

# THE VOICE

YOUR CAMPUS. YOUR NEWS. YOUR VOICE.

**CU increases  
student's fees by 5%**



March 26, 2025  
Photo by Patrick Hayle.



# NEWS

## Commonwealth University's accreditation review

**AYDEN POINTER**  
*CONTRIBUTOR*

**What happened:** Commonwealth University recently hosted a meeting with an eight-member evaluation team from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) as part of the university's accreditation review.

**Why it matters:** This event, held during the commission's campus visit, provided a valuable opportunity for students to share their thoughts, experiences, and concerns, particularly regarding the 2022 merger of Bloomsburg, Mansfield, and Lock Haven universities. Students could discuss how the merger has shaped their academic and campus experiences, offering a range of perspectives on its impact.

Chaz Kasuba, the newly elected CGA President, spoke positively about the meeting, emphasizing the importance of students having the chance to engage directly with the MSCHE team. He noted that the panelists were genuinely interested in hearing student feedback and fostering an open, constructive dialogue. Kasuba appreciated the team's receptiveness,

making the session meaningful and productive. He felt the students' voices were honestly being heard, a hopeful sign for the university's future development.

### **Merger discussions:**

A central topic of discussion was the ongoing impact of the merger. Students shared positive and negative experiences, but the conversation remained constructive and solutions-focused. Many students highlighted the benefits of increased collaboration across campuses and expanded access to online and hybrid courses, which have particularly benefited non-traditional students. However, there were concerns about the effect on more minor majors, as some programs have been impacted by hiring freezes, leading to reduced course offerings. Graduate Assistants also raised issues regarding reduced working hours, which have created financial strain for those relying on their positions to support their tuition and living expenses.

Another challenge raised was the issue of cross-campus supervision, with some department heads located on different campuses than their staff. This arrangement has led to communication difficulties, as faculty and

staff often feel disconnected from leadership. The physical separation has created challenges in coordinating efforts, sharing resources, and maintaining consistent policies. Delays in feedback and support have led to feelings of isolation and frustration among staff, while students noted inconsistencies in experiences across campuses, particularly regarding administrative decisions and program offerings. This highlighted the need for improved communication and more streamlined supervision to foster a unified environment for faculty and students.

### **Communication across campuses:**

Although administrative communication has improved, students noted that transparency remains an issue, especially regarding updates on university-wide changes and initiatives. Many students mentioned that they often learn about essential developments through campus newspapers rather than receiving direct communication from the administration. This communication gap has led to frustration and a sense of being disconnected from the decision-making process.

Despite these challenges, the Registrar's Office received praise for its efficiency,

although students still experienced confusion, particularly regarding registration for hybrid courses and campus assignments. Some students also expressed that first-year seminars could benefit from more major-specific options to align early academic experiences with their fields of study.

International students raised concerns about the difficulties they may face in maintaining their visa requirements with the increased reliance on online learning. Military students also discussed challenges with tuition assistance programs, particularly how changes to university policies could affect their access to financial support. Upper-level students and academic advisors expressed confusion about changes to program tracks and degree completion timelines.

### **Lack of Commonwealth representation:**

Notably, no Lock Haven or Mansfield students attended the meeting, but the session was still a success with a strong showing of Bloomsburg students. Their participation ensured a broad and insightful discussion about the university's current state and the impact of the merger. Though the absence of students from the other campuses was noted, the large

turnout from Bloomsburg allowed the meeting to remain productive and representative of a significant portion of the university community.

**Conclusion:** The MSCHE evaluation team, which included representatives from institutions across the country, including Puerto Rico, will compile its findings into a formal report. The final report, expected to be released soon, will offer a comprehensive assessment of the university's strengths and areas for improvement. The evaluation will provide valuable feedback to guide the university in enhancing its academic offerings, student services, and overall governance.

Kasuba expressed cautious optimism about the accreditation process. He views the meeting as important in addressing student concerns and fostering positive change within the university. He believes that continued open dialogue will help the university improve and provide a better experience for all students.

Students are encouraged to visit the university's accreditation webpage for ongoing updates on the accreditation process and to stay informed about future changes.

# NEWS

## Costs to increase for students

**CALEB BROWN**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**What Happened:** The Commonwealth University Council of Trustees at the meeting on March 7 to increase the costs of fees and rates on campus.

**Why it Matters:** Students will now see an increase in their technology fees, as well as their dining and housing rates. These new rates will go into effect for the 2025-2026 academic year.

**The Background:** This comes after the council voted to increase housing and dining rates in 2023, which had gone into effect for the 2024-2025 academic year.

It was during the meeting that the council was presented with two options for an increase in housing and dining costs. A “Cost with CPI, which was a 3.61% increase and a 5% increase.

A motion was made to

adopt the 3.61% increase, but it was voted down by the council. When the motion to adopt the 5% increase was made, it passed.

In terms of the technology fee increase, it is being raised \$120 per term for in-state students and \$182 per term for out-of-state students. This increase will also go into effect for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Dan Knorr was asked for a comment but referred The Voice staff to a press release from the university. In the release, Council of Trustee Chair John Wetzels is quoted as saying, “These decisions reflect our commitment to responsible stewardship—ensuring CU remains financially sustainable while continuing to offer high-quality education, modern technology, and essential student services.”

Going further it stated Wetzels said, “Even with these modest increases, CU remains one of the most affordable options in the



*Fees will make campus living more expensive for students starting Fall 2025.*

*Photo by Connor Davis,*

State System, allowing us to balance affordability with the investments necessary for student success.”

### Opinions from students

Starr Black, a marketing major with a minor in chemistry, stated, “I think it’s a little ridiculous. I mean, it kinda sucks. I feel like es-

pecially with Trump, you know, like affecting the Department of Education, it’s definitely causing an issue with financial aid, which is also helping pay for those housing things.”

Meanwhile, Matthew Cortis, a nursing major, didn’t recall the original price but stated, he, “knew it was going up.”

Going further, he said, “I think it’s gonna affect people moving in or out of campus but for me, I have no choice because I’m a freshman so I mean for me right now, I don’t have a choice but I feel like when I’m a junior and a senior, that may affect if I live on campus or not.”

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# HOWL

## Lifestyle

# Better Safe Than Sorry

**BELLA FOSTER**  
STAFF WRITER

85,000 people died of drug overdoses in 2024. This incredibly explorative time sometimes lacks safe drug practices and sensible decision making, which can lead students down unsafe paths. So, how does one avoid being in that situation in the first place? Besides the obvious solution of avoiding illicit drugs, Fentanyl Test Strips (FTS) exist to make sure people can avoid emergency scenarios altogether. Narcan, an overdose prevention nasal spray, is an important preventative, yet it **only works after** the damage has been done. FTS are inexpensive strips of paper that can detect traces of fentanyl in several types of commonly used illicit drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, etc. As of today, Bloomsburg University does

not supply FTS on campus, but students can take matters into their own hands. Available online, a box of FTS can be purchased on various websites like Amazon or CVS. The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association says one strip has a 96-100% detection success rate when used properly. Please note, however, FTS are not able to measure the quantity or potency of fentanyl, nor are they always able to detect low traces of fentanyl. Despite this, it's always better to be safe than sorry. Those who may be unwilling to practice preventative measures should know that a \$10 box of test strips pales in comparison to the price of losing your life. It's your choice of what you would prefer to pay. People take chances every day but risking an ac-

cidental fentanyl overdose is never worth it. As much as two milligrams of fentanyl can kill the average-sized adult. Don't let yourself or someone else become another drug overdose statistic.

Despite the issue that fentanyl test strips are not distributed by the university, students can still practice harm reduction on and off campus. Regardless of whether you participate in the use of drugs or not, staying proactive can prevent one fun night gone wrong from being someone's last. You can be part of the solution by educating yourself about the available overdose prevention resources on Bloomsburg's campus. Narcan is used in emergency scenarios to block the effects of opiates in the brain when a person has overdosed. After admin-

istering Narcan, do not leave the person alone, and stay with them until emergency services arrive. **Do not be afraid to call 911.** Under the Pennsylvania Medical Amnesty Law, civilians responding \*reasonably\* to an emergency situation, including drug overdoses, are protected from prosecution for underage drinking or drug possession when attempting to help someone in danger. According to Bloomsburg's Health Services, a person is protected by this law if the situation satisfies the following four conditions:

1. If you call 911 in good faith and...
2. Reasonably believe you are the first to call emergency services
3. Give your name and location
4. Stay with the person to prevent that person's death

or serious injury, both you as the caller and the person needing medical attention are immune from prosecution for consumption or possession of alcohol and/or drugs.

People should also note that if emergency services are called for medical assistance as a result of hazing, and that's how law enforcement finds out about the hazing, both the student who calls for help, as well as the one who needs medical assistance, will be immune from charges for hazing if the four conditions above are met. The guilt of knowing you could have saved someone's life will outweigh any fear of getting in trouble when an emergency is happening. Let's all look out for one another and take better precautions when taking part in risky activity.

### Warning signs of an overdose:

- Dizziness
- Pupils are very small
- Irregular/slow breathing
- Deep snoring or breathing gurgling noises

### Signs of overdose:

- Not breathing
- Blue or grey skin/lips/nails
- Spasms and rigid muscle
- Seizure-like movements



*How to Use Narcan*  
Photo by Bloomsburg Health Services.



*Narcan in Kehr Union (First Floor)*  
Photo by Bella Foster.



# HOWL

## Lifestyle

On March 15, in 44 BC, Julius Caesar was assassinated by the Roman Senate. Read more online: [buvoice.com](http://buvoice.com)

### Club Corner: Quest Outdoor Adventure and Leadership

ERIC WOOD  
COLUMNIST

**Purpose:** Quest is an outdoor activities group that organizes trips for CU students to experience the outdoors. The group also trains its staff to lead trips in the backcountry and become effective leaders.

**Impact:** Founded in the 1970s, Quest has given many the opportunity to experience the outdoors and learn how to safely and properly navigate many different outdoor settings from water to forest to underground caves.

**Leadership:** Quest follows a unique leadership program in which a staff member starts as an observer by aiding in the trip planning process. As they observe, they learn new skills and get achievements crossed off in their instructor book and eventually move up to assistant instructor, then instructor, and the final level of leadership a student can achieve is Course Coordinator. Each Quest trip is run by students with training in both the outdoors and in safety.

**More Information:**

Quest strives to show students how to safely and responsibly enjoy nature and foster an appreciation for the outdoors. The group runs team developments as well as nature trips for the Bloomsburg community and CU students alike.

**Getting Involved:**

Check out the Quest Instagram: [quest\\_at\\_bu](https://www.instagram.com/quest_at_bu) where trip opportunities are regularly posted or check out their page on the CU website for more information and to get in touch!



Quest staff trains to hike in frozen conditions at Ricketts Glen. Photo by Quest.

**“Quest offers truly unique and exciting outdoor and educational experiences through adventure programming and team development open to all, including those who’ve never set foot in the backcountry to experienced and knowledgeable campaigners.” - The Quest Webpage**

Note: This is a new and fresh revival of an old column from the BU History Club, last published in 2020. Read more about a historical event that took place during the month of an edition’s publishing online at [buvoice.com](http://buvoice.com).

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## Lifestyle

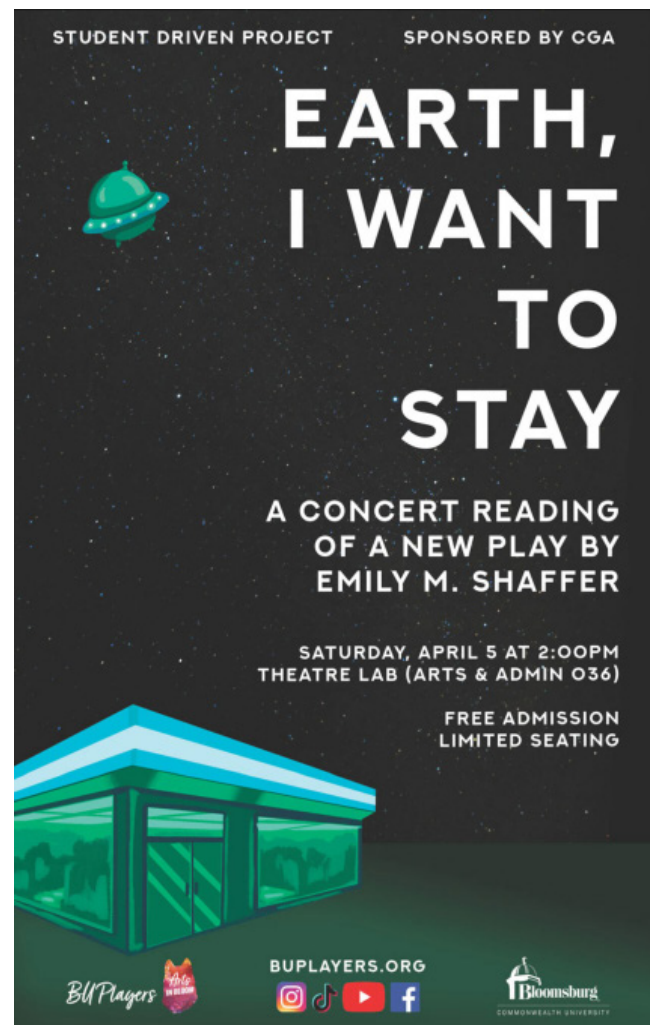
### Earth, I Want to Stay: A Student Produced Play

ELIZABETH MAUSER  
CONTRIBUTOR

“Earth, I Want to Stay” is BU Players’ newest student-driven project, written by senior Theatre Arts major Emily M. Shaffer and directed by senior Theatre Arts major Colin Search. The concert reading will show Saturday, April 5 from 2-4 p.m. in the Theatre Lab in Arts and Administration 036. The play tells the story of Zarp, an alien who crash lands on Earth during a flight exam for the Vline Space Invader Institute, and befriends two humans in the hopes of fixing their ship. During Zarp’s time spent on Earth, they are forced to confront their past opinion of humanity, and must face the likelihood of staying permanently on Earth. “Writing this story has been a moment of discovery for both Zarp and the playwright,” Shaffer states. The longstanding character connects their college-aged self to their high school self. “I’m bringing little Em with me.” Shaffer is excited to share Zarp with the world. Since 2018, they’ve spent 7 years

perfecting the character, and began workshopping their story in 2023. As both an artist and writer, they have always been fascinated with the supernatural, and have created multiple painted and sculpted artworks featuring Zarp. Other than this upcoming production, they are most proud of their colorful 4.5 by 5 ft painting “Zarp Saves the Universe”; a 2 ft clay sculpture recognizing Zarp’s eventual objective to save the planet Earth; a handmade card deck; and a four-panel comic strip they created in high school, which served as the initial inspiration for “Earth, I Want to Stay.” The playwright’s first student-driven project was “You Make Your Own Family,” and they have also been involved in the past three years of BU Players productions, including playing Chorus 8 in the recent “These Women of Troy,” and currently works as stage manager for the 14th Annual Dance Minor Concert. They will be graduating from CU-Bloomsburg in

May 2025 and will pursue an MFA in Screenwriting and Playwriting at Point Park University in the Fall. “It’s been a treat to share Zarp with an audience,” Shaffer says. Writing “Earth, I Want to Stay” has been a milestone in Shaffer’s artistic career, and serves as an exceptional conclusion to their undergraduate career of new play development. The project’s Mentor is Professor David A. Miller, and its Director is Colin Search. Kalie Peterson is the play’s Stage Manager, and Abbey Bowman is its Designer. There will be 6 student actors for the concert reading, and Kalie Peterson and Juliana Lupu will be ASL interpreting the concert reading. Rehearsals for the play begin on March 30 until April 4, running a new page of the script every day from 6:30-9 p.m. Admission to the performance is free, but there is limited seating available. “Earth, I Want to Stay” is not intended for children, and contains mature language and content.



*Earth, I Want to Stay Poster  
Provided by Theo Lemons.*

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ALEXANDRIA ROSE  
COLUMNIST

# HOWL

## Lifestyle

# THE INNER VOICE

## Loving Someone Who's Slipping Away: Holding Hope in the Dark While Addiction Steals More Than One Life



How do you prepare for something you can't prevent? For something that should be preventable and not inevitable.

Endless calls. Countless texts.

Empty promises so many that they stop pretending. That they stop even calling them promises.

You don't want to lose them. But you feel it. That creeping fear. The unshakable weight of what-ifs. You worry that by thinking the thoughts, writing the words, or speaking them aloud, you'll somehow seal their fate. And if that happens, you'll never forgive yourself.

So you push it down. Bottle it up. Try to keep it buried.

But it eats away at you. It breaks you, piece by piece, until you no longer recognize yourself. A shell of the person you once were of the person you could have been. Maybe you don't even know who that is anymore. Maybe you wouldn't recognize them if you did.

The fear consumes you.

You hope and pray to a god you might not even believe in that you're wrong. That this won't be the way their story ends. Because they deserve more. They deserve happiness. Safety. A future they can see for themselves.

And you ask yourself, How can I help them see that?

But addiction doesn't just affect the person battling it. It's a web that spreads endlessly, pulling in everyone around them. And no matter how tightly we cling, how desperately we try, they have to be the ones to break free.

That's the brutal truth.

No matter how much we plead, cry, or beg they have to want to get better. They have to choose to try.

But that doesn't mean we stop trying.

They need to know we're there. That we love them. That we want more for them than this.

Because addiction is a disease. And every day is a battle. Whether they're under its grip or fighting to stay sober, it's a war waged in their mind. The cravings, the urges an itch that never fades. So they feed it. Again and again. Another piece of themselves each time.

And we just hope they don't slip too far.

We start making compromises with our moral integrity.

Please let the batch be clean. Please don't let this time be the time it's too much. Please don't let them be alone.

Yet, those are the very people we hope they get away from.

You hope they survive until morning. That the call doesn't come while you're sleeping because missing it would destroy you. But you don't want it to come at all.

Because you don't just want them to survive. You want them to live.

The fear isn't just theirs it becomes yours. You carry their weight until they're strong enough to bear it themselves. No matter how heavy, you would shoulder it for them in every lifetime.

Because the love never fades.

Every birthday, your only wish is for them to still be here. To be safe. To make it.

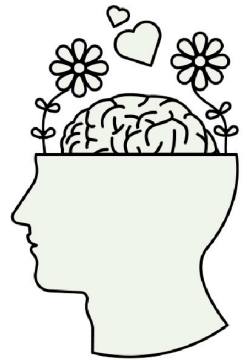
But you keep that wish to yourself. Silent. Unspeakable.

And when everyone around you raises their glasses, cheering in celebration, they have no idea what you're really toasting to.

May we continue to have the strength to hold onto hope until they can see it for themselves.

And if you are struggling with addiction, you are seen. You are not alone in this battle. There are resources, people who care, people who love you. You deserve a clean, safe, happy life. And your support system? They want that for you. But you have to want it for yourself, too.

If you are reading this and love someone who is battling addiction, you are not alone either. As



Read the rest at [buvoice.com](http://buvoice.com)

# HOWL

## Lifestyle

### Kick Your Career Into Gear!

EMILY ALLEN  
SUBMITTED BY  
PROFESSIONAL U

Now that you've had a nice spring break it's time to start thinking about sharpening your professional skills. To do that you can register for the Career Intensive Bootcamp (CIBC) for Fall 2025 at the Greenly Center in downtown Bloomsburg!

The CIBC is a weekend-long experience designed to help undergraduate juniors and seniors prepare for the professional world. From

dining etiquette and networking to mock interviews, resume reviews, and LinkedIn headshots, this immersive event covers everything you need to step confidently into your career.

Throughout the weekend, alumni return to campus to offer guidance and help students practice the skills that can make a new professional feel uneasy. With alumni, employer panelists, and keynote speakers from var-

ious industries, every major is encouraged to attend.

Here's what past participants have to say about their experience:

"The Career Intensive Bootcamp surpassed expectations... I received excellent feedback on my interview skills, resume, and cover letter. I recommend this experience to everyone who is looking to better themselves personally and profession-

ally!" said Regina, a senior business management major.

Hana Ragaa, a senior health sciences major, shared, "Being a part of the career boot camp has raised my confidence level drastically, and it has prepared me for my professional life upon graduation."

As per the name, this event is intense (you'll want to have your homework done in advance), but in just

one weekend, you'll gain the confidence and skills needed to launch your career. Despite its intensity, it's a fantastic opportunity to connect with peers, polish your professionalism, and gain valuable insights.

Your career starts here! The steps you take today bring you closer to your professional goals.

Follow @bloomuengaged on Instagram for updates on CIBC and other events.

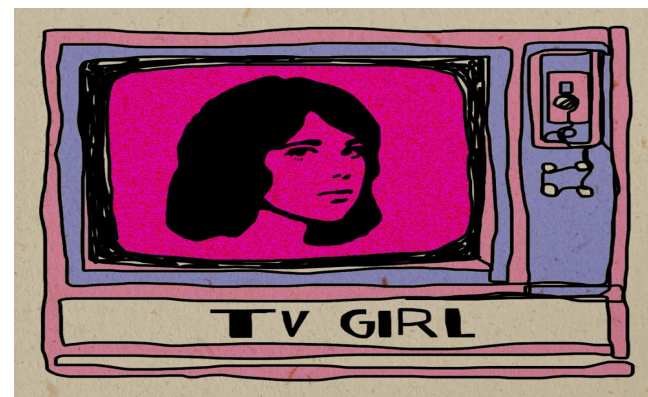
### Sound Check: Birds Don't Sing by TV Girl.

GABRIELLE  
DRUMHELLER  
COLUMNIST

Spring has officially approached us, as well as the craving for summer. TV Girl's song "Birds Don't Sing" is a melancholy, yet sunny and fun indie tune that will keep your head bumping throughout the rest of spring semester. "Birds Don't Sing" appears on the band's 2014 album "French Exit." The album is a true tribute to the indie genre. It's composed of smooth lo-fi, electronic and experimental elements - blending together to create a truly hypnotic compilation of songs. Tracks such as "Lovers Rock" and "Daughter of a Cop" are excellent examples of what the album is made of. However, "Birds Don't Sing" in particular holds that special spring into summer feel. TV Girl is notorious for

using samples from other works in their songs, giving their creations an out of the ordinary flavor. In this song, the band makes use of "Seven Minutes in Heaven," a 1958 song by The Poni-Tales. This piece is an authentic oldie; they take the opening horn melody from this classic and transform it into a dreamy vocal sample, almost stringy sounding sample. It's almost reminiscent of birds singing, indulging in the play on words within the lyrics "Birds don't sing, they just fall from the sky / Girls don't call, and they never tell you why." This also adds to that spring feel as birds tend to be associated with the time period. Continuing, the drums in this song are also sampled. They were creatively refurbished and sampled from the tune "Keep on Doin' It" by The

New Birth, 1973. The tune also includes a multitude of spoken vocal samples, most likely utilized from older pieces of media, which tends to be the case with TV Girl. Overlaying on the song, these spoken bits say, "Over and over can you feel it," "well, um, sure!" "it all sounds a little sick to me" and "you'd do that to a woman?" They emulate what would appear to be a conversation. The lyrical component is intimate, exploring the idea of a relationship ending. You wouldn't know the story is gloomy, as the song remains light-hearted. This changed the trajectory of standard indie break-up songs. The genre normally has a depressing, heart-wrenching reputation. However, "Birds Don't Sing" opens doors to a unique take on what tends to be gutting music. It makes



TV Girl

Photo by Emma Adams in The Post.

it entertaining and cheerful sounding. Lyrics such as "She said, 'How can you joke at a time like this?' / I know why, because this is what you wanted all along now, isn't it? / I think all you ever really wanted was a reason to complain / That never stopped you before, don't let it get in your way" take center stage in the first verse. It seems to replicate an ar-

gument, really holding up to the theme of an ending relationship. These petty words lay over a charming beat that keeps you moving. What is usually melodramatic becomes something catchy and intoxicatingly vibey. "Birds Don't Sing" is perfect for any indie lover, or anyone who adores a catchy song that captures that spring-summer feeling.



# HOWL

## Lifestyle

### Huskies in Heat: Red Flags vs. Real Love: Navigating relationships in college

ALEXANDRIA ROSE  
COLUMNIST

Navigating relationships in today's society can feel overwhelming and, at times, even impossible. We often seem to need someone to feel complete, influenced by the media we are constantly exposed to. From how relationships begin to how they continue to evolve, society puts immense pressure on being in a relationship. This pressure can lead to settling for the wrong person, missing important warning signs, or willingly choosing to ignore them.

You might find yourself in a relationship that started off strong, only to shift unexpectedly over time. You may feel obligated to stay, holding on to the small amount of good that remains. If you find yourself in that situation, it can be hard to walk away. It can be harder to realize that you deserve more — that your worth does not equate to your relationship status, public or private.

If you grew up in an environment where you didn't get to witness a healthy relationship, it can be difficult to recognize what a truly healthy relationship looks like and how it should feel. A healthy relationship looks like two people who can communicate effectively and productively.

A healthy relationship is built on effective communication, where both partners feel respected and heard. Your partner should never resort to name-calling, raising their voice in anger, throwing physical objects, or using physical force at any time. It's important to foster a safe environment where both people can feel heard and seen.

In unhealthy relationships, these behaviors can become common, even if they falsely promise otherwise. While anger is a natural emotion, it's essential to handle it constructively, without resorting to harmful actions.

Words need to align with a

person's actions. While it can be easy to overlook, inconsistency can show itself in many ways. Lack of accountability and dismissing or belittling your feelings are behaviors that should not be ignored. These are crucial indicators that it's time to let go. If you find yourself repeatedly telling someone that their actions are making you uncomfortable, it's a clear sign to walk away.

A healthy relationship is built on mutual support, not competition. Being with your partner is more than enough — love isn't measured by extravagant gifts or material things that come and go. What truly matters is the foundation you build together. The roots you plant, you nurture as a team, growing both individually and as a couple. A healthy relationship means cheering each other on, celebrating successes, and helping each other become the best version of yourselves. It's about working together, not against each other.

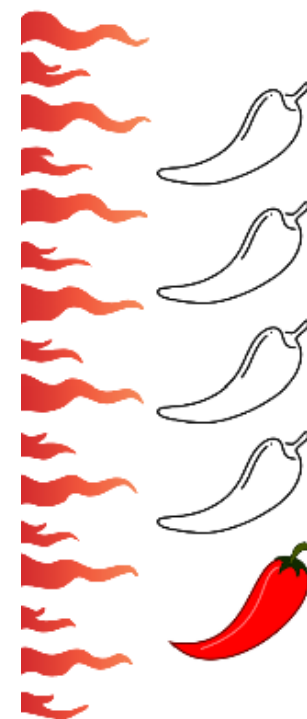
It's important to remember that it should always be the two of you versus the problem, not you versus them. Finding a solution requires both partners to work together. While relationships may

not all look the same, they all deserve to be healthy. Love is meant to be safe, gentle, and kind. Love should never intentionally hurt you.

Moving on and healing look different for everyone, and the process is rarely linear. It's easy to fall into the trap of comparing your journey to someone else's, but progress is personal. Walking away from an unhealthy situation is a significant step, and having the strength to do so is something to be proud of. Acknowledge that accomplishment.

If you feel ready, opening up to trusted friends or family about your experience can help you move forward. If that doesn't feel right yet, professional resources are available to support you.

Healing happens at your own pace. This is the beginning of your next chapter, and it starts with you.



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# GROWL (OPINION)

## Block party blues: From a townie's perspective

**AYDEN POINTER**  
STAFF WRITER

Every spring, Bloomsburg hosts the annual Block Party weekend. This unsanctioned event has grown into a beloved tradition for many students. While the event clearly fosters a strong sense of community among the student body, it also brings significant challenges to the town, especially for those of us who live here year-round. In recent years, the university and town have worked diligently to improve safety during the event, and these efforts have certainly made a difference. Crime rates have decreased with a noticeable increase in

police presence, including uniformed officers, plainclothes officers, and mounted police. Additional measures, such as residence hall guest restrictions and parking limitations, aim to reduce overcrowding and help maintain order. While these efforts have improved the event, they haven't eliminated the disruption for long-term residents. The students themselves have also contributed to improving the atmosphere surrounding the Block Party. Many have embraced responsibility, promoting designated drivers, organizing safe party spaces, and looking out for one another. It's encouraging to see

this sense of responsibility, particularly with the understanding of Pennsylvania's Medical Amnesty Law, which encourages people to help others without fear of legal consequences. These shifts in behavior have contributed to making the event safer and more controlled. However, despite these improvements, Block Party weekend still presents substantial logistical challenges for the town. One of the most noticeable problems is the traffic on Lightstreet Road. This main thoroughfare becomes heavily congested during the event. What should be a quick drive often turns into a frustrating ordeal, with large groups of stu-

dents crossing the street or stumbling into traffic. For residents who need to go about their daily activities, whether getting to work, running errands, or whatever, it's more than just an inconvenience; it becomes a significant disruption. Increased traffic also strains emergency services, with ambulances and fire trucks potentially having difficulty navigating the crowded streets. In an emergency, every minute counts, and it's a real concern for those of us living here that the town's first responders could face delays in critical situations. Another issue is the presence of mounted police, who, while effective for crowd control, leave behind a less desirable impact. Horse manure scattered along Lightstreet Road can become a frustrating problem for residents and drivers. Having to clean horse droppings from a car's tires and fenders after navigating the town during Block Party is unpleasant and a reminder of the event's ongoing impact on the town's infrastructure and daily life. Local businesses also experience the highs and lows of Block Par-

ty weekend. While bars and convenience stores see a boost in business, others, especially those not catering to students, may close early or reduce their hours. Delivery drivers face detours, and some employees call off to avoid the chaos. For families and elderly residents, the noise and crowds often mean retreating indoors to escape the event's intensity. While the Block Party has become an important part of student life, it's vital to remember its broader impact on the town's residents. It's not about canceling the event; it's about striking a balance that allows students to celebrate responsibly while minimizing disruption for those of us who call Bloomsburg home. As we look forward to future Block Party weekends, I hope students will be mindful of their impact on the town and its residents. A celebration that considers everyone is the kind of tradition that will continue to be cherished by students and residents alike.



*A police car parked in a crowd of Bloomsburg students.  
Photo by Connor Davis.*



# GROWL (OPINION)

## Why you should adopt not shop

**BRI RAYMOND & CONNOR DAVIS**  
*GROWL & PHOTOGRAPHY EDITORS*



Whether you are a dog or cat person there is one common denominator between everyone, we love our animals. We want the best for them and they end up becoming a crucial part of the family offering companionship and unconditional love. But imagine an animal that experienced this love only to have it betrayed or misused. Then this animal is rescued from this mistreatment and put into a shelter or rescue program waiting to feel this love again. They will wait in those spots until they get chosen by a person, while they get older and lower their chance of getting adopted. In a recent study, puppies less than a year old have a 21% chance of being adopted and kittens of the same age have a 42% chance. However, at 7 years old the chance for dogs goes down to 14% and the percentage for cats goes down to 8%.

For cats, that is a seventh of what it was like when they were kittens. This is because people want to have animals for as long as possible to keep them a part of the family. Most older animals will end up staying there until they pass away or are faced with euthanasia due to overcrowding in shelters. Due to this many rescue shelters have “Clear the Shelter Day” where adoption fees are often less expensive and it gets people to adopt these older animals. Now take an animal shop, where all the animals are younger. These animals are, as far as puppies are concerned, mostly from puppy mills. Puppy mills are facilities that profit from the mass breeding of dogs and treat dogs inhumanely. Part of the money from purchasing the puppy from the store, most likely goes to a puppy mill and will allow those mills to stay in business. These dogs mainly come with poor health and come with multiple medical issues due to the amount of breeding that is done at these puppy mills. Most

of the time these animals come with a hefty price tag compared to adopting an animal for a rescue center. Adoption fees typically range from \$50 to \$300 including neutering, vaccinations, and microchipping versus breeders charging anywhere from \$500 to \$5,000. Many rescue and mix breed dogs end up living happier and healthier lives and come at a wallet friendly price. Some families looking to adopt a furry friend tend to want specific breeds of cats and dogs. While it is okay to want a certain breed of animal sometimes for allergy reasons, or just out of preference,

many shelters keep a variety of breeds and mixed breeds to choose from. These breeds are often just as loveable, loyal, and trainable as purebred dogs and cats. If you are looking to adopt a pet and welcome a furry friend into your household, go visit your local animal shelter. If you unable to take care of an animal, many shelters have volunteers work for them. If you are on the Bloomsburg campus, there is a club dedicated to helping these animals called Students Saving Shelter Animals.

*Graphics by Bri Raymond.*

### Local Animal Shelters In Bloomsburg

- Cats in Bloom
- Pennsylvania SPCA In Central PA
- Animal Resource Center
- Haven to Home Canine Rescue



# LEISURE



ABRASIVE  
 ABSTAIN  
 ABSTEMIOUS  
 ABSTRUSE  
 BILK  
 BLATANT  
 BLIGHTED  
 BLITHE  
 BLUNDERBUSS  
 CREDITABLE  
 CREDULOUS  
 CREPUSCULAR  
 CRINGE

ENSCONCE  
 ENSHROUD  
 ENUNCIATION  
 ENVENOM  
 HASTEN  
 HAUGHTINESS  
 HEADSTRONG  
 HEDONISM  
 LACERATION  
 LACERATION OBDURATE  
 LACHRYMOSE  
 LACKLUSTER  
 LACONIC

OBDURATE  
 OBFUSCATE  
 OBJECTIVE  
 PLAUSIBLE  
 PLETHORA  
 PLIABLE  
 RENOWN  
 REPRIEVE  
 RESCIND  
 TALISMAN  
 TEDIOUS  
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