a progressive PAC called UNITE that is being started by State Rep. Summer Lee.

“She and her campaign manager and many other activists around the area are using this PAC to get candidates who aren’t the molded politician to run,” McCabe said. “I like that it’s called UNITE because we need unification in our political system right now. It doesn’t matter that I come from a red district and something that I want to focus on in the future is the gerrymandering in all of the districts in Pennsylvania.”

# POLITICS

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## **President Trump Addresses the Nation on the Need For a Border Wall**

*by Ashton Caldwell*

*Staff Writer and Reporter*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.— President Donald Trump on Jan.8 addressed the nation from the Oval Office regarding the need for the border wall along the southern border.

For over two weeks, the United States has been in a partial shutdown. This is due to the fact that the President and leading Democrats Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer cannot agree on border security. The President is unwilling to sign any bill into law that does not give him funding for his border wall and Schumer and Pelosi refuse to give the President any funding for the wall. They are more concerned with reopening the government. This was made evident when Pelosi took over as Speaker of the House.

When the Democrats took over the House of Representatives on Jan. 3, one of the first things they tried to do was reopen the government by passing the bill H.R.264. This bill, according to congress.gov “provides FY2019 appropriations for several federal departments and agencies.” However, this bill does not include funding for a border wall, something that will not please President Trump. The Senate has yet to review this bill.

However, the President of the United States feels very strongly about a wall along the southern border. Throughout the course of this shutdown, he has tweeted several times about the need for a border wall, an example being on Dec. 31 when he tweeted “I campaigned on Border Security, which you cannot have without a strong and powerful Wall. Our Southern Border has long been an ‘Open Wound,’ where drugs, criminals (including human traffickers) and illegals would pour into our Country. Dems should get back here and fix now!”

That is why on Jan. 7, Trump tweeted “I am pleased to inform you that I will Address the Nation on the Humanitarian and National Security crisis on our Southern Border. Tuesday night at 9:00 P.M. Eastern.”

For roughly ten minutes, the president from the Oval Office had the attention of the American public.

# POLITICS

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“Our southern border is a pipeline for vast quantities of illegal drugs, including meth, heroin, cocaine, and fentanyl,” said the President. “Every week, 300 of our citizens are killed by heroin alone, 90 percent of which floods across from our southern border. More Americans will die from drugs this year than were killed in the entire Vietnam War.”

“This is a humanitarian crisis — a crisis of the heart and a crisis of the soul.”

Throughout his speech, the president made two interesting points, the first being that “Federal government remains shut down for one reason and one reason only: because Democrats will not fund border security,” arguing that his “Administration is doing everything in our power to help those impacted by the situation. But the only solution is for Democrats to pass a spending bill that defends our borders and re-opens the government.”

The second point was that “Some have suggested a barrier is immoral. Then why do wealthy politicians build walls, fences, and gates around their homes? They don’t build walls because they hate the people on the outside, but because they love the people on the inside. The only thing that is immoral is the politicians to do nothing and continue to allow more innocent people to be so horribly victimized.”

The President closed his address by saying that “When I took the Oath of Office, I swore to protect our country. And that is what I will always do, so help me God.”

Shortly after, Schumer and Pelosi gave an address of their own.

“Sadly, much of what we have heard from President Trump throughout this senseless shutdown has been full of misinformation and even malice,” began Pelosi. “The President has chosen fear. We want to start with the facts.”

Throughout her portion of the speech, Pelosi explains how the president has rejected legislation that will reopen the government and how Democrats have acknowledged the need for border security policies.

“The fact is the women and children at the border are not a security threat, they are a humanitarian challenge,” said Pelosi. “A challenge that President Trump's own cruel and counterproductive policies have only deepened.”

Schumer was next to speak.

# POLITICS

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Schumer talked how Trump failed to get Mexico to pay for the wall and explained that our Democracy does not function like this. He once again made the claim of the president throwing a “tantrum.”

“Tonight, and throughout this debate and his presidency, President Trump has appealed to fear, not facts. Division, not unity,” argued Schumer. “Make no mistake: Democrats and the President both want stronger border security. However, we sharply disagree with the President about the most effective way to do it.”

Schumer went on to offer to offer a potential solution of how to fix this shutdown by putting aside the wall for now and worrying about reopening the government now. Schumer closed his speech by saying that “The symbol of America should be the Statue of Liberty, not a thirty-foot wall. So our suggestion is a simple one: Mr. President: re-open the government and we can work to resolve our differences over border security. But end this shutdown now.”

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/264>

[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-address-nation-crisis-border/>

<https://www.ajc.com/news/national/read-full-transcript-nancy-pelosi-and-chuck-schumer-response-trump-speech/frWX5NbdII7vDLLK5CKOBM/>

Check out our new archives, Nittany Pride TV!

<https://nittanypride.wordpress.com/nittany-pride-tv/>



# EDITORIAL

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## Social Media's Effects in 2019

*by Janet Surma*

*Videographer/Contributing Writer*

In 2019, social media is almost unavoidable. From elementary school students, to college students, to you and your parents, everyone has some form of media that they use on a daily basis. So, the question for this day and age is, "can humans live without social media?" I don't think it's impossible, but it is far from reach.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat are the most used forms of social media, and the average person usually has at least two out of the four platforms, but people often times have all four. I will admit that I have every single one of those apps downloaded on my phone and use them all on a daily basis. To me, it seems impossible to not use them every day, so cutting down on usage time is the most I'm capable of.

According to a US News article published in May 2018, people who use social media are associated with a better social life and are able to connect with the world better. For people who have family living out of the state or friends who they don't see often, those platforms are the best way to keep up with one another. Although this is the case that's described, the article also considers these platforms as staged or "not the real world."

A form of communication that is almost dead is calling someone on the phone. A New York Post article from March 2017 explained this very well in an article just from the title: Asking for someone's phone number is over. We tend to ask people for their Snapchat username or their Instagram handle before asking for their phone number. I can't remember the last time I got someone's phone number instead of their Snapchat username.

Not only is social media a fun way to pass the time, it also benefits businesses. Businesses can use platforms such as Facebook and Instagram to raise awareness about brands and increase sales. In 2018, Marketing Insider Group published about the benefits of social media and how it is one of the most important marketing strategies there is. There're even jobs to go along with this such as social media coordinators and social media managers.

Social media itself is a job for some, but others need social media to actually get a job.

# EDITORIAL

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Certain platforms like LinkedIn and Facebook are becoming almost as important as resumes. It is very common now for managers to look us up on social media and see who we are, what we've done, and how professional we can be. Social media can determine if we get hired for a job or not.

Although people who don't have social media are still good candidates for job positions, companies are usually looking for online ways to figure out who they are going to hire.

Yes, it is possible to live without social media. Yes, there are people who survive without checking their phone every second for likes and shares. Yes, social media is not a life or death necessity, but it opens up an entire new world of connections and is almost impossible to escape.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2018-03-30/what-its-like-to-live-without-social-media>

<https://nypost.com/2017/03/13/the-death-of-the-phone-number/>

<https://marketinginsidergroup.com/content-marketing/why-social-media-is-important-for-business-marketing/>



# EDITORIAL

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## It's Too Much

*by Rachel Queck*

*Staff Writer and Reporter*

*Note: Before this article begins I would like to state as the author that there is bias and opinion within this piece.*

Recently, there have been so many shootings and unreasonable death within the USA. For example, on the 26th of November, there was a shooting in Natrona Heights. There was a young girl and a woman injured during the incident and the shooter committed suicide. Also, there was the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, shootings in Maryland, Texas, Nashville, and the list is much longer. This is way too much.

Too many lives are being lost senselessly. It is understandable that the world cannot be a perfect place nor can we have the "world peace" that people think of as a stereotypical answer in a beauty pageant, but there can be more understanding in the world. There can be more caring in the world and coexistence between people.

People are people no matter what the background is, the way they look, their sexual orientation, identity, race, nationality, etc. The hate that goes on in this world is completely nonsense. It is not necessary to like a particular person, but it is necessary to have respect for one another. One could say that there are so many problems that are happening due to a lack of respect and understanding currently.

The shootings are one very major incident that happened due to the lack of respect and understanding. Other problems caused by the lack of these is racism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, and much more. These lead to other bigger problems.

This does not mean that people are not entitled to their own opinion. People are allowed to have their own views on issues and people, but that does not mean that they should call them names, make fun of them, taunt them, and they should especially not harm them.

People should try to see life through another's shoes before judging them. They should try to understand that people do things for a reason. Everybody feels things differently. As a matter of fact, people live differently, and perceive the world differently.

# EDITORIAL

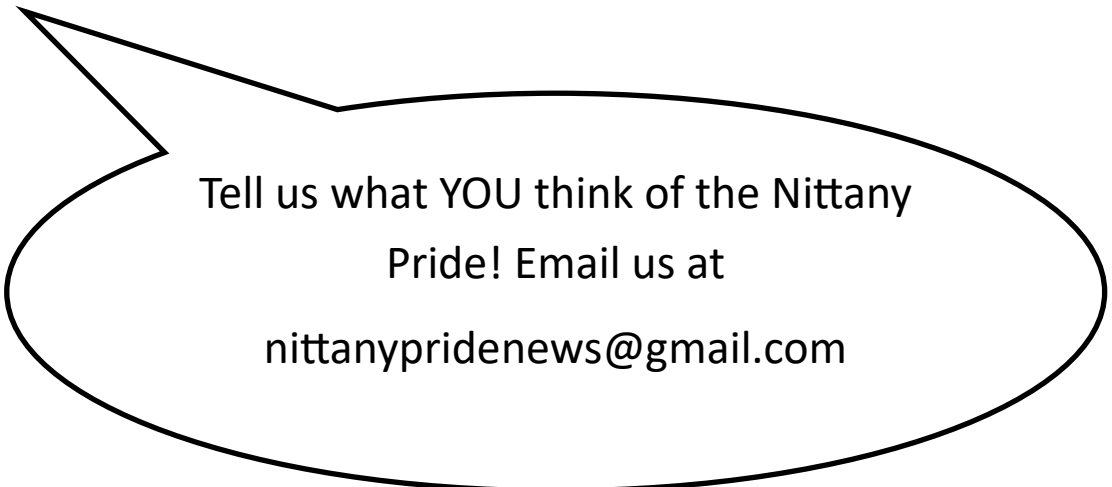
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Nobody experiences life in the same way. Not even the people you live with experience life the same because we all have different experiences and experience situations differently than others. Before people judge, try to understand why they are like that or just accept them despite any differences. Differences between people are not necessarily bad. It makes people who they are and sometimes differences make the best relationships between people.

Some may think, “but I really do not care how these people experience life” or “why should I take the time to think about this?” Which, in this case, mind your own business. Just because someone does not like the way that someone lives their lives, as long as they are not doing harm to others, does not mean that people should stop and comment or do anything mean or harmful.

As Michael Jackson said “In a world filled with hate, we must still dare to hope.”

Only you can embody the change you would like to see in the world. We can change the world with any little actions. Starting with kindness, compassion, respect, understanding, and learning to coexist is just the beginning of bringing this change. This change can make the world a better place and stop the meaningless deaths that have been occurring.



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# SPORTS

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## Clemson Tigers Visit the White House After Championship Win

*by Ryan Pawloski*

*Staff Writer and Reporter*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.— The Clemson Tigers won the National Championship for college football after defeating Alabama 44-16. On Jan. 14, 2019 the champions were invited to the White House by President Donald Trump to celebrate. What was on the menu for this joyous occasion, you might ask? It was a variety of fast food buffet. Many different fast foods were served at the dinner like McDonald's, Burger King, and Wendy's, alongside Domino's pizza. The White House kitchen is currently closed because of the government shutdown so desperate times call for desperate measures. The White House is iconic for its formal dinners that serve high quality food but that was not the case for this celebration.

The move by the President was seen as a direct slight towards the Democrats because of the shutdown. It seemed like a message was being sent so that an agreement could become found in order to end the shutdown. President Trump bought all of the food himself and settled for the fast food buffet instead of luxury food. The President even tweeted out "Great being with the National Champion Clemson Tigers last night at the White House. Because of the Shutdown I served them massive amounts of Fast Food (I paid), over 1000 hamberders [hamburgers] etc. Within one hour, it was all gone. Great guys and big eaters!" That's a lot of food and a long wait in the drive thru line at any one of those restaurants.

Some people criticized Trump for his actions of only serving fast food instead of a "nice" dinner. Some think it was a slight towards the student athletes and should have been a nice enjoyable time for the champions. Others claim it was in good fun and college life food for some of the athletes. Some people think it was just another way for Trump to use something as a bargaining chip for the shutdown so that an agreement could finally be met.

President Trump does not make for a boring White House in any way shape or form with all of the news coming out of their everyday. It is entertaining yet unusual at times but this case is an odd one that'll last in the history books. They will talk about this for years and be amazed about the fast food feast in the White House of all places. This entire situation was in good faith but was executed poorly but no harm was meant by it. The assumption that these college students want a fast food buffet is humorous but the President seems to also be trying to kill two birds with one stone here. He used this in good faith but also used it to send a message to the Democrats to end the shutdown and reach an agreement.

# SPORTS

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## **Double Play: Softball Team Steps in to Keep Women’s Hoops Alive**

*by Scott Sinclair*  
*Director of Visuals*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.— The score against Greater Allegheny was very lopsided and forgettable, not even worth mentioning in print. The best thing about the game however was the fact there was even a game.

Many of the PSNK women’s softball players volunteered to serve double duty as basketball players to ensure that the team stayed intact and functioning. Each player’s basketball experience ranged from none to “it’s been a while.”

Calle Zmenkowski, a transfer student from Pitt Greensburg and a pitcher on the softball team admitted she hasn’t seen the hardwood in a number of years.

“I think the last time I played basketball was in the ninth grade.” she said

On the court, the difference between G.A. and PSNK was glaring in terms of basketball skills, but these women are proud athletes and worked extremely hard and showed no signs of quitting despite the lopsided score.

Many of these athletes have to juggle both team’s practices, as softball is in its early part of essentially a training camp scenario, but according to Zmenkowski, are committed to keeping Women’s basketball alive and well at Penn State New Kensington.

“I definitely get a little tired, but I’d hate to see [basketball] go away.” she said

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# SPORTS

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## Penguins' Matt Murray Makes Remarkable Return to the Ice

*by Ryan Fiore*  
*Editor-in-Chief*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.— From the end of the last Pittsburgh Penguins season up until goaltender Matt Murray was placed on injured reserve in November 2018 with a lower body injury, most Penguins fans demanded Murray be traded based on his goaltending. However, his return on Dec. 15 began Murray's new beginning: redemption.

Murray's first game back, a Dec. 15 matchup against the LA Kings, showed 38 saves for the goaltender, a .927 save percentage, and a 4-3 overtime victory.

Murray also made 31 saves in a 2-1 victory against Pittsburgh's rivalry, the Washington Capitals on Dec. 19, which because of Murray's persistence, as well as excellent goaltending from backup goalie Casey DeSmith, began a short-lived, eight game win streak for Pittsburgh. The Penguins went on to defeat the Minnesota Wild twice with defeats of 2-1 and 3-2, the Detroit Red Wings 5-2, the St. Louis Blues 6-1, and the New York Rangers 7-2. Murray also managed to shutout the Carolina Hurricanes 3-0 and the Winnipeg Jets 4-0.

Murray's record stayed undefeated since his return for a whole month until an away game against the San Jose Sharks on Jan. 15. Despite making 24 saves, the Penguins fell to the Sharks in a 5-2 defeat. Despite the defeat, Murray held his head high and refused to let the loss get the best of him. A game against the Arizona Coyotes three days later on Jan. 18 showed 31 saves for the goaltender, with a 3-2 overtime victory with the Pittsburgh team.

So what is the reason for Murray's exceptional playing compared to last season and the beginning of the 2018-2019 season? Some fans believe an abdominal injury is to blame for Murray's poor playing and direction during games, while others believe that the loss of his father in Jan. 2018 took an emotional toll on the 2x Stanley Cup Champion.



Pittsburgh goaltender Matt Murray (Courtesy of Google Photos).

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# SPORTS

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“I would say either groin or abdominal injury,” said Penn State New Kensington student and former hockey player himself, Scott Sinclair. “The clues were he was missing his spots. Murray is a very spot-on goaltender. He likes to butterfly correctly and hit his angles and his spots. Unlike Fleury [Pittsburgh’s former goaltender], who used a lot of motion, Murray likes conservative motion. His motion was limited. He was missing spots everywhere. He was trying to make reactionary saves. Think about all the stuff that went by his toes. He didn’t get all the way there with his normal movement to block the whole thing off.”

“A lot of the fans’ doubts have to do with number 29 [Fleury] himself,” Sinclair added. “You can’t have a 13 or 14 year career veteran who’s your guy, who’s your poster man, who won three Stanley Cups.”

In addition to the injury, the love of Fleury, the difference in style, and Murray’s age were all reasons Sinclair believes Penguin fans wanted to see Murray traded.

“Remember your history, how up and down Fleury was at 24, more so I say than Murray,” Sinclair said. “If you remember, he was in the minors, out of the minors, playing, not playing, benched, not benched. They brought in backups like Jocelyn Thibault, Ty Conklin, Brent Johnson, and Tomáš Vokoun. Think about the long list of veteran goalies they kept bringing in behind Fleury to teach him the way, even into his middle 20s. They’re pitting Murray with an untested semi-rookie backup himself, so it’s him or nothing, but remember that the boy’s only 24. You don’t hit Henrik Lundqvist [of the New York Rangers] status until your late 20s. I’m scared to see him [Murray] in his late 20s. If he gains that confidence, along with that style, he’s going to be scary good. He’ll be one of those goaltenders that is able to take over a game and opponents will know he’s taking over a game.”

Since his return, Murray’s record as of Jan. 29 is 11-2-0. Murray’s overall record for the 2018-2019 season as of Jan. 29 is 14-7-1, with a save percentage of .908, as well as three shutouts, respectively.

““I feel good health-wise, for sure, but I don’t think it was hindering me,”” Murray said in an interview. ““I’m not going to make an excuse and say it was hindering me in any way. When it got to that point, that’s when I came out of the lineup. But I feel good right now. Moving in the right direction.””

Now that Murray is back in full force, Sinclair expressed his feelings towards Murray’s determination and willpower.



# SPORTS

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“That is that beast, brick wall, ‘get inside another team goalie’s head’ you’re looking for. The thing that never made Fleury that I think is his active style. He could be beat and he was a little fragile even up until his middle career. Murray is just a flat beast. He just doesn’t care. With that lack of care attitude, in terms of mental toughness, that’s where you want to develop those Vezina winning goaltenders.”

Sinclair also stated that within the next few years, NHL teams should be fearful whenever Pittsburgh comes to town.

“Lundqvist used to do that to us. ‘Lundqvist is coming. We’re not gonna beat Lundqvist. What do we have to do to beat this guy?’ If it goes to plan, I project Murray to be that goalie in the future just with his demeanor and his natural skill set.”

In addition, Sinclair isn’t the only one who thinks Matt Murray is on the rise in his career.

“Certainly right now I think we’re seeing vintage Matt Murray,” Coach Mike Sullivan said in an interview. “This is the guy we all know. He’s a very good goalie when he’s on his game. Since he’s come off this injury, he’s been locked in.”

# SPORTS

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## The Standard is the Standard

*by Ryan Pawloski*  
*Staff Writer and Reporter*



Brown talks to Roethlisberger during a game.

(Courtesy of Google Photos).

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.— The Pittsburgh Steelers’ season ended in disaster and following the final game of the year, the off the field antics were as bad as the plays on the field.

The Steelers season ended at a record of 9-6-1 and missed the playoffs all together but watched their fate play out in front of them. After failing to control their own destiny, the Steelers allowed for the Browns to hold their playoff hopes into their hands. The Browns lost and the Steelers

suffered another extremely disappointing year after losing 4 out of their last 6 games. You would imagine a Super Bowl contender that missed the playoffs would be the most disturbing situation here but then came the day after news.

News broke that star wide receiver Antonio Brown missed practices before the final game against the Cincinnati Bengals and still expected to play in the game. Brown showed up to the game in street clothes but according to reports left the game early and has not contacted the team since. Teammates, coaches and even owner Art Rooney II have tried contacting him but to no avail, Brown has not returned their calls. Brown has responded through social media posts in timely manners.

In one such case, Brown posted an Instagram video of him and James Harrison listening to Tomlin’s end of year press conference in an almost mocking manner. Tomlin was not happy with Brown during his press conference as he again had to answer for Brown for another set of antics that he has caused.

“We take AB’s (Brown) lack of presence and lack of communication as something very significant,” Tomlin said. “It will be handled appropriately so.”

The owner of the Steelers is Art Rooney II and he is not happy with the current situation with Brown. In a recent interview, he said “Can we get to a point where we all feel good

# SPORTS

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about him being on the roster next year? We have a way to go before we feel good about that.”

Rooney even went onto say that it is “hard to envision” Brown on the Steelers roster next season.

Brown himself has only tried to defend himself by blaming others for his misfortunes on social media instead of contacting the team up to this point. He has been teasing an interview explaining himself and clearing the air but that has yet to happen. He has been getting into arguments with former coaches and teammates, like Bruce Arians and Emanuel Sanders. Arians went as far as to say Brown is “too diva”. Sanders went on TV to call out the Steelers and Brown. Brown’s response to this was a twitter battle with his former teammate.

With Bell and Brown possibly on the way out, it seems like the distractions should walk out of the Steelers locker room. The Steelers were close to making the playoffs this past season and lost a few games by a couple points and could have made the playoffs. Now the Steelers are sitting at home and the coaches and staff are hard at work finding the future Steelers. Players need to be found in free agency and the draft to bolster this roster and replace a player of Brown’s caliber.

The needs for this team are more directed towards the defense with holes to fill at middle linebacker and cornerback. With the defense struggling in both positions, these two needs will have high priority in the offseason for the Steelers.

If Brown is traded, then the need for a player to fill a starting spot would be another high priority. The Steelers normally don’t dip their toe into the free agency market often but might have to this offseason if they want immediate results. Drafting well will also be a huge focus for the Steelers for them to bounce back next season.

Finding starters that are currently outside the organization might give fans anxiety, but this is fixable. This team just needs a few tweaks, subtraction of the distractions off the field, and they will become legitimate Super Bowl contenders.

