Myths and Monsters of Pennsylvania!

The Albatwitch supposedly sits in trees on the lookout for picknickers and their apples. In the photo below The Squonk is another creature that lurks PA.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALBATWITCHDAY.COM

Pennsylvania is home to 17 million acres of forested land and over 1,000 caves. Such vast wilderness always inspires the inception of myths and monsters in the mind of men. Unusual encounters, a sense of community, the simple pleasure of indulging childlike wonder – these are the basis of myth. What creatures and legends are hiding near Lancaster?

The most pervasive mythical beast seems to be Sasquatch. Every corner of the world whispers tales of a large bipedal ape creature, and while there are those who claim to have seen Sas hanging out in the forests of Pennsylvania, there is a more niche monkey-man believed to roam the area near Chickies Rock. The Albatwitch is believed to be a 4-foot tall manlike cryptid that lives in the wooded areas. Its name comes from a bastardization of either “apple-witch” or “apple-snitch,” which is a descriptive title given to the creature do its supposed penchant for stealing apples and occasionally tossing them at people. The Susquehannock people often adorned their shields with depictions of an apelike creature which raises interest in cryptozoological groups looking for proof of creatures like Sasquatch.

Beasts are not the only myths to intersect with the lives of Pennsylvania citizens. The Pennsylvania Dutch, for example, brought with them traditions and beliefs from Europe that were integrated into modern society. The Belznickel is a Christmas related entity that comes dressed in furs to scold naughty children and flagellate them with sticks. He is essentially a nicer version of the more well-known Krampus who would stuff bad behaving kids in a sack to kill them later.

In 1910 William Thomas Cox published a book titled Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods. It is a field guide describing the various mythological creatures that were purported to exist over the years by lumber workers, frontiersmen, and hunters. One creature detailed in the book is said to have lived in the forests of northern Pennsylvania before going extinct in the early 20th century. It is described as piglike creature with misfitting skin that is covered in growths. The Squonk is said to have been a cry baby that wept constantly, either out of fear or when it caught a glimpse of itself in moonlit waters. No specimen was ever captured because according to Cox the beast “when cornered, or when surprised and frightened, it may even dissolve itself in tears.” The Squonk was such a popular entry in Cox’s book that it was the subject of a song on Genesis’s 1973 album, A Trick of the Tail and is the namesake for a particular type of compound in the field of chemistry. Referring to the creature’s ability to dissolve itself in its own tears, “chemical squonks” are substances that can’t be isolated without catalyzing their own decomposition.

Certainly, there are many more local legends to explore, but for now hold on to your apples, watch out for crying pigs, stay off the naughty list, and avoid the ramblings of white haired-cave dwellers.

Certainly, there are many more local legends to explore, but for now hold on to your apples, watch out for crying pigs, stay off the naughty list, and avoid the ramblings of white haired-cave dwellers.
When Every Vote Counts

KYLIE STOLTZFUS  
Staff Writer

Pennsylvania’s polling places opened at 7 a.m. on Tuesday morning for voters to begin casting their ballots for the 2020 general election. Many voters had already cast their choice for president through mail-in ballots, with more than 500,000 ballots casted from registered Pennsylvania voters choosing to vote by mail. Pennsylvania is a key swing state in this election, with 20 electoral votes on the line.

As of November 4, President Trump holds 214 electoral votes, and Vice President Biden holds 264, according to the live updated results of The Associated Press. The winner will be called when one party reaches 270 electoral votes. A case was brought before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that proposed votes could still be counted if the ballot was received by November 7, extending the process beyond Election Day and likely adding time between voting and results of election.

Lawsuits from the Trump campaign have begun in key swing states and across the country to challenge issues that arise during the voting process and concerns over poll watching. Lawsuits have been filed on behalf of the Trump Campaign in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Georgia. In the meantime, Michigan has been called in favor of Vice President Biden, flipping the script from the 2016 election where the state went to Trump, going Republican after a history of voting blue.

Volunteers began scanning mail-in ballots at 7 a.m. on November 3 at the Lancaster County Convention Center. Lancaster County Commissioner, Josh Parsons says this process continued through the night and into Wednesday. Officials believe it will be at least Friday until the winner is officially called as votes are still being counted. The Associated Press reported that 1 million ballots were still waiting to be counted as of Wednesday evening.

As the country waits to hear the way Pennsylvania and its 20 electoral votes will swing this election, Bloomberg reported that voter turnout has increased across 42 states as compared to the 2016 election. While votes are still being counted and ballots are being processed, people have turned out in record numbers to make their voice heard.

The Election by the Numbers

As of November 5th, below is the current data for the election results so far. Nevada, Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, and Alaska have not been officially called yet. Mail-in ballots are still being accepted and counted in some states. The data to the left are the current statistics on the swing states.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

OPINION

QUIBI: A STRANGE CONCEPT THAT DIDN’T PAY OFF

SHAUN LUCAS
Opinion Editor

Last week, it was announced the mobile exclusive streaming service Quibi will shut down in December. The service launched in April, meaning the service had a shorter life span than the Covid-19 pandemic. Quibi is yet another business which struggled during the economic recession of 2020. Although, Quibi certainly wasn’t a local business with little funding. The service was not only co-founded by entertainment industry titans, Jeffrey Katzenberg and Meg Whitman, but also had nearly $2 billion in investor funding, according to The Verge.

Quibi was an app that featured original series, with weekly new episodes of the varied programs. The ability to consistently release content is not only due to high funds and the app’s pre-production, but also due to each episode lasting 10 minutes or less. The gimmick was the service’s exclusivity to cell phones and tablets, intended as an outlet for short, easily-consumable shows while away from home. Quibi subscribers either paid $5 monthly for base membership, or $8 monthly to watch without advertisements.

I vividly remember the last media I saw from Quibi; an advertisement for an exclusive show titled “Dummy.” The show starred Anna Kendrick as Cody, a young adult struggling to maintain a relationship. Somehow, Cody’s boyfriend’s sex doll comes to life, attempting to register to vote. The series then followed Cody and the doll driving together around the country. An ad for more media, I cannot say there isn’t an audience for this strange type of content. With billions in funding to establish a legitimate service, however, it’s judicious that the only advertised Quibi content I remember is about Anna Kendrick and an animated sex doll, adds to a string of celebrities awkwardly using phrases such as, “I’ll be done in a ‘Quibi.’”

To be fair, I myself didn’t subscribe to Quibi’s services, only monitoring advert- isements to see if any new content on the service interested me. In addi- tion, I prefer watching shows while away from home. Aside from this, Quibi’s episodic series. Understanding I may not have been Quibi’s intended audi- ence, I’m still confused who exactly is this audience: who wants to pay to watch unmemorable content in an in- convenient manner?

To clarify the app’s inconvenience, Quibi truly is only accessible on hand- held devices: the service cannot be streamed on televisions, consoles, or laptops. Even if there’s content that you would appreciate, it could be restricted on limited devices. Plus, if you enjoy watching shows with your friends, it’d be difficult if the shows only play on such small screens. I’ve read this strict exclusivity is so shows can use both landscape and portrait mode based on the orientation of the viewer’s device. Ironically, this adjust- ment for convenience leads to a state of glaring incompatibilities.

Quibi attempted to capitalize on a surplus market, as other quick, as- sessable content-based apps already thrive. For example, YouTube gives ac- cess to billions of hours worth of con- tent on a mobile device while away, and still gives the option of viewing on home devices. YouTube also offers much of their content for free. Other free apps such as Twitter and Insta- gram also provide quick entertainment for no charge. Even other paid services, such as Netflix, already allow you to watch renowned shows and films on your mobile device.

Some may criticize my insults to- wards Quibi’s shows, despite never trying the service myself. Yet, I’d wa- ger none of this article’s readers have heard any of their peers even mention- ing a show from Quibi. Also, the fact Quibi lasted less than a year, regardless of its outrageous funding and celebrity support, doesn’t show promise in the shows’ quality.

From concept alone, Quibi seems impossible to make successful in the current entertainment ecosystem. Al- though, after reading Katzenberg’s response to laid-off Quibi employees, perhaps poor management was also a massive obstacle for the service. The Wall Street Journal released this state- ment: “During a video call with em- ployees Wednesday, an emotional Mr. Katzenberg suggested Quibi staffers listen to the song ‘Get Back Up Again,’ sung by actress Anna Kendrick in the animated film ‘Trolls,’ to buoy their spir- it.”

Katzenberg will now be associat- ed with two brutal Quibi mishaps: the creation of “Dummy,” and Katzenburg telling unemployed adults to feel better by listening to a children’s song. Unlike Quibi, though, Katzenberg will likely con- tinue to financially thrive and grow her audience beyond a portion of 2020.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEADLINE

QUIBI

Quibi is shutting down in December after an unsuccessful six months.

DAVID VARGAS
Staff Writer

In the US, people aged 39 or younger compromise more than a third of eligible voters.

We are considered more ethnically diverse, liberal, and open-minded than previous generations.

Despite this truth, why do we, younger people, choose not to vote? Is it the primary expression of our democracy?

According to John Holbein and Susan Kates, the Common Cause: Making Younger Voters, in 2016, although 90% of young Americans reported an interest in politics, and 80% intended to vote, only 49% of people between the ages of 18 and 29 ended up actually casting a ballot.

Later, in 2018, 7 out of 10 young Americans (between the ages of 18 and 29) did not vote.

What forces create this American reality?

Historically speaking, low voter turnout among young Americans is nothing new. According to electroproject. org, in 1969, only 31% of 18-29 year old voters turn out among young Americans has never reached beyond 50%. It came close to 50% in 2008, where Democratic Nom- inee Barack Obama challenged Repub- lican nominee John McCain, but it still fell short of this threshold. Com- paratively speaking, older Americans (age 60+) have exceeded a voter turnout of 50% every year in every election since 1986.

One explanation is that younger Americans are apathetic towards poli- tics. They do not believe the government cares about them, nor that their efforts will produce any meaningful change. Additionally, unlike older Americans, they may not feel an ownership of how politics affects them. Why should they contribute to something which they don’t realize affects their lives?

Younger Americans are also some- times confused about how to vote. Mail-in ballot applications may be too bureaucratic or complicated; re- questing an absentee ballot seems too abstract or foreign. These processes discourage younger Americans from making an effort to vote, even if they have an interest in politics.

Nevertheless, there are some solu- tions which can be sought. A possible solution to remove the obstacles of vot- ing is preregistration. Preregistration allows sixteen and seventeen year-olds to register to vote before they go to col- leges or join the workforce. This, in turn, allows high schoolers, with more time on their hands, to register before busier periods of their life begin.

Same-day registration also erases the pressure of having to go through a long and bureaucratic process. Current- ly, only twenty-one states, along with the District of Columbia, have same-day registration. While same-day registra- tion might produce higher turnouts, perhaps we just need to incorporate even younger Americans. In cities like Takoma Park, Hyattsville and Greenbelt in Maryland and Berkeley, California, sixteen-year-olds are able to participate in local elections. If many sixteen-year- olds participated in national voting, this could encourage their older coun- terparts, 16-29 year-olds, to also engage.

Besides altering registration pro- cesses, maybe effective high school civics classes can get young American involved in voting. Not all schools do this, and not all schools do this well. Some schools turn their focus to memo- rization of facts and figures, producing measures for multiple-choice exams, but not for substantive political engage- ment. However, if an effective peda- gogy encourages students to engage in political issues, through discussion on important issues and encouragement to be civically engaged, it would allow students, younger Americans, to see the value of meaningfully interacting with the institutions which make them American.

Ultimately, participating in Amer- ican democracy is a gift. We have the ability to determine the legislative branch and the executive branch. Se- lecting representatives across multiple branches of government is a power not even granted to most of the devel- oped, Western world. Aside from this, if young Americans were to vote in the same numbers that older Americans do (age 60+), it is said that we could have a political revolution, making represen- tatives and political parties turn their attention to our needs rather than the needs of older demographics. As elec- tion day draws near, figure out how you’re going to vote. If you did not fill out a mail-in ballot, or an absentee bal- lot, you can still go to your local polling place on election day. You can find this via the polling place locator.

Have your voice heard. It is your democracy. It is your country. Millen- nials and Generation Z are the future. And the future is now.
Halloween is far from the best holiday

By BRYAN MARKLEY

Halloween sucks: that’s right, I said it.

There are a myriad of ways in which Halloween is hands down the single worst “holiday” that occurs every year. I use the quotes around the word holiday, given that is a sorry excuse for one.

A little background on my hatred for Halloween. As a child, I was scared when I unexpectedly was spooked from behind as I was leaving a tent that was handing out candy. Sure, I probably should have entered at my own risk, however, scaring a little, unexpecting child is sickening. Fortunately, the parent of another terrified little soul reported the tent and the people responsible, and they were shut down for the rest of the night.

Since that night, I refused to participate in Halloween. There is nothing appealing to me about it, a now 23-year-old man. The whole “Spooky Season” is a sham to me. Sure, free candy is a nice incentive for kids. Nowadays, I can buy myself a variety pack of Hershey candy any day of the week, any season.

Another big aspect of Halloween is the costume. Now, my gripe with the costumes is a much more personal gripe. As an introvert, going out just as myself without a costume makes me self-conscious enough. The last thing I would want to do is give another reason for the general public to look at me weirdly. I am also a believer that one should grow out of Halloween. There is an excitement that young children have for trick-or-treating, and my goal with this article is not to take that away from them. That being said, I think one just outgrows Halloween. Sure, it is yet another excuse to throw a party and that’s fine and dandy.

My main gripe is that Halloween is treated like a top tier holiday when inherently, it is one of the worst. It is dark and scary, yet the biggest appeal to Halloween is for little kids to get free candy from strangers. Considering we are still in a pandemic, it is bizarre to me that parents are letting their kids go trick-or-treating.

On the other end of the spectrum, those who do not go trick-or-treating are spending ludicrous amounts of money to attend Halloween themed attractions year after year. I find real haunted places fascinating, but you couldn’t pay me enough to go to one.

When it comes down to it, I am easily scared, and I am jaded from my past experiences on Halloween. I am the Halloween Grinch. My goal with this article is not to suck the joy out of you who enjoy Halloween, but rather to show why I do not like it.

That being said, happy Halloween.
In my senior year of high school, my classmates and I were given a task from our English teacher to persuade our au-
dience to take action on a personal assignment. I decided to be a political assignment although I’m sure a few other students presented more compelling success stories of those who did, a more topical discussion. I remember seeing news reports around this time in hijacked news cycles that dealt with the idea of how much the situation was increasing, along with information feeding us that it had become worse since the previous year.

This notion I certainly didn’t believe, so I set out to persuade my peers that these reports were bogus. And if you were in that first period English class with me at ELCA it is in a small room that you would not see the true blessings that social media and tech has provided. A few examples I provided were in a social studies class where we got news from reputable sources within a few button presses, the connections created with one another that increased dopamine levels, and entertainment outlets found on the internet. I argued that social media and other ventures in the tech sphere brought about good, systemic changes in human interaction. Yet this piece isn’t about how I got an A- in a high school presentation, I refer to a start-up called The Newschool at Google and Co-Founder of Center for Humane Technology who’s profiled up as the catalyst for the whole documentary itself. Tristan Harris states at the beginning of his interview, that he was working at Google at a time in which the tech industries of NYU Stern School of Business’ Social Media and Society had been brought to attention by Larry Page, one of the Co-Founders of Google. Harris eventually became the catalyst for the whole documentary that author and computer scientist Math Palihapitiya is a venture capitalist of The Social Dilemma. I do not believe I’d give the same optimistic type of presentation today.

“The Social Dilemma” interviews tech industry experts and former industry insiders and points out some hidden truths of the tech industries at large. The documentary opens with a quote from the documentary from 2008, “The company that Google was Googling should’ve been Google, not Google. “Shoudn’t we be making this less addicting?” He asked. The documentary then gets input from former Google employees at Google and was even brought to attention by Larry Page, one of the Co-Founders of Google.

Ultimately the idea would never have fruition at Google. When most people think of social media, they usually thought about the simplest bits of what they are. “Google doesn’t have a social engine, while Facebook is where I interact with my friends, and Twitter is where I see a feed tailored to me and my hobbies and interests. YouTube is where I go to get short-form entertainment. The reality is that really isn’t the case. All of these companies are in the advertising business and they all compete for your time and attention. It was with this in mind that a common phrase in the industry is “If the product is free, then you are the product.” This is a sentiment that author and computer scientist Jas ERP, founder of The Social Dilemma, is a venture capitalist of The Social Dilemma and former Google employee, described as a “Feed tailored to the user. The best examples of that user are Google’s Pixel phone that I’ll get back to here shortly, the group that notified Moe’s Southwest Grill notifying me that I can get the double reward points to the group that I hadn’t. I am currently 2 hours away and the ESPN app notifying me about tennis matches that are happening, or the news group that is run through Google Hangouts messaging app. More commonly known is feed based on your feed or before a YouTube video that is usually tailored to your data. This time I had backed into tailoring the data from a group chat into my feed. And Moe’s Southwest Grill Remind me to visit. Notice Moe’s to eat in awhile, I miss Moe’s but that is beside the point. That is just an example of how the system is set up and happened to notice because it’s not part of my niches. Notifications is just one of the many design aspects in the tech industry to try to gain our attention.

That design aspect may seem trivial and really don’t bring about much concern that social media is harmful. A problem with some of the tools the tech giants have at their disposal is that the notification is a serious concern. Deal- ing with these tools is not the same as with Facebook or Instagram, and Snapchat in particular. Chal-math Palihapitiya is a venture capitalist from the documentary, and Tristan Harris is a former Google employee who is in charge of user growth. In the documentary, Chal-math Palihapitiya interview the former Google employee, and then footage of him giving a talk at Stanford in 2017 about how Facebook’s tools and design created the problem.

“We compounded the problem. ... We curate our lives around this perceived sense of perfection because we get rewarded in these short-term sig- nal: hearts, likes, thumbs up. And we confide that with value, and we confide it with the truth. And instead what it re- ally is fake brittle popularity—that’s short term, and that leaves you even more, and admit it, vacant and empty [than] before you did it, because it forces you to participate, engage, and self-censor. ‘What’s the next thing I need to do now?’ “cause I need it back,” said Chal-math Palihapitiya.

Something as simple as the “like button” is a dangerous creation of technology. It changes one’s mental health. Unfortu-
nately, this type of perception feed has created 7 billion predateary in sites like Facebook and Instagram. These perception feeding has been the focus of the documentary in the Primary Interest was asked what he is most wor-
dy that the tech companies would change membership? It’s because of things I saw on Twitter and Instagram. I distinctively recall a tweet of a user who had been feeling sad about their appearance and how much they needed to lose weight. The user did not want anyone to know and was afraid of it because of the change of information. The user was also afraid of being rejected by others. The user stated, “The problem isn’t with the tech or so-
cial media. The real problem is within the business model. There is no regulation on data mining for companies. The idea is that if you regulate the amount of data that is taken from users or tax it, there is no incentive for companies to pursue all the data out there because it wouldn’t fiscally bene-
fit the company or the shareholders to do so. The reason none of it has changed is that the criticism hasn’t reached the mainstream. Who knows if it even gets there? The failures expended upon the tools of these technologies are not wide-
ly known, and that is why this documen-
tary was made, to shine a light on the failings of the tech industry. Not in the sense of being evil, but being inge-
quent to the ways the tools are being used to do harm.

For example, Facebook’s algo-
rithm is designed in a way in which it has the ability to find users that are sus-
ceptible to believing in conspiracy the-
ories and suggest different conspiratorial groups, such as Pizzagate and qAnon. A normal person wouldn’t even see this usually of fake-information. Sometimes these conspiracy theories can be as friv-
olous as “The Flat-Earth” conspiracy or can be extremely dangerous with Piz-
agate. Pizzagate conspiracy was rooted in the idea that buying a pizza pie would, in turn, mean a human being was be-
ing trafficked, this information allowed a gunman to use and take a picture to check a basement that did not exist because he believed there was a pedophile ring. Facebook had ex-
sentially created a propaganda machine that has been used by countries in un-
der-developed countries to control its citizens.

Towards the end of Netflix tech documentary, the ideas that are being reflected about the threat of this disinformation age is that the existential threats are not using the phone itself or advertisers getting you to watch one more video, or spend 5 more minutes on one of the three main social media. So why is Facebook membership? It’s because of things I saw on Twitter and Instagram. I distinctively recall a tweet of a user who had been feeling sad about their appearance and how much they needed to lose weight. The user did not want anyone to know and was afraid of it because of the change of information. The user was also afraid of being rejected by others. The user stated, “The problem isn’t with the tech or soci-

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SUN

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SUN
Behind the walls of terror

CARLY O'NEILL
Editor in Chief

History
Located in Spring City, Pennhurst State School and Hospital was originally named the Eastern Pennsylvania State Institution for the Feeble-Minded and Epileptic when it opened its doors in November of 1908. It was an institution meant for mentally and physically disabled individuals that also housed orphans, immigrants, and criminals. Anyone with a disability during this time period was seen as an outcast and Pennhurst served as a solution. The institution was originally built to house up to 500 patients with some room for additions. After four years of operation Pennhurst was already overcrowded and throughout its 79 years of operation it housed over ten thousand residents. Residents were classified into three categories when admitted: mental, physical, and dental. Mentally they were either classified as imbecile or insane, physically as epileptic or healthy, and their teeth were classified as either good, poor, or treated. Injuries were very common at Pennhurst, especially due to the lack of staff. In January, 1977 there were 833 minor and 25 major injuries reported. On Jan. 8, 1975 a patient was reported to have hit off three-quarters of a patient’s earlobe while the other resident was asleep. Not too long after this another patient was reported to have pushed a patient to the floor so hard, result in the other patient’s death.

In 1968, a five-part television news report called “Suffer The Little Children,” anchored by CBS correspondent, Bill Baldivi exposed Pennhurst for its overcrowding and poor conditions. This documentary series ultimately led to the end of Pennhurst. In 1977 the lawsuit filed on May 30, 1974, Halderman v. Pennhurst state School and Hospital led to U.S. District Judge Raymond J. Broderick ruling that the conditions at Pennhurst violated patients’ constitutional rights. In 1976, there were reported cases of staff abuse to the residents. One resident was raped by a staff person, while others were thrown several feet, hit with keys or shackles belts. In 1983, nine employees were convicted of charges including slapping or beating patients (some who were in wheelchairs) and even arranging for patients to assault each other. In 1987, Pennhurst officially closed its doors due to lack of funding, overcrowding, and patient abuse. It was left to the vandalism for 23 years until it was bought and turned into the asylum attraction. Asylum is broken up into four attractions; the Morgue, Containment, the Asylum and Mayflower Hall, which allows visitors to see what rooms inside the state school used to look like along with preserved artifacts. Unfortunately this year only the three attractions were open to the public, while Mayflower Hall was a luxury only visitors of Pennhurst’s history tour could explore. Covic measures were put into place as all the actors and visitors were required to wear masks and keep six feet from each other. The attractions were also set up so the public had to walk through all three back to back, while on a non pandemic year, customers can choose which attractions in whichever order they’d like and take a break by the bonfire or grab a snack.

Pennhurst Asylum is the first attraction that customers will walk through, where they will be led to navigate through maximum security and visit some of Pennhurst’s most hostile patients. While most visitors at first glance probably assume these doctors or nurses are performing experiments gone wrong, look closer because it’s actually the patients disguised as employees of the asylum. The Morgue is where you’ll learn about all the different ways to drain a body of its blood or simply dispose of a body. Customers will walk through tight, darkly-light corridors and make sure to double check if these bodies are indeed dead or alive.

Containment is the last stop of the attraction where customers get to walk through the 1,200 long tunnels of Pennhurst. Bear witness to a government facility using patients to experiment on in most inhumane conditions. Be careful to not become Pennhurst’s next patient, as the employees of this facility are always looking for new patients to experiment on.

Acting
On Sat. Nov. 24, I had the opportunity to go behind the scenes of Pennhurst Asylum and try out the acting side of things for myself. As a lover of anything horror related, I have always been curious about what it would be like to become a character for a night. I arrived onsite around 4:35 p.m. and was given long Johns to change into. Then I was led to a room in the asylum attraction where I was told I would have to audition and create a scene for a potential customer. It wasn’t until I was given my spot for the night that I could really get into character and take advantage of my surroundings to get a good scream out of customers. I was placed in a crevice of a hallway where the lights would continuously turn on and off, leading to a room with a doctor and a patient gone mad. I had to get used to the train whistle that would go off right before the customers would get to my scene, signaling me to pop out of my crevice and attempt to get them with a good jump scare. I channeled my inner Harley Quinn and used a high pitched voice to pop out at people and squeal “Did you come to play?” and “You don’t want to go in there!” It was entertaining watching the reactions of groups unfold as I scared the pants off them in the beginning of the scene and then proceeded to follow them down the hallway and pop out at them again once the lights would turn back on. However, occasionally I did manage to get too into character and left that night with some bruising from pounding my hands on the sides of the walls to get an extra rise out of people.

Forewarning to anyone looking to try out this acting experience for themselves, you will experience people who go to these attractions specifically to mess with the actors. I had multiple instances of people calling me cute, asking if I was single, or even repeatedly shouting their number in my face to intimidate me. Simply brush it off and stay in character. The goal is to have fun and give people an adrenaline rush experience, not be Johny’s date to the asylum.

Overall, this was a very fun experience that I would highly recommend to anyone looking to become a character for a night and give people a scare they’ll remember. Even if haunted attractions aren’t necessarily your thing, going behind the scenes of it helps turn the attraction itself into a less intimidating experience. On the other hand, maybe becoming part of the attraction will help you face your fears.
Top four supposedly haunted Lancaster locations

It's no secret that Lancaster is an old town filled with history. With this long history, in some locations across town, you might get more than you bargained for. From theaters to plantations, here are some rumored places where you may be able to find a ghost or come across some unusual things.

1. Franklin & Marshall College
Franklin & Marshall College also has a few rumored ghosts and haunted buildings across their 200 acre campus. According to the archives of F&M’s library Diagnothian Hall, built in 1856 is rumored to have a few spirits roaming around. Similar to the Fulton Theatre’s building, Diagnothian Hall served as a hospital for wounded soldiers during the Civil War. The archives also mention that while working late in his office in Diagnothian, a music professor was playing a Souza duet called “Red Cross Nurse,” a song about a nurse tending to soldiers during World War I.

The archives state, “As this song played over his stereo, he began hearing sounds apart from the music – he heard moaning, rattling sounds, and overall, the sounds of a person in intense pain...He later realized the connection between his experience and Diagonothian Hall’s history as a Civil War hospital.” Sitting next to Diagonothian Hall, rumors surround Old Main as being haunted as well. Constructed in 1853, this building was supposedly built on the site of Lancaster’s “Gallows Hill” due to it being the highest point around Lancaster. This would make it a prime spot for the town to see the hangings and be scared into keeping order. According to the F&M Gazette in October of 1990, the bell in the tower or Old Main has been known to ring during the night without the help of anyone.

2. Fulton Theatre
While the Fulton Theatre is known for its fun plays and shows, it has a bit of a dark history surrounding its origins. According to the theatre’s website, before the theatre was built, the land had previously been hosting Lancaster’s pre-revolutionary jail. Here, the last fourteen of the Conestoga Native Americans were massacred on December 28, 1763 while they were being held in the jail for protection. They were killed by a vigilante gang called the “Paxton Boys.”

This massacre wasn’t the only death that this site has seen. In 1852, the site became Fulton Hall and after the Battle of Gettysburg, it even served as a hospital for wounded soldiers.

The haunted folklore of The Fulton Theatre continues with ghost sightings at this specific location. The Fulton Theatre’s website states that three ghosts have been reported on the site over the years. The website says, “Several actors and stagehands reported seeing a woman in a white dress hovering around the bottom of an old, wooden spiral staircase or at the top of the stage.” Researchers have since discovered that an actress named Marie Cahill had frequently performed at The Fulton Theatre. She is known as “The Woman in White.”

3. Rockford Plantation
Another stop to check out if you’re looking for any speculated haunted attractions would be Rockford Plantation or more specifically, Rockford Mansion. Home to Edward Hand, a Revolutionary War general and friend to George Washington, the mansion was built in 1794. This location tragically saw the death of four Hand family members and according to LNP, Hand’s eldest son, John Hand killed himself inside the mansion as well. His blood is even rumored to be staining the hardwood floor in an upstairs guest bedroom. Although nothing is confirmed, the plantation has seen slavery, death, and features a dark history.

4. Rachel’s Cafe & Creperie
Rachel’s Cafe & Creperie, known for their Nutella drinks and savory crepes may also have a ghost roaming around. Apparently, there has been something (or someone) that would randomly turn faucets on in one of the bathrooms in the cafe. Morgan Miller, a former manager at Rachel’s says, “It would randomly just turn on full blast! I used to think that maybe it was customers leaving it on, but it would happen early in the morning. Then I thought it was Ray [Rachel Adman’s father], but c’mon, he knows how to turn off a faucet.”

When she would go into the bathroom Miller avoided looking into the mirror, not wanting to see something other than her reflection looking back. “I don’t know of anyone dying there or any of the history too much, but it’s a very old building,” she says.
The Mandalorian blasts back onto Disney+

After The Mandalorian released in fall of last year to endless praise and critical acclaim, the release of its impending second season has been eagerly awaited. The Star Wars drama series was a massive success, winning seven Emmys for its first season and becoming last year’s most in-demand streaming show across all streaming services, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Fans will be delighted to know the show is back in full swing with its second season premiere episode releasing Oct. 30th.

The first episode of the show's second season “Episode 9: The Marshal” is directed and written by showrunner and executive producer Jon Favreau. The episode is a delightful mix of classic westerns and kaiju movies, featuring the titular character of The Mandalorian, played by Pedro Pascal. He teams up with the Marshal of the small town of Mos Pelgo, Cobb Vanth, played by newcomer Timothy Olyphant. The pair join forces to hunt down a massive Krayt Dragon terrorizing Mos Pelgo and must unite unlikely allies to pull off this monumental task.

Hardcore Star Wars fans will be delighted to find a plethora of easter eggs and references to both Star Wars cannon and legends in this episode. The character of Cobb Vanth and Mos Pelgo first appeared in the Star Wars: Aftermath trilogy of books by Chuck Wendig and in turn became one of the first major characters in Star Wars books to appear in a live-action production. Fans of the “Knights of the Old Republic” video game series will also notice the addition of Krayt Dragon pearls in the episode, an item the main character of the video game was tasked with hunting a Krayt Dragon to acquire.

The cinematography and production of this episode continues the show’s tradition of gorgeous shots and creative filmmaking. This episode features many beautiful establishing shots of the desert landscape and the entire episode maintains the eerie feeling of a lonely western town in a sea of sand. The episode also makes creative use of aspect ratios, switching from a 21:9 to a 16:9 during Krayt Dragon scenes to properly accentuate the massive scale of the monster. Ludwig Göransson returns to score the entirety of the season and once again produces a classic futuristic western soundtrack, alongside the memorable main theme that will be stuck in your head for days.

The Mandalorian is shaping up to once again deliver a fantastic season full of adventure, action and heartache. Don’t worry, for fans just looking for more Baby Yoda scenes to gush over, I can confirm this episode has everything you need for your weekly dose of cuteness. Mando and Baby Yoda’s adventures are sure to occupy daily discourse as fans eagerly discuss and await to see how their adventures will play out this season.

Carly O’Neill
Editor In Chief
Shaun Lucas
Opinion Editor
Caleb Wolfe
Associate Sports Editor
Julia Meassick
Managing Editor
Sydney Clark
Features Editor

To celebrate Halloween in this issue, the snapper crew channeled their spooky writing in a themed writing collaboration. Popularized by the subreddit, r/twosentencehorror, we wanted to take a shot at this fun writing style to create some fearful pieces!

TWO SENTENCE HORROR STORIES

Carly O’Neill
Editor In Chief
I called out to my boyfriend to hand me the dishes from the table as I scrubbed away, cleaning the ones from lunch. He passes me them and I turn around to say thank you when I see my boyfriend’s face on a different body.

Shanl Lucas
Opinion Editor
After a grueling battle, I had finally fought off the hoard of vicious skeletons trying to murder me. Only then did I realize that the most wicked skeleton was inside me all along.

Caleb Wolfe
Associate Sports Editor
I’m awoken from the nightmare; my hands moist and fearfully grasping onto something. As my mind begins to calm I look down to see my own blood splattered intestines clenched between my fingers.

Julia Meassick
Managing Editor
I was dreaming of feeling the heat on my skin, I was at the beach on a sunny day. I awoke in terror, as I was being cremated alive.

Sydney Clark
Features Editor
As I worked on my homework, I kept receiving calls from my Dad’s phone with no one on the other line. I wouldn’t have been frightened except for the fact that he died three years ago.

See any good shows lately? Contact our Arts & Culture Editor at culture@thesnapper.com
Dodgers win 2020 World Series

BRIAN MARKLEY
Sports Editor

The Los Angeles Dodgers are 2020 World Series Champions. The title has been an elusive one for the Dodgers over the last decade, but the drought is finally over. The Dodgers were the best team in baseball over the 60-game sprint that was the regular season and they dominated every team they faced up until the NLCs in the post-season.

Game six of the World Series gave plenty of story lines, from Justin Turner testing positive for COVID-19 a few innings into the game to Tampa Bay Rays’ manager Kevin Cash pulling former Cy Young winner Blake Snell after allowing his second hit of the night. Are analytics ruining baseball? What would have happened if the Rays forced a game 7? What type of punishment is Turner facing for not following league guidelines regarding COVID? Those are for another day.

This moment is about celebrating the greatness that is the 2020 Los Angeles Dodgers.

Firstly, we no longer have to worry about Clayton Kershaw retiring without a World Series ring. Kershaw was haunt-ed over the past years of play-off failures, choking away performances and not being able to make it to the promised land. Kershaw is now undoubtedly a lock for the MLB Hall of Fame, and his legacy is now enhanced with the addition of a World Series ring.

Secondly, a resurgence in World Series MVP Corey Seager over the regular season and in the post-season played a big role in the Dodgers success. Seager hit .400 in the World Series, tallying two home runs, five RBI, a stolen base and drawing six walks. He posted an OPS of 1.256 and led the offensive charge for the Dodgers.

This ring is also a testament to the perfect balance of home-grown talent and going out of the organization to craft the best possible team. The likes of Max Muncy, Cody Bellinger and Walker Buehler were raised within the Dodgers organization and all made major contributions to the Dodgers’ World Series run.

Combine this home-grown talent with the perks of being a big market team that is able to spend outrageous amounts of money on players, say the best player in baseball not named Mike Trout in Mookie Betts, you are able to form a nightmare of a lineup. Betts is now locked in with the Dodgers for the next 12 years, and it extends the Dodgers dynas-ty window.

Speaking of dynas-ties, the Dodgers have an opportunity to go on a historic run with the team they currently have. Sure, Kershaw is not getting any younger, and the likes of Muncy, Bellinger and Buehler are all even- tually going to want to get paid. However, windows of success are few and far between in baseball, and the need to strike while you can is essential to putting together a run of championships.

Will the Dodgers be in the conversation to win the Fall Classic again next year? Absolutely. Their window is far from being closed, and they will reign havoc on the Na-tional League West for the foreseeable future. That’s the future, and as of the writing of this piece, the Los Angeles Dodgers are defending World Series Champions.

Slipper Champions
League Week Three Recap

SHAUN LUCAS
Staff Writer

The final week of Super Smash Bros. Melee’s Slipper Champions League remains mostly consistent with the league’s competition so far. Zain Naghmi gained his second spot in Division 1 bracket, defeating Joseph “Azel” Res-pendor, Cody “iBDW” Schwab, and Grif-fin “Captain Faucell” Williams. In addition, Edgar “n0ne” Sheleby and Schwab finished in top 4 of Division 1 for the third straight week of competition.

Joseph “Mang0” Marquez, who fin-ished first and third in Division 1 on week 1 and 2 respectively, was eliminat-ed from Division 1 bracket in his first match this week. Marquez lost a close set (3-2) to Williams. The two have only one set prior to their Division 1 meet-ing at 2019’s “Smash Camp: End of the Summer,” with Marquez’s victorious (3-2) according to Liquipedia. In addition, Marquez played weak against Justin “Wizzrobe” Halliet, as Hallet barely lost to Marquez (3-2) after Marquez’s previ-ous dominance against Halliet.

Unfortunately for Marquez, the up-set from Williams was poorly timed: this week, Marquez found himself in a Twitter argument with 2015 and 2016’s number one ranked player, Swe-den’s Adam “Armando” Lindgreen. The two have competed at top level for over a decade, and were disputing on who de-serves to be considered Melee’s “Greatest of All Time (G.O.A.T).” In addition, Marquez criticized Lindgreen’s state-ment regarding the game’s stagnation in terms of technical and competitive advancements, primarily due to Lind-green’s inactivity.

“Yes, but you [Lindgreen] don’t get to not play and say you would be top 5. That’s the whole point of competing,” Marquez tweeted. “I don’t think anyone is denying that Armada could come back and not be amazing again. But to just say it is dumb and pointless and takes away from everyone who’s grinding.”

Marquez continued with his stance during a Twitch.tv broadcast this week: “By saying the meta [the general state of a competition] hasn’t changed, you’re just trying to say that you would still be good.” Marquez said, referring to retired Melee players who share Lindgreen’s perspective.

Focusing on Williams, the Southern California Sheik player had an amazing last few weeks. On week 2, Williams qualified for Division 1 after defeating Division 1 invitee Hallet. This week, Wil-liams instantly capitalizes on his quali-fication by defeating both Marquez and Sheleby in Division 1 finals. Williams ends his run by pushing Naghmi to his limits, with each of their 4 games being extremely tense and competitive.

Another important Twitter moment came with the announcement of Juan “HungryBox” Debidma opting out of the final weeks of league brackets. Despite speculations that the self-disqualifi-cation came due to disappointing losses, @B1TSmash clarified Debidma planned a vacation for the weeks of Oct. 25 and Oct. 31, opting out of Division 2 spot vacant, Saturday’s open bracket winner, Shephard “Starch” Lima, immediate-ly gained the spot. Unfortunately, Lima was swiftly eliminated from the league, losing to Hallet in the Division 2 bracket and then Jason “Gahtzu” Diehl in Divi-sion 2 relegation. Diehl will compete in Division 2 in the final week of the league.

Lima wasn’t the only league member to drop out after just qualifying: after his unquali-fied Division 1 qualification last week, Resplandor’s first loss came from Naghmi (3-0), even after Resplan-dor gained another chance at a third game after server issues. In Division 1 relegation, Resplandor lost to local rival Zaid “Spark” Ali. Ali will complete his Division 1 in next Saturday.

Another interesting Twitter moment came due to disappointing losses, with each of their 4 games being extremely tense and competitive.

Next Sunday’s matchups are listed on Liquipedia: Zain vs. Mang0 (although according to his Twitter, Marquez may not be able to compete), n0ne vs. Plup, Captain Faucell vs. sJ, and iBDW vs. Spark.

The easy answer for the grand vic-tor of the final week is Naghmi: two first place finishes and only one set loss is certainly a sign of consistency. In fact, Zain and Naghmi immediately eliminates Marquez, or Marquez doesn’t even play and Naghmi receives a free round. Yet, look beyond the bracket, Naghmi has three Sheik players he’d potentially play against. Ali, Williams, and Justin “Plup” McGrath. Sheik is notably a difficult character for Naghmi, as seen in results of this week. Williams will have to continue his consistent play to over-come his mighty competitors this Sat-urday, Oct. 31.
SPORTS

The Village Without Fall Sports

SCOTT MACHERNY
Staff Writer

Delayed. Canceled. Postponed. The calendar for sports and movies was delayed, concerts and Comicon was cancelled. Life at Millersville University was different. When students were sent home in March and the spring sports season was cancelled, there was hope that when the fall semester started, things would look similar to how they usually do. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has not lessened its grip on society; in fact, many people have a threatening vision of a dramatic winter spike.

The realities of this pandemic have forced some changes around Millersville for the Fall 2020 semester. One of the most notable differences is the lack of fall sports. There are no pregame tailgates at a sporting event, no packed stadiums on Saturdays and no packed gymnasiums anxiously watching the Women’s Volleyball team. No one is huddled together, braving a chilly autumn evening to cheer on the soccer team.

It came as no surprise when the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference voted to suspend all athletic events through the fall semester. In a July 14 statement, PSAC Commissioner Steve Meehan wrote, “This decision was made because the safe conduct of sports under the guidelines of social distancing is untenable.” This realization places our student athletes at greater risk than the general student body. Despite our planning and collective efforts, it has become clear that we are not able to do so.

The pandemic and this semester’smostly online format have caused a shift in every student’s schedule. This is a challenging time for everyone, but the changes particularly affect the Millersville student athletes. Student athletes are forced to悠久 their lives to get the most out of their education and compete at the highest level. No doubt the pandemic, student athletes must restructure their daily routine.

Kate Strickland, a sophomore forward on the Field Hockey team, has found it easier to procrastinate and push work off. “I have more time than I have ever had before so just creating a routine has been helpful and staying on top of things every week I find myself growing as a virtual learner and learning how to do school online as opposed to in person,” Strickland said.

It hasn’t only been the academic life that has changed though, every student athlete’s athletic life has been altered as well. Gabriela Karch, a junior sprinter on the Track and Field team describes some of the changes to her experience on the track as drastic. “[We] complete a daily COVID screening, warm up with masks, can’t give high fives at practice, and can’t even stand next to people who aren’t in our pod. Also, when we lift in the weight room, we have to wipe down every weight we touch and we can only lift with 16 people in the room mind the sus our usual full team of 40.”

As Karch mentioned, practice for every sports team looks different. Each team is hoping to compete at a later date, so coaches and the athletic department have devised strategies to hold safe, socially distant practices that adhered to COVID health protocols. Teams have similar practice plans, such as breaking up the roster into pods, but other teams are using pods of eight at practice. Distance runners, we are working hard to progress runs, hill repeats, and distance training runners, we are working hard to stay fit by running and power training when she can and hopes to return in January.

Additionally, Coach Smith has done a great job expanding the recruiting field for the Women’s Volleyball team. “For, we have four days in locations well outside of Pennsylvania. The Volleyball team has freshman from Florida, North Carolina, New Hampshire, and even Ontario, Canada. Rylee Thomas is one of Coach Smith’s fresh-five players, a Middle Hitter who is living in Florida this semester. When asked about how she stays fit, Rylee answered, “Coach Smith has us preparing to take the court in our best shape, whenever that may be. For those of us like myself who are much farther away, we have a workout plan to get ready for when we return and try to get on the court in our hometown however we can.”

For all of the players, coaches, and teams, the goal is to complete their post-seasoned in the spring season. As with everything in life, athletic departments in the PSAC are unsure when, how, or if the fall sports will get a season. Currently, there isn’t a schedule in the works for fall sports, which is set to be reviewed by the PSAC President before Thanksgiving. Every athlete is eager to get back to competition with their teammates. Dalstad and her teammates are especially hopeful volleyball can have a winter or spring season as long as players contin-

Karch is just as eager to get back on the track. “Right now, it’s not looking like we will have a winter season, as it would be almost impossible to have so many people inside cramped up like indoor meets typically are, but we are very hopeful for a spring season since last year’s spring season was cancelled as well. We are all very anxious and hungry to get back on the track and show what we can.”

While this semester has been a whirlwind of uncertainty and anxiety for fall student athletes, Coach Smith has done an amazing job of lifting the spirits of his team. The fall semester has been the same without our favorite fall sports.