

THE VOICE

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FINANCIAL LOSS CLOSES ROONGO'S CAFE



April 9, 2025

Photo by Connor Davis.

NEWS

Roongo's Cafe closing after spring semester



Self-serve dining options to come to Waller Administration building.
Photo by Connor Davis.

CALEB BROWN & REBECCA SOKOLOWSKI
MANAGING EDITOR & NEWS EDITOR

What happened:

Roongo's Cafe is closing at the end of the Spring '25 semester after being confirmed in a dining update email sent by CU Dining.

Why it matters:

Roongo's Cafe has been a popular dining spot on campus for both students and faculty alike due to its location in Warren Student Service Center on the quad. The email detailed that while Roongo's would be closing, "self-serve op-

tions will be installed in Warren Student Services."

The Background:

This all comes after initial speculation that Roongo's was facing a potential closure in the fall semester. Dan Knorr, the executive director of economic development & external affairs, was asked in December about the future of Roongo's. At the time there was no official statement about a closure.

According to Knorr, Roongo's has been losing money since its reopening after the pandemic. He revealed that this semester the university was on track to lose \$12,000 at Roongo's. In Fall '23, Roongo's lost \$30,000.

provide a funding supplement to Aramark to maintain operations at Roongo's.

Students and faculty have mixed feelings about the closure.

Graduate student, Elizabeth Lee, while visiting Roongo's, shared with The Voice, "I don't really come here often, but I guess I'm sad about it."

Bloomsburg faculty members Brock Dent, Asa Kelley and Dr. Clay Corbin come to Roongo's several times a week for lunch. They expressed their sadness in losing their favorite lunch spot on campus and a sense of lost community.

"We will be going off campus for food op-

tions [now]," Kelley said.

Roongo's Cafe staff members declined to comment on the closing and referred The Voice to John Scheers, Marketing Manager of Dining Services, for comment.

John Scheers, Marketing Manager for Dining Services, stated in an email to The Voice, "Roongo's is closing due to challenging economic conditions; this change reflects a rightsizing to sustainable business operations for dining on campus. Many of the concepts offered at Roongo's can be enjoyed elsewhere on campus, like Husky Lounge, where meal swipes are accepted. We will be working with our valued team members there to transfer them

For the 2024/2025 academic year, the university had to



Roongo's Cafe serves its last customers before closing for good at the end of the Spring 2025 semester.

Photo by Rebecca Sokolowski.

NEWS

CU collects data on student's experiences

GABBY DRUMHELLER
STAFF WRITER

What happened:

First-year and senior students' have been inundated with emails from the University to take the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), with the goal of collecting information about how students spend their time, the value of interactions with faculty, other students and staff, as well as the quality of engagement with organizations and activities on campus.

Why it matters:

Eric Foster, an editor and creative specialist from Strategic Communications, claims "as part of the process, NSSE provides aggregate-level results back to the campus which includes comparisons against peer groups, other schools within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, and all

institutions that participated during this administration cycle." These surveys are collecting data straight from the source – students.

Giving students a chance to state their real opinions on how things are going. This means that depending on the results, real changes can be made on campus.

The Background:

The results provide an educated guess of how undergraduate university students are spending their time, and what they are gaining from their college experience. Foster also explains that the aggregate-level results are shared with the university community, which are then used for institutional improvement. He states "specifically, the NSSE results that have been used in the most recent strategic planning process, have led to multiple professional development opportunities for faculty and staff, and were used in the

recent Middle States report."

NSSE was originally developed by Indiana University – Bloomington in 2014. The survey is distributed to first year and senior students. Foster, who has also been working with NSSE, states "it's administered by hundreds of postsecondary institutions every year."

According to the NSSE website, it makes use of 5 categories. These categories include

- (1) "participation in educationally purposeful activities,
- (2) institutional requirements and the challenging coursework,
- (3) perceptions of the college environment,
- (4) estimates of educational and personal growth, and
- (5) background and demographic information." The topical modules and questionnaire are then reviewed and edited each year to stay up to date regarding rel-



*Carver Hall.
Photo by Connor Davis.*

evance to student learning, terminology and forms of engagement."

In regard to Commonwealth University, John M. Abpla-

nalp, is the Director of Institutional research. His contact information resides in each email, and it's recommended that students reach out to him with questions or concerns.

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NEWS

Greek Life is coming back to CU Bloomsburg

ERIC WOOD
STAFF WRITER

What's Happening:

After 5 years, Greek Life is being welcomed back by CU-Bloomsburg. The disaffiliation is over, and the University has put out an official statement on bringing Frats and Sororities back into the husky family.

Background:

According to a prior Voice article from 2021, Greek life was put on suspension due to behavior infractions. Despite its ties being cut with the university, Greek Life has continued to live

on here at CU-Bloomsburg for the last few years.

Controversy surrounding the death of a Bloomsburg student in relation to Fraternity rushing was reported by ABC 16 WNEP at the time, with their article stating the University was being sued as well as multiple Greek life groups over the 2019 death of BU freshman Justin King.

The tragic loss resulted in the University's decision to disassociate with all Greek life for 5 years. Multiple BU Fraternities and Sororities were shut down by their national branches as a result of no longer being

supported by the school.

The Rest of the Story:

5 years have passed since the decision to disassociate, and the newly formed Commonwealth University is looking to bring back BU's frats as continued change occurs across all three CU campuses.

According to the CU Website, Greek life was re-evaluated in 2023 by the university's administration and a team of alumni.

The official statement reads as follows, "After careful deliberation ... Commonwealth University is pleased to announce the relaunch of Fraternity and Sorority Life at the Bloomsburg campus, bringing this program back in a reimagined, responsible, and impactful manner."

Despite being welcomed back, Frats and Sororities are going to have to adhere to different rules than they have for the past few years, including roster checks with the university and annual reports on each chapter affiliated with the university.

BUF Chair Steve Jones had this to say on returning the status of Greek life chapters, "I recognized that we can't do the same thing and expect different results. That's why I am proud of having had the chance to work with



Tau Kappa Epsilon in downtown Bloomsburg.
Photo by Eric Wood,

alumni and university administration to put into place a plan to bring back a program thousands of students have benefited from over the years but in a way that ensures it is safer, more sustainable, and more impactful than it ever was before."

CU-Bloomsburg will be hiring three new positions to oversee the return of Greek life: a Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life and two Assistant Directors. These positions aim to ensure the safety and funding throughout the transition of Greek life back to Bloomsburg.

The Voice reached out to multiple chapters for a quote via Instagram, and Tau Kappa Epsilon (known mostly as TKE) was the only response, saying "As an international

organization we are optimistic about the opportunities that will come with being welcomed back. The ability to recruit, fundraise, and promote our organizations on campus would help to show that Greek life is more than just a 'friends' club."

The current plan by the university will begin going into effect during the 2025-26 school year with Chapters being formally accredited sometime in the 2026-27 school year.

"It has been a long road for Greek Life at our Bloomsburg campus, but I am excited and hopeful for the future of the reimagined program," said CU President Bashar Hanna.



Pictured above are the fraternity (TΣΠ) and sorority (ΣΣΣ) houses on Lightstreet Road in Bloomsburg.
Photo by Eliza Nevis.

HOWL

Lifestyle

Huskies in Heat: Is hookup culture overrated?

GABBY DRUMHELLER
STAFF WRITER

While often confused with the concept of situationships, hookup culture is strictly sexual rather than emotional. To put it into view, the term “hooking up” regards the idea of having a sexual relationship without having to deal with feelings.

This includes circumstances like one-night stands, friends with benefits, or just having casual sex to have casual sex. However, are we viewing these relationships with too much value?

In recent years, the act of “hooking up” has been praised and normalized. It has become associated with empowerment and encouragement, emphasizing the “free spirit” ideology.

Yes, it is entirely plausible that having sex without strings attached may bring someone a sense of confidence. In hindsight, the underlying toxicity within hookup cul-

ture is causing detrimental damage to our concept of romantic relationships. As a society, we have begun prioritizing sexual pleasure over emotional intimacy. Sex has essentially become king. The phrase “sex sells” has been circulating for decades.

If it turns you on, it’s popular. This led to a massive increase of sexual content. We have become desensitized as a society from said content due to intense exposure taking place in the current media. Not to mention the easy access to pornography in general.

This specific strain of content has infected Gen Z in particular, completely morphing the perspective of sex. It is something that is now commonly sought out, and lust has taken over the needs of many people.

What used to be seen as an act of love and intimacy has become a laid-back pastime for most. The double standards re-

garding gender roles in hookup culture also add to the stigma. When a man says he partakes in casual sex with different partners, he is often praised for it. Women are often put down in these circumstances, getting labeled with a multitude of derogatory terms.

More commonly known as “slut shaming.” Based on an academic journal, Pathways of Self Determination, from England and Bearak, their research data has shown that there is a double standard when it comes to heterosexual and cisgender men and women being openly sexually active.

It’s not out of the ordinary that you’ll be asked the question of “What’s your body count?” The reactions may vary, but more often than not, the answer will sway someone’s opinion.

The act of “hooking up” within hookup culture can also be dangerous. Not just physically but also emotionally.

When you’re partaking in casual sex, especially with partners you don’t know well, the knowledge you have on their sexual history is limited. Safe sex is key. Casual sex makes spreading STDs and other infections incredibly easy, especially if multiple partners are involved.

Not only is using physical protection important, protecting your mental health is as well. The clichés of hookup culture play on avoidance, and in these situations someone always gets hurt. From sneaking out the morning after to not receiving a text back, these tactics can cause great emotional harm.

Whether that be a friends-with-benefits situation, someone always wants more and usually ends up getting hurt. On the surface, hookup culture can seem great.

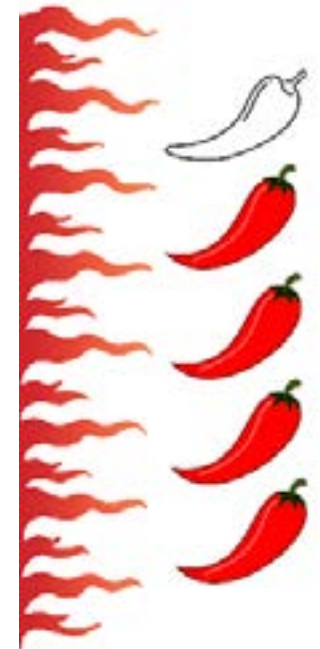
Meeting your desires and fulfilling your sexual needs without the hassle

of a romantic relationship sounds like a good idea.

However, once you dig beneath the surface and get into the thick of it, someone always tends to get hurt.

Staying informed and being safe is what matters the most.

Have fun, but keep in mind the toxicity that comes with the pleasures of hookup culture.



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PHOTO

Bloomsburg's annual 'Big Event' brings smiles



Hype was in the air Saturday for the Big Event. Students gathering in their groups, grabbing food and Dunkin' refreshers to prepare for hard work ahead. Everyone who showed up was ready despite the rain pouring down. After a few brief speeches everyone was off to get tools and go to their assigned spots.

The students worked hard through the wet and cold. Every resident applauded and assisted wherever possible. Every Bloomsburg resident was blown away at the grit and determination of the student volunteers who showed up to help.



Photos by Connor Davis.

PHOTO



Photos by Connor Davis.

HOWL

Lifestyle

All In for Huskies: A Day of Giving to Show Husky Pride

WARREN DAISEY
HOWL EDITOR

The fourth annual “All In for Huskies” Day of Giving is set to take place on April 10th and 11th, with an ambitious goal of reaching 1,000 donors by 10 p.m. on April 11th. This tradition has become an important way for alumni, faculty, staff, and students to come together and show support for Bloomsburg University. “Days like the All In Day of Giving are really more about participation than how much money we raise,” explains Thomas Schaeffer, BU Foundation Senior Director of Marketing and Communications.

“It’s about showing Husky pride and being there to support the students and the university.”

After a strong inaugural year in 2021, the event saw mixed results in subsequent years. In 2022, the campaign attracted 652 donors who contributed \$121,207.

The following year, 2023, saw a slight increase to 669 donors, though the total amount decreased to \$102,693. Last year’s 2024 event reported 567 donors with \$94,410 raised, indicating a need to reinvigorate community participation. The minimum donation amount is just \$5, making it easy for anyone to participate. “Skip your cup of coffee today and make your gift to the foundation,” Schaeffer suggests. Donors can direct their contribution to any area they care about, whether that’s a specific department, athletic team, the Bloom On Fund for the university’s greatest needs, or emergency scholarships to help students facing financial hardships stay in school. The event has already reached its Early Bird Challenge, unlocking an extra \$2,000 for emergency scholarships by securing 200 donors before the official start. As of the time of this interview, 275 donors have already contributed.

Student Competition and Prizes

This year’s event features a special competition for students. The top 20 students who get the most people to make a donation (regardless of dollar amount) will win prizes valued at approximately \$100 each.

Two of the top prizes are coveted parking passes. The parking passes will allow students to park in the red parking (Faculty/Staff) area. The overnight parking will be located in the middle level of the tri-level unless the student lives on upper campus. If the student lives on upper campus, they will be allowed to park in front of their building.

Other prizes include personalized Stanley Cups with Husky logos, Yeti Cups, \$100 gift cards to Lululemon, AirPods, and custom Bloomsburg apparel from the Trophy Store. For the first time, senior class gifts are counting to-

ward the All In donor goal. Seniors who donate their class year amount (\$20.25) receive a philanthropy cord to wear at graduation while also supporting the Day of Giving initiative. Matches and Challenges Throughout the day, various matches and challenges will help multiply the impact of donations. The athletic team receiving the most donations will get an additional \$500 for travel expenses, meals, equipment upgrades, and other needs.

Department challenges, dean challenges, and leadership team challenges will also be available to help raise additional funds. Students can participate in the competition by scanning QR codes posted throughout campus in residence halls, dining areas, and academic departments. After filling out a form with their name and Husky email, they’ll receive a unique link to share with potential donors. When people donate through that link, the student gets credit toward the competition.

The All In for Huskies event represents what it means to be part of the Bloomsburg community—coming together with grit and determination to support one another and build a stronger university for the future.

To learn more about the prize competition, matching and challenge gifts, or to make your gift, visit giving.bloomu.edu/AllIn.



*Roongo holding an ‘All in Huskies’ sign.
Photo by Thomas Schaeffer.*

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HOWL Lifestyle

On April 4th, 1968. Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated by James Earl Ray

Sound Check: Tyler, The Creator

GABBY DRUMHELLER
STAFF WRITER

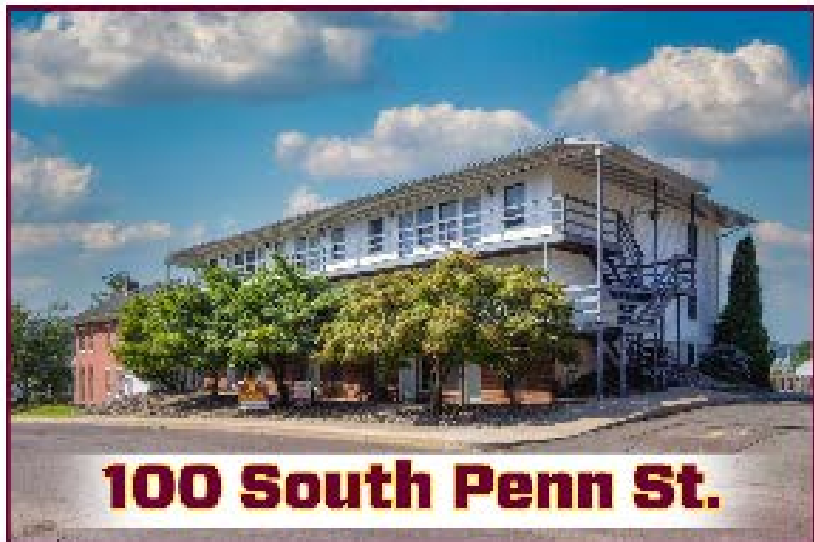
Tyler, The Creator’s “Chromakopia” tour has officially hit Pennsylvania as of March 28, in the city of Pittsburgh. In honor of Tyler’s Pennsylvania debut, we will be reviewing his song “Take Your Mask Off”, which features Daneil Caesar and LaToiya Williams. The album, Chromakopia, is a hip-hop/rap album. As a whole, it explores Tyler’s views on society, childhood, sexuality and fame. During an event on October 27th, Tyler spoke on the creation of his album, stating “The album just kinda turned into me taking a bunch of stuff my mom told me as a kid.” This also builds more reason as to why he samples

his mother’s voice in almost every song on the album. “Take Your Mask off” in particular dives into the frustrations Tyler has towards society. It holds a message of influence, attempting to impact listeners and convince them to show their true selves. Or, as per the common saying “take your mask off”, hence the name. This is relevant to mankind as a whole, for we as people have become so used to following societal norms that we are not being our most authentic selves. The song starts with an electronic and vocally melodic intro. The first verse follows, hitting hard with the idea of the societal pressure put on men from a young age to be “tough”. He makes it known through his lyrics that it

doesn’t have to be like this. He states “And none them face tats gon’ hid that you sad, bruh / You ain’t a thug, you was in drama club, you’s an actor”. This acts as a metaphor, showing how one is hiding who they truly are behind a persona due to their upbringing. Then follows is the chorus, stating the iconic “And I hope you find yourself / And I hope you take your mask off” lyrics, which reinstate the theme of the song. The second and third verses hold similar values of how stereotypes and figurehead roles push down your identity. The second verse digs up the relationship between religion and sexuality. It almost interprets as a story of a preacher hiding his sexuality, saying “gotta hide how you live, what you really en-

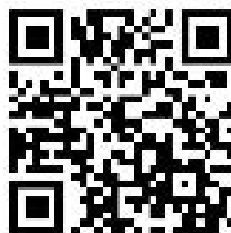
joy,” then later “trade it all to be free and shine bright like the sun.” The third verse then speaks on the stereotypical loss of identity within females, specifically maternal roles. Making claims such as how her body hasn’t been the same, how postpartum is a lengthy process and how her “identity is gone”. Tyler hits the nail on the head with the lyrics “Mama your first name, the lost one got changed / They dream about your nest but you crave flyin’ alone”. This then turns into a message from his mother, she passionately speaks of keeping this “one hundred” with yourself, stating “you don’t have to put on no costume.” The final verse is an inward look at Tyler himself, he gives an honest take on his doubts as an artist. Put-

ting a personal touch and empathizing with listeners. Instrumentally, Tyler makes use of the piano in E major throughout the song. This gives the tune an almost ballad like take. This fits with the story-telling lyrical composure, as a ballad tends to be a narrative. As the song ends, he wraps up with the chorus, putting emphasis on the “I hope you take your mask off” line. It’s a song of empowerment. Tyler really encourages fans not to hide themselves behind the masks they have created to “fit in”, as that isn’t truly living. You see this play through the stories he tells in each first. This song truly preaches to break out of social norms, and to be yourself.



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Corner

Bridging college to career: How does ProfessionalU actually work?

EMILY ALLEN
SUBMITTED BY
PROFESSIONAL U

College can be overwhelming, but the Alumni and Professional Engagement (A&PE) Office at Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg helps students transition from academics to the workforce through ProfessionalU. This career-focused initiative is built on three key pillars—Faculty & Staff, Alumni & Employer Partners, and Alumni & Professional Engagement—each shaping students' professional paths. While A&PE and ProfessionalU are often confused, the breakdown below clarifies how ProfessionalU is structured and supported.

Faculty & Staff: Guiding Your Academic and Career Path Faculty help with major selection, connect students to alumni, and share industry opportunities. Personally, my advisor, Dr. Magolis, referred me to the A&PE office for a work study position, changing my college career for the better! Faculty also oversee internships, conferences, work-study programs, and career workshops. “My advisor for SPSEA, Dr. Terwillinger, invites all members of the club to attend the SPSEA State Conference to gain professional development and

new insights to the teaching world,” said Anna Sarnoski, Early Childhood and Special Education major. Additionally, faculty and staff oversee work-study programs, research and fieldwork supervision, career road trips, and programming workshops that prepare students for life beyond college. Their guidance ensures that academic learning is enriched with hands-on experiences. **Alumni & Employer Partners:** Bridging the Gap to the Professional World Employers and alumni help students succeed by offering mentorship, internships, and job opportunities. Pro-

essionalU strengthens these connections through networking events like regional socials, homecoming, and career expos. Working at the A&PE Office, I've connected with alumni and employers across industries—relationships that open doors and create career pathways for students! **Alumni & Professional Engagement:** Career-Boosting Initiatives The Alumni and Professional Engagement office helps students prep for the workforce with career events, LinkedIn Labs, resume workshops, and one-on-one coaching. I booked an appointment, and my 5-page

resume got trimmed to a sleek, professional one-pager (because more pages don't equal more professional!). Need interview attire? The Career Closet has you covered. Want a sharp LinkedIn headshot? They've got that too (dust off that profile!). Plus, strong alumni and employer connections keep career opportunities flowing. At the core of ProfessionalU are jobs, internships, and career events that all connect. Engaging with these resources builds confidence, skills, and networks—so take advantage and set yourself up for success!

Big Event is over: What is next for CGA?

CGA PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
SUBMITTED BY CGA

On Saturday, April 5th, CGA held its annual Big Event.

Over 800 student volunteers showed up to clean up the Bloomsburg community.

Rain or shine, students went into the town to do some spring cleaning, including raking, trimming, bagging, mulching, and other tasks, completing 175 job sites all over town.

This 16-year tradition is CGA's favorite and biggest event, and it is a fantastic experience every year.

CGA held its annual Executive Board Elections in March.

The 2025-2026 executive board consists of President Chaz Kaszuba, Vice President Jeriah Wirth, Secretary Gracey-mae Baker, and Treasurer Alanna Witmer.

President Chaz Kaszuba will announce the appointed positions of the executive board after he is officially inducted.



Volunteers heading out to their job site. Photographed by Jamie North.

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 Alexandria Rose, Bella Foster, Gabrielle
 Drumheller, Ayden Pointer & Eric Wood

Advisor: Dr. John-Erik Koslosky
 jkoslosk@commonwealthu.edu

Box 97 KUB
 Commonwealth University- Bloomsburg
 Bloomsburg, PA 17815
 Email: nf93685@commonwealthu.edu

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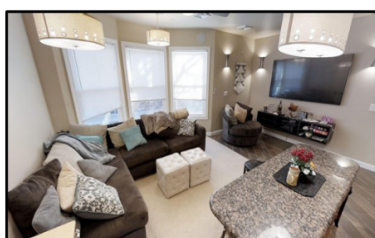
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The Voice is dedicated to reporting the stories that matter to students. Whether it's combing through financial reports, sitting sideline at games, attending on-campus events, or capturing the student experience on film, we do it all.

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Photo

Spring Blooms in Bloom

By Eric Wood

Spring Blooms in Bloom:

March 20th was the first day of Spring this year, and Bloomsburg PA is seeing the change in seasons.

All over campus the signs of spring can be seen. The plants are blooming, from the bushes outside the Kehr Union to the trees on the sidewalk by Elwell. Spring has sprung. Though recent temperatures may not reflect the season, there are more robins around on the quad indicating warmer weather any day

now.



Photo

All Photos by Eric Wood

In front of carver hall, trees are days away from being full of leaves. On the main street some cherry blossoms are starting to bloom and are already sprinkling the sidewalk with petals.

As spring begins, signs of life start to creep across the quad and on the streets downtown. New life emerges, marking the end of a cold and dull Pennsylvania winter.



Sports

Emma Little: PSAC Athlete of the week

ERIC WOOD
STAFF WRITER

Q: How does it feel to be a PSAC Athlete of the week!

A: It feels awesome! This has been a goal of mine since I first got to college, and to finally see it happen is just such a cool moment. I've worked really hard for this, and it means a lot to be recognized. I'm super grateful for my teammates and coaches who have been supporting me the whole time!

Q: Name? Grade? Position on the team?

A: Emma Little, Senior , Catcher

Q: How long have you played?

A: I've been playing since I was 6 years old. My older sister Megan played, so I always looked up to her and wanted to be just like her. Plus, my dad was a baseball player, so the game has kind of always been in my blood. Growing up around it made me fall in love with the sport early on.

Q: What did it take to get where you are today in terms of athletics?

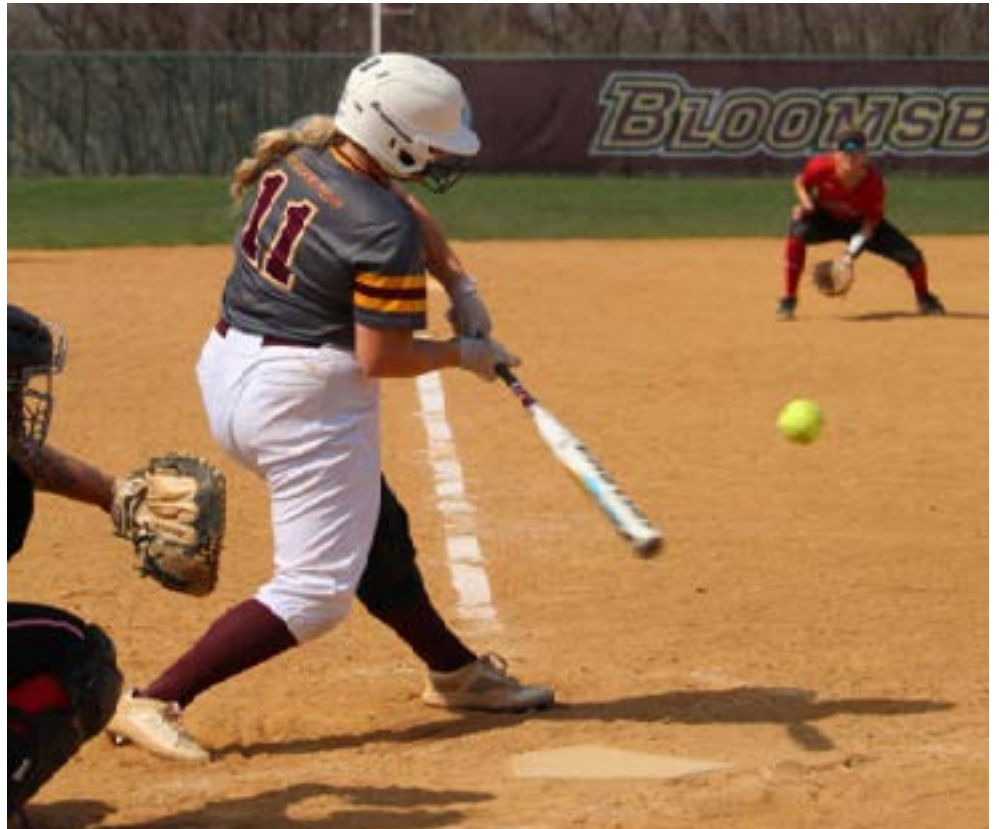
A: It's taken a lot of commitment and hard work over the years. I started playing travel ball when I was 10, so from a young age, my life revolved around the game. I would spend endless weekends at tournaments, long drives, and always being on the go. But I loved it. When I think about my childhood I think about softball and all the friends and memories I made along the way.

Q: How do you balance an active student life with an active athletic life?

A: Now that I'm a senior, I've definitely learned how to handle the balance a lot better. It took some time, but I've been successful at managing both. I have been a scholar athlete all 4 years here which is credit to how I have balanced both. My most difficult semester was Fall of 2024 because I was student teaching. I had long days but thanks to my organization and time management skills, I was very successful.

Q: What is one thing you would tell all younger aspiring athletes if you could?

A: I'd say that it's never that serious. Seriously, just have fun with it. At the end of the day, it's a game, and you're supposed to enjoy playing. Don't get so caught up in being perfect or stressing over every mistake. Some of the



*Emma Little swinging at bat in the heat of a softball game.
Photo submitted by Emma Little.*

best memories come from just having fun with your teammates and loving the game for what it is. 16 years later I still love the game, because I've always made sure to have fun!

Q: How important is your sport in your life? Give us a look at your background!

A: My sport has pretty much been my whole life. I've been playing since I was six, and it's shaped so much of who I am. From travel ball to now playing in college, it's given me some of my best memories, closest friends, and toughest lessons. It's crazy to think this is my last season. I know I'm really going to miss it when I play my final game. It's been such a huge part of my life for so long, and I'm just trying to soak in every moment while I still can.

Q: This is a great accomplishment, what goals and accomplishments do you keep/pride yourself on?

A: Being named PSAC Athlete of the Week is definitely something I'm proud of for accomplishing. I also take a lot of pride in being a scholar-athlete all four years because it hasn't always been easy balancing everything, but I've stayed consistent. Starting since my freshman year is another big one. It meant a lot to earn that spot early on and be able to grow from there. Finally, being named team captain this year has been super special. Just knowing my teammates and coaches trust and respect me like that means everything.

GROWL OPINION

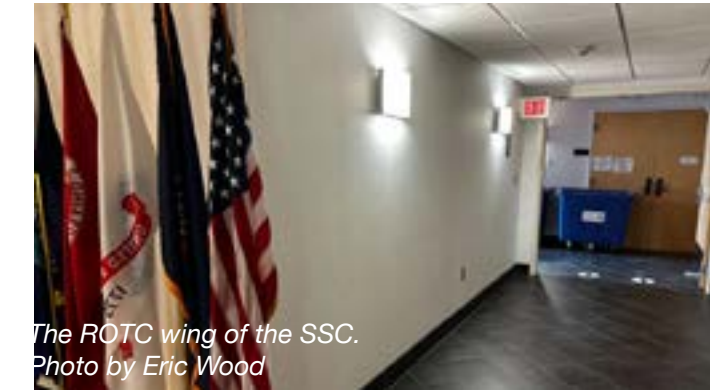
How free is the First Amendment under Trump?

ERIC WOOD
STAFF WRITER

On February 11, 2025, the Associated Press released an article about a ban on their reporters from the Oval Office, breaking years of tradition and potentially even going against the Constitution. Immediately after, Julie Pace, the AP's Senior Vice President and Executive Editor, put out a statement deeming this action an attack on the first amendment. The Associated Press is right. President Donald Trump, has already frequently violated our First Amendment in his second term.

Trump and many of his supporters would disagree with me, of course. Trump was quoted saying, "I have stopped all government censorship and brought back free speech in America. It's back". This would be an absolutely incredible thing if it were true. Since the campaign trail, President Trump has repeatedly criticized news organizations that report facts that paint him as an unflattering leader. It's no secret that Trump cries "fake news" any time he doesn't like something he reads, but now he has simply gone too far. He wants

to forcefully shut down protests he doesn't believe in, stop college-aged students from speaking out against him, and prevent news organizations that don't praise the ground he walks on from government buildings. He has even gone as far as calling certain media groups "the enemy of the people". Trump acts in a manner so clearly un-American when it comes to free speech that it feels like the only speech he considers free is his own and that of like-minded individuals. Now, as college students at a public university,



*The ROTC wing of the SSC.
Photo by Eric Wood*

we're being faced with our own challenges regarding the President's words and actions: our right to protest is being directly attacked. On March 4th, President Trump took to his Truth Social account, declaring that college

students who "illegally protest" will be "imprisoned/sent permanently sent back to the country from which they came".

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The magic and misery of March Madness

HAILEY KELLY
STAFF WRITER

The National Collegiate Athletic Association or NCAA Men's Basketball March Madness includes a mix of excitement and frustration when it comes to the March Madness bracket. March Madness became even more popular because the average sports fan can pick brackets and play along. This year's March Madness started with a couple of upsets, including the loss of Clemson University against McNeese State University 69-67. Clem-

son's loss screwed many people's bracket, mine included. After that loss, I was disappointed and ended up anxiously shifting my focus on the teams I had going far through the rounds at the time since eight of the teams still hadn't played yet. I had high hopes for Clemson having them go to the Elite Eight, and after they lost, a quarter of my bracket, the Midwest part, was completely useless, and I had no advantage that I would win from the teams in the Midwest. Another upset was the

University of Arkansas's win against St. John's University 75-66. This is the game that completely ruined my bracket when they lost in the second round. When I heard that St. John's University was doing very well this year, I had them go all the way but was sadly disappointed.

Although the rest of the favorites were still winning once Clemson University and St. John's University lost, I was completely out of the running and had no other way for my bracket to succeed. Most people

will probably be wondering why I chose the teams I did and how I did so badly. I did it because I don't know much about basketball, but March Madness has been a sort of tradition in my family. It was a fun competition in our family to see who would have more wins and who got the farthest. I knew when I was filling out my bracket to put Duke as the National Champion, but I had hopes that St. John's would make it far enough. I regret that I didn't trust my gut and put Duke

as the last team standing, being as they are the number one men's basketball team in the East. When filling out my bracket there were many things to take into consideration. While I normally choose the team that is higher in the league, there were a few times I changed it up a bit to give myself a better chance of winning in case the teams higher up were overtaken, like Clemson was to McNeese State.

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GROWL OPINION

The commuter lounge dilemma

AYDEN POINTER
STAFF WRITER

As a commuter student, I spend a lot of time on campus but rarely in comfort. Between classes, I'm not heading back to a dorm or relaxing in a quiet common area. I, like many others, make my way to the commuter lounge. Or at least, I try to. The problem? The lounge is almost always full. Not just busy. Packed. There's barely enough room to walk through, let alone sit, focus, or unwind. It's loud, cramped, and uncomfortable. For many of us, it feels like an afterthought. A small space carved out to say commut-

ers have a room, but not one that supports us. I'm not the only one who feels this way. Fellow commuters Aiden Feldhaus and Leif Tolan both used the same words: "Cramped, loud, uncomfortable." It's a shared experience and one we've grown far too used to. When the one space that's supposed to support you turns into another stressor, something's not working. The commuter lounge isn't a good study space. It's not a reliable place to relax. It's not even a guaranteed place to sit. That defeats the entire purpose. What makes it worse is that more people are commuting every year. Whether it's because hous-

ing is expensive or students just prefer to live at home, the number of commuters is going up. But the space we're given hasn't changed. This wouldn't be such a big deal if it didn't affect us every day. Commuters juggle long days, transportation issues, work, and family responsibilities. We don't have dorm rooms or private lounges to crash in between classes. We depend on the commuter lounge. And right now, we can't. We're not asking for luxury. Just fairness. A space that reflects how many of us there are and what we need. Somewhere to sit, eat, rest, or focus. Somewhere that actually helps, not just



*The commuter lounge is in the SSC.
Photo by Ayden Pointer.*

exists. The university talks a lot about inclusion and student success. But inclusion means thinking about everyone, not just the students who live on campus. If the school can build new lounges, dorms, or buildings, it can build something better for commuters, too. Right now, the message feels pretty clear: if you

don't live here, you don't belong here for long. That needs to change. Commuter students deserve a bigger, better lounge, one that actually works and sends the message that we matter too. We're not going anywhere, and we shouldn't have to fight for a place to sit.

Dooming dependency: Pets in Dorms

BELLA FOSTER
STAFF WRITER

The ongoing dependence of emotional support animals (ESA) has led people in college to disregard the consideration that their actions may be causing just as much stress on their pets. We have assigned the responsibility of regulating our negative emotions to animals that may not be able to offer trained emotional support, much less handle the lifestyle of a college student. Dogs, cats, fish, hamsters, and reptiles cannot earn a degree,

so why do we insist on keeping them at college? There's no doubt that the company of an animal brings many happy emotions, but why should we sacrifice the quality of their life for our happiness? I may be an advocate for mental health and am aware of the benefits of having an ESA animal, but I also question the fairness of confining an animal to the unpredictable schedule of a college student while simultaneously being locked in a 200-square-foot cinder block room. There are

several aspects of dorm life that not only induce stress for the people living there but even more so for the animals that are not used to this type of residence. The noisiness of living in a dorm is canon to every person living on campus. There is no escaping the slamming of doors, shouting in the hallway, and whatever the upstairs neighbors are doing. I am convinced mine are stomping in circles with steel-toe boots on. Students know what is happening when they hear these noises, but do

the pets? No. Consistency is key for pets, and college might be one of the most inconsistent places. When their environment becomes unpredictable and alarming, there is no place for pets in the buildings to escape and relax. Instead, they must confront this head-on or attempt to bolt out the door the second it opens in an effort to flee these confusing circumstances. College students are busy people. Classes,



*A pet living in a dorm.
Photo by Bella Foster.*

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