

the SIREN

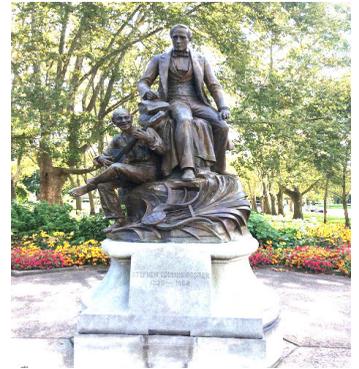
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MARY'S POPPIN' INTO LP

Statue Sparks Controversy in Pittsburgh

By Luke Aloï
SIREN Staff



Statue photos: Luke Aloï

On Aug. 12, two crowds of protesters assembled on the campus of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. On one side were white nationalists, waving Confederate flags and shouting a multitude of racist slurs. On the other side were college students, clergy, and members of the Black Lives Matter Movement, all singing “This Little Light of Mine.” Later, they were joined by radical leftist groups like Antifa, and violence soon erupted, leaving three people dead and dozens injured.

The spark for the protests was the city’s decision to remove a statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

Across the country, statues of controversial historical figures are being taken down, cited as being monuments perpetuating racism. In Pittsburgh, there is discussion about taking down one particular landmark: the statue of composer Stephen Foster on Forbes Avenue, next to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Foster, a Pittsburgh native, made significant contributions to the musical culture of America. His songs, such as “Oh! Susanna” and “Camptown Races,” were popular during the nineteenth century and remain familiar today. In the statue scene, Foster -- a well-dressed white man -- is seated high on a pedestal, while the fictional Uncle Ned -- a toothless, barefooted African-American slave -- is seated at Foster’s feet.



Critics of the Foster statue believe the depiction of Uncle Ned is demeaning to African-Americans. Mayor Bill Peduto has assigned the Pittsburgh Art Commission to study the statue and develop a report to decide its fate. Although some in Pittsburgh believe the statue is offensive, most Lincoln Park students don’t see it as such. Of over 60 juniors and seniors surveyed, nearly two-thirds did not find the statue offensive.

“Personally, I don’t see the statue as offensive, but I can see how some people can,” said Shayne Coles, a senior Dance major from Penn Hills. “I think the statue should stay up, as it was not meant to be offensive. However, if it does cause problems, then I think it should be put in a museum.”

Removing the statue could be a threat to Pittsburgh. Officials are hesitant to remove the statue out of fear that it could spark protests similar to the ones in Charlottesville.

“I do find the statue offensive,” said Chloe Bailey, a junior Theatre major from New Brighton. “I think that the statue should be taken down and replaced with a statue that celebrates racial equality. If there were protests supporting the statue’s removal, I would take part in them, but only if there was an outcry from the African American community.”

Other students have taken the middle ground of the statue controversy.

“I can understand why some people find the statue racist if they don’t know the backstory,” said Aidan Karstadt, a senior Media major from New Castle. “But if you know the backstory, you can see that the statue was not intended to be racist.”

Senior Zach West also supports the statue staying in place.

“With the context, I don’t believe that the statue is racist or offensive,” said West, Media major from Rochester. “I think that the statue should not be removed because it is a part of Pittsburgh’s cultural heritage. If there were protests about the

“Every Theatre major knows that when a person is shown above another person, the higher person is seen as more powerful than the lower.”
- Chloe Bailey



Photo: Niki Koscinski

“I think that the statue should not be removed because it is part of Pittsburgh’s cultural heritage. If there were protests about the statue’s removal, I would take the side that wants to leave the statue where it is.”

- Zach West



Photo: Niki Koscinski

statue’s removal, I would take the side that wants to keep the statue where it is.”

The Pittsburgh Art Commission is expected to finish its report within a month at the earliest.

Calling All Vegans to Alumni Hall: New Dining Options Available

By Hannah Michalowski and Sara Hamilton
SIREN Staff

Starting this year, Lincoln Park will be serving more vegan and vegetarian meals, according to Food Service Director Phil Balestrieri.

In previous years the school has only provided hummus platters along with the salad bar and sandwich bar for vegan students. However, the school will now begin serving vegan-friendly burgers as well as meatballs to accompany pasta.

Senior Musical Theatre major Jade Langan from Pleasant Hills has been on a vegan diet for almost two years. “I always kind of hated school food,” she said. However, she thinks this new addition to Lincoln Park’s menu is a “positive thing.”

Similarly, Tanelsa Franklin-Phillips, a senior Theatre major from Pittsburgh, has been a pescatarian for twelve years. “I think [the new meals] are really cool because we don’t really have that many options, and most schools don’t,” she said. “I usually get a sandwich every day in the deli line, and this is really nice because now I have other options than just the salad bar.”



Jade Langan
Photo: Niki Koscinski

Satisfied with the addition to Alumni Hall’s dining options, Franklin-Phillips said, “We can kind of have a taste of what everyone else is having, but we can actually eat it.”

However, these changes won’t be immediate. “We have vegetarian burgers coming in,” Mr. Balestrieri said. “They’re special order, so they’re not here yet.”

So keep your eyes peeled, LP, because vegan lunches are on their way.



Photo: Sara Hamilton

New Faces Join Lincoln Park's Dance Team

By Sara Hamilton
SIREN Managing Editor



Photo: Niki Koscinski

Lincoln Park's Dance Team auditions took place earlier this month, and now they're gearing up for their first game on Dec. 9. Coached by Alexandria Runyon and co-captained by Elena Turner, Alexandra Trimber, and Jackie Wingard, the team will perform at five basketball games this year.

"We perform at half-time, and we have two-minute dance routines," said Captain Alexandra Trimber, a senior Dance major from Hopewell, who joined the team last year. "I really like it. I think it's another opportunity to perform and do something for my school."

As part of her duties as captain, Trimber explained that she helps with the warm-up at practices and that any team member can come to her with questions, but she emphasized what a "team effort" it really is.

Before the team's first practice on Sept. 13, Trimber said, "I'm very excited! It's my senior year, and it's our first practice. We get to work on the dances we're going to do, hear our songs, get excited, [and] welcome our new members."

Katie Johnson, another team member and senior Musical Theatre major from Pittsburgh, described their routines. "We rehearse and practice a lot. We do a hip-hop, jazz-style dance... Our goal is just to support the team and just dance."

Johnson also added, "I'm one of the very few Musical Theatre majors on the team, because not a lot of them audition for dance stuff." However, Trimber explained, "You can be whoever to audition, as long as you have some dance background."

**"It's a good way that we, as artists, can support the sports teams. Since Lincoln Park is very into basketball, it's a good way to show our school spirit."
- Alexandria Trimber**



Carter Logan

Photo: Niki Koscinski

LP Students Affected by Trans Military Ban

By Sam McDanel
SIREN Staff

In early August, President Donald Trump announced that he would not be allowing transgender people into the military service. This declaration reversed Barack Obama's efforts to allow transgender military members to openly serve.

Since Trump's announcement, two transgender people who currently serve in the military filed lawsuits against him for discrimination. Carter Logan, a transgender Literary Arts major from New Wilmington, says that he doesn't know what he would do if he wasn't able to go into the military.

**"I've wanted to go into the military since I was four, so this greatly affects what I'm going to do with my future."
- Carter Logan**

Trump claimed in his tweets that he was putting the ban into action, and the military "cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail." A study conducted by the Rand Corporation estimated that the cost for gender-related medical treatment for current military members would be somewhere between \$2.4 and 8.4 million annually.

"They spend over four times as much on Viagra," says Logan. "It's such a small percent in comparison to all of the needless stuff that they buy."

Brandon Crawford, a senior Literary Arts major from Moon who recently enlisted into the National Guard, agrees with Donald Trump's decision. "When you're going through basic [training], they don't care whether you want to be called him, her - it's just the way they are." However, he believes that if a transgender veteran has served and worked hard, they are entitled to the benefits of their surgery and/or hormones.

The two lawsuits against Trump said that it was discriminatory and degrading to

prevent someone from entering the military due to their gender identity. When asked if he thought this was right, Crawford said, "Honestly, no, but for right now I think it's the best course of action just because they don't know how to deal with it currently. Just for [trans military members'] own safety, I think it's beneficial."

Earlier this month, a U.S. Senate bill -- co-sponsored by Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona) -- was introduced, seeking to protect transgender service members.

Star-Spangled Winner

By Alissa Haddox
SIREN Staff

Earlier this month, senior Jordyn Walker participated in a singing competition at Pittsburgh's Hard Rock Cafe in Pittsburgh.

One winner was chosen to sing "The Star Spangled Banner" at a Pittsburgh Penguin preseason hockey game. And Walker, a Theatre major from Cranberry, walked away with the prize.

Walker sent in a video submission to enter the contest.

"They narrowed it down to ten people, then those ten performed at The Hard Rock Cafe," she said.

"We all sang a song of our choice, and they had guest judges. One was Jeff Jimmerson, who is the guy who sings at the Pens games all the time."

Walker sang the anthem at the Penguins' preseason game against St. Louis on Sept. 24. The nationally-televised "Kraft Hockeyville USA" game was held in Belle Vernon, PA. However, it wasn't Walker's first time singing the anthem at a sporting event.

"I sang at the Altoona Curve one time, and I used to sing [the national anthem] for a bunch of events at my other school," Walker added.

Walker has been attending Lincoln Park for three years. She studies privately with Betsy Lawrence from Carnegie Mellon University and with Lincoln Park Musical Theatre



teacher Sharon Schaller as well. Both of her teachers, Walker said, have "helped me a lot vocally."

Vietnam Memorial Visits Butler County

By Niki Koscinski
SIREN News Editor



Early on the evening of Aug. 23, a procession of more than 1,000 motorcyclists and three helicopters escorted the Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall.

A line that was about seven to eight miles long followed a trailer from Cranberry Township to Butler. Inside the trailer was a 360-foot wall - which is eighty percent of the original wall in Washington D.C. The wall stayed in Butler from Aug. 23-27 and will be transported to State College the first week of October. It will remain there for four days.



Photos: Shannon Kaelin

LeRoy Bunyan, from Renfrew, PA, led the memorial and the bikers to the final destination. Mr. Bunyan served in the United States Navy from 1968-1972 and has been riding motorcycles for 45 years. "I bought a bracket that fit on my motorcycle that could carry a flag. I put the American flag on it when we'd do parades. Since then I've been the guy who leads the parade," said Mr. Bunyan. He is one of the 17 original members that started the Butler County American Legion Riders in 2003 and has been the group's president and vice-president.

"The guy who brought the wall said he never had an escort like that in all of the years that he's done it," said Mr. Bunyan. The Riders decided a year-and-a-half ago to bring the wall into Butler and spent close to \$40,000 for books, pictures, and other memorabilia. They are also going to donate an additional \$40,000 and mementos to the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.

During the Vietnam war, at least 58,479 soldiers died fighting for another country's freedom. There are still some lives missing and unaccounted for. Mr. Bunyan said, "It was the greatest job I ever hated, and I'd do it again tomorrow."

Lincoln Park Documentary Shown at Brooklyn Film Festival

By Brooke Caudill
SIREN Staff

Two years ago, when a student approached Media instructor Zac Cageao with an idea for a documentary, he probably should have said no. After all, the student -- Literary Arts major Danielle Bain -- had no experience making a film. At this point, she had never even taken a class in filmmaking.

However, not only did Mr. Cageao agree to work with her, the result -- a short documentary about Lincoln Park called *A Tax Dollar More* -- has been shown in New York City and Hollywood, where it won awards. In October, it will be shown at the Indigo Moon Film Festival in North Carolina, and it's currently being shown on the festival circuit around the country.

"Working with Danielle had a couple of challenges, but overall was really positive because she had a really great attitude about wanting to get this project done," Mr. Cageao said. "So she had technical limitations -- such as, she didn't really know the equipment -- but she really had a vision for the project and a drive to get it done. And I will always take a drive over technical ability any day."

Aidan Karstadt is the cinematographer and editor for *A Tax Dollar More*. He said at the time when Bain and he started working together, he didn't realize how big this project was going to become. "I thought it was a great thing for the school; People don't really know what we do here, so just kind of giving them more insight with something as accessible as a documentary," Karstadt explained.

The film is not yet available to view online, although Mr. Cageao hopes that will happen when the film is no longer being shown at festivals. It was shown recently at Lincoln Park's Open House.

Mr. Cageao said, "This was a story that really needed to be told, and it was relevant. It was about a place that I care about a lot."

Future Friends Album Review

By Becca Kashuba
SIREN Social Media Editor

4/5 STARS

group, Pentatonix, which they have been known for since their appearance on *The Sing Off*.

“How You Feeling?” This question, asked by enthusiastic gang vocals, is met with a contrasted answer to the bouncy sound this album features: “Heartbroken and jonesing for a nicotine rush like a sad and lonely lush.” This is the general theme of the second half to their debut album, *Future Friends*, which the pop duo released in two parts, the latter released on Sept. 15 on a full-length album with the first EP, *Future Friends - Part One*.

Where the former toed nineties synth-pop instrumentals and equally saccharine lyrics (look to “Worth It (Perfect)” and “Heartthrob”), *Part Two* is a more mature venture, and one that vocalist Scott Hoying describes as

“a little weirder [with] a little bit more of an emotional moment,” crediting “Fantasy” as his favorite track in an interview with *Grammy.com*. His counterpart Mitch Grassi shouts out “GUY.exe” -- a track which feels like a four-minute-long subtweet at an ex-boyfriend, but is still a fun listen nonetheless -- during a livestream on Youtube on Sept. 8.

While it is a more mature sound than the first half of the album, I do feel as if it’s not as well-put-together. The bubblegum feel of the first half of the album is consistent with the duo’s overall aesthetic, complete with Stroma-esque color schemes and a distinct departure from that of the a capella

When listened to as a whole rather than two distinct entities, *Future Friends* appears to tell somewhat of a coming-of-age story for the dynamic duo. We begin with the youthful, sweet feel of part one, which later takes a slight turn on the album’s title track, and further progresses to some of the most mature tracks on the album, such as the two aforementioned by Hoying and Grassi. All in all, Superfruit’s debut is a success as a larger piece, and its tracks are highly enjoyable on their own as well as in the whole experience of the album itself, and though Hoying describes Superfruit as “still a baby,” it’s rather mature for its age without losing the youthful glow that made it so appealing in the first place.



The SIREN Sleuth



Are you new at Lincoln Park and have no idea where to begin? Do you and your friends have a question that The SIREN Staff could answer? Or maybe you just have a funny story you'd like us to share with your peers!

Even if you just need random life advice, have no fear! The SIREN Sleuth is more than happy to help a fellow student out, especially anyone new to our school.

E-mail us at thesirensleuth@gmail.com. We'll publish the best responses in the next edition of The SIREN!

Apples to LPPACS

By Patrick Erb-White
SIREN Staff

Q: What is the Strategy Games Club, and who started it?

A: Science teacher Danielle McKenzie started the club last year. As the name



Photo: Niki Kosciński

suggests, it is a club that meets to play different types of strategy games.

Q: What kinds of strategy games?

A: For each meeting, there is a different theme. Last year, for example, one of the themes was "card games. Members played card games brought in by the teacher and other club members.

Q: What is planned for this year, and how can I sign up?

A. Mrs. McKenzie says this year, she "would like to have a school wide event with brain teasers and trivia."

Sign-ups will be the first week of October. Forms will be available in G-201 or at Ms. Pettis's desk in Alumni Hall.

Mary's Poppin' into Lincoln Park

By Bella Johnson and Morgan Sweitzer
SIREN Staff

With the beginning of school, there is also the beginning of performances at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center. This year's theme is "Dream Bigger," and the production that kicks off this 2017-2018 season is a family favorite.

Senior Musical Theatre major Amanda Gross from Sewickley plays Lincoln Park's own Mary Poppins. She says the role "really goes to the extremes of singing, dancing, and acting" due to the complicated tap numbers, vocals, and special effects.



Cast members work through the complex choreography of *Mary Poppins*.
Photo: Zachary Cageao



Amanda Gross and Matt Fedorek take a break during rehearsal.
Photo: Zachary Cageao

Those who have seen the Disney film can expect some changes to the stage production. Junior Musical Theatre major Matt Fedorek from Finleyville, who plays Bert, describes his character as "more of a narrator than he was in the movie." Other differences include the order of songs and the cast size.

Ensemble members Jillian Ferguson (Mary's understudy) and Shea Curran (Bert's understudy) told The SIREN about the wonderful yet complicated choreography of the show's dance numbers. They are both excited to be a part of this childhood dream of theirs.

The cast and crew are also working on the track for the fly system, which will showcase an experience unique from any other show Lincoln Park has ever seen.

Mary Poppins opens Oct. 6 and runs for three weekends.

Was *IT* Worth It?

By Bella Johnson and Morgan Sweitzer
SIREN Staff

The fascinatingly horrific reboot of Stephen King's *IT*, starring Bill Skarsgård and Finn Wolfhard, has sparked interest in recent months. Everyone has been wondering how it will compare to the beloved book.

Being a remake, this movie seemed to blow the original miniseries, *IT* (1990), out of the water with its terror inducing special effects and actors who dug into the meat of the characters. While the 1990s miniseries was more accurate to the plot of the book, the new *IT* movie seems to stay truer to the characters and the meaning of the story.

This movie only showed the characters as children, so there will most likely be a second movie showing them as adults -- rumored to already be in the works.

The formatting of the new film made it more concise and easier to understand, something the miniseries did not take advantage of.

One distinct change was the time period; the reboot takes place in the '80s, whereas the book and the miniseries show *The Losers Club* as children in the '50s and their return to Derry as adults in the '80s. Changing the time period caused controversy among many fans, but the change does allow young audiences of

today to essentially grow up with the characters; they will be adults in our modern day in the second film. Pennywise will get a chance to strike fear into a whole new generation.

The real question is "Was *IT* Worth It?" and the answer is yes. The new *IT* combines all the wonderfully terrifying aspects of both book and miniseries, creating all new scares to enjoy this fall season. So grab your popcorn, balloons, and remember, "We all float down here."



Seeking Guidance

By Luke Aloï, Brooke Caudill, Bella Johnson, Sam McDanel, and Cora Vaughn
SIREN Staff

What's your opinion of a guidance counselor? Is it that they're understanding? Intimidating? Kind? Scary? Got their stuff together? Are they someone who helps you figure things out or makes you more confused about life?

What if a counselor didn't know what they were doing at your age and didn't get proper guidance in school? Do you think there is a guidance counselor who was just as confused as you about the future?

There is one. Her name is Kapeka Galazia, and she is Lincoln Park's first-ever middle school guidance counselor.

A native of Honolulu, HI, Ms. Galazia moved to Pennsylvania when she was three years old, and lived most of her life in Ellwood City and Mohawk. But she was unsure what the right path was for her through high school and college. "Now that I know what guidance counselors should be doing, I noticed that I didn't have full access to that," she says. "Or maybe I kinda flew under the radar and seemed okay but wasn't."

She also switched majors in college multiple times. In college, Ms. Galazia started out as a Biology major at Penn State-Behrend with the aspiration of becoming a veterinarian, but then switched to Penn State-Main Campus to major in psychology.

"When I was a bio major, I put in a lot of work, but still struggled to understand scientific concepts," admits Ms. Galazia. "I then realized that I liked talking to people, so I chose human development and psychology as a major. All of the concepts of this major came very easily to me, and I instantly retained the information; I had found my niche. I chose to become a guidance counselor because I wanted to help kids stay informed of their options so that they can make the right decisions in life."

"I realized that, had I had somebody more to talk to, to bounce ideas off of... I feel

that maybe my path wouldn't have been so zig-zaggidy," she adds. Ms. Galazia wants to be the person to help high-schoolers discover their future – the person she needed.

The outgoing Ms. Galazia previously served as an elementary school guidance counselor in Seven Springs, but says she doesn't think "that being a middle school guidance counselor will be that much different."

"I just used more cotton candy and bubble wrap for elementary kids, whereas I can give legitimate advice to middle students," she says with a laugh.

Ms. Galazia had heard of Lincoln Park from The Beaver County Times, where her mother—an enormous inspiration – had been employed. She made quite an impression on the first day of school, doing a cartwheel across the stage during teacher introductions. But the school, in turn, has made an impression on her.

**"I have never seen, in a public school... so many cheers and smiles and just over-all volume. The air was just so happy and energized. It's not always the case when teachers want to go back to school."
- Ms. Galazia**



Photo: Niki Koscinski

Though Ms. Galazia is assigned to middle school students, she hopes to help all students. "I hope to meet every student here at Lincoln Park and learn about them," she says. "All of the students here seem to be dedicated to their arts. I want to help everyone in any way I can. I'll strive to support the middle school students and everyone else."



INSTAGRAM:
@lppacs_siren

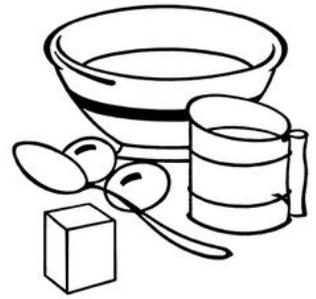


TWITTER:
@lppacs_siren

**New Website
Coming Soon!**

Hannah Bakes: Apple Crisp Mini Cheesecakes

By Hannah Michalowski
SIREN Staff



Things You'll Need:

2 apples (medium to large)
1/8 teaspoon ginger
1 cup of oatmeal
1/4 cup all purpose flour
3/4 cup brown sugar
1 caramel topping
1 teaspoon cinnamon
2 tablespoons corn starch
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/4 cup white sugar
2 tablespoons coconut oil
1 cup of graham cracker crumbs
1/2 cup butter
2 8oz packages of cream cheese



1. Start by preheating your oven to 350 degrees. Mix crushed graham crackers crumbs, oats, brown sugar, and melted butter in a bowl.
2. Put the cute cupcake liners in the cupcake pan. Or the boring ones if you want. I'm not judging.
3. Divide the mixture in the bowl and press it into each cup to form the crusts. Place the pan in the oven for five minutes to bake.
4. Use an electric mixer or a hand mixer - whatever you have you have to blend together the cream cheese, brown sugar, white sugar, cinnamon, ginger, cornstarch, and vanilla. I don't care how you blend it - just blend it!
5. Pour the mixture over your crusts, which should be still in the pan. Make sure to leave some room at the top for the fruit and streusel.
6. Combine all the streusel ingredients and mix it together until crumbly. To start the apple layer arrange the finely chopped apple on top of the cheesecake in a single layer. Top the cheesecakes with the apple crisp, and bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes.
7. Let cool for 15 minutes, then refrigerate overnight. Top with caramel sauce, and serve.