

Carlow Chronicle



How to Spend Your Winter Break

by Amber Kanoza

As we all know, winter break is quickly approaching. It is the time where most college students make it a priority to sleep as much as possible. I'm not saying catching up on sleep isn't important or well-deserved. However, Pittsburgh offers a variety of free to low cost events to attend. It is the perfect opportunity to make memories and spice up your Instagram!

Carnegie Museum of Art

Each holiday season, the Grand Hall of Architecture in the Carnegie Museum of Art is adorned with five 20-foot holiday trees. Also, the Hall of Sculpture in the museum becomes home to the Neapolitan presepio, or nativity scene, which features figures that date back to the 1700's. These festive sights are within walking distance of Carlow and you can get into the museum for free with your valid Carlow ID.

Trees of Downtown Pittsburgh

On Light Up Night, the city of Pittsburgh lights several trees for the holiday season. These trees include the Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Unity Tree, on the corner of the Penn Avenue Place Building, the One Oxford Centre Tree and the City Council Building Tree. If you're looking for affordable holiday fun, why not get hot chocolate and take a walk through downtown admiring the city's holiday trees!

MassMutual Pittsburgh Ice Rink at PPG Place

This opened after Light Up Night

(Nov. 17) and remains open until Feb. 25. It's located right in downtown Pittsburgh and is only eight dollars to skate. You aren't charged by the hour so you can skate as long as you want. It's a fun way to spend an afternoon and maybe work off some of that finals stress snacking.

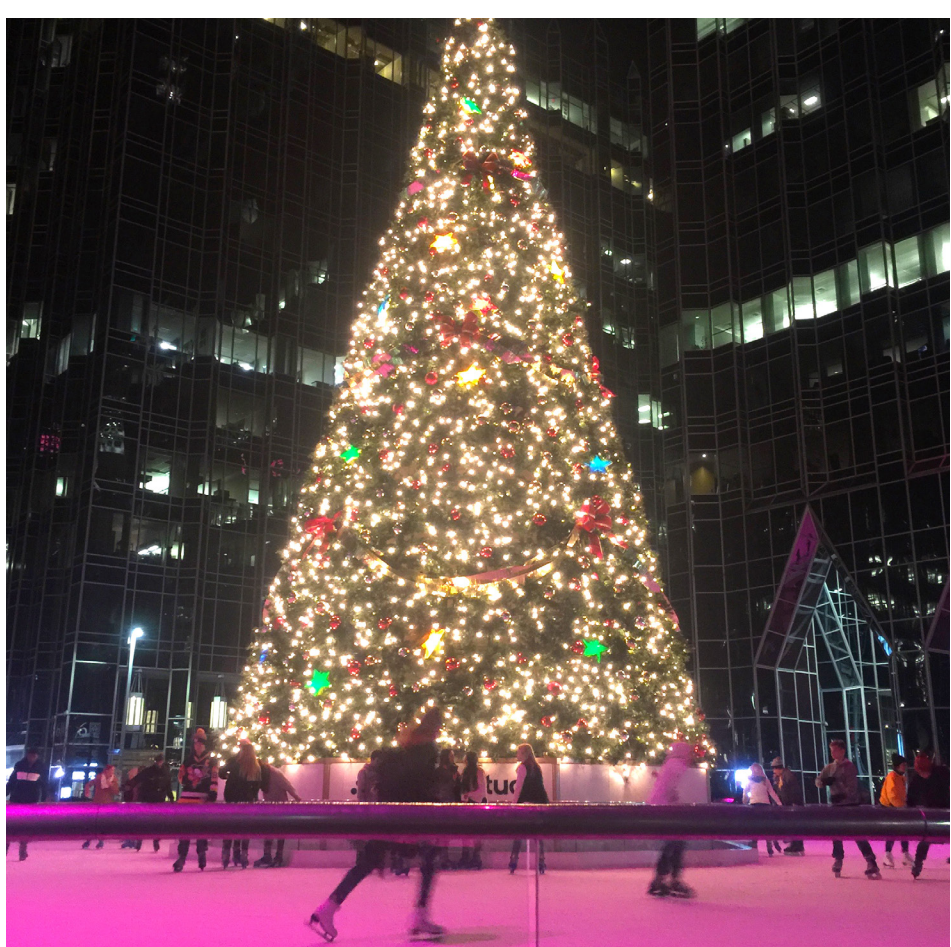
Spirits of Giving from Around the World

This particular exhibit, housed in the PPG Place Wintergarden downtown, is extra special because it gives you the opportunity to see how other cultures celebrate the holidays. This exhibit has different Santas, gingerbread houses and a 32-foot tree. Different musicians also play which gives you the chance to hear something new. After Light Up Night, this exhibition will stay open until Jan. 8.

The holidays are a time to meet up with family, relax and make memories. Don't forget to take the time for self-care. Read a book, see a movie and treat yourself- you deserve it. For more ideas how to celebrate the holidays the Pittsburgh way, go to ppgplace.com.

Phipps Conservatory Winter Flower Show

Phipps Conservatory is a beautiful place to go during the holiday season. The show opens up the Friday after Thanksgiving and goes until mid-January. I recommend going at sunset. That way the outside lights will be on, and the outside attractions will look gorgeous. It is the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit!



MassMutual Pittsburgh Ice Rink at PPG Place. Photo by Sarah Cahalan



Phipps Conservatory Winter Flower Show. Photo by Sarah Cahalan.



Spirits of Giving from Around the World. Photo by Sarah Cahalan



Market Square Holiday Market. Photo by Sarah Cahalan



Phipps Conservatory Winter Flower Show. Photo by Sarah Cahalan.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Thank you for picking up the December issue of the Carlow Chronicle! We appreciate your support and we will continue to do our best in publishing content that you would like to see. If you have suggestions, would like to submit your work or would like to send in a letter to the editor, please email me at mamitchell@live.carlow.edu.

I’d like to thank our staff and the students who have sent in art, photos and articles. Their hard work and contributions are what makes publishing the Carlow Chronicle possible.

As this semester comes to a close, the staff at the Chronicle wish you luck with final exams, projects and papers. We hope that you and your friends and families have a safe and happy holiday season. Be on the lookout for our first issue of 2018!

Happy Holidays!
Molly Mitchell
Editor-in-Chief

The University says Good-Bye

by Erika Kellerman

Carlow University recently said goodbye to two vital members of the community. Gwen Stevens, Assistant Director of Campus Life, and Jen Carlo, Vice President of Student Engagement, Dean of Students, have decided to move on to further their careers in their respective fields.

In the course of the transition, Charlie Judge, Director of Student Life, will assume responsibilities and leadership as the Dean of Students.

Stevens, who was previously a Graduate Resident Director (GRD) and then moved into her position as the Assistant Director of Campus Life is now at Carnegie Mellon University as a Housefellow and Coordinator of Residential Education. Stevens has been described as dedicated, kind, and resourceful by her Resident Assistants.

Krista Burdette, senior, Community Assistant, says that Stevens helped shape her into the CA she is today. “Her support has gotten me through difficult times as an RA and as a student. I wish her the best at CMU. I can’t wait to see what she accomplishes!”

“I’ve only known Gwen for a short time, but during that time she’s managed to have a huge impact on my life,” said Ashley Pannaman, sophomore, Resident Assistant. “She challenged the way I think, pushed me to do better, and most importantly showed me how big a heart she has. I’m sad we didn’t

have longer to work together but I know she’ll do great at CMU!”

Carlo, who has shown so much love and given so much time to the Carlow community, accepted a position at Circus Smirkus in Vermont as their Executive Director.

“Jen was always there for students when they needed it; whether students needed guidance, advice, or just needed someone to talk to. She always made sure she was there to help,” Natalie Terreri, junior, said.



Photo courtesy of Carlow University Marketing and Communications.

Night of Illumination

by Clarissa Moore

Carlow’s annual Night of Illumination, hosted by the Campus Activities Board, will be held on Tuesday, December 5th from 4pm-7pm in St. Joe’s Gym. For anyone who has not attended before, it is a night where the Carlow community comes together to enjoy games, music, crafts, and other activities to celebrate the holiday season. Everyone is welcome to attend, and attendees will be eligible to win prizes, participate in games, and get some information from representatives from the student organizations here at Carlow! Dinner that evening will be served in St. Joe’s instead of Tiernan, so make sure you bring your appetite! It is sure to be a great evening to de-stress and enjoy the holiday season before winter break. We can’t wait to see you there!



Sherri Brunner, junior psychology major, Charlie Judge, Director of Student Life, and Clarissa Moore, junior English major. Photo courtesy of Clarissa Moore.

2017 Fall and Winter Sports Update

by Kylie Owoc

Fall Sports Women’s Cross Country

The Celtics won the Penn State Greater Allegheny Invitational for the first program victory in school history on Sep. 16. Amanda Espy won the 5K race with a time of 20:58. She is the first individual winner in Carlow Cross Country history. The team has now finished their season.

Men’s Cross Country

The Celtics made history on Sep. 2, 2016. The men’s team placed at a meet for the first time. The team has now finished their season.

Women’s Volleyball

The Celtics finished their season with an overall record of 10-24. They were 3-12 in the River States Conference (RSC) and 7-7 in the United States Collegiate Athletics Association (USCAA). The team lost in the quarterfinals of the USCAA National Championship Tournament. Senior, Kristina Hudock and junior middle hitter Elizabeth Stadelman were honored with RSC awards. Hudock was awarded RSC All-Second Team, and Stadelman was awarded RSC Champions of Character.

Women’s Golf

Natalie Abt made school history and won the USCAA Golf National Championship this season. She was also named the USCAA Women’s Golf Student-Athlete of the Year, which is an award that honors athletic achievement, academic achievement and community service. The Celtics will start the second half of their season in the spring.

Men’s Golf

The Celtics made history on Sep. 13, 2016 when they played in their first match at the Grove City Fall Invitation-

al. The Celtics will begin the second half of their season in the spring at their home course, the Youghiogheny Country Club.

Women’s Soccer

The team finished with an overall record of 8-6-2. They were 3-4-2 in the RSC, and 4-1 iwn the USCAA. Defender Rachel Flory was selected to the River States Conference Women’s Soccer All-Conference First Team. This honor is voted on by the league’s coaches.

Men’s Soccer

The Celtics finished their tough season with an overall record of 0-15-2, 0-8-1 in RSC, and 0-3-1 in USCAA. Nai Mayen, Dan Nicolaus, Cameron Stablein, and Zack Taylor were the seniors of the team.

Winter Sports Women’s Basketball

The Celtics kicked off their season at Mount Vernon Nazarene University and Indiana Institute of Technology. Emma Stille was named to the RSC Women’s Basketball Preseason All-Conference Team. The Celtics look for a successful year with a new head coach. Tim Moore, who is a former USCAA DII Coach of the Year will be leading the Celtics this season. The team plays their home games at Oakland Catholic High School.

Men’s Basketball

This season Charlie Scharbo was named to the RSC Men’s Basketball Preseason All-Conference Team. The Celtics kicked off the year at Lourdes University. The team also plays their home games at Oakland Catholic High School and looks forward to a successful season.



Ashlyn Jonczak (freshman) of Carlow Celtic’s Women’s Basketball. Photo courtesy of Kylie Owoc.



Natalie Abt, sophomore Accounting and Forensic Accounting double major, and Joe Mandak, Carlow Golf Assistant Coach Photo courtesy of Natalie Abt



Carlow Celtic’s Women’s Volleyball Team. Photo courtesy of Sabrina Morosky.



Sabrina Morosky (senior) of the Carlow Celtic’s Women’s Volleyball Team. Photo courtesy of Sabrina Morosky.

Sports Update: Carlow University’s First Track and Field Team

by Nate Bell

The newest addition to Carlow athletics is here. The men’s and women’s track and field teams are set to get started with the 2017-18 winter indoor season and the 2018 spring outdoor season. Greg Schmitt will be the head coach for both the men’s and women’s teams. Schmitt is also the head coach of both Cross-Country teams. The team will include sprinters, long distance runners and throwers this season. This inaugural season will be a learning experience for several of the student-athletes. Sophomore team member Zach Byczynski said, “I think we are all excited to be able to be part of the first season of Track and Field.” Byczynski has been named captain of the throwers for the men’s team. A lot of the members are new to Track and Field, but both teams will be led by student-athletes who also participate in Carlow Cross Country. The men’s team will have 20 members and the wom-



Members of the inaugural Carlow University Track and Field Team (from left to right: Kaileen Daniher, MK Bair, Devin Lewis, Bianca Morales, Javondii Myers, Molly Pratt, Jeremy Rhine) Photo courtesy of Molly Pratt

en’s team will have 32 members. The Track and Field teams will practice and participate in matches at Baldwin High School, which serves as Carlow’s home track. The Track and Field teams are ready to begin their seasons and they would love to have support from the Carlow community. Go to Carlow.edu and look under Women’s or Men’s Sports to find the Track and Field pages, which provide the upcoming season’s schedule.

#MeToo the Movement

by Alexis Williams and Molly Mitchell

Two simple words have created quite an outcry across the country. #MeToo is an online campaign which gives victims of sexual harassment and assault the opportunity to have their voices heard. Generating more than 500,000 tweets, the hashtag quickly became a trending topic on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The campaign seeks to shed light on people’s stories and attempts to encourage bystanders, who may witness sexual assault and harassment, to speak up if they see something that isn’t right. The overarching goal is to put an end to rape culture. At Carlow, there is a student who is aligning her efforts with #MeToo. Rachel Kish, senior nursing major, is making a difference and spreading awareness about the #MeToo movement through her support of RAINN (Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network), an organization that shares similar goals with the #MeToo movement. Kish’s inspiration for becoming

involved with RAINN started with her internship at Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR). “As a local agency we are only able to directly assist residents of Allegheny county. In most cases, we refer people from areas outside of the county to RAINN’s National Sexual Assault Hotline,” said Kish. “In addition to this hotline, RAINN provides victims services, public education, and consulting services as well.” As an intern for PAAR, Kish works directly with survivors of rape and sexual assault. She has played a role in ensuring their safety and wellbeing throughout both their healing and legal processes. Her rewarding and eye-opening experiences with PAAR lead her to start fundraising for RAINN. “Although I am not directly affiliated with RAINN, I wanted whatever funds I was able to gain to go to a place that helps millions of people nationally,” said Kish. She has started selling t-shirts with “me too.” printed on the front. In order to fully support the cause, upon ordering a t-shirt online, 100% of the proceeds are automatically donated to RAINN. If you would like to get involved in Kish’s efforts, send an email to rkish@

live.carlow.edu and let her know that you would like to purchase a “me too.” t-shirt or even donate to RAINN!



“me too.” shirt design by Rachel Kish, Photo courtesy of Custom Ink

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Gift Giving Made Easy

by Molly Mitchell

If you’re anything like me, you start to get excited for Christmas as soon as the temperature outside goes below fifty degrees. But, despite being fully prepared in the holiday spirit department, you’ve still got a long list of people you need to buy gifts for right around final exams time. Hopefully, this year will be the year that we can all find meaningful gifts for our family friends before the hustle and bustle of Christmas break. For advice on gift giving, I went to the expert! Rebecca Suter, Shopkeep Owner of Whimsy on Fifth, gave me a few great gift ideas and recommendations! Whimsy on Fifth is located at 3402 Fifth Avenue, right across the street from Carlow University. For mom: Suter suggests to get her something sentimental. One idea is giving your mom a picture frame with a photo of you two in it. You could even take the time to flip through some old photos and find one from your early childhood. Another idea is getting your mom an ornament for the Christmas tree that signifies a memory you have with her. For my mom, I’d get her a coffee cup ornament to remind her of our favorite thing to do together: go on coffee dates. For girlfriends: You may not be sure what kind of jewelry she likes. Instead, try creating a handmade gift basket filled with things to keep her warm and cozy this winter! You can include a blanket, a mug, some tea or coffee, a candle and even some fuzzy socks. For dad: Does your dad have a man cave? A home office? Or maybe a spot in the garage? Suter thinks the perfect

thing for dad may be a decoration for his space. These can range from a sign made by your dad’s favorite beer company to a decoration for him to hang on the wall that lets everyone know which team is his favorite. For the person who seems to have it all: Think about what this person uses on a daily basis. Suter suggests that gifting consumable products, ones that get used up, can be meaningful for even the person on your list who seems to have everything already! For example, you could get them their favorite scented lotion, candle, perfume or cologne. Or, you could think about consumable products that complement their interests. Does your aunt like to cook? Consider gifting her with a nice set of flavored olive oil and balsamic vinegar. The most important thing to remember when giving gifts this holiday season is being thoughtful. As long as you put some thought into your gift ideas, your effort will be evident and your friends and family will be thankful for whatever it is you choose to gift them! If you’d like some additional help during this season of gift giving, Suter is happy to help you at Whimsy! She loves the process of getting to know a little bit about who you are buying for, working with your budget and finding the perfect item for them. “It’s gift giving magic” said Suter. “Call me your personal shopper!” At Whimsy, you can buy your gift, get it wrapped and find a card to go with it all. Whimsy is offering a little gift for you, too. Between Nov. 20 and Dec. 20, Whimsy on Fifth is running a promotion for customers. For every \$20 spent in the store, customers are given one entry to be drawn to win a signed Sidney Crosby 2017 Winter Classic Jersey!

Whimsy on Fifth. Photo by Molly Mitchell



Carlow Made Me A Better Person

by Sarah Cahalan

In the four years I have spent at Carlow, I have become a dramatically different and, in my opinion, better person. As my December graduation is approaching, I am starting to become sentimental about my experience at Carlow and the many lessons I learned academically, socially, and personally. I would have never expected the transformation that I have undergone since I first came to college, but I think the atmosphere here at Carlow is what influenced my growth as a person. Before I came to Carlow, I was a very close-minded person. I had not considered the importance of respecting the differences in other people’s interests, cultures, sexual orientations and religions. Through learning about those differences in my courses and by interacting with the diverse student body, I was challenged to confront my own ignorance, and eventually I was able to celebrate how others differ from me.

Carlow helped me understand the need to be an advocate for social justice. It is more important now than ever that everyone stand up for equal rights for all people. I am grateful to professors who taught us to have empathy and created courses that helped me recognize injustice and how to fight it. At Carlow, I became a feminist and I learned about the accomplishments that women have made in spite of the societal confines that sought to limit their success. I now deeply value being a part of a women-centered community that inspires me to achieve academic excellence and promote other female voices. At Carlow, I realized that I simply love to learn. The variety of classes and enlightening professors influenced me to seek out a variety of knowledge and put substantial effort into my academic efforts. My education at Carlow caused a ripple effect in my life that made me smarter, stronger, more empathetic and more ambitious. And for that, I will be forever grateful.

Whimsy on Fifth

Between Nov. 20 and Dec. 20, Whimsy on Fifth is running a promotion for customers. For every \$20 spent in the store, customers are given one entry to be drawn to win a signed Sidney Crosby 2017 Winter Classic Jersey!

Whimsy on Fifth. Photo by Molly Mitchell



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Holiday Outfit Guide 2017

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

HOROSCOPES

by Lauren Fritz

Holiday outfits are something that a lot of us stress about. The holiday season, for me anyway, is like having a fashion show in your living room. It's important to feel comfortable, but sometimes you want to dress nicely, too! If you're debating between outfits or just have no idea what to wear this season, don't worry. I've got you covered. Regardless of what your holiday wardrobe is looking like, be sure to wear what makes YOU happy! The best thing you can ever wear is a smile.

1. This one's for the girls who like to be comfortable but still want to look cute. We all know how it goes during the holiday season; you go to Grandma's for dinner, eat way too much, and end up sitting at the table with your pants unbuttoned by the end of the first course. Two words for you: STRETCH PANTS. Guaranteed, these will be your best friend this season – bonus points for cuteness.



Top – Forever21.com, Ribbed Lantern-Sleeve Sweater, \$28.00



Bottoms – Forever21.com, Flared Ribbed Leggings, \$19.90

2. The next one is slightly less casual, but still comfortable nonetheless – maybe your cute outfit will distract your family from asking you a million questions about school? Anyway, plaid is always holiday appropriate and sweaters just make everything better. Pair this outfit with a pair of black booties and you're good to go!



Top – Forever21.com, Tiered-Sleeve Sweater Knit Top, \$22.90



Skirt – Asos.com, Missguided Check Frayed Hem Wrap Mini Skirt, \$40.00

3. The last one is very dressy and would definitely be suitable for a fancy holiday party, dinner, or sitting at home in your bed (hey, I'm not here to judge!) Wherever you wear this, you'll catch everyone's attention and for sure be the star of the night.



Dress – Asos.com, Glamorous Sequin Dress, \$42.00

4. Men can get away with wearing almost anything, but for those of you who like to be a little bit more fashionable, here's some inspo! You can never go wrong with a pair of fitted khakis and a button-down shirt. Add some flannel or denim & you'll be just as fashionable as the ladies!



Shirt- hm.com, Cotton Shirt Regular Fit, \$24.99



Pants- hm.com, Cotton Twill Chinos, \$34.99

Faulkner Interview

by Erika Kellerman

Lucas Asher, Eric Scullin, Dimitri Farougas, and Christian Hogan make up Faulkner. The bi-coastal band from California and New York City has been together since 2013.

I was recently able to talk to Dimitri Farougas, the bass player and mastermind behind the bassline in Faulkner's newest single "Hot Streak." Farougas was born in a small town near Athens, Greece. He was 12 years old when he started playing music. "I was studying classical guitar when my friends asked me to join their small band" he said. He picked up a bass not long after that. "I never thought I'd be a bass player. I just grabbed one and thought okay this is it, this is what I want to do to. I've become a student of the craft. I've had to understand that there are layers to learning. You never stop learning."

Farougas joined Faulkner in 2013. "We all met because of the LA music scene," he said. "I knew Christian because of the Musicians Institute (music school) in Hollywood. It just so happened that Lucas hit both of us up. We started writing at the (original) Swing House and it felt really good. We had a lot of fun with it." His favorite part of being in Faulkner is having complete autonomy and freedom to do what he wants. "I bring what I want to bring to the table."

Hot Streak
Faulkner's latest single "Hot Streak" was released on Oct. 26. The band recorded and produced the song with Wu-Tang Clan's RZA.

The track took a few weeks to write. "We went back and forth with some ideas. Sometimes you lose track [of time]. We go in, we put some stuff down: bass lines, riffs, melodies- We don't want to force anything. Nothing ever comes from forcing art," Farougas said.

When asked how it was working with RZA, he replied: "He's one of the most intelligent and incredible people we've ever had the chance to work with. He's not just well versed in music, but in math, science, geography, etcetera and he applies all of it to the craft."

RZA originally signed on to produce the song, but decided to join the entire process when he heard what Faulkner was working on. "He dropped a verse on it. We had a rough cut and sent it to him. He said nah I can do better. This can be better." He added "Saying 'nah, this can be better' instead of just letting it go speaks volumes about his dedication to the craft and his perfectionism. He's a myth and a legend for a good reason."

For the heavy bass line in the song, Farougas tried several. "Eric and Lucas will usually get together and make a backbone for the song. Then, I need to spend a decent amount of time alone with it. I listen to the beats and melody and see what I want to do." Finally, they try all of the basslines live and choose the best one.

This single is different from any of the songs on Faulkner's EP Revanchist.

"This song is a lot more happy and positive; a lot more danceable and poppy. It definitely devi-



Image courtesy of Faulkner.

ates from the EP, which is darker and subversive." The EP is retribution based, whereas Hot Take is quite the opposite. Farougas said that their songs are snapshots of their mental and psychological state at the time. The songs reflect how they felt and that is portrayed through the music.

Faulkner's debut album is in the works and Farougas believes that Hot Streak is a teaser for it. "They [the fans] should definitely expect a sort of a turn from the theme [from the Revanchist EP to Hot Streak]. I think there'll be a good balance between the album and the EP. The album is not a straight up continuation from Revanchist."

Billboard LGBTQ Letter

Now more than ever, it is imperative that those with large platforms use their platforms for good; not taking advantage of their audience, not abusing the platform that they were given, and certainly not using their fame to exploit their fans. Without calling out the bad in our society, we don't have a chance to see the good.

That being said, in June, Billboard asked various artists to pen "love letters" to the LGBTQ+ community. Halsey, Barbara Streisand, Brendon Urie, and Farougas were just a few that were apart of this group. "I hope it's a guide for young people to speak up and make difference," Farougas said.

"It was a hard for me to write," he said. "I knew the people I grew up with were going to read it and I thought about it for a while- and there was only one conclusion- and it was,'F*** it. I'm writing it.'" Farougas said it was uncomfortable for him in the beginning, but writing it was liberating.

"More people should not be afraid and use their many platforms to speak out on." Farougas added, "They can make a difference and expose it now. We're seeing it now with every single creepy guy. This male dominant harassment keeps getting worse, but I love this wave of exposure and disruption. Their reputations and bank accounts are ruined."

Recently, there have been a wave of sexual assault allegations that came to light. Starting with Harvey Weinstein in the film industry, to Brand New's Jesse Lacey, and now With Confidence's Luke Rockets.

He adds,"I think it will basically have people thinking twice about doing this stuff. Just don't do it. It's not that difficult to be a good person. It's called respect and consent. Look it up! It's baffling, for me at least, to read these accounts. It's like what's wrong with you?"

ARIES (Mar 21-APR 19)

Dear Aries, with the holidays quickly approaching, you are feeling the stresses of the hustle and bustle already. Do yourself a favor and plan gift ideas ahead of time. Make a list, starting with who needs a gift and what they each might enjoy and fill in the rest from there. Remember, it's the thought that counts!

TAURUS (APR 20-MAY 20)

Dear Taurus, getting festive for Christmas is your forte. Get out the decorations and go nuts. What are you waiting for? If you're feeling creative, try making your own ornaments. Time to get into the holiday spirit!

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUN 20)

Dear Gemini, dreading that visit from your distant relatives coming into town for the holidays? Would you rather not deal with the awkward small talk? Keep an open mind! After all, the holidays are meant to be spent with family and friends. Take this time to appreciate those around you, and enjoy the time that will be spent!

CANCER (JUN 21-JULY 22)

Dear Cancer, stuck on what to gift others this holiday season? Try crafting your own presents. Get creative, I suggest homemade picture frames (with family photos in place) or even place your gifts in homemade packaging. Remember that it's the season of giving no matter what is given. Everyone will appreciate your efforts!

LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)

Dear Leo, the cold weather is not exactly your cup of tea. Instead of dwelling, try taking up a winter sport like Snowboarding or something as intermediate as sled riding. These could be in your interest and make the chilly temps a little more fun and bearable. Don't knock it till you try it!

VIRGO (AUG 23-SEPT 22)

Dear Virgo, with the upcoming family oriented times approaching, you should brainstorm ideas for activities to do together. Going to an outdoor Christmas light show is a good idea to bring the family together with an outing. Fun times and memories made- what more could you ask for!

LIBRA (SEPT 23-OCT 22)

Dear Libra, feeling generous this holiday? It would be in your interest to help the local community's needs. Try volunteering at a soup kitchen over Christmas break. Giving back to the community and giving to others is what the holiday season is all about!

SCORPIO (OCT 23-NOV 21)

Dear Scorpio, stuck on what exactly to do for the holiday break? Too much time than you know what to do with? Decide whether to Plan a weekend get-away or stay put. I suggest making a pros and cons list. If the weather gets snowy, stay in with a good book and get cozy!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22-DEC 21)

Dear Sagittarius, traveling home for the holidays? Have a long a commute? Try passing the time by writing homemade Christmas cards to your loved ones. What better time is there to spend putting your own creative spin and sincerity of your words than for the holiday season?

CAPRICORN (DEC 22-JAN 19)

Dear Capricorn, the holidays are a time for spreading joy and cheer. I suggest creating Christmas cards for your local hospitals' patients. Sending sick patients the gift of your words and kindness could impact them so positively and put a smile on their face!

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18)

Dear Aquarius, over the holiday break, try to take some of this free time and put it to good use. Try re-organizing your room and belongings at home. What else are you going to do if you're snowed in? Plus, you'll finish feeling refreshed!

PISCES (FEB 19-MAR 20)

Dear Pisces, spread the holiday cheer by joining a group over your break. Specifically, you could join a choir for a few days and partake in caroling. You will feel festive and ready for the holidays to be underway plus you'll be spreading happiness to your community. Sounds like the holiday spirit to me!

WHERE & WHY

WHERE TO GO IN PGH & WHY YOU'VE GOT TO GO

by Cheyanne Swaney

Pittsburgh is home to a plethora of quaint and atmospheric cafés. Coffee lovers find solace in the tucked away espresso bars that the city has to offer, and whether you're a coffee drinker, tea drinker, or have a sweet tooth, Pittsburgh cafés have something for you. The 61C Cafe is a testament to many local owners who strive to create a place where everyone has a place.

The 61C Cafe is a small café located at 1839 Murray Avenue in Squirrel Hill, right across the street from Eat n' Park. The café was named after the 61C port authority line that drops riders off right in front of its doors, making this an easy trip for anyone who frequently rides the bus lines to this stop between 7 o'clock in the morning and 10 o'clock at night. The doors of the 61C have been open for seventeen years thanks to owners Kate Knorr and Gary Kaboly. According to the café's Facebook page, the basic idea for the 61C is great coffee and snacks with a friendly atmosphere. The outside has a unique feel and it has captivated residents of Squirrel Hill. The small white storefront with an adjacent side patio conjures up feelings of

nostalgia with its slightly faded paint and large glass windows. Marcus Neil, a junior at Chatham University, said, "I come here to do work when I need somewhere quiet. It's just convenient for me to stop by when the bus drops you off right outside. This place has such an old-timey feel and you can't get that at the crowded Starbucks down the road".

"I got so many people into this place for the food, not just the vibe here," Neil said. "It melts in your mouth." The front counter is adorned with homemade baked goods at reasonable prices that make the café a must for coffee lovers and sweets lovers alike.

While the homemade baked goods are one perk of the 61C, their caffeinated beverages and tea selection are some of the best that Pittsburgh has to offer. They also have a selection of fresh smoothies and deli sandwiches to choose from. Grace Lavie, one of the baristas you're likely to meet when you stop in, recommended the Chai Tea Latte and an English Tea Cookie. "This place is great! It's got a little something for everyone who walks in," she said.

Whether you're looking for a new spot to study or you're a coffee con-



Chai Tea Latte and Apple Foldover. Photo by Cheyanne Swaney.



61C front counter. Photo by Cheyanne Swaney.

noisseur, the 61C Cafe is a place that welcomes everyone. The cash only policy evokes a nostalgia that you can appreciate and makes you feel like you are taking a step back in time. The

61C is a great stop for anyone who's grabbing a quick cup of coffee to go or dining in for a finals study session.

“Happy Holidays!”

by Abby Mullinary

December is here! For me, that means that it's time to break out the ugly Christmas sweaters, decorate everything with lights, and play Michael Bublé's Christmas album on an infinite loop. As someone who finds extreme joy in the holiday season, I want to share that joy by wishing everyone I see a "Merry Christmas!" But, it is important to remember that December is home to over 20 holidays! So as a reminder for you and me, I have created a guide of some of the celebrations that make up the holiday season. I hope that this guide encourages you

Photo by Abby Mullinary.



to say "Happy Holidays" the next time you'd like to spread holiday cheer!

Hanukkah (Dec.12-20)

According to the Chabad-Lubavitch Media Center, Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday. It's a wintertime "festival of lights" celebrated over eight days. Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the temple after the Jewish victory over a tyrant king and the special miracle that took place. When they went to light the temple's menorah and there was little oil left, it miraculously kept the candle lit for eight days. This is why today Hanukkah is celebrated with special prayers, the lighting of the menorah, and foods prepared in oil.

Pancha Ganapati (Dec. 21-25)

This is a newer Hindu festival, created in 1985. According to Hinduism Today, this five-day festival was created to be an alternative to the other holidays in December. This holiday honors Ganesha, one of the most widely-known and worshipped deities in Hinduism. For each of the days, the family focuses on a different spiritual discipline. The family also creates a shrine to Ganesha and the children adorn it with different colors for each day.

Christmas (Dec. 25)

According to History and A+E Net-

works, Christmas is one of the widest celebrated holidays worldwide by Christians and non-Christians alike. Traditionally, Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, whom Christians identify as the Son of God. Throughout the years, Christmas became more and more secular, with the additions of decorations, carols, cuisine, gift giving, and of course, Santa Claus.

Kwanzaa (Dec. 26-Jan. 1)

According to History and A+E Networks, Dr. Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa in December of 1966 in order to bring African-Americans together as a community after the Watts riots in Los Angeles. This holiday celebrates African heritage and African American culture. Each day of the celebration is dedicated to one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. People celebrate this special holiday with a large meal, gift-giving and, each day, one candle in the Kinara (candleholder) is lit and one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa are discussed.

Omisoka (Dec. 31)

According to Tadaima Japan, Omisoka is a holiday similar to New Year's Eve celebrated in Japan and by those of Japanese heritage in North America.

While both holidays celebrate the new year, the celebrations are slightly different. To start the new year on a clean slate, people purify their homes by cleaning them from top to bottom. They also have feasts of traditional foods. It's also a spiritual event, with many people visiting Shinto shrines and temples, ringing a large bell at midnight.

I encourage you to take time this month to not only learn about other people's cultures, but to embrace them! No matter what you celebrate, whether it's Christmas, Hanukkah, or one of the many other holidays in the holiday season; don't forget to spread holiday cheer and wish everyone a "Happy Holidays!"

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