

THE VOICE

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Verdict total could hit
\$6M with interest

CARVER HALL

Hanna continues to fight,
no end in sight.

April 23, 2025

NEWS

Second appeal filed in wrongful termination suit

CALEB BROWN
MANAGING EDITOR

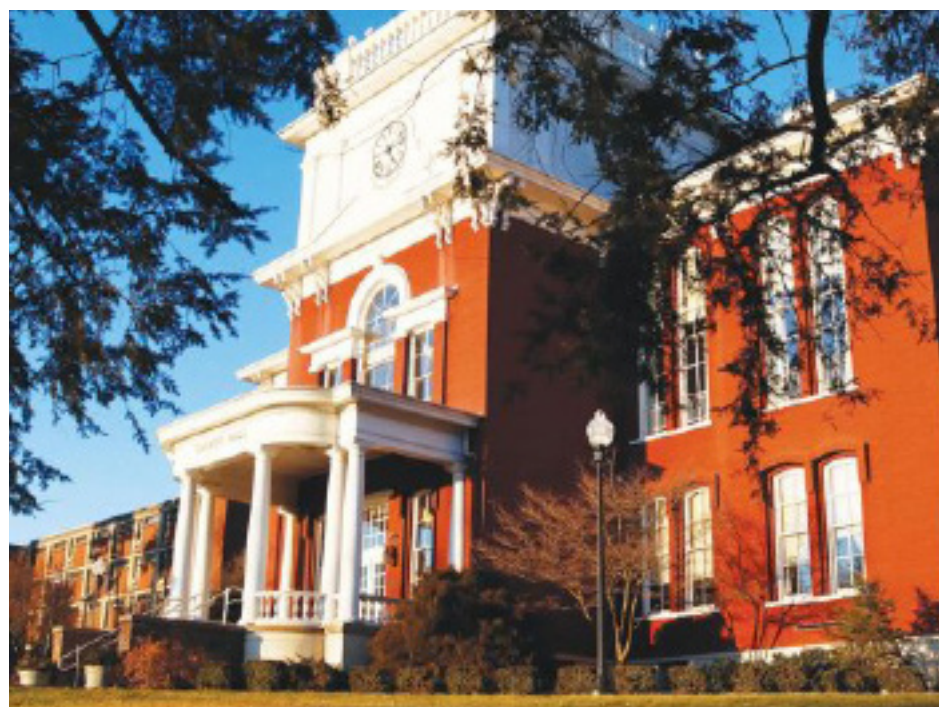
What Happened: A second appeal has been filed in the wrongful termination lawsuit, which found CU President Bashar Hanna, former Provost Dr. James Krause, Bloomsburg University and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) liable and ordered to pay \$3.9 million. This second appeal was sent to the United States Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit, one step below the Supreme Court.

Why it Matters: Every day the full amount of the verdict is not paid, it accumulates interest. As reported by The Voice, that daily interest is currently set at \$480.72. As of today, the estimated amount of

interest accumulated as of March sits around \$101,000.

In an interview with The Voice in September, President Bashar Hanna revealed that, should an appeal be denied and the verdict must be paid, the money would be paid from the university's reserves.

In an interview in March, Suzanne Williams, the vice president for administration and chief of staff, revealed that that is still the case, coming from a litigation fund that was created last year for all three universities. Williams stated that there would be "no direct impact to students" as a result of this, stating a situation like this is the "reason why we have these there." Williams also described how they were working with the



*Carver Hall is home to President Bashar Hanna's office.
Photo by Patrick Halye.*

office of the attorney general during the appeal process..

spoke to The Voice staff, where he affirmed his optimism at the prospect of the second appeal, saying, "I'm

an eternal optimist because I know what transpired, and unfortunately, that's not what came out during

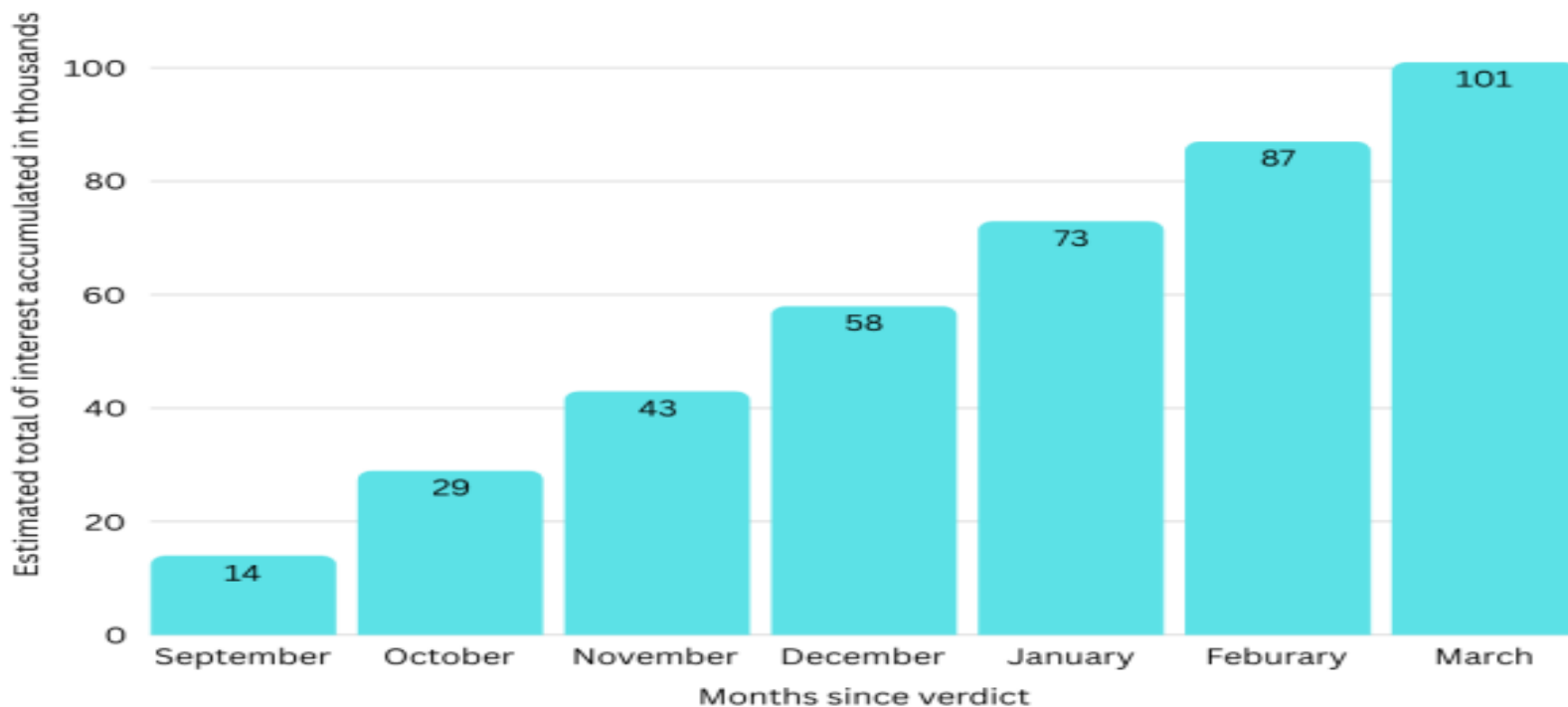
Parties Respond: Hanna

Write for our Sports section!

Report on Bloomsburg Huskies Basketball, Wrestling, Lacross, Baseball and more this semester.

Contact Novalea Verno via Outlook if interested

NEWS



A look at the accumulated amount of interest (in thousands) since the verdict.

Graph by Caleb Brown.

“Second appeal” continued from page 3

the trial, so I continue to be cautiously optimistic that the truth will ultimately come out,” Hanna said.

Furthermore, he expressed,

“The students of the university have always been my North Star. I wake up every morning along with my entire leadership team with one goal, one aim: to make the students’ lives on our campus positive and to help them to get their degree attained.”

On the topic of the verdict’s accumulating interest, Hanna stated, “That’s really the one thing that continues to be part of the conversation

with the attorney general, with the chancellor to make sure that we are assessing the risk versus the opportunity so that we are not taking risks that are unreasonable but continuing to look at every option that available to us to make sure that we do not wind up being placed in a corner that we don’t wanna find ourselves in.”

Meanwhile, Patrick O’Connell, who represents former

Dean of Business Jeffery Krug, expressed his belief that a dismissal of the second appeal is “inevitable.”

“It’s deny and delay. Dr. Krug was wronged; the defendants are eventually going to be forced to pay,” said O’Connell.

O’Connell estimates that by the time the judgment is concluded, the initial \$3.9 million verdict

could be well over \$6 million after attorneys’ fees and interest are included.

The Voice will continue to report on this story as it develops.

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NEWS

A conversation with student representatives

**NOVALEA VERNO &
CALEB BROWN**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND
MANAGING EDITOR

Student representatives play a pivotal role in college campuses across the world. These representatives position themselves as a bridge between students and the administration that oversees them. They share their insight into the college experience, provide input on campus-wide decisions and ultimately represent the very student body they are a part of. The Voice sat down with Jessica Dodge, Matt Yurkanas and Chaz Kaszuba to better understand how they view their roles. These three students are the Bloomsburg student trustee for the Council of Trustees, the president of Bloomsburg's Community Government Association (CGA) and the Vice President of CGA, respectively.

Gathering student opinions

CGA meetings are the main way these representatives gather student input. The problem? CGA hardly has any non-CGA members coming in to voice their opinions.

"It's very rare that we have students show up and are like, 'We need a section of the agenda to voice this specific concern.' I would love to see that, but we



Chaz Kaszuba, Matt Yurkanas and Jessica Dodge are student representatives for Bloomsburg. Submitted photos.

don't," said Yurkanas.

CGA meetings are public and open to all students. In an effort to be more reachable, CGA offers an online feedback form to students, which sends responses to CGA's core four. There is also a "feedback box" in Kehr Union that students can utilize.

Yet despite these seemingly easy-to-use and readily available resources, students are not using them.

Meanwhile, Dodge, stated, "Honestly, it's still a struggle and I feel like it's always gonna be a struggle to get students involved..."

What are students concerned about?

The top concern that stuck out to Kaszuba and Dodge

was scheduling. They believe that students are primarily upset with the Banner scheduling system and the ratio of online to in-person classes.

At this point in The Voice's separate interviews with Dodge and the CGA members, we voiced what our reporting has shown about student concerns. We shared about students' concerns over rising fees, programs being cut and the university gaining a bad reputation after being in the national press for CU President Dr. Bashar Hanna's wrongful termination suit. The two groups took two different approaches to our interruption.

Yurkanas recognized that not all students share the same concerns. Everyone has a unique experience which changes the way they view the world around them.

"Every concern is valid in my opinion because it depends on the lens you're looking it through."

Dodge took a different approach.

"I think that students should really just be concerned about their education. That's what you come to university for, you come to get an education, to get your degree and to be successful in your profession. I do think students get... caught up in the political... [and] administrative aspects..."

Dodge shared with The Voice that she believes there are two categories she represents to the COT- what students should worry about and what they do worry about.

"There's nothing that I

think people are concerned about that's... wrong. I just don't think that there's ever a need to be overly concerned because it always will be figured out..."

Dodge further explained her opinion by stating, "I think some of the attention that has been... in the press should not be the main priority of students."

Further stating, "... for prospective students, I... urge them to dig a little deeper and look at the more positive things and sort of try to set those negative things that the press puts out there aside."

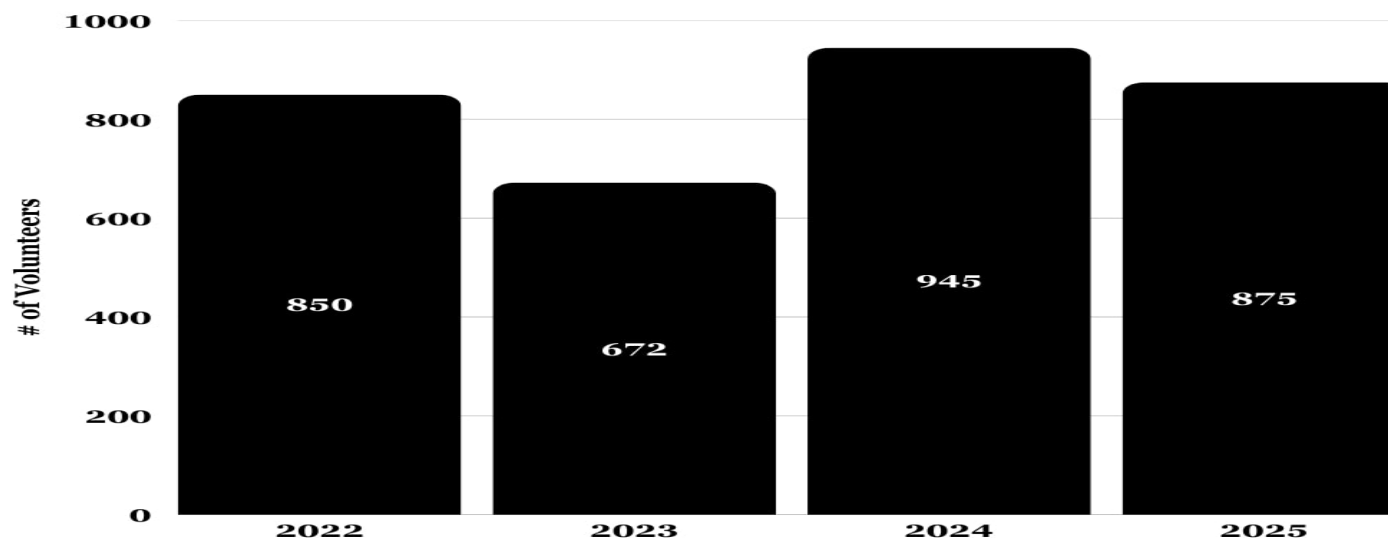
Do they read The Voice?

The Voice believes itself to be a study guide to the student experience at Bloomsburg. The student newspaper is based off of what the staff believes are students' burning questions. The Voice's mission is to be an amplifier of student and community member voices. When asked if they read The Voice as a way to gather what students are thinking, they answered honestly- not really.

Dodge admitted to only looking at headlines in passing.

Meanwhile, both Yurkanas and Kaszuba stated that they do read The Voice, but not cover to cover.

NEWS



*Big Event
volunteering
numbers over the
past four years.
Graph by Ayden
Pointer.*

Bloomsburg students give back during annual Big Event

AYDEN POINTER
*MULTI-MEDIA
JOURNALIST*

What Happened: Despite rainy weather in the low 50s, over 800 volunteers attended the annual Big Event, a significant community service day. The event sent students across town to complete projects, such as yard work, for residents and local businesses. The number of volunteers is below the initial

goal of 1,000 volunteers. Still, it is mainly in line with the past few years since the first post-covid big event. However, these numbers are significantly lower than the 2019 big event, which, according to the CommonwealthU website, boasted over 2,000 volunteers.

Why It Matters: The Big Event is an annual service project that connects students with the town of Bloomsburg through volun-

teer work. It aims to strengthen town-gown relations by encouraging students to engage directly with the local community. Local businesses also support the event, contributing to a strengthened partnership between the university and the town. Initiatives like The Big Event have helped rebuild in-person community engagement following the pandemic.

The Background: The Big Event started in 2010 and has

become one of Bloomsburg's largest student-led service initiatives. Each year, students volunteer to help residents, businesses and community organizations with projects such as yard work and public space cleanups.

Local businesses contributed \$8,650 in monetary and material donations toward a \$10,000 fundraising goal. Organizers said the ongoing partnership among students, university leadership and the

business community reflects a shared commitment to strengthening ties between the campus and the town.

Despite challenges such as weather and changing student engagement trends, the Big Event remains a key tradition at Bloomsburg, highlighting students' dedication to community service.

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HOWL

Lifestyle

Huskies in Heat: Sex Positivity vs. Peer Pressure

BELLA FOSTER
STAFF WRITER

In recent years, sex has become a more socially acceptable topic to discuss, especially among teens and young adults. However, many of us may not recognize the difference between having healthy discussions with others about being or wanting to be sexually active vs. feeling pressured to engage in sexual activity.

Sex Positivity

Familiarize and accept your sexuality, bodily autonomy, and sexual desires.

This begins with you. Learning to love who you are in the most intimate ways should always come first before getting others involved. Sexuality can be a very confusing and difficult concept for some, but it's essential to recognize that this is a part of you that cannot be ignored or shamed.

Stop judging other people's consensual sexual practices

Other people's cup of tea may not be yours, and that is perfectly okay. As long as consent comes first, the practices of other people are their decisions that do not involve you. Mind your business. There is no need to spread more negativity in this world, especially for something as stigmatized as sex.

Communicating about sex and your boundaries in an open-minded and clear way.

Communication is one of

the most important aspects of any relationship. Without being open and honest, how are you supposed to know how your partner is feeling, and how are they supposed to know what you want? Respecting you and your sexual partner's boundaries and communicating your sexual wants and needs to partners will only help you in the long run. Be open to new experiences, but always remember, your partner should never pressure you to do something you are not comfortable with.

Engaging and educating oneself in safe sex practices

Advocating for your own sexual health is an absolute priority, as well as educating yourself and others about what it means to have safe sex. Unsafe practices that might seem fine at the moment are never worth the possible consequences. Bloomsburg University has many resources on campus such as STI testing, the Health and Wellness Center, Birth Control, pregnancy tests, and condom kits. Always take care of yourself and practice the necessary precautions before engaging in any sort of sexual activity. There's no shame in being safe.

Listening compassionately and non-judgmentally to others about their relationship to sex

Everyone has their own perspective on sex, and it's important to keep an open mind because their perspective might have a positive impact

on yours. There's a spectrum to everything, even when it comes to how people view engaging in sexual activity. Once again, communication plays a big role in having a healthy relationship with sex and your sexual partners. We all have opinions and even experiences to share, so refrain from judging others for being willing to open up about an intimate topic.

Consent

Consent is cool and always necessary. Don't be a loser and attempt anything without getting verbal consent from your partner. Also, just because two people have been dating for a long time or have partaken in sexual activity previously does not mean that asking for consent stops. It's needed every single time.

Peer Pressure

"Everybody is doing it."

No, they're not, and even if they are, this is your experience, not theirs. Go at your own pace. Sex should be a healthy and well-considered decision rather than something to be rushed just because everyone else is allegedly doing it. Even though you may feel as if you're surrounded by couples or sexually active people does not mean you need to "catch up."

"We've been dating a while..."

There is no set time in a relationship for when to start having sex, and there never will be. If you and

your partner are planning to become sexually active with each other, it should be a mutual agreement and not when only one of you is ready.

"Don't you love me?"

A partner should never, ever guilt trip their significant other into sex. Healthy sex is not a transaction, nor is it something done to prove your love for someone.

Teasing others for being a virgin

Leave the high school lunch table insults behind and act like mature adults. There is absolutely no shame in being a "virgin" or abstaining from sexual activity for any reason at all.

"Just this once."

Give them an inch, and they'll take a mile. The moment a manipulative partner knows that they can get something they want from you, they'll continue to exploit it. It's almost never "just the one time," which is why setting boundaries for ourselves with partners who actually listen is always encouraged. You should always be heard and taken seriously when it comes to willingness and readiness to be intimate with a partner.

Places encouraging/expecting sexual activity

Just because you're at a party, on a date, or at any place that may elicit sexual behavior does not mean everyone wants to partake. Consent is always neces-

sary, regardless of where you are and who you are with.

Sexual Coercion

Sexual coercion is the act of using pressure, persistence, alcohol/drugs, or force to have sexual contact with someone against their will. The scale of severity ranges from nagging someone to forcing them into doing something they do not consent to. Regardless of severity, sexual coercion is never present in a healthy relationship and should never be used on another individual.

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual violence of any form, contact the following campus resources:

Office of Title IX:

570-389-4808

Women's Resource Center
570-389-5283



HOWL

Lifestyle

Huskies in Heat: April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

BRI RAYMOND
GROWL EDITOR

When most college students think of April, they tend to think of finals, spring weather and parties.

But April showcases something more important that we cannot ignore as college students: Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM).

Not Just a Statistic

One in five women and one in 16 men experience sexual assault in college. That could be your roommate, lab partner or the person you sit next to in class.

Among college students, nearly nine out of 10 victims of sexual assault and rape know their offender.

But this isn't just about numbers. It's about what's happening in dorm rooms after parties, workplaces with power imbalances and in classrooms where survivors sit across from people who've hurt them.

It's about someone pressuring you when you're too drunk to say no. About hearing, "Don't make it weird" when you speak up.

About staying silent because you don't want to "ruin someone's life," even when yours has already changed.

College culture often blurs lines. We celebrate party culture but rarely talk about

alcohol-facilitated assault, which makes up the majority of college sexual assaults.

We stress consent but don't always teach what it really looks like.

What is SAAM?

April was recognized as SAAM officially in 2001, but its roots extend back to the 1970s when survivors began protesting and organizing rallies.

These movements led to the first rape crisis center and the first "Take Back the Night" in 1978. Every April, people across the country wear teal, attend events and speak up to support survivors and demand change.

Take Back the Night is an international movement and annual event that stands against sexual assault and aims to raise awareness, promote prevention and support survivors.

On college campuses, SAAM isn't just symbolic — it's critical. College-aged students are among the most at risk for experiencing sexual violence, especially in the first few years of school. SAAM gives campuses a chance to pause the routine and face the reality of what's happening in their own communities.

This Is Bigger Than One Month

SAAM isn't just about awareness; it's about action. It's about shifting the culture, not just for a month, but for good. And that shift starts with us.

It starts in group chats, dorm lounges, Friday night pre-games and Monday morning lectures.

It starts when we stop brushing off harmful comments as "just jokes." When we shut down peer pressure instead of staying silent. When we stop asking "What were they wearing?" and start asking "Why weren't they respected?"

Changing the culture means believing survivors. Calling out harmful behavior — even when it's uncomfortable.

It means holding friends accountable, not covering for them. It means showing up, speaking out and refusing to stay quiet when silence protects harm.

Because the truth is culture doesn't change on its own. We change it together.

If you've experienced assault, you are not alone. You deserve to be heard, believed and supported. Below are some resources that can help on campus and beyond:



*Sexual Assault, Awareness and Prevention Month Sign
Provided By: Bri Raymond*



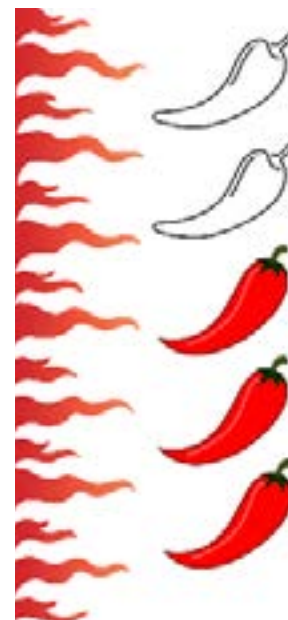
*Residence Hall desk decorated in support of SAAM
Provided By: Bri Raymond*

CU-Bloomsburg Women's Resource Center: 570-389-3933

Sexual Assault and Harassment Hotline: 877-995-5242

Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-SAFE

National Center for Victims of Crimes: 855-4VICTIM



HOWL

Lifestyle

Study Crawl: Best study spots

GABBY DRUMHELLER
STAFF WRITER

When studying one of first things that comes to mind is the library; however, the library has a variety of different study spots in its building alone. There's something for everyone, but what spot is the best?

The Gathering Place

The Gathering Place is located on the first floor of the library next to Starbucks. It has many seating options, including high-top tables, couches and comfortable chairs. This spot has a unique perk unlike other places in the library — it's open 24/7, giving students a study spot at all times.

This tends to be a popular spot, especially if you're grabbing a quick drink to go along with your study session. Because it's right next to Starbucks, it can get noisy when business is busy. This space is great if you're studying with a

group. The ambiance cannot be beaten; one wall is full of windows while the other has mosaic wall art.

First Floor

The first floor of the library is lively as well. It has an almost completely open floor plan, with different forms of seating, adjustable for anyone. There's a large study area with big windows that provides comfortable seating such as bean-bag chairs and cushioned chairs, as well as regular wooden chairs paired with numerous tables. Outside of this room is the general library area, consisting of tables and chairs for everyone to use. There are also printers provided on this floor, giving students easy access if needed. It's common for groups to study here, so it's typical for there to be more chatting. There's one study room on this floor; it's hidden by the microfilm section and labeled study room 130.

Second Floor

The second floor is still a social area. With a wide-open "sunroom" with stained-glass art windows, there are tables and chairs with space to be with groups or on your own. There are several study rooms, all somewhat different regarding size and what the room contains. For example, one has a screen you can connect your computer to, and one has a sink. The computer lab is also located on this floor; however, there are many computers throughout the library.

Third Floor

The third floor is the most experimental in the entire library. It consists of a variety of different spots you can reserve, including large study rooms that are great for groups, as well as smaller study rooms. This also includes glass cubicles, which aren't as private due to the lack of a ceiling. This can get distracting; however, it is an interesting mix of private and social study.



Harvey A. Andruss Library
Photo by Gabby Drumheller.

Fourth Floor

The fourth floor has many unique qualities compared to the rest of the building. The entire floor is designated a "quiet zone" and "no cell phone zone." Going up to the fourth floor is almost eerie with how quiet it is, and you want to be sure not to be noisy. It is incredibly secluded.

The best spot can vary depending on what kind of environment you're looking for. On a personal note, the best study spot in the library has to be the room with the stained-glass windows at just the right time. It has ambiance, is open enough so you don't feel secluded, and at the right time provides enough privacy to limit distractions.

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HOWL

Lifestyle

Student group protests for a livable future

ELIZABETH MAUSER
STAFF WRITER

“Show me what democracy looks like” echoes as a rallying cry from a new student climate justice group at Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg campus.

Picture a world where housing, energy and transportation are affordable and accessible; where everyone has guaranteed access to education and health care; where jobs are plentiful and work-life balance is prioritized. Imagine a world where all people are treated equally, regardless of their background or identity.

The Sunrise Movement is a youth-led American advocacy organization that fights for legislative change to address the ongoing climate crisis and challenges societal practices that promote racial and class inequality. The organization urges Americans of all ages to push for substantial, systemic change from federal government laws that negatively affect their everyday lives.

A student group representing the Sunrise Movement has recently emerged on CU-Bloomsburg’s campus, campaigning for planet-saving policies and protesting social injustice from federal administration, government officials and large corporations. Despite the

group’s denied status as a CGA-affiliated campus club, it has amassed several active members in its two-month existence.

“Students are the country’s future representatives,” says Ell Adams, founder and president of the Sunrise Bloomsburg campus group. “We are the politicians of tomorrow.”

The group protested alongside more than 200 other people at a street corner rally on Saturday, April 5, from 12:30-5:30 p.m. at Third and Market streets in Williamsport, calling for action from U.S. Reps. Dan Meuser and Glenn Thompson. The peaceful protest featured a performer playing bagpipes and an individual wearing an inflatable T-Rex costume. Both young and old Pennsylvanians participated in the rally.

Meuser, a fourth-term Pennsylvania congressman in the 9th Congressional District, is a strong supporter of the current federal administration. He supports cuts to education and health care, and promotes raising the Social Security retirement age.

“There was a lot of age diversity at the protest,” says Lilliana Drosnock, a junior communications studies major with a focus in leadership and public advocacy, and member of the Sunrise Movement group. “A lot of stuff older people rely on

is on the chopping block.”

Advocacy doesn’t fit into one box, nor should it be performed solely by a particular type of person. The Sunrise campus group calls students to remember that a country comprises individuals, and every contribution to discouraging social injustice matters.

“Not everyone agrees with each other, or with every protest,” Adams says. “But Sunrise speaks for the youth.”

Lydia Price, another member of the Sunrise group on campus, encourages students especially to express their beliefs, as they are members of American democracy just as non-university adults are. Like Drosnock, Price is also a communications studies major with a focus in leadership and public advocacy.

“All people have power. They have a voice,” says Elijah Borda, Sunrise campus group secretary and first-year anthropology major.

In addition to protesting social progressive causes, the nationwide Sunrise Movement also promotes a Green New Deal to stop world pollution.

The Green New Deal would guarantee clean air and water, protection from natural disasters, union jobs with living wages, access to healthy food and a “livable



*Elijah Borda and T. rex hold signs downtown.
Photo by Ell Adams.*



*Sunrise Movement members working on picket signs.
Photo by Ell Adams.*

future to all,” as stated on the organization’s website.

The Sunrise campus group performed its second official protest last Saturday at the Market Square Fountain in downtown Bloomsburg. The march drew 200 protesters and lasted two hours.

The Bloomsburg campus Sunrise group meets every Thursday at 5 p.m. in Kehr Union, Room 411. For more

information about the Sunrise Movement or on how to join, contact Ell Adams at lja12659@commonwealthu.edu or visit its website at sunrisemovement.org.

HOWL

Lifestyle

Sound Check: Bohemian Rhapsody

GABBY DRUMHELLER
STAFF WRITER

Brian May, guitarist from the iconic rock band Queen, made a guest appearance at Coachella on April 11 during Benson Boone's set. Boone performed "Bohemian Rhapsody," one of Queen's most famous songs.

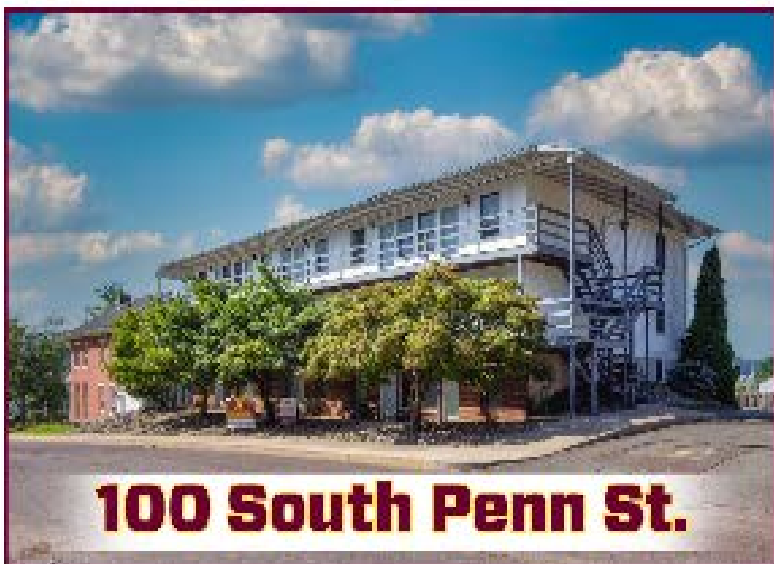
In honor of May performing his iconic guitar solo at such a mainstream event, we are going to examine this incomparable song. "Bohemian Rhapsody" is a musical rollercoaster from Queen's "A Night at the Opera" album. It incorporates elements from various genres, ranging from glam rock to opera.

The song features Freddie Mercury on vocals and piano, May on lead guitar, John Deacon on bass guitar and Roger Taylor on drums. The song tells the story of someone living an unconventional life, though its meaning remains open to interpretation.

In an interview with the Library of Congress in 2024, May said, "I'm very happy to tell you that nobody knows what it means, and Freddie never explained it to us!"

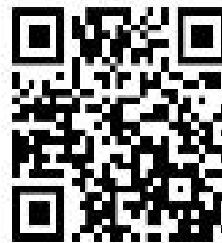
The song begins with haunting vocals, then seamlessly transforms into a classical piano melody. The audio elements, particularly noticeable through headphones, bounce between speakers – creating an immersive experience. It shifts from classical to explode into a rock opera, with lyrics referencing "Galileo" and "Scaramouche."

The song was revolutionary and rule-breaking, primarily because of its length. At 6 minutes, it's double the typical radio time. Critics said "Bohemian Rhapsody" wouldn't engage listeners because of its length, and Queen's label advised against using it as their headlining song.



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Photo

PROTEST ERUPTS IN TOWN

All photos by Connor Davis.



Around 200 people gathered for a peaceful but vocal protest speaking out against the Trump Administration. The protest was organized by The Sunrise, which is an unaffiliated club comprised of Bloomsburg students. The club sent out invitations to Bloomsburg residents to join in with the protest, which took place at the fountain area, including the Civil War Monument, the cafe front of Cats in Bloom, and the corner of the Columbia County Historical and Genealogical Society.

The opinion that was shared amongst everyone there was clear. They were tired of the rich and the Trump Administration making life miserable. While most of the group maintained that this is a peaceful protest, some voices echoed different sentiments. Some voices believed if their voice was not heard, the natural next step was to turn to violence. However, this ideal was expressed by only a small minority of students.

Photo



GROWL (OPINION)

Forest schools: The need for nature

BELLA FOSTER
STAFF WRITER

Children have lost their relationship with nature. Traditional elementary schools leave young children stressed and vulnerable to high expectations for academic performance without room for creativity, play, and personal expression.

Forest schools are an exclusively outdoor, non-traditional schooling approach that reintroduces children to the lessons that can be learned from Mother Nature and life skills important to daily life. Rain or shine, we must learn to endure and grow in all types of environments. As humans, we have become more and more disconnected from the natural world to the point where we shelter our children and shield them from the experiences that the outdoors has to offer. In forest schools, the agenda of the child comes first, allowing them to gain a sense of control in their life. Children are exposed to all sorts of natural elements and follow the expectations to make the most of them. Imagination and creativity bloom when children are left to their own devices to occupy themselves. Without a teacher directing their ev-

ery move, children experience personal freedom through play and exploration of the world around them. By administering a hands-off approach, children gain independence as well as strong communication skills throughout their time at school. These students are not given commercial toys that only serve one purpose. Instead, they must rely on their own ideas and learn by doing. Nature is an open-ended and unstructured ecosystem full of possibilities.

In the woods, every stick, leaf, and rock serves as an opportunity for them to exercise their creative minds. To most, the lack of structure and direction may make them nervous, but we learn best about ourselves in moments of uncertainty and self-reliance. Parents who feel apprehensive about their children falling behind may find solace in knowing that the outdoors offers more than a fresh breath of air. Many outdoor activities at these schools cover various subjects such as math, art, reading, and science. Not only do children learn academically, but they also improve their motor skills and build stamina by:

- Climbing trees
- Working with tools
- Building structures using natural materials
- Cooking food over an open fire
- Running and jumping around the woods

However, physical abilities are not the only skills gained. Forest schools have a holistic approach, which prioritizes the whole child, meaning social and emotional development occurs here too. Modern children have been exposed less and less to risky activities in their lives, leaving them unable to evaluate forms of risk and handle the fear that may occur as a result. Risky activity is crucial for children to be adventurous and learn to overcome scary situations instead of avoiding them. Within the forest, students have the ability to engage in supervised risky activity, which helps them manage their own safety and move around comfortably, all the while building self-esteem. Forest schools curate confident problem solvers who believe in themselves and their abilities because they have been given the chance to face all sorts of challenges. With self-esteem comes self-motiva-

tion, which then translates to increased engagement from students. One major discrepancy found in traditional schooling is the lack of attention span from students. Time spent in nature has been shown to decrease stress, increase focus, and lengthen attention span. In the woods, children have options and more freedom to learn and do as they please. They find ways to entertain themselves in the woods instead of relying on a teacher to give them something to do. By doing all of this, forest schools create morale in those who need it most. Children need the freedom to immerse themselves in the natural world around them. They

are more than capable of learning lessons from unlikely sources that challenge the mandated curriculum our country has established. The definition of a classroom has never been a room with four walls and a whiteboard; it never will be. Mother Nature has always been the basis of our knowledge and holds life's greatest lessons. In a time where nature is destroyed for the sake of human development, we should be teaching our children to appreciate, nurture, and care about the future of our planet. we matter too. We're not going anywhere, and we shouldn't have to fight for a place to sit.



Photo by Bella Foster.

GROWL (OPINION)

Have music festivals lost their soul?

BRI RAYMOND
GROWL EDITOR

Coachella has long been seen as the pinnacle of American music festivals. But after 26 years, what are we actually celebrating? Rising costs, shrinking authenticity, and a growing disconnect between the stage and the crowd have left many fans feeling uneasy. Festivals were meant to unite people through music. Now, they divide us by price tags and VIP wristbands.

When we think of music festivals, most people jump straight to Woodstock. While Woodstock did help define the modern music festival, it wasn't the beginning. The roots of live music gatherings stretch back centuries—all the way to Ancient Greece, where crowds gathered at the Pythian Games in 582 BC. It wasn't all-day raves or overpriced food trucks, but it was music, ritual, and shared experience. People came together to celebrate something bigger than themselves. Fast forward to the 20th century, and you see the blueprint for modern festivals begin to form. The Newport Folk Festival and Monterey Pop Festival laid the groundwork

where community, counterculture, and collective joy took center stage. Then came Woodstock in 1969 reshaping the idea of what music festivals were. Music festivals have always been about bringing people together. That's what made them special. They created a space where people from all walks of life could come together, listen to the same music and feel like they belonged. But that only works if people can afford to be there. Festivals used to be a weekend escape that felt possible a road trip with friends, a tent in a field, and a few days of freedom that didn't require a savings account. But as ticket prices skyrocket, festivals have slowly become luxury experiences. When that happens, we lose what made these spaces powerful in the first place.

The diversity, spontaneity, and energy that comes from throwing a bunch of different people into the same space with nothing in common but a love for music. Affordability isn't just a money issue but a cultural one. If only the wealthy can afford to attend, then festivals stop being a reflection of the people and start becoming a show-

case for the few. Keeping festivals affordable means keeping them real. As more and more people race to get tickets to some of the most anticipated musical festivals like Coachella, Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza, etc. the crowds have grown immensely. While this may seem good too keep these festivals going, it also makes it harder for people to get in, despite the rising cost of tickets and passes.

At Coachella, a General Admission pass in 2025 costs around \$650 not including fees. There is no guaranteed shade, no seating, no perks—just the privilege of standing in the desert heat with tens of thousands of other people, many of whom have paid double or triple for VIP access. And once you're inside, everything costs extra: \$12 for water, \$25 for food, \$50 to stash your stuff in a locker. The so-called "lowest" tier isn't actually affordable, and it certainly isn't equitable. What was once the standard festival experience is now treated like the bare minimum, while everything else is locked behind premium price tags. Today's music festivals operate more like miniature class systems than communal gatherings. The

FESTIVAL NAME	INITIAL PRICE	INUGURAL YEAR	PRICE AS OF 2024
GLASTONBURY	\$1	1970	\$430
BURNING MAN	\$15	1990	\$550
COACHELLA	\$50	1999	\$599
BONNAROO	\$33	2002	\$460
LOLLAPALOOZA	\$60	2005	\$415
STAGE COACH	\$88	2007	\$619
GOVERNORS BALL	\$95	2011	\$359

ALL 2025 TICKET PRICES ARE FROM THE FESTIVAL WEBSITES ALL LISTED AS THE LOWEST GA PRICE

Graphic by Bri Raymond.

rise of multi-tiered ticketing: GA, GA+, VIP, VIP+, Artist Pass, and even "ultra-exclusive experiences" has carved the crowd into layers of access. At Coachella, higher-tier passes come with air-conditioned lounges, private bathrooms, curated food courts, shorter entry lines, and shaded viewing areas while everyone in GA bakes in the sun. Instead of leveling the playing field through music, festivals now replicate the same inequalities that people attend them to escape. The more you pay, the more human you get to feel.

Music festivals were never meant to be luxury playgrounds for the elite they were built on the idea of shared experience, collective joy, and accessibility. When we strip away the exclusivity, the overpriced wristbands, and the influencer photo ops, what's left should be the music and the people who came for it.

It's time to demand more from these events. Remember that real music culture isn't found behind a velvet rope, it's out in the crowd, where anyone can dance.

Sports

Bond Building leads to third place in conference

ADDISON SONDBERG
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After an 18-12 season, the Bloomsburg Women's Basketball Team made it to the second round of playoffs for the first time since 2020. Talking about improvement, this season marked the largest year-to-year jump from last season to this season. Winning an additional 8 games, 5 of which were conference games. After finishing third in the PSAC Eastern Conference, Voice staff and the Champions Podcast spoke with Allison Tagliaferri PSAC East Coach of the year and Katie Starr, who was named first team all-conference.

Throughout the season, Tagliaferri talked about this team and their mental struggles. There were weeks where this team lacked confidence, and made moments feel a lot bigger than they should have been, which caused a struggle in some games. There were other weeks where the team felt too comfortable, specifically when they secured their playoff spot and still had some regular-season games ahead. By the end of the season, she felt they had tremendously improved.

"We still need to grasp the fact that anyone can beat anyone at any given day in this conference. We certainly improved in a lot of areas but still have a far way to go to getting ourselves in an even better place moving forward and continuing

with the success we built this year," Tagliaferri said.

This was Coach Tagliaferri's second honor of Coach of the Year. Her first being for the 2018-2019 season. As for her honor this year, she was surprised considering not finishing in first or second, but it made sense with the year that they had.

"Anytime you win this award is a credit to the whole program itself. I don't think it's ever just me. I think after the last two years of struggling, I was just so happy for this senior class."

Coach Tagliaferri knew how possible it was for this team to go far. She emphasized that if her team can 'buy into' having a strong defense, they can do a lot of things with the talent on the team, and it was almost an "I told you so" moment for her as a coach.

With the large senior class they are losing, the underclassmen have quite the shoes to fill. Coach Tagliaferri emphasizes the underclassmen on her roster could play a big role in the upcoming season. Their reps now and how they spend their summer preparing are more important than ever.

"We do have a pretty large freshman class coming in, and I do think that there's a lot of players in that class that are capable, but I also think that these nine are the people that it should be. From a defensive stand-



*PSAC East Coach of the year, Allison Tagliaferri.
Photo by Jaime North*

point, we could be even better, and this is one of the best defensive groups we've ever had. I'm excited to see what we can do on that end, because it will transfer on the offensive side of things."

As Coach Tagliaferri credited her team's collective growth and resilience throughout the season, she mentioned the importance of leadership from her seniors, which was a key reason behind the season's success. Among those seniors, Starr stood out as a leader on and off the court. Starr was honored to the All-PSAC East Team, finished averaging 14.6 points per game, 70 steals on the season, as well as 36 blocks. Starr finished with 1,331 career points, emphasizing her court leadership.

In the quarterfinals game against Lock Haven, Katie

Starr went down in the first quarter with a season-ending injury, changing the trajectory of the game. Despite not being able to finish her final game as a Husky, Starr held her head high and credits her teammates behind her.

"They may be losing us, but the team still has an amazing group. I'm not worried for them at all, it's hard for other teams who lose those seniors, but you look at the group we had, and they have so much experience. They're going to do fine," Starr said.

Overall, she left with a bittersweet feeling, recalling her experiences, and was surprised how much of a bond she built with this team. They aren't just a team; they're a family.

"Coming in I didn't think I would be able to have

these relationships on a sports team, but they become more of a family rather than just a team." Starr spoke highly of the coaching staff; Coach Tagliaferri and Coach Flanagan were mentors for not just basketball but also just in life. She praised her fellow seniors, the 'OG 5.' Having the bond since freshman year to graduation is something she is grateful to experience. These relationships translated to being successful on the court and truly flowing as a team.

As for what is next for Katie Starr? She has plans to continue school and get her master's in sport psychology. It won't be too much of a summer for her though, as she plans to recover from her planned surgery for her knee on May 23.