Students support smoke-free CCAC

The majority of students approve of CCAC’s decision to go smoke-free, according to a survey conducted by The Voice newspaper.

Students are also concerned, however, that the policy will not be enforced. The research study, done completely online, polled 100 students on their opinions such as: whether they agree/disagree with the decision, whether or not they smoke, and if they will actually follow the program, or how well will it be enforced. This study was taken anonymously.

The majority of the poll asked what campus or campuses the students went too. The majority of the poll stated students were from North Campus, with some from Allegheny, South or Boyce. The majority of students who took the survey, more than 75%, identify as nonsmokers. In this group about two-thirds agreed with the policy. “It’s a good idea”, said one student respondent. “I feel that it can be helpful in reducing the number of young people and all people in general that will smoke.” Another added.

Other students disagreed. One noted, “I feel it’s a bit harsh for smokers. Even though I don’t smoke I felt it was fine if they smoked outside.”

Another student went on record saying that CCAC’s decision will not change smokers’ habits. “I believe it will not stop anything. People will continue to smoke.”

Further, the student writes that the policy infringes on personal choice. “It is kind of restricting freedom; instead have a smoking zone where they can smoke freely [because] we are adults and we can choose to not walk into the smokers.”

In addition, 39 of the students surveyed believed the policy will not be followed. “People will do it anyway.” says one student. “Some students will follow the policy,” wrote another student, “others will continue to smoke on campus property unless they are strictly enforced.”

Nevertheless, some students acknowledged the potential health benefits that could come from the smoking ban. “It helps create a healthier environment for everyone involved.” Responded one survey taker.

Many students are worried about the enforcement of this new policy. The survey has also shown a common compassion towards all of the students that go to CCAC with students worrying about one another’s health and well-being. “Some people have trouble breathing with the second-hand smoke in the air, I think it is great to have this smoking ban,” states one student.

In addition, some students are just nonchalant toward the policy, going so far as to say, “Honestly, I have never had any trouble with smokers on campus. I don’t think this really changes too much.” One student, from out of state said, “I’m from a state where there are strict smoking regulations, so this policy seems pretty obvious, in my opinion.”

A couple of students have even stated things like, “Let people do what they want.” and “Students should have the right to do what they want.” 83% of those surveyed stated that the smoke-free initiative has not affected their decision to return to CCAC for another semester. One student has even gone so far as to say, “It’s silly and presumptuous. I won’t be returning next year.”

Ultimately, whether CCAC accommodates places for smokers or not, the campus wide ban isn’t going anywhere, anytime soon.

Flu season slams Pittsburgh region

Cover your mouth when you cough, wash your hands regularly, and bundle up: flu season is here.

What’s more, the illness, also known as influenza, is especially prevalent in the Pittsburgh region.

The Allegheny General Hospital emergency department, for example, began seeing an increased number of flu cases beginning in December. Cases continue to rise.

The Allegheny Health, which monitors influenza activity throughout the year, reported over 3,200 cases in Allegheny County since October. Throughout the state, they have found over 40,000 cases by mid-February. Jodi Napierka, an instructor the nursing vocational program at CCAC North, encourages people to take the flu seriously. “People should be more serious about preventing it. People should be vaccinated and frequently wash their hands.”

Flu activity continues to increase and is widespread in most of the United States, according to the Center for Disease Control. Kevin Kearney, a local medic based in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, says, “The flu especially affects mostly elderly and young people.” He also emphasizes that, though vaccination is effective, it is based on known past strains of the disease.

Kearney notes the signs of flu include “weakness, fatigue, malaise, fever, congestion, cough, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.” Extreme cases may involve metabolic or respiratory alkalosis via vomiting and respiratory causes.

He recommends eating easily palliative foods such as, bananas, rice, apples, and toast. Mayo Clinic Staff says to prevent the flu is to get your annual flu shot. Kearney agrees and says, “Vaccination is essential for the young and elderly.” And it’s not too late, even this late in the season. People should also wash their hands regularly along with containing sneezes and coughs and to stay away from large crowds.

Experts have tracked an increase in flu cases in the Pittsburgh region...
In February, the Student Success Hub hosted a completely new event to enlighten students about the services and departments at North Campus. This interactive event was called “Roadmap to Success,” based on the “Roadmap to Your Destination” brochure.

The event took the form of a giant board game for students to learn about various CCAC departments in an interactive and fun way.

The game spread throughout the building, mostly in the hallways, and included food, games and prizes. Sean Thomas, Student Success Coach, helped organize the program based on a similar event he attend when he was a student. “I had a wonderful time,” he recalled.

Thomas also noted that that some of the instructors offered extra credit to students who participated.

Roadmap to Success included several departments hosting tables that offered activities to learn about that office’s resources. Among those represented were Admissions, Financial Aid, Supportive Services, and Academic Advising.

At the Admissions table, for example, participants learned how CCAC staff recruits prospective students and helps them enroll. Academic advisors hosted a matching game where students paired various college terms with definitions or specific requirements.

One of the required stops for those who played the game was the Library. Christine Beard, Librarian, informed students about the Library’s resources, including over 50,000 e-books, 60 databases and 25,000 of printed volumes of movies, graphic novels and music. Librarians also help with research. Students were asked to name their favorite part of the Library, and many highlighted the Math Café and tutors.

The game was inspired by the Roadmap to Success, an award-winning brochure that lays out the paths students can follow that lead to a positive college experience and, ultimately, a career.

CCAC also have student roadmap to success which is the steps students take to be success in their academic careers.

Organizers of the event included Sean Thomas, Molly Christie, Leslie Doyle, and Kat Vouga, who each work in the Success Hub at North campus and West Hills.

Thomas Wanker, North campus student said he enjoyed the event. “It was interesting. I’d do it again,” he said, remarking that he was especially grateful to learn about the various services and ways to achieve his career goals.

The Success Hub staff will be adapting the program for a similar event at West Hills Center later this semester.
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Shwing! ‘Wayne’s World’ film hits its 25 year mark

MICHELLE HENDERSON  
THE VOICE STAFF

Irish rock band U2 is celebrating 30 years of its iconic The Joshua Tree album with a world tour that includes a stop in Pittsburgh.

The Joshua Tree, originally released in 1987, includes well-known U2 hits such as “With or Without You,” “Where the Streets Have No Name,” and “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For.” After its initial release, the band embarked on a world-wide tour that included more than 100 stops.

The anniversary tour starts this month in Canada. The band comes to Pittsburgh on June 7.

U2 was formed in 1976 in Dublin Ireland. Initially Christian focused, the band is now known for social commentary and political stances. The Joshua Tree is their fifth album.

The band intends to perform the complete album in its entirety at each stop.

The Joshua Tree may have been religiously motivated with a focus toward political stabilization of local Christian communities where misunderstandings are healed with the cathartic social hermeneutics of U2’s relevant music. Most important: While 30 years have passed since The Joshua Tree made its initial impact on the local Pittsburgh Christian community; its message remains relevant today. Where the streets have no name, a title with ubiquitous anonymity, makes it relevant everywhere, including Pittsburgh PA USA.

U2’s successful policy of raising awareness in every locale they visit is laudable.

The Joshua Tree was their first number one seller in the USA.

It won the Grammy for album of the 1987 year.

The Joshua Tree album has sold roughly 25 million copies world-wide over the last 30 years.

The Library of Congress in 2014 selected it for preservation in the National Recording Registry.

The Edge, U2’s guitarist, recently said the album is relevant today, “with global upheaval, extreme right-wing politics and some fundamental human rights at risk.” The tour, he says, “feels right for now.”

U2 taking ‘Joshua Tree’ on 30th anniversary tour

‘Samurai Jack’ returns

NICHOLAS CAPRA  
THE VOICE STAFF

Wayne’s World is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. A feature length film based on a Saturday Night Live skit, Wayne’s World quickly became a cult classic and the largest grossing Saturday Night Live spin off movie. The movie stars Mike Meyers as Wayne Campbell and Dana Carvey as Garth Algar, both actors filling the roles they played on SNL.

With many theaters around the country bringing the film back to honor its anniversary, fans and casual viewers alike will be tempted to revisit the movie to relive a bit of the magic. Unfortunately, audiences may still find some exaltation either. It’s a solid movie, and while not being as good as it once was, it can’t really be seen as particularly good any stretch of the word. Conversely, it received poor reviews upon its anniversary, fans and casual viewers alike will be tempted to revisit the movie available.

The movie’s humor varies greatly depending on the present characters in the shot. When the main characters, Wayne and Garth, are present, the humor tends to be more absurdist and breaks the fourth wall constantly, while scenes with the TV producer Chris Traeger (Rob Lowe) tend to go for subtle situational comedy.

The strongest scenes in the movie are ones where the main protagonists and Chris are interacting with each other, as Chris acts as a straight man to Wayne and Garth’s zaniness. Without Chris present, Wayne and Garth tend to go unchecked and Wayne’s World gets stuck too far in ‘Wayne’s World’, which is one devoid of any reason or direction. The movie seems to become derailed from the central plot, and it feels as if the writers use these moments to stuff as many visual gags and fourth wall breaks into the scene as possible.

This kind of excessive humor was very popular in comedy movies in the 80s and 90s, but has since fallen out of favor. Movies with a similar style that were released after this period, such as Master of Disguise, received poor reviews from acclaimed reviewers and general audiences alike due to them throwing too many jokes and very few of them actually sticking.

If released today, Wayne’s World would suffer the same as the rest, perhaps even unjustly being regarded as a bad movie.

As it stands, Wayne’s World isn’t a horrible film, but not one that deserves exaltation either. It’s a solid movie, and while not being as good as it once was regarded, audiences may still find some enjoyment by revisiting it if they don’t go in with high expectations.

‘Samurai Jack’ returns

NICHOLAS CAPRA  
THE VOICE STAFF

Samurai Jack is the next 2000s cartoon slated to return to Cartoon Network early this month. A beloved show cut short before it could have its conclusion, fans couldn’t be happier with the announcement.

Samurai Jack follows the adventures of a samurai who was thrust into the future by his mortal enemy Aku, a shape-shifting born of darkness. Fighting through a strange and foreign world, Jack’s goal throughout the series is to return to the past and stop Aku from gaining control of the future.

Unlike others shows that Cartoon Network has brought back in the past few years, Samurai Jack will not be aired on its main daytime block. Instead, the new episodes will air on Toonami, a special block of their adult programming hours, known as Adult Swim. Toonami starts at 11:30 pm and ends at 3:30 am on Saturdays.

Another deviation from Cartoon Network’s usual handling of a series return lies in the reason behind their choice in scheduling it in the Toonami block. The final season of Samurai Jack is supposedly for the audience who originally watched the show, who have known grown up. In other words, it is by design more for adults. It will be much darker and with more adult themes than the original show, which was featured in its teaser released on Feb. 6.

Despite there being many points of deviation, fans are absolutely ecstatic over the changes present, and even more so for lack thereof. The Samurai Jack final season will be bringing back all the original voice actors, as well as maintaining the same art style and overall theme of the show. This is contrary to Cartoon Network’s decisions on their other rebooted shows, Powerpuff Girls and Teen Titans Go.

These two shows were disappointments to many series fans, as well as the casual viewer, due to their failed attempt to connect with the youth of today. They lacked any genuine heart in their design and seemed more of an attempt to pander to a young audience, which was a stark contrast to the wit and tact the original shows had.

The Samurai Jack final season may be Cartoon Network’s attempt at extinguishing the flames surrounding their previous attempts at bringing older shows back, and if it’s as akin to fan expectations as it has made itself to seem, the show might very well just pay off big time. No matter how it plays out, however, it’s sure to be a unique experience fans wouldn’t want to miss.
Yik Yak is dead. College students love social media almost as much as they love free pizza and cancelled class. The creation of MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Yik Yak changed the way students communicate. Friends are only a snap away. Having a party? Send out a tweet, everyone will come. Making an anonymous Twitter-like app seemed a non-brainer. Thus, Yik Yak was born. It centered on specific college campuses allowing students to post only to students in their area. It was revolutionary. However, after ranking #3 in the app store in 2014, it has fallen below #400 recently.

Josh Janssen, an Early Childhood Education and Development student at CCAC North gives a little insight why, “Yik Yak is trash. It’s filled with people attacking each other.” The anonymity of the app made it a playground for bullies. It didn’t help that high school students wanted to be involved as well. They bullied their peers and people they’d never even met. “In high school people were not friendly with it (Yik Yak), they trash-talked girls, couples, they said the most personal stuff about everybody. I wish they didn’t talk like that, especially anonymously. It’s like twitter without consequences.” Recalls Andrew Tielsch, a General Studies student at CCAC North. Since this app is anonymous, school officials found tracking down bullies to be very difficult. When there’s no consequences, people post with no filter.

Another major issue with Yik Yak was how it affected smaller campuses. Even though students from CCAC North were on Yik Yak, their presence was dwarfed by La Roche. “Yik Yak was kind of boring at first, I saw many La Roche college students instead of CCAC students. All I read about was the La Roche basketball team, I don’t really need to go into detail on that one…” said CCAC North Criminology Major Tori Hershberger. With only 2 miles in-between the geolocation of the two campuses is the same.

Carlile calls it quits with band Of Mice and Men

Austin Carlile recently announced his departure from Of Mice & Men due to ongoing battle with Marfan syndrome. Marfan syndrome is a rare connective tissue disorder that affects the entire body. After nearly eight years as the lead vocalist he has decided he can longer continue touring. Of Mice & Men will stay a band; Carlile tweeted out: “The band will now still continue on just the four of them, and I wish them the best of luck without me heading into 2017.” Austin Carlile says he will continue to play music. “I will be here in Costa Rica, where I have now moved, continuing to heal, rest, and write. I will not stop playing music, I am still able to sing and I’m hungry for what is next to come even though I have no idea what that may be.”

Since 2009, Austin Carlile and the band put out four studio albums. Starting with their self-titled album Of Mice & Men, The Flood, Restoring Force and, most recently, Cold World. Carlile has battled with Marfan syndrome for many years now and has even lost his mother to the disease. In October 2016 he became more open about his struggles with the disease taking to an Instagram account. During this time the band had to cancel the remaining dates of their European tour with Crown the Empire as it was in the best interest of Austin’s health. The band also opted out of their next schedule tour as a co headliner to A Day to Remember to allow time for Austin Carlile to recover.

During late November Carlile went to Twitter with a series of tweets explaining his battles with the disease. He explained the amount of surgery he has had and how he will never be better. “I always thought the pain would get better one day, or that I would get better too,” he tweeted. “But this never happened, that day still has yet to come.”

He finishes by saying he is grateful for every opportunity he has been given up to this point, and that he will continue on with this new chapter. “I have decided to listen to my specialists, and God telling me it’s time to do something new. I have to do this for myself, my health, my body.”

He issued a full statement on his departure on Dec. 30 as he wanted to keep the news in 2016 and look forward to a new year. His full statement is on Twitter and Instagram.

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The madness of broken brackets

JAY BATCH
THE VOICE STAFF

Between 9 and 12 billion dollars is wagered on March Madness brackets every year. What makes March Madness so exciting and one of the most looked forward to sporting events in the country? Is it the pride in one’s team, or the way that a Cinderella team can capture the emotions of an entire nation? Powerhouses such as Duke, North Carolina, and Kentucky are poised to make deep runs. Then there are other teams, the Davids and Florida Gulf Coasts who despite on paper mismatched, come together and knock off superior opponents.

Teams led by some of the most accomplished coaches, with the most athletic players are bound to fall. Teams who receive less coverage somehow someway find ways to excel on a stage that they are not accustomed too.

As it stands on February 19, 2017 the Pittsburgh Panthers will not be one of the 68 teams announced on selection Sunday which falls on March 17th this year. An event former Panthers Head Coach Jamie Dixon failed to reach only twice in his 12 year tenure as the Panthers head coach.

In a season that has seen the arrival of ex Vanderbilt Head Coach Kevin Stallings, the transition has proved to be less than smooth.

The negatives to the frustration of fans, players, and coaches outweigh the positive of this 2016-2017 campaign. Consistency, identity, and heart strangely enough have been put into question for a team that has four seniors who contribute a significant number of minutes regularly. The Panthers lack size down low in the paint.

Without a true center or true point guard the offense has been rather simple. Run and gun. It has not proved to be very effective as the Panthers shooting percentage has floated below average. The play as of late which included the second worst loss in school history and worst lost ever in ACC history: a 106-51 loss at the hands of the Louisville Cardinals had many furious and demanding his firing and even worse his resignation.

Those are just individuals on the outside looking in. While this season has been less than stellar and certainly a step outside looking in. While this season has been less than stellar and certainly a step down from Dixon’s Dixon era, it has not been without its moments.

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The second day of the weekend was welcomed with a sold-out audience of more than 1,000 tickets sold for the All-Star Game Team Kessel vs. Team Steadman.

This All-Star Weekend the first appearance for Amanda Kessel, who served as captain for Team Kessel. “After not playing for a while and then being chosen captain it was a little unexpected, but to find out where the All-Star game was going to be it made sense and I’m just happy to be here,” she said.

In addition to Kessel, a well-known name in the Pittsburgh area, others with ties to the area include Brianna McLaughlin, goalie for the Buffalo Beauts and two-time Olympian, and Kelley Steadman Director of Hockey Operation at Robert Morris University.

McLaughlin recalls coaching the Pens Elite U10 team that plays out of Pittsburgh. “I’m not surprised at the reception; there has been so much hype,” she said. She described her experience coaching the Pens Elite three years ago and hearing about the plans to create the NWHL. “I walked into the locker room and every girl bombarded me, ‘There’s going to be a women’s professional hockey league and we’re going to be teammates!” But they’re all here and they’re all outside and that was the first thing I thought of when I heard it was going to be here.”

Rebecca Russo of the New York Riveters won the fastest skater with a time of 12.75 seconds. Nicole Stock of Connecticut Whale as the fastest goalie with 17.44 seconds. Steadman, captain of Team Steadman during the All-Star Weekend and forward of the Buffalo Beauts, won the fastest accuracy competition by hitting all four targets in 14 seconds. Blake Bolden of the Boston Pride with the hardest shot of the competition at 87 miles per hour.

Last month, the NWHL All-Star weekend was held in Pittsburgh. Also in attendance were members of the championship women’s football team the Pittsburgh Passion: Chelsea Zahn, Ebony Montgomery, Janis Masters, Kate Sullivan, and Lauren Ferrugonio. Their appearance was a show of support from one all-women’s team to another, proving that the Pittsburgh area casts a warm embrace to the NWHL.

“Team Kessel started with a one goal advantage 3-2 over Team Steadman from skills competition the day before the big game. It turned out to be an exciting game until the final minutes, bringing the crowd to roaring cheers and flooding the rink with exhilaration. Kessel took a shot at an empty-net, solidifying a hat trick. The crowd erupted as her teammates littered the ice with helmets in front of their bench in celebration.

The final score of the game was 12-11, with Team Kessel win over Team Steadman. Kessel was moments later awarded the MVP of the game.

Penguins President and CEO David Morehouse said “The fans of women’s hockey in Pittsburgh made it clear they loved the events and want more, and women’s hockey is growing rapidly, not just in our Pens Elite programs but all over the United States. We look forward to bringing more women’s hockey events to Pittsburgh.”

The NWHL is into their second year as a professional sports league weathering through growing pains. This All-Star Weekend was highlighted as a grand event for the league after undergoing salary cuts and a shortening of the regular season schedule. In November the league announced that they would be cutting players’ salaries in half in order for the league to monetarily stay afloat. The league is also shortening the regular season as of last month. With fewer games, the players head back to their teams with the Isobel Cup playoffs in their sights.

NWHL all stars come to PGH

ALLISON ROUP
THE VOICE EDITOR

The National Women’s Hockey League invaded the Pittsburgh Penguins practice facility last month for their All-Star weekend. The weekend included a skills competition featuring fastest skater, fastest goalie, shooting accuracy, breakaway challenge, hardest shot and shootout challenge.

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The final score of the game was 12-11, with Team Kessel win over Team Steadman. Kessel was moments later awarded the MVP of the game.

Penguins President and CEO David Morehouse said “The fans of women’s hockey in Pittsburgh made it clear they loved the events and want more, and women’s hockey is growing rapidly, not just in our Pens Elite programs but all over the United States. We look forward to bringing more women’s hockey events to Pittsburgh.”

The NWHL is into their second year as a professional sports league weathering through growing pains. This All-Star Weekend was highlighted as a grand event for the league after undergoing salary cuts and a shortening of the regular season schedule. In November the league announced that they would be cutting players’ salaries in half in order for the league to monetarily stay afloat. The league is also shortening the regular season as of last month. With fewer games, the players head back to their teams with the Isobel Cup playoffs in their sights.
Ashley Bison is a member of the CCAC soccer team and serves as the co-captain. Bison has been playing soccer for 15 years, including her time playing for the team at Deer Lakes High School. She serves as the striker, where her main role is to score goals during games.

This past season according to Bison they went up against a very rough team and was able to score in the few seconds of the game.

Bison started her first season this semester. The team had their first game toward the end of January. They recently had their second game on Feb. 18. According to Bison the first game of the season was rough because the team has a lot of new players, and it's difficult for everyone to match and get to know each other in a short amount of time. Bison was very optimistic about the game on Feb. 18 because our team has gotten to know each other better. The team has gotten to know each other because they have practices on the weekends.

Bison has been personally beneficial to be a part of the team because she missed playing soccer in high school. With having a coed team at CCAC it's nice to get back into the sport. "I have been playing for most of my life." Bison says. After CCAC she will probably be playing coed wreck soccer at Pitt University. Bison is involved with Pitt's Marching Band.

The Director of the Athletic Department at CCAC Chuck bell says that "Bison is his favorite work study student."
Did you know?

All of the comics on this page are created by CCAC students!