



Romance through a telephone and a trial



Chandler Goodman, a junior majoring in music education and Sara Flessner, a senior majoring in music education, playing Ben and Lucy while they are having an intimate moment soon to be ruined by the phone. | Photo by Ky Boterf

Ky Boterf reporter

On Sunday, Feb 8, the Pitt State opera held performances of two operas in the Bicknell Center for the Arts. “The Telephone” and “Trial by Jury” both have themes of love and distraction at their core.

Patrick Howle, the artistic director of PSU’s opera theater, wanted to make opera available for students to be able to perform as well as for students to watch and understand.

Chandler Goodman, a junior majoring in Music Education, comments on how he prepared for The Telephone: “I typically like to have patience with opera and let things internalize over time, but some production dates are within a two-week span. Luckily, I had the whole semester

before to prepare this amazing opera duet.”

He also talks about preparing his voice for a performance. “Some vocal exercises I found most useful for “The Telephone” were sustaining open vowels and working through my scales. This repertoire is notorious for many twists and turns.”

“The Telephone” itself is a charming romantic comedy by Menotti about a man named Ben, played by Goodman, trying to propose to his girlfriend Lucy, played by Sara Flessner, a senior majoring in Music Education, who throughout the opera is constantly distracted by the phone and other devices. They go back and forth between Ben trying to explain himself and Lucy getting another phone call just before Ben can propose.

In his frustration, Ben finds a hammer and goes to smash the telephone, but it begins to ring just as he goes to hit it. Lucy finds him hammer in hand, and they argue, leading to Ben having to leave for his trip before asking Lucy. It resolves with Ben calling her from away and finally proposing. The opera was written as not only a romantic comedy but also as an exploration of how mobile phones impact romantic relationships, often with the relationship between us and our phones being obsessive and intrusive in our daily and romantic lives.

The other opera performed was “A Trial by Jury” by Gilbert and Sullivan, a satirical comedy set in a courtroom. The defendant named Edwin, played by Brayden Seiwert, a freshman majoring in theater, is a suave man who is being put on trial for his infidelity and trying to marry multiple women. The plaintiff named Angelina, played by Mary Jo Peterson a senior, is one of the women wronged by him. The opera plays out with the judge, played by Marlee Mikel, a senior, explaining how she only got this job through marriage and not merit. As the play continues you see Edwin and the judge drinking from flasks and many mischievous deeds. In the end the judge settles things by marrying Angelina, instead of any legal issues.

A Trial by Jury is meant as a satirical form of commentary and comedy based on corruption in our judicial system. With an unqualified judge, two biased jury, and having both the plaintiff and the defendant spinning their words and actions to sway the jury as well.



Angelina grabbing the tie of Edwin as they fight over who should win the trial. Played by Brayden Seiwert, a freshman majoring in music, and Mary Jo Peterson, a senior majoring in FACS education. | Photo by Ky Boterf

Students enjoy new rock wall

Mark Ziegler reporter

This past January, the Student Recreation Center received a new addition to its selection of exercise equipment: A rock climbing and bouldering wall, in an effort to support Pittsburg State’s Rock Climbing Club. The wall, which has different lanes for rock climbing and bouldering based on people’s experience levels, was built at the request of the Rock Climbing Club after their old wall was removed unexpectedly.

“We used to have a rock wall, back two or three years ago, at Pittsburg High School,” explains senior automotive technology major Patrick Tryban, a member of Rock Climbing Club.

The wall, which was open to the members of the club at Pittsburg State to use as they wished, was suddenly sold to someone else without their knowledge. It was this unexpected occurrence that prompted them to talk to the Student Rec Center staff about building a new wall inside of the Recreation Center. After numerous meetings, the Rock Climbing Club got their wish granted. The wall officially opened to the Pittsburg State student body just in time for their return from winter break. Since its opening, students have been eager to give it a try.

“I have been coming to the Recreation Center for a while now, and I noticed they put up the wall,” senior art education major Lydia May said. May, who had been coming to the Recreation Center for a while, had always wanted to give rock climbing a try, but had never had the chance. Since the wall was open to the public, May thought she would give it a try, saying it felt “awesome” and that “the adrenaline was real.” As with any new thing, however, May wasn’t the only one wanting to give it a go.

“I had just seen a lot of people having fun with it, so I thought I’d give it a try,” junior automotive technology major Jayden Wade explained. Wade, who also cites the wall as a good workout, said it was a little scary going up at first, but he had trust in his harness and the Rock Climbing Club members on duty, and once he got going, he said it felt good.

Aside from being a good pastime, rock climbing also carries a lot of physical benefits. On the Rocks, a rock climbing gym in Amherst, Ohio, states that rock climbing is a good full-body workout, and on top of being able to improve endurance, flexibility, and balance, it can also improve one’s focus and technique, and it is also a good way to socialize and build camaraderie.

Pittsburg State’s rock wall is open for business on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Members of the Rock Climbing Club must be present for students to use the wall, and students must wear a safety harness. Also included, but optional, are specialized rock-climbing shoes and liquid chalk to help improve grip on the stones on the wall. The wall has five different lanes, each with different colored stepping stones to indicate the lane’s difficulty, as well as a two-lane bouldering wall just behind it.

‘Wrecking Crew’ hits the big island with a crash

Masynn Acheson reporter

Amazon Prime recently released a new movie titled “Wrecking Crew” starring Jason Momoa and Dave Bautista. Most of the movie takes place in Hawaii with a few scenes in Oklahoma. The movie is hilarious if you can handle violence and explicit language. 5/5 stars for me.

The movie is described as a buddy cop action comedy film in terms of genre but just feels more like an action comedy. Momoa’s character may technically be a cop, but that is not particularly relevant. Neither is Bautista’s role being a higher up in the Navy. The only part of their characters’ careers that were relevant was the martial and weapons training they received from it, making each of them able to easily take on their attackers in hand to hand.

The secondary villain is introduced early in the movie when Momoa’s character Jonny Hale is attacked in his own home, while using the restroom no less, by a couple of Yakuza thugs looking for some mysterious package from his long-estranged father. He was joking around the whole time he was beating the stuffing out of these thugs until one of them messed with the shrine he had for his late mother. After that, the joking immediately stopped and was followed by utter rage and brutality. To top the whole thing off, he was drunk and drinking through the whole fight because his girlfriend had just left him earlier that day.

Dave Bautista plays Momoa’s older half-brother, US Navy Seal James Hale. He is a very serious character who has a loving family. Already, the two men were vastly different from

each other, but then their father Walter Hale is killing in a hit and run so they must tolerate each other long enough to figure out who killed their father.

They are both Native Hawaiian, and as such have a fierce loyalty to their island and culture. The island and their culture are in trouble with the arrival of Claes Bang as Marcus Robichaux looking to develop a part of the island where a large community of native Hawaiians are, with mentions of a casino. Gambling is outlawed in Hawaii, so any mention of a casino or gambling is shocking to them.

Jason Momoa has had a lot of serious roles in his career, and while that excludes his recent role as Garrett “The Garbage Man” Garrison in the Minecraft Movie, this role was something else. Not to mention how different Dave Bautista’s recent role of Drax from “Guardians of the Galaxy” is from his character in this movie.

Whoever wrote the dialogue of the two brothers bickering with each other and even their small interactions together are spot on for how brothers act and talk. Down to them exchanging blows at one point. One set of dialogue perfectly encapsulates it. James asked if Jonny ever shut up; Jonny replied with the very mature reply of farting sounds. James got the last word when he asked his brother, “What do you charge to not talk?” Perfect capturing of a brotherly moment. There were some parts of the dialogue that could be included as the movie has an R rating for a reason. Not only because of the vivid on-screen violence, but the dialogue is very explicit.

‘Primate,’ lots of monkey business

Bryce Bicknell reporter

When watching the movie “Primate,” my first thought was “Wow, people still think apes can learn languages,” and my second one was, “That’s about what I expected.” It’s a mediocre horror movie though fair warning there is a lot of gore.

Directed by Johannes Roberts, “Primate” stars Johnny Sequoyah as Lucy Pinborough, Jessica Alexander as Hannah, and Troy Kotsur as Adam Lucy’s father. Lucy and her friend Kate are flying home from college to Hawaii when it’s revealed Hannah Kate’s friend is also coming, much to Lucy’s annoyance. They meet up with Nick and all four head to Lucy’s house. They arrive home and meet Adam, who is deaf, and also a novelist, along with Erin, Lucy’s younger sister, who is upset that she has been gone for so long.

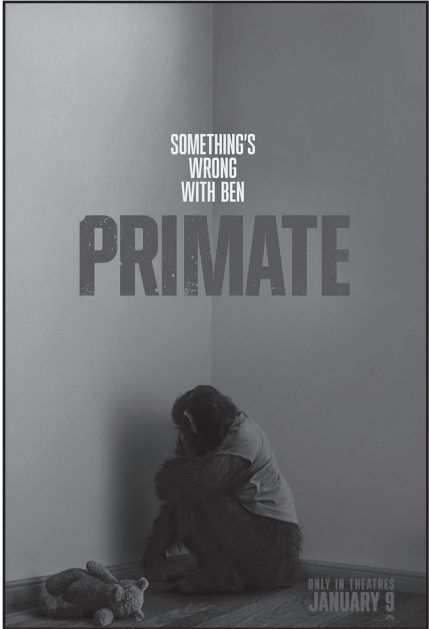
Ben the chimp then pops up, and it’s revealed he can communicate through a soundboard, and was taught by Lucy’s deceased mom. Ben and Hannah interact near the pool where Ben begins to act aggressively. Adam finds a dead animal in Ben’s cage the next morning along with a bite mark on Ben. Adam calls a vet to check on Ben before leaving to go to a book signing. Ben kills the vet, escapes the cage, and begins attacking everyone at the house. They all go into the pool for safety, because Ben has rabies. They stay in that pool for a while trying to come up with a plan.

The best thing “Primate” has going for it is its rather atypical premise, which is the most redeeming thing it has. Besides that the movie has major flaws. There is no discernible theme at all in the movie besides maybe a vague notion of family. But this gets thrown out when you realize Ben was a part of the family. So, is the message not to adopt chimps into your family?

Additionally, the film is 90 minutes and could have easily been shorter.

At a lot of points, you feel bad for Ben, which really takes away from the horror elements. I thought it was kind of stupid that he was going out of his way to fully brutalize all his victims. He has rabies. He should be a wild crazed animal, not a killer that is hunting his victims. The acting is a really mixed bag and there are too many characters for the movie to juggle. The gore and special effects were really good though, and might leave some queasy. The film is good if you’re not looking for something super deep and just want to have some dumb fun.

Overall, I thought “Primate” was okay. There are always going to be far worse movies someone could be spending their money on, and it’s not a bad choice. If you like gory horror movies that make little to no sense at all, this movie is for you. If you at all care about the monkey like I did, maybe it’s not. “Primate” gets a 5.8 out of 10.



| Photo courtesy of IMDb

Stuffed bell peppers with white rice

Fatimah Bader, reporter

A warm, classic dish that’s filling, colorful and easy to customize.

Stuffed bell peppers are a simple, comforting meal made with seasoned meat, white rice and tomato sauce. They are easy to prepare and perfect for dinner or leftovers.

Ingredients:	Directions:
• 4–6 bell peppers • 1 lb ground beef or turkey • 1 cup cooked white rice • 1 small onion, diced • 2 cloves garlic, minced • 1 can tomato sauce • Salt, pepper, paprika • Shredded cheese (optional)	1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Cut tops off peppers and remove seeds. 2. Cook onion and garlic in a skillet, then brown the ground meat. 3. Stir in cooked rice, seasonings and half the tomato sauce. 4. Stuff mixture into peppers and pour remaining sauce over the top. 5. Cover with foil and bake 30–35 minutes. 6. Add cheese and bake 10 more minutes if desired.

‘The Great Divide’ brings fans together

Emma Forst design chief

After four years, Noah Kahan is releasing a new original album. “The Great Divide” is set to come out on April 24, a long-awaited album by his over 27 million monthly listeners. As a sneak peek, the namesake of the album was released on Jan. 30.

The pre-release single is already trending on social media. Like his previous music, it is an extremely vulnerable song, carrying heavy topics of growing distant from friends, religious trauma, and overall pain.

Starting the song with looking back on shared memories of rebellious acts and shared pain, “We got cigarette burns in the same side of our hands, we ain’t friends. We’re just morons, who broke skin in the same spot,” speaking about the trauma they endured as a shared experience. Kahan is a great lyricist, and one of the most heart-wrenching parts of the song is the pre-chorus, “You know

I think about you all the time. And my deep misunderstanding of your life. And how bad it must have been for you back then. And how hard it was to keep it all inside.” This relays the guilt of looking back and seeing the pain in someone you cared about, only after it is too late to help. The song even mentions how Kahan responded to the situation at the time, saying they pretended like everything was okay, “And I’m finally aware of how shitty and unfair it was to stare ahead like everything was fine,” which, in response, the pre-chorus becomes even more impactful.

The topic of watching someone you care for go through something you can’t comprehend is incredibly painful, and looking back and wishing you did something is difficult to process. Kahan communicates the side of the situation extremely well, wishing the absolute best that he can for his friend, “I hope you settle down, I hope you marry rich. I hope you’re scared of only ordinary shit. Like murderers and ghosts and cancer on your skin. And not your soul and what He might do with it,” noting that the best that he can manifest for his friend is not succeeding in life, with tons of money and material items, but only being afraid of the ordinary things. He is hoping that the basic scary things are the only things the friend has to worry about, because they have gone through so much.

One last layer of depth that Kahan writes into his song is the outro: “I hope you threw a brick right into that stained glass. I hope you’re with someone who isn’t scared to ask. I hope that you’re

not losing sleep about what’s next. Or about your soul and what He might do with it.” Touching on the topic of religion, mentioning an omnipotent being, ‘He’ will decide what to do with a soul after death, alluding to God. Adding that Kahan hopes the friend is with someone who isn’t afraid to ask continues the idea that he regrets how he handled the situation with his friend.

This single has a lot to unpack. I am looking forward to the upcoming album. Kahan has played this song at several live shows, but recording it has given his fans the ability to come back to it and really appreciate the song for what it is.

In an article by Consequence, “Noah Kahan Announces New Album ‘The Great Divide,’” Kahan explains his point of view of the song, “From a long silence forms a divide, a great expanse demanding attention. I stare across it. I see old friends, my father, my mother, my siblings, my younger self, the great state of Vermont. I want to scream these feelings, to gesticulate wildly at the figures on the other side, but my voice has grown hoarse and muted after years of climbing a ladder towards the wild, spiraling dreams that have materialized in front of me. The songs are the words I would say if I could.”

Overall, I give this song a 5/5; it is incredibly vulnerable and can resonate with anyone who has watched loved ones go through difficult things and can resonate with the lyrics. I am looking forward to the upcoming album and seeing what else Kahan is going to share.

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Taco delight soup wins SOUPer Bowl

Brianna Barnes chief editor

The Kelce Graduate Student Association hosted their Annual Kelce SOUPer Bowl on Feb. 5. This competition brought in KGSA members, Kelce College faculty and staff, and other members of the Kelce College community. A total of nine soups made by Kelce faculty and staff were entered into the competition. Human Resource Development Professor Dr. Mark Johnson won the competition for his taco delight soup.

“There is nothing special about the soup, “Taco Delight,” Johnson said. “It was a recipe a family friend had shared years ago, and my wife Jacki and I really enjoy the soup. It’s got plenty of flavor and is easy to fix. I am just really happy everyone liked it as much as we do.”

KGSA President and a graduate student pursuing an MBA with an emphasis in Human Resources, Makayla Pilcher, helped organize the event. The event created meaningful interaction between students and faculty, she said.

“The event was important because it created an opportunity for meaningful interaction between graduate students, faculty, and staff in a relaxed and engaging environment,” Pilcher said. “It also helped strengthen relationships and foster a greater sense of connection within the Kelce College.”

Johnson also view the event as a way to connect with students and faculty.

“I participated to get more involved and connected with the students and faculty within the College of Business,” Johnson said. “I spent my first 39 years teaching in the College of Technology until the HRD program was moved to Kelce in January of 2024. I felt it was a good way to get connected with my new colleagues.”

Pilcher was pleased with the turnout and the feedback she received for the event.

“The turnout was amazing this year,” Pilcher said. “We experienced a steady flow of participation throughout the event, with consistent engagement from faculty, staff, and graduate students across the Kelce College. We received positive feedback from everyone who attended.”

Beyond connections, this event also served as a fundraiser to support future KGSA events.

“The event was designed to support professional networking between KGSA members and Kelce College faculty and staff, encourage engagement through friendly competition, and enhance community building within the Kelce College,” Pilcher said. “Additionally, the event served as a fundraiser to collect donations in support of future KGSA events.”

As a graduate assistant and president of KGSA, Pilcher values the connections and opportunities KGSA has given her.

“As the graduate assistant for the Assistant Dean of Graduate Business Programs, I hold the role as the KGSA President,” Pilcher said. “I value supporting graduate student engagement and contributing to a strong, connected graduate community. KGSA provides opportunities to represent graduate students while helping create events that encourage professional development and collaboration.”

Johnson thought the event was fun and appreciated KGSA hosting it.

“I want to thank the Kelce Graduate Student Association for hosting the event,” Johnson said. “I think it is a wonderful idea, and I applaud their efforts in setting up a really fun event.”



Dr. Mark Johnson wins the Annual Kelce SOUPer Bowl competition for his taco delight soup. | Photo courtesy of Makayla Pilcher



Kelce Graduate Student Association hosted the SOUPer Bowl Feb.5. Faculty, staff, and other members of the Kelce College community participating in the event. | Photo courtesy of Makayla Pilcher



Women in Construction hosts Craft Night at Crossland Technology Center

Fatimah Bader reporter

Women in Construction hosted a Craft Night event Wednesday, Feb. 4, at the Crossland Technology Center, bringing students together for an evening focused on creativity, conversation and connection.

The event was organized to give students an opportunity to participate in an activity outside of the classroom, according to Erin Jordan, an assistant professor in the School of Construction at Pittsburg State University and the advisor for the Women in Construction club.

Jordan said the goal of the evening was to provide a relaxed space where students could try something new and enjoy time together.

“Get creative and learn something new,” Jordan said. “Relax and have fun.”

About five students attended the event. The activity for the night included crocheting, and Jordan said students were introduced to the basics during the session.

“I taught them how to crochet,” Jordan said.

Jordan said the event was designed not only as a craft activity, but also as a way for students in construction-related programs to build relationships outside of academic requirements.

“Events like this strengthen the bonds between the students that attend,” Jordan said.

She said student organizations play an important role in creating community, especially in programs that can be demanding and time-intensive.

“It helps create a safer environment for them outside of the meetings by having colleagues they have connected with beyond the classroom and its requirements,” Jordan said.

Jordan said informal events such as Craft Night allow students to connect in ways that are different from structured classroom settings or professional meetings. She said these experiences help students feel more comfortable with one another and encourage continued involvement in the organization.

“These friendships will stay with them throughout their career,” Jordan said, adding that, “The construction industry is a small world.”

Jordan said building connections early can benefit students as they move into internships, job placements and long-term professional work.

She also said events outside of regular meetings give students additional opportunities to practice balancing responsibilities beyond coursework.

“It also lets them practice extra curriculars and time management,” Jordan said.

Women in Construction plans to continue hosting events for students throughout the semester. Jordan said future activities will continue to focus on bringing students together through shared experiences.

“You never know what we’ll be up to,” Jordan said, “but it will involve food and good conversations.”

Jordan said events like Craft Night reflect the organization’s efforts to support students both socially and professionally by creating spaces where they can meet peers, share interests and strengthen connections.

“Events like this strengthen the bonds between the students that attend,” she said.

The Craft Night event was held at the Crossland Technology Center, which hosts a range of student-centered programs and organizations connected to technical and professional fields.

Jordan said Women in Construction encourages students to participate in upcoming events and stay involved with the organization as it continues to offer opportunities for connection outside of academics.

“Relax and have fun,” Jordan said. “Get creative and learn something new.”

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Softball dominates in tournament

Curtis Meyer reporter

Pitt State softball is off to another impressive start this year, as they sit at 9-0 on the season after sweeping the competition at the Southern Colorado Crossover. Pitt State went 5-0 at the competition, winning big and coming away with some tight wins against tough opponents.

The Gorillas began the tournament with a statement win over Colorado Springs, winning 16-6 in just five innings. The 16 runs scored by Pitt State are tied for the eighth most in a game in program history. Graduate student Kady Trochim, junior Haili Igou and senior Kyleigh Lamont hit consecutive home runs in a 10-run first inning, and as a trio, accounted for 11 of the 16 runs scored by the Gorillas. Lamont led all players going 4-of-5 with four runs driven in. Trochim led the team with three runs scored as Igou and junior Rachael Schlotter each finished with three RBI. In the circle, junior Emma Crabb (2-0) struck out two in 4.2 innings of relief and was credited with the win.

Pitt State would then pivot to play Adams State University that same afternoon, pitching a 4-0 shutout win to end the day undefeated. Senior Heather Arnett scored the first run of the game in the fourth inning off an Igou sacrifice fly, while senior Sailor Hall, for the first time as a Gorilla, hit a home run in the fifth to extend the lead to 3-0. Lamont rounded out her productive day with an RBI single up the middle to score Igou. Sophomore Lexi Franklin (2-0) struck out a career-high 13 batters in a complete game

shutout. The 13 strikeouts are tied for the seventh most in program history.

The Gorillas would get their rest before facing Adams State yet again on Saturday, this time cruising to a 11-0 win over the Grizzlies. Trochim led the team with four RBI, going 2-of-2 with two walks drawn; Arnett and junior Bailey Haselhorst tied for the team lead with three runs scored. Hall threw four shutout innings in the circle, striking out three, with Erica Schertz collecting the final three outs.

The second game of the day was a nail biter, as the Gorillas fell behind 1-0 after the first inning against Colorado State Pueblo. Leading off the seventh and final inning, Hall connected on her first home run as a Gorilla to tie it up 1-1, before an Arnett bunt and score from a throwing error by the ThunderWolves pitcher gave PSU the 2-1 lead. Ava Laurent closed the door on CSUP with a shutout seventh inning and picked up her second win of the season following a complete game, seven strikeout performances.

The Gorillas would wrap up action on Sunday, as they fought the ThunderWolves again, this time coming away with a 11-2 win. Pittsburg State was led by Igou with three RBI, with a pair of doubles. Hall, sophomore Jaylee Jefferson and senior Alleyna Rushing each scored twice to tie for the team lead. Crabb picked up the win after 5.0 innings of work, striking out four. Franklin wrapped up a stellar weekend with two shutout innings of relief.

Track hits stride at Wooo Pig Classic

Curtis Meyer reporter

Pitt State is off to a blazing hot start to the NCAA Division II indoor track and field season, and the Gorillas show no signs of slowing down. Pitt State traveled to Fayetteville, Arkansas, to participate in the Wooo Pig Classic, hosted by the University of Arkansas Razorbacks.

In the men's action, junior sprinter Ilias Garcia lowered his school record and NCAA Division II leading time in the 60 meters. He was clocked at the fast time of 6.62 seconds. Redshirt sophomore jumper Johnetheon Lockett posted a season best mark in the triple jump, 49 feet, 7 inches, while junior jumper Caden Williams logged a season best time of 47.35 in the 400 meters. Freshman jumper Xavier Byers also equaled his season best mark in the high jump, clearing 7-0.5.

In the women's action, junior high jumper Jazmine Williamson and sophomore high jumper Bethany Umbarger both posted season best marks by clearing 5-8.5. They exited the meet in a tie for sixth place in Division II this season.

Before the Wooo Pig Classic, redshirt junior Drew Willhite wrapped up day two action in the men's heptathlon with a personal best 5,197 point total. He won the pole vault competition Saturday to help him edge past his previous personal best (5196) by one point. He now sits in fifth place in D2 this season.

The Gorillas will return to the races this weekend, as they host the 11th annual Russ Jewett Indoor Gorilla Classic this Friday and Saturday. The following weekend, the Gorillas will take to the road again, returning to Fayetteville for the Arkansas Qualifier. The weekend after this, the competition ramps up fully, as the Gorillas will host the MIAA Indoor Championships.

With the indoor track and field season nearing the end of its run, the Gorillas will need to shift their focus as they transition to the postseason. With the recent track record of both the women's and men's teams, the teams will have their eyes on the NCAA indoor track and field championship crown this coming March.

Gorillas MIAA season continues

Curtis Meyer reporter

Both the men's and women's basketball teams hit the road this past weekend and copied each other's game. Both teams narrowly lost on Thursday to Emporia, before defeating the Emporia University Jets in a strange case of déjà vu.

The men's team was neck and neck with Emporia for the entirety of the match, down 48-44 at halftime. Things would remain close until the very end, as Pitt State trailed 78-72 with 3:04 to play in the game, but Rogers hit a 3-pointer at the 2:07 mark to make it a 78-75 game. After ESU's Trey Redd made a driving basket, freshman Mason English countered with a triple to trim the margin to 80-78 with 34 ticks left. Dallas Bear made one of two free throws for the Hornets with 11 seconds to go for an 81-78 margin; and Rogers missed a guarded 3-pointer with 1.5 seconds left sealing the ESU win.

Junior Connor Rogers and Mason English combined for 52 points to pace the Gorillas. Rogers scored 23 of his game-high 29 points in the first half, while English tallied 16 of his 23 points in the second half. Redshirt junior Donald Coats chipped in with ten points and eight rebounds for the Gorillas. English had six assists to go with his 23-point scoring production.

Saturday's game would turn out much differently for the Gorillas, as they steamrolled the Newman Jets, 95-57. Pitt State would jump out of the gate swinging, going on a 24-2 run before taking a 51-22 lead at halftime. The points continued to flow in the second half, culminating in an easy victory.

For the Gorillas, English posted a 23-point, 10-assist double-double to lead the team in scoring and assists provided. Coats had eighteen, redshirt junior Hayden Shanks had seventeen, and Rogers had twelve, rounding

out all the double-digit scorers. As a team, Pittsburg State shot .548 from the field, .444 from distance and .789 from the charity stripe while holding a 24-2 advantage on points off turnovers over Newman.

The women's team held a thin lead over the Hornets early, outscoring them 17-14 after the first quarter. Things would continue to sway back and forth, with the Gorillas holding a 36-33 lead at halftime. Emporia would manage to tie it up at 47 apiece after the third quarter, while neither team in the fourth quarter was able to get a lead larger than four, with four ties and four lead changes dictating the final quarter. The Hornets trailed by a single point with 2.4 seconds remaining, but a last second buzzer beater by the Hornets would give them the final lead.

Freshman Kaycee McCumber collected her seventh double-double of the season with 13 points and a game-high 16 rebounds. Freshman Marin Adams finished with 13 points, eight rebounds and a team-high three steals. Senior Harper Schreiner and freshman Cambrie Phillips both came away with 10 points.

The women's team struggled much more with their game against Emporia, as they trailed 33-38 at halftime against the Gorillas. It took a strong second half effort from the Gorillas to pull out with the win 81-76.

Senior guard Harper Schreiner finished with a season-high 26 points to go with nine rebounds and a trio of steals to lead the Gorillas. Pittsburg State also got key contributions from Adams with 16 points, sophomore Clara Wearingen with 14 points and McCumber with 10 points and three steals. As a team, the Gorillas converted on 24 free throws in the game and held a 25-2 advantage over Newman for points off turnovers and 15-4 in fast break points.

Baseball mops up the competition

Curtis Meyer reporter

This past weekend was a resounding success for the Pitt State Gorillas, as both softball and baseball teams completed a clean sweep of the competition at their respective tournaments. Both teams took to the road, and both teams continued to have a perfect record.

Gorilla baseball would compete in the Edmond First Pitch Classic, beginning their weekend with a game against the University of Missouri St. Louis. The Gorillas would pick up a dominating 25-1 win in just seven innings, as they controlled the game from the start.

Jumping out to an early 8-1 lead, Pittsburg State batted around the order twice in the third inning and put up 14 runs to extend the lead up to 22-1. Freshman James Dagenhart with his first collegiate hit, an RBI single up the middle, started a three-run fifth inning to provide the final scoreline of 25-1.

Junior Landin Midgett finished a triple shy of the cycle, going 4-of-4 with a game-high seven RBI. Junior Eric Bacon (5), senior Dagen Brewer (3), senior Jadyn McNealy (2), redshirt senior Isaac Webb (2), and junior Cole Carter (2) also drove in multiple runs. On the mound, redshirt senior Brady Stuewe (1-0), senior Ryan Leiker, senior Aidan Sowers, junior Ricardo Hernandez, junior Jaxson Cahoy, redshirt Ryker Curry and redshirt sophomore Lucas Vanlanduit combined to allow UMSL (0-1) to only one run in a seven inning run rule victory.

The Gorillas followed that victory with a 6-2 win over Southeastern Oklahoma University, with Brewer smacking in a grand slam to propel the Gorillas to victory. The Gorillas overcame an early 2-0 deficit Saturday after falling behind by a pair of runs in the first inning. Brewer belted his third home run of the season with one out in the third inning to stake Pitt State to a 4-2 lead. His blow came after Cotton and McNealy

delivered back-to-back hits, including a double by Cotton, and Bacon walked to load the bases. Midgett added a sacrifice fly later in the inning as the Gorillas plated five runs and sent nine batters to the plate in the frame.

The Gorillas would follow this effort up with a 19-0 demolition of East Central University in seven innings of work. Midgett continued his run, going 2-for-3 with a double and five RBI in the contest. Webb had three hits and drove in three runs, while Brewer went 3-for-4 with a double and two RBI. Senior Cooper Wesslund also drive in three runs, while junior Landon Bruce scored three runs.

The Gorillas would wrap up their tournament with a rematch against Southeastern State University, winning 18-1. Pitt State batters pounded out five extra-base hits among a 17-hit attack, including Cotton's three-run home run in the fifth frame. Branson and Harris each went 3-for-4 with two runs scored. Branson drove in three runs and Harris had a double and two RBI. Bacon went 2-for-2 with three runs scored and two RBI. Brewer extended his school record hitting streak to 27 games. He collected a pair of his and drove in three runs. Midgett also knocked in three runs to raise his season RBI total to a team-leading 21.



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PSU builds a bear for Valentine’s Day

Bryce Bicknell reporter

Hosted in the Overman Student Center Ballrooms on Feb. 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. was the Teddy and a Crush event hosted by the Gorilla Activities Board. When asked about the event, organizer and junior elementary education unified K-6 major Shelby Stein said, “Teddy and a Crush is a Valentine’s event. We’re having Crush soda and you’re gonna stuff a teddy bear,” later saying, “Last year we had Boba and Bears, so you got boba and you stuffed a teddy bear. It was a really big hit, so this year we decided to do the same type of thing, just a little bit different.”

Students had a choice between Orange, Grape, or Strawberry Crush as their drink along with a whole host of animals including cats, dogs, rhinos, gorillas and even aliens made by Teddy Mountain. Teddy Mountain is a wholesale supply company that provides stuffed animals along with stuffing machines like those found at Build-a-Bear Workshops across the country.

When asked why he came to the event, sophomore graphic design major Sid Ruckman said, “I heard about it. I love bears, I assumed that it was Valentine’s Day related, and I also like Valentine’s Day, so I thought about either getting a plushy for myself or for my partner. I thought it would be a fun thing to do with friends as well.”

Then when asked what stuffed animal he got, Ruckman said, “I got an alien because he’s ugly and cute at the same time, and there’s just something about him that spoke to me,” later adding, “He was tied a little bit with the capybara, but I had to go with the alien.”

Some students had different reasons, however. Freshman communications major with an emphasis in theater Dylan Schnedler said, “Well I love stuffed animals, and I thought it was a really cute event, and me and my best friend got matching stuffed animals, so that’s really fun,” later saying, “I got the gorilla. PSU pride, and also it looked a little lonely. There wasn’t much over there, so I decided to get the gorilla. I thought the monkey was also really cute.”

It would seem many students agree, as the line to get a plushy was



Students lining up at the teddy and a crush event hosted by GAB. picking their plushies before they are stuffed. | Photo by Ky Boterf

extremely long. Others came because they were curious. When asked about why he came to the event, junior media communication major Wes Reed said, “I just saw the ad listing for it and didn’t know what it was,” adding, “It just looked interesting, and I had time after class, so I just decided to come.” Later when asked what stuffed animal he wanted, Wes said, “I don’t really know the choices, but a lot of them look pretty good. I saw some gorillas and a lizard thing, and a bird. They all look really cool.”

Another student, freshman construction management major Jotham Meyer, added something similar. When asked why he came to the event, he said, “I don’t know, something to do,” adding, “I got a panda, it looked the coolest.”



Renee Almeida, a junior majoring in finance and accounting, receiving her capybara plush after it was stuffed at teddy and a crush. | Photo by Ky Boterf



Sid Ruckman, a sophomore majoring in graphic communications, stuffing their alien plush at the teddy and a crush GAB event. | Photo by Ky Boterf

PSU celebrates 10th annual MLK ball

Mark Ziegler reporter

On the evening of Feb. 7, the Black Student Association hosted the tenth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Ball in the Overman Student Center’s ballrooms. The ball, which is one in a series of events hosted by the Black Student Association to celebrate Black History Month, featured a keynote speaker, a buffet of appetizers and desserts catered by Aladdin Campus Dining, and a DJ booth, among other amenities.

“We wanted to do it to celebrate Martin Luther King and his life and his legacy, and also to celebrate Black History Month,” Kennedy Cooper explains, the Assistant Director for Campus and Community Resources and the advisor for the Black Student Association.

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The Martin Luther King Jr. Ball is the successor to a pageant-type event that the Black Student Association had previously held. Since then, the ball has served as both an evening of both Dr. Martin Luther King’s accomplishments during the Civil Rights Movement, as well as a time of gathering and enjoyment.

The first half of the ball was a quiet time of socializing, with the buffet being opened, as well as a photo booth for guests to partake in, complete with props. Before the dance floor opened, Black Student Association president, senior elementary education K-6 major Kenn Campbell introduced the evening’s keynote speaker, D’Andre Phillips. Phillips, who is a Pittsburg State alumnus and a former member of the Black Student Association, told a story from his childhood about how he used to fear the dark, but he learned that light can remove the darkness. He used this anecdote as a metaphor for one of Dr. King’s quotes: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.”

He then talked about how he was at Pittsburg State at the time of George Floyd’s murder on May 25, 2020, and how he helped lead a peaceful march against racism and police brutality in wake of the murder. Mr. Phillips’s

speech delivered a message that we all must be the light in these dark times, one of the many things Dr. King asked us to be in this world.

“I think this is kind of the first Black History Month where I have realized that I am kind of people’s hopes for the world” senior elementary education K-6 major and Spanish minor Kennedy Campbell on how she sees Dr. King’s legacy and impacts in today’s world. “I feel like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream living out, which has made me really happy this Black History Month.”

Campbell also cited how proud she is to see other people of color making achievements at Pittsburg State, and how other groups are working to create an atmosphere of unity amongst people of all walks of life, citing Hispanics of Today as a prime example.

Throughout the month of February, the Black Student Association is hosting events to celebrate Black History Month. They also hosted Haircare Bingo on Feb. 11 in the Carver League building, off of S Elm & E Monroe Streets. They will also host a karaoke night on Feb. 18 in the U-Club, and a potluck on Feb. 24, also at the Carver League building.

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Members of the Black Student Association gather at a table during the MLK Ball on February 7th. | Photo by Mark Zeigler



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Origins of Current American Ideologies

Bryce Bicknell reporter

Liberal and conservative are labels that get thrown around a lot, especially in today’s America. Democrats are typically viewed as liberals while Republicans are seen as conservative. But what do these words even mean, and were the parties always this way? In order to answer the former question, the latter must be tackled first.

During the Roaring Twenties, America was dominated by the Republican Party. Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover were all Conservative Republicans, and generally supportive of free markets and limited regulation. They were contrasted by the Progressive Republicans who

were supporters of former President Teddy Roosevelt and supported increased regulation and government safety nets. The great depression would eventually end republican dominance, leading to Progressive Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt winning four elections in a row. FDR created social security, regulated the economy, and created public works projects. Labor unions, religious and ethnic minorities, and urbanites all supported what was called the New Deal. FDR in his later years would call for an Economic Bill of Rights, calling for rights to income, food, water, shelter, education, and healthcare just to name a few. After his death these ideas would be forgotten.

In 1948, it seemed as if the Democrats would lose. Truman, a liberal was seen as too conservative by some Democrats leading progressives to split off during the election. Segregationist Democrats angered by the party’s platform including civil rights also broke away. Republicans were led by Thomas Dewey, a liberal who supported some government programs as long as debt was under control and was supportive of civil rights. This contrasted conservative Robert Taft, who fully opposed the new deal and was an anti-interventionist. Truman ended up winning to the shock of many.

The 1950s and ‘60s would be dominated by Civil Rights as both parties supported it in various forms, with the exception of Southern Democrats and the few Southern Republicans in congress. Under Eisenhower, the New Deal would largely be kept, and progress would be made on civil rights. By 1960, both parties had almost the exact same platform. Both supported civil rights, hawkishness towards the soviets, and roughly the same economic program.

JFK would end up winning over Nixon, and would, of course, be assassinated, with LBJ taking over and passing further civil rights and

voting rights. In 1964, Republicans nominated Barry Goldwater, a member of the new right who opposed new deal programs and the civil rights act for regulating business. This was opposed to Nelson Rockefeller, a Liberal Republican who supported Civil Rights and many aspects of the New Deal. Goldwater would lose but do something no Republican had done in almost a century: Win in the deep south. Nixon would run again in 1968, this time winning in the face of a divided Democratic party, who again split over civil rights. Nixon then would resign in 1974, and in 1976, Jimmy Carter, a Moderate Democrat, would be elected.

Carter was the first president to begin deregulation, which would be continued and super charged under Ronald Reagan. Reagan was very much aligned with the new right, along with allying with social conservative who opposed abortion and gay rights, and supported traditional values and Warhawks, who sought a bigger defense budget. Republicans would dominate the ‘80s while Democrats would begin to abandon many New Deal ideals in favor of further deregulation. This would culminate in Bill Clinton, a Centrist “Third Way” Democrat winning in 1992. Third Way democrats were fiscally conservative and supported free trade and welfare reform, all while still wanting a social safety net and some regulation. Reagan and Clinton, and to a lesser extent, Carter, were all Neoliberals, which meant privatization, deregulation, and fiscal conservatism. The main difference between the parties increasingly came in the form of social issues with Republicans supporting traditional values like opposing abortion and gay marriage, while democrats supported expanded civil rights and gay rights.

Things largely stayed the same until the Great Recession, which has led to a populist revival of sorts in both parties. With the Democrats, this has led to the rise of Bernie Sanders, AOC, and more recently Zohran Mamdani, who all identify, at least in part, as a socialists. But actually, looking at their platforms, we see no more than the return of New Deal politics to the Democratic Party and the embracing of Progressivism.

See Origins pg 7

Importance of creativity in a world that undervalues it

Masynn Acheson reporter

When people think of creativity, it is often cast aside as only useful for things like art. Creativity is written off too often, even though it is behind every solution to a problem, not just creating something artistic. There is research showing that companies who employ creativity in their everyday practices are more productive and innovative than companies who do not. One such study being titled Positive Impact, Creativity, and Innovative Behavior at Work, which can be found on the National Library of Medicine website.

It has been seen repeatedly in schools, office buildings, and the like, that when you make room for creativity or employ creative solutions to problems, you are able to get longer lasting and more effective solutions. According to The Center for Conscious Design, when some companies had problems with lack of productivity in the latter half of the day, having a napping, meditation, or focus room in the building available for those who need it increased productivity.

Some places have found that having creative, colorful decor, or furniture instead of the clinical white, grey, black, or beige seen in most modern interior design can vastly improve your mood. An article titled In the mood for creativity: Sunshine-induced mood, inventor performance, and firm value from Science Direct says that improved mood often leads to increased motivation, productivity, and creativity.

Creativity is often taken out of learning in favor of a cookie cutter monotonous approach where memorization and regurgitating information is more important. School does not have to be somewhere children feel they have to call a prison but can be a place of innovation and exploring new ideas.

In a study done by Crayola, 92% of children who were polled said that creativity boosted their confidence. It is more important than ever to include creativity in your daily life.

Creativity has long been an outlet for many people seeking to release their pent-up emotions, positive or negative, and has been adapted into various methods of therapy to treat mental illnesses in all age groups. Music therapy, art therapy, dance/movement therapy, etc. are all notable examples of this.

Innovation and productivity start with creativity and end with creativity. Sometimes having a creative career, however, can lead to something called burnout. This happens when you have pushed yourself too hard without taking a break to rest can make you feel tired emotionally, feeling negative towards everything around you, and a significant loss in productivity or motivation. It affects more than just artists or writers; people like office workers suffer from it too.

When society decides to devalue the skill of creativity, it raises the question of everything we lost. Some argue it is not worth your time to invest in creative skills, but when it is decided it is not worth our time, we lose valuable crafts and trades that once supported our society.

Corrections

On Page 1 of last week’s edition of the Collegio, two photo, one of PSU Athletic Director Jim Johnson and incoming Athletic Director Anthony Crespino, were incorrectly attributed to Kaylee Dillow when in fact they were provided by University Marketing Communication.

Fatimah Bader reporter

Many college students begin using credit without fully understanding how interest rates and APR can affect them later. APR, or annual percentage rate, is the yearly cost of borrowing money, and when it is high, even small balances can become expensive over time.

I used to think borrowing was mostly about whether I could afford the monthly payment. If the payment looked reasonable, I assumed everything would be fine. But life does not always go as planned, especially when unexpected situations happen.

After dealing with a recent car accident and the stress of repairs, I realized how quickly finances can become overwhelming. Even with insurance, costs still come up right away, such as deductibles and surprising mechanical issues. In moments like that, it becomes easy to rely on credit just to handle an emergency.

That is where high interest becomes a problem. Many students do not realize how fast interest adds up because it happens quietly in the background. A credit card might have a 24% APR, which means the monthly interest rate is about 2%. If someone charges \$800 for an unexpected expense, that balance can gain about \$16 in interest in just one month.

It may not seem like much at first, but when you are already balancing rent, groceries, tuition and family responsibilities, it becomes harder to pay off quickly. If you can only make the minimum payment, the balance stays longer, and interest continues to build. That is how a short-term emergency can turn into a long-term debt.

High interest rates also affect credit scores, which many students do not think about until it becomes an issue. Credit scores are influenced by payment history, credit usage, and overall debt. When balances stay high because of interest, credit utilization increases, and that can lower a score even if payments are being made.

Credit utilization is found by dividing the balance by the credit limit. For example, an \$800 balance on a \$1,000 limit is 80% utilization. Financial experts often recommend staying below 30%. High utilization can lower a score and make future borrowing more expensive.

Late payments can cause even more damage. Missing one payment because of an emergency or unexpected bills can hurt a score and lead to additional fees or higher interest rates.

Credit scores matter more than people realize. They can affect renting an apartment, financing a car, and sometimes even job background checks. For college students trying to build stability, one financial emergency combined with high interest can have effects that last for years.

Many young adults are introduced to credit during college through credit card offers or financing plans that seem manageable in the moment. But the long-term cost is not always clear when students are focused on getting through the semester.

Understanding APR, interest rates, and credit scores can help students make smarter choices before debt becomes difficult to manage. The question should not only be whether a payment fits into a monthly budget, but how much borrowing will cost over time and what it could mean for the future.

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Bondi struggles to turn page on Epstein files furor



Attorney General Pam Bondi arrives to testify before a House Judiciary Committee oversight hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, in Washington. | Photo by Tom Brenner AP

Alana Durkin Ricker, Eric Tucker, Strephen Groves AP Political

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Pam Bondi launched into a passionate defense of President Donald Trump Wednesday as she tried to turn the page from relentless criticism of the Justice Department’s handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files, repeatedly shouting at Democrats during a combative hearing in which she postured herself as the Republican president’s chief protector.

Besieged by questions over Epstein and accusations of a weaponized Justice Department, Bondi aggressively pivoted in an extraordinary speech in which she mocked her Democratic questioners, praised Trump over the performance of the stock market and openly aligned herself as in sync with a president whom she painted as a victim of past impeachments and investigations.

“You sit here and you attack the president and I’m not going to have it,” Bondi told lawmakers on the House Judiciary Committee. “I am not going to put up with it.”

With victims of Epstein seated behind her in the hearing room, Bondi forcefully defended the department’s handling of the files related to the well-connected financier that have dogged her tenure. She accused Democrats of using the Epstein files to distract from Trump’s successes, when it was Republicans who initiated the furor over the files

and Bondi herself fanned the flames by distributing binders to conservative influencers at the White House last year.

The hearing quickly devolved into a partisan brawl, with Bondi repeatedly lobbing insults at Democrats while insisting she was not “going to get in the gutter” with them. In one particularly fiery exchange, Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland accused Bondi of refusing to answer his questions, prompting the attorney general to call the top Democrat on the committee a “washed-up loser lawyer — not even a lawyer.”

Trying to help Bondi amid an onslaught of Democratic criticism, Republicans tried to keep the focus on bread-and-butter law enforcement issues like violent crime and illegal immigration. Bondi repeatedly deflected questions from Democrats, responding instead with attacks seemingly gleaned from news headlines as she sought to paint them as uninterested about violence in their districts. Democrats became exasperated as Bondi declined time and again to directly answer.

“This is pathetic. I am not asking trick questions,” said Becca Balint, a Vermont Democrat who tried to ask Bondi whether the Justice Department had questioned different Trump administration officials about their ties to Epstein. “The American people deserve to know.”

Cont. from Origins pg 6

Not all Democrats are turning to Progressive ideology, with most seeking a middle ground between Third Way ideology and Progressives in the party. Meanwhile, Republicans under Trump have embraced tariffs, limits on immigration, and a harder line on social issues. But Trump, like past Republicans, supports deregulation, lower taxes, and cuts to welfare.

It becomes clear that the parties have changed from a century ago and trying to ignore that is plain ignorance. Liberals in America are socially liberal, supporting abortion rights, gay rights, and the rights of immigrants, while some believe in expanding welfare, taxes on the rich, and universal healthcare. Others are more moderate on those issues. Conservatives in America are more socially conservative wanting a rollback of abortion rights, gay rights, and the rights of immigrants and cutting regulation and welfare.

These words are not just labels, but actual ideologies that have underpinnings in American history.

Bondi has struggled to move past the backlash over the Epstein files since handing out binders to a group of social media influencers at the White House in February 2025. The binders included no new revelations about Epstein, leading to even more calls from Trump’s base for the files to be released.

In her opening remarks, Bondi told Epstein victims to come forward to law enforcement with any information and about their abuse and said she “deeply sorry” for what they had suffered. She told the survivors that “any accusation of criminal wrongdoing will be taken seriously and investigated.”

But she refused when pressed by Rep. Pramila Jayapal to turn and face the Epstein victims in the audience and apologize for what Trump’s Justice Department has “put them through” and accused the Democrat of “theatrics.”

Bondi’s appearance on Capitol Hill comes a year into her tumultuous tenure that has amplified concerns that the Justice Department is using its law enforcement powers to target political foes of the president. Just a day earlier, the department sought to secure charges against Democratic lawmakers who produced a video urging military service members not to follow “illegal orders.” But in an extraordinary rebuke of prosecutors, a grand jury in Washington refused to return an indictment.

Yale professor recommended student for a job with Epstein

Dave Collins AP Political Writer

Yale University says a prominent computer science professor will not teach classes while it reviews his conduct, after newly released documents show he sent Jeffrey Epstein an email describing an undergraduate as a good-looking blonde while recommending her for a job.

Messages between David Gelernter — who made headlines in 1993 when he was wounded by a mail explosive sent by “Unabomber” Theodore Kaczynski — and the late, disgraced financier were among the trove of Epstein-related documents released by the U.S. Justice Department in late January. The documents show Gelernter and Epstein corresponding on a variety of topics including business and art.

In an email to Epstein in October 2011 — several years after Epstein pleaded guilty to soliciting prostitution from an underage girl — Gelernter wrote that he had an “editoress” in mind for a job — a Yale senior whom he described as a “v small good-looking blonde.”

Gelernter defended that message in an email last week to Jeffrey Brock, dean of Yale’s School of Engineering & Applied Science, according to the Yale Daily News, which reported that Gelernter also forwarded the email to the student newspaper.

He noted that Epstein was “obsessed with girls” — “like every other unmarried billionaire in Manhattan; in fact, like every other heterosex male” — and he was keeping “the potential boss’s habits in mind.”

“So long as I said nothing that dishonored her in any conceivable way, I’d have told him more or less what he wanted,” Gelernter wrote to Brock, the paper reported. “She was smart, charming & gorgeous. Ought I to have suppressed that info? Never!”

He added: “I’m very glad I wrote the note.”

Students in Gelernter’s computer science class were notified that he would not be teaching on Tuesday.

“The university does not condone the action taken by the professor or his described manner of providing recommendations for his students,” Yale said in a statement. “The professor’s conduct is under review. Until the review is completed, the professor will not teach his class.”

Gelernter, 70, did not respond to emails and a message left at a phone listing for him in public records. A message to Brock was returned by Yale’s Office of Public Affairs & Communications, which provided the statement by the university.

Professor David Gelernter sits in his office at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., on Aug. 28, 1997. | Photo by Brad Clift AP

Yale declined to provide a copy of Gelernter’s email to Brock.

Gelernter joins a list of people in the U.S. and Europe, including prominent politicians, facing scrutiny because of the Epstein files.

Students in his computer science class were somewhat stunned by his links to Epstein and what he wrote in the emails, said Kris Aziabor, a 21-year-old senior from Atkinson, New Hampshire.

“I think there was definitely an initial kind of like wave of shock, just because you know I think it just sounds ridiculous that one of your professors, like someone who is teaching you, is literally in these Epstein files,” Aziabor said. “But I think what really was the most surprising to me was how he was trying to defend his like past words and past actions.”

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Rockwall addition to student gym



Cassandra Sabatini, a senior Art Education major, completes her second climb on the rock wall.
| Photo By Jack Bruntz



The Pittsburgh State University indoor rock wall in the Student Recreation Center.
| Photo By Jack Bruntz



Noah Ducharme, a junior Diesel Heavy major, helps Nate Hinrichs, a senior EET major, get out of his harness after coming down from a climb. | Photo By Jack Bruntz



Tristan Hamilton, a senior EET major, comes down from a previous climb on the rock wall.
| Photo By Jack Bruntz



Lydia May, a senior Art Education major, climbs the indoor rock wall, strategizing her next move.
| Photo By Jack Bruntz