



Students walk out against gun violence

By JULIA FELTON
NEWS EDITOR

One month after the shooting that killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, a nationwide walk-out took place on March 14, 2018.

Students from La Roche College joined the movement, walking out of classes at 10 a.m. for a memorial in College Center Square. While paying respects to the victims of school shootings, students also came together to take action against gun violence in schools.

Student Government Association (SGA) President Brooke Audino said, "Let's honor the 17 lives lost a month ago at Stoneman Douglas. This is a memorial and a call to action to get involved and take a stand, wherever you stand on this issue."

Audino joined SGA Secretary Kristen Spezialetti and SGA Judicial Vice President Brett Meeder in a brief memorial presentation to honor the victims of numerous school shootings.

Spezialetti began by honoring the 13 people who died in the shooting at Columbine High School in 1999. She also referenced the victims of the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting.

Spezialetti asked, "If we aren't going to fight now, how many students are we going to watch die before we do anything about it?"

Meeder took the stage next, honoring the victims of the shooting at Northern Illinois University. This incident occurred exactly 10 years before the incident at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Meeder also remembered the 20 students who were shot at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. "It is unfathomable to realize that such young souls could be stripped from their parents and this world," Meeder said.

Audino memorialized the 17 victims of the recent shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

After a moment of silence, Audino



Crowds of students and staff gathered to remember victims of gun violence

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encouraged students to actively seek change. "Change can only come with hard work and a group of dedicated people," Audino said. "Let's make it

so students stop dying."

The event lasted 17 minutes—one minute for every person killed at Mar-

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The men's basketball team won the AMCC Championship. Front row: Ryker Carmichael and Coach Hermie Carmichael Back Row: Coach Harry Jenkins, Shay Queen, Torry Hawkins, Darius Lawrence, Kennedy Smith, Austin Hannes, Coach Lorenzo Archer, Dion Etheridge, RayQuan Phifer, Darrell Barron, Ryan Norkus, Tyler Frederick, Arnes Bajgora, Trel Thomas, Zach Gould, Dr. Linda Jordan

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SGA has financial and social goals

By JULIA FELTON
NEWS EDITOR

Student Government Association (SGA) discussed paying their executive board, upcoming elections, and events during the spring semester.

SGA President Brooke Audino proposed an amendment to the SGA bylaws that would provide financial compensation to members of the executive board.

Currently, the president is the only position that gets paid. The president gets paid \$400 per semester. By the end of this semester, Audino will have made \$800 from her position.

"Essentially, the role of the president on student government is a lot to handle, so that's your payment, what you're getting back," Jeff Dailey, an SGA adviser, explained.

Audino said she believes the execu-

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Officers conduct active shooter presentation

By JULIA FELTON
NEWS EDITOR

Two local law enforcement officers told La Roche's faculty, staff, and students how they could survive an active shooter scenario by running, hiding, and fighting.

McCandless Police Department Detective Eric Egli and McCandless Fire Marshall Dan Stack discussed the importance of preparing for this type of emergency situation.

According to the FBI, there were over 160 incidents of active shooters between 2000-2013.

Egli, who has been a member of the McCandless Police Department for 15 years, emphasized there will be a "tremendous police response" in an emergency event.

However, he stressed that it is crucial to run, hide, or fight until help arrives. Most of these situations are over in less than five minutes, so initial responses are of paramount importance.

If it is possible, Egli said the first option in an active shooter scenario is evacuation. Egli recommended considering as many potential exits as possible from offices and classrooms. "We want you to have a plan B. We don't want you to freeze. There's

many exits," Egli said.

Egli said that in the event of an active shooter situation, it is best to help others evacuate, too. However, Egli encouraged everyone to exit quickly—not letting others who are reluctant to evacuate slow their progress.

"Leave your personal items behind," Egli added.

Once safely out of the building, Egli said it is imperative to call 9-1-1 and to keep others from entering the area.

When calling the police, he said that every detail helps. He said the most important piece of information is identifying where the shooter is. Other helpful details include how many weapons the shooter has, what types of weapons they are, and how many victims have already been shot.

If running is impossible or unsafe, the next best option is to hide, Egli said.

When deciding whether to run or hide, Egli said there is no concrete way to make the choice. "You have to make a decision based on the information you have at the time," he explained.

"Know your safe locations," Stack advised.

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Students

Positive Space promotes student success

BY HEATHER RADICK
MANAGING EDITOR

On Feb. 26, La Roche College celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary of Positive Space, an annual juried design show that exhibits a diverse collection of student art pieces.

Outside professionals in both graphic and interior design judged the show and awarded first, second, and third place across multiple categories, including 3D modeling, package design, photography, and illustration.

Charleigh Smith, a senior graphic designer, has participated in three

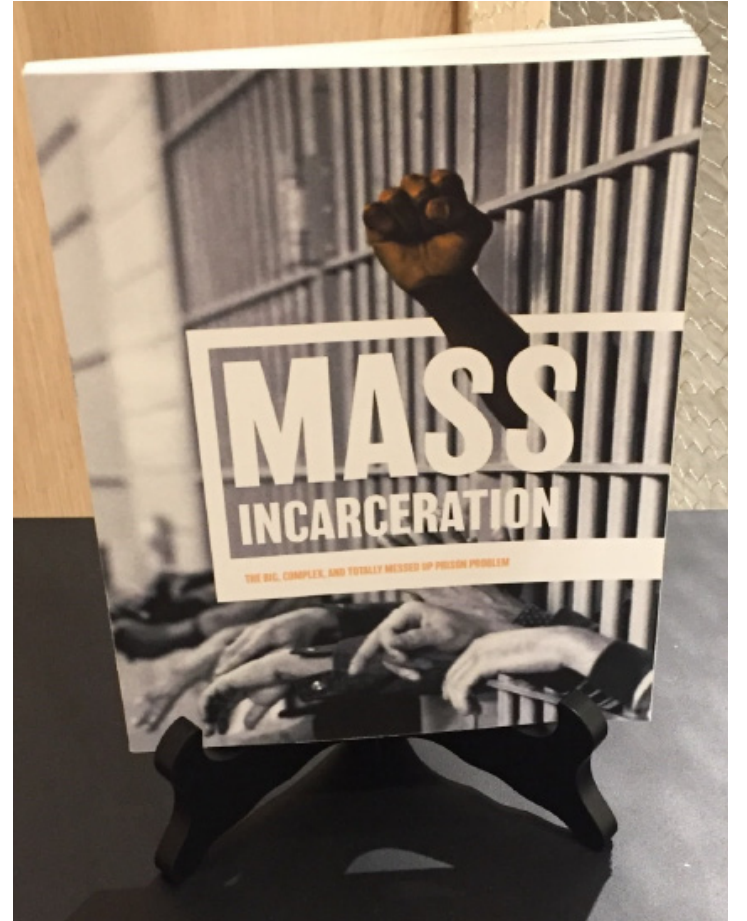
Positive Space exhibits since enrolling at La Roche and strongly recommends all design students do the same. "It's a great chance for us," she said, referring to the professional exposure garnered for students whose work is viewed by industry professionals. It gives young artists the opportunity to experience the submission and judging processes that characterizes the beginning of many graphic design careers. "This is how it works in reality."

Even when students' submissions are not accepted to be displayed in the exhibit, a valuable learning experience is still received. Barrington Ratliff, a sophomore graphic designer, said he tried to create something completely

out of his comfort zone to challenge himself and his skills. He said that his piece wasn't accepted, but also that he does not regret pushing his artistic boundaries by recognizing mistakes and working to become an even better artist.

Smith belongs to the La Roche chapter of the AIGA Student Group, a professional membership organization for design with more than seventy chapters nationwide. The mission of this group is to provide a network of support and collaboration while students advance their design capabilities to form a cultural craft.

Smith shared AIGA's future plans to implement a new design exhibit similar to Positive Space called "Creative Superlatives." This program will accept submissions from all students, regardless of major, and will integrate



3rd place in the social design category by Clara Grandy, interior design junior, called "Mass Incarceration" © HEATHER RADICK



Interior Design junior Deanna Prischak's first place 3D Modeling submission; her description read "inspired by the contrast of reflections present in water and the intertwining of depths present in trees. Designed to engage the user, to provide a source for mental grounding, and to create a pleasant experience" © HEATHER RADICK

public vote in judging and granting awards.

Smith said the program will be fully operational by mid-April.

Interior design senior receives Planning and Visual Education grant

BY LAUREN VILLELLA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

La Roche College interior design student received the Planning and Visual Education (PAVE) student aid program grant.

Mikayla Ambler, a senior, said she was surprised to receive the grant and it will be helpful in paying off her loans. Ambler said she heard about the grant from Nicole Bieak Kreidler, Ph.D., the chair of the interior design department. As part of the application process, Ambler noted, she provided the committee with her transcript, an essay and a letter of recommendation from Dr. Kreidler.

"It was pretty surprising," Ambler said of receiving the grant. "It really helped me because I feel like I would be, not in a terrible situation, but in a different situation if I didn't have that assistance when it came through. So I would say it really helped me in a time of need."

In her application essay, Ambler described her senior thesis, which she said focuses on disaster relief

and building an education center in low-income coastal communities. Addressing a social issue is a requirement for the senior thesis, Ambler noted.

"In today's world, the news of a catastrophic hurricane or massive earthquake is not anything new," Ambler wrote in her essay. "In an age of climate change, disasters are only going to intensify. When areas are affected damage follows. Damage to property, infrastructure, sources of income, the issue of poor conditions in evacuation shelters, and the sometimes-forgotten people of the community are some of the main focuses of my research."

Ambler said she originally wanted to pursue architecture in college, but changed her mind after speaking to Dr. Kreidler at a La Roche open house.

"(Dr. Kreidler) said that 90 percent of people spend their time indoors," Ambler said. "So, if I really wanted to affect people, interior design (was the field to pursue). So that's where I

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Mikayla Ambler (above), an interior design senior, received the Planning and Visual Education (PAVE) student aid program grant © LAUREN VILLELLA

Sports

Men's basketball team captures third AMCC Championship

By **JORDAN SMITH**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Your Redhawks are your 2017-2018 AMCC Champions.

The men's basketball team persevered to victory against rivals Penn State Behrend with a score of 77-74.

In the 2014-15 season the Redhawks finished with a 1-24 record. By the 2017-18 season, recruiting the right players and having a good coaching staff proved that anything can happen.

They surely turned it around as they collected their third AMCC championship and third AMCC regular season title.

La Roche's head coach Harmie Carmichael received his second Coach of the Year Award.

Hard work and dedication helped get this team this far. Off-season workouts were crucial in their quest to improve and win.

Players were constantly in the fitness center, lifting to get stronger and faster as well as working on shooting, passing and other strategic aspects of the game.

This hard work correlated to a winning season. The Redhawks got into a groove from Dec. 21 to Feb. 7. During this stretch they went on a

12-game win streak.

Overall, the team had a 21-7 record (16-2 conference record). They averaged 77 points per game and shot for 34.1 percent behind the three-point line.

With outstanding performances throughout the regular season Trell Thomas, Arnes Bajgora and Rayquan Phifer made the AMCC All-Conference First Team.

Also during the AMCC tournament, Zach Gould and Trell Thomas had great performances which earned them All-Tournament team. Gould put up 26 points in the final, going 6/7 on three-point attempts and Thomas put up 15 points in the final.

Gould's unbelievable performance earned him AMCC Player of the Week during the week of the championship game.

This was a special season for senior Arnes Bajgora. He finished eighth all time for the Redhawks in points with 1,150 and is sixth on the all-time list for rebounds with 532.

Arnes reflected on his special season, saying, "Hard work pays off and you have to stay disciplined through the ups and the downs. Us winning a championship was amazing. It's the only thing left I wanted to do before finishing my basketball career and we achieved it. Loved it."

"Hard work pays off and you have to stay disciplined through the ups and downs. Us winning a championship was amazing. It's the only thing left I wanted to do before finishing my basketball career and we achieved it."

- Arnes Bajgora

The other senior, Dion Etheridge, added, "It meant a lot, coming from 1-24 to where the team and I are now. It takes a lot of dedication and hard work. From observing the progress every year to new recruits, something special was bound to happen. I am happy to go out with a ring my last year. No person can take that away from any of us."

The two graduating seniors are surely leaving with great memories.

And, with only two seniors leaving, it looks like the Redhawks have a chance to repeat history again next year.

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Survey Says

Students express disconnect with SGA decisions and communication

BY JULIA FELTON
NEWS EDITOR

Like most colleges and universities, La Roche has a Student Government Association (SGA). But is this organization really necessary? A recent survey revealed 62 percent of students said they believe we need one.

In February, a survey gauged how the student body felt about student government. One hundred students gave their opinions regarding SGA

involvement, relevance, and participation.

The survey revealed that not all students were aware of SGA's existence and relevance. As a matter of fact, 15 percent of students said they didn't know La Roche had SGA.

Perhaps students are unaware of SGA because, according to the survey, they are displeased with SGA's communication. Seventy-one percent of students said SGA representatives have never asked for their input regarding their activities or decisions.

Senior marketing and management major Mollie Farruggia said she believes SGA does "not have enough student participation."

Some students responded favorably regarding SGA's communication with students. Twenty-three out of one hundred students gave SGA above average ratings.

However, other students said they were displeased with SGA's communication. Eighteen students said they did not communicate with students at all. "I

never hear anything about SGA or from them," freshman criminal justice major Amanda Campbell said.

Sarah Hefferin, a freshman commuter studying professional writing, added, "As a commuter, I feel like they could do a better job of reaching out to me and others."

The survey also asked students to rate how relevant SGA was in their lives. Thirteen percent of students said they believed SGA had an above average relevance. For 38 percent of students, SGA was somewhat relevant. The remainder of students said SGA was less than somewhat relevant.

"If our SGA was a football team, they'd be the Cleveland Browns," Ryan Parkinson, a junior management major, said.

Though some students reported being unhappy about SGA, others said they thought SGA was important.

Anna Vines, SGA's vice president of finance, explained, "SGA helps donate new things around campus and tries to fix issues that students have."

SGA's mission statement emphasizes "promoting the general welfare of the students" by acting "to ensure the achievements of the students' academic, intellectual, personal, and social goals within the college environment."

The survey asked students to judge how well SGA accomplishes their mission statement. Of the hundred students surveyed, 11 said they felt SGA did a poor job of abiding by their mission statement. Thirty-eight

respondents said SGA somewhat accomplished their mission, while 51 percent of students responded more favorably.

Halle Mathieson, a sophomore dance major, voiced her approval of SGA. "Last year I asked SGA to help with an issue regarding dance majors and they actually did a lot to help out," Mathieson said.

In addition to helping with student issues, SGA is responsible for sponsoring events. They host highway clean-ups, commuter meetings, roundtable meetings for club presidents, and other events for students.

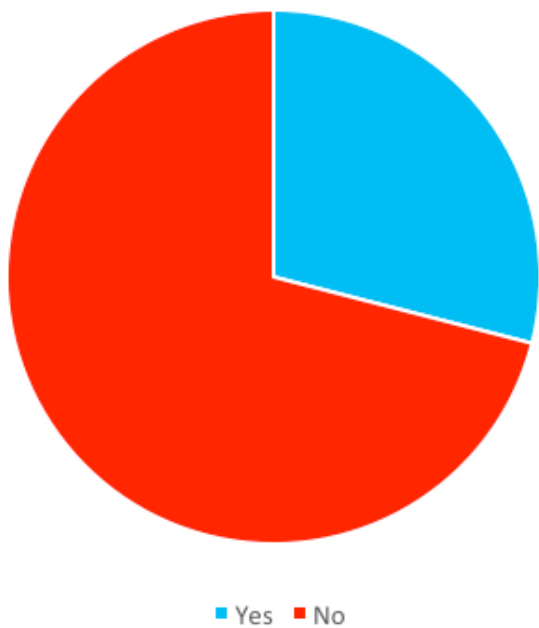
Though SGA may offer events, this survey indicated student participation is low. Eighty-four percent of students reported they have never attended a single SGA meeting.

Sixty-six percent of students said they did not attend any SGA-sponsored events or SGA meetings in the last semester.

The survey also revealed that the majority of students choose not to vote in SGA elections. According to the survey, 57 percent of sophomores, juniors, and seniors did not vote in the last SGA election.

This survey suggests student participation will not be improving with the upcoming SGA elections. Twenty-six percent of students said they planned to vote in the SGA elections this spring. Thirty-two percent of students said they would not vote in the upcoming elections, and the remainder of respondents said they were unsure.

Has SGA Ever Asked for Your Input?



Above: An infographic illustrating that the majority of students have never communicated with SGA © JULIA FELTON

How does LRC view feminist issues?

BY EMMETT KASPER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In a college comprised of mostly female students, 59 percent, how do we stand on feminist issues?

In February, the Courier surveyed 104 La Roche students on their attitudes towards feminist issues.

The survey firstly defined a couple of keywords:

□ "Feminism- the belief that women and men should have equal rights and opportunities."

□ "Patriarchy- a system of society or government where men hold primary power."

□ "Sexism- prejudice, stereotyping, or discrimination against one's gender."

Sixty-seven percent of participants responded that they are feminists.

Allison Busworth, a sophomore graphic design major, said, "Feminism is not saying that women are superior to men. It's saying that we want

equal rights and equal opportunities."

The survey asked several other questions about feminism in general, like how long feminists had identified that way, and whether or not we are living in a patriarchy.

Thirty-nine percent of participants responded that they had identified as feminists for one to three years. Thirty-six percent responded with "10+ years," 13 percent circled "3-5 years," and six percent circled "less than a year." Another six percent circled "5-10 years."

One of the participants who said he has been a feminist for more than 10 years was Joshua Bellin, a professor of English. He said, "[I am a feminist] because I believe in gender equality and want my children to see me model that belief."

Seventy percent of participants said that they believe we are living in a patriarchy.

Caleb Thurlow, a freshman, was one of those who said he disagreed.

He said, "I believe that acknowledging the existence of a patriarchy acts as a concept which can turn an entire group of people into a scapegoat unnecessarily. While I agree there there is a deeper rooted issue in society, I cannot rightfully attribute it to a 'patriarchy.'"

On the other side of things, Gracie Kon, a freshman psychology major, said, "I believe that the patriarchy as a whole is detrimental to our society and routinely oppresses a lot of people, including men."

Joseph Mazzotta, a senior media communications major, answered the same way and had a similar comment. He said, "I think it is important to place feminism in the context of the broader, emancipatory humanist project. We must never lose sight of this, and also consider how toxic masculinity contaminates all culture, both men and women."

SEE FEMINISM, PAGE 8



(Above) Tiara Phillip sports an empowering shirt that reflects a feminist attitude

© EMMETT KASPER

Survey Says

Students share views on campus' cultural offerings and events

BY SARAH HEFFERIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students of La Roche can consider themselves lucky to be located in the Pittsburgh area. Known for creative and cultural outlets all over the city, students often have access to a plethora of activities to experience, right in their backyard.

Pittsburgh itself is a diverse city, and offers adventure, creativity, and education in many locations. La Roche College allows students to have access to those activities through in-school offerings, always at reduced prices. These include, but are not limited to concerts, plays, museums, and musicals.

As of the 2016-17 school year, there were 1,555 students enrolled at La Roche College. To judge interest in these activities, 100 students responded to a survey on creative and cultural activities. The survey observed whether or not students enjoy and have interest in attending these activities throughout the course of their college career.

Out of the 100 students surveyed, 91 percent said they are interested in those events offered in the Pittsburgh area. Twenty-one of all the surveyed students said they attended a cultural event less than a month ago. But, the

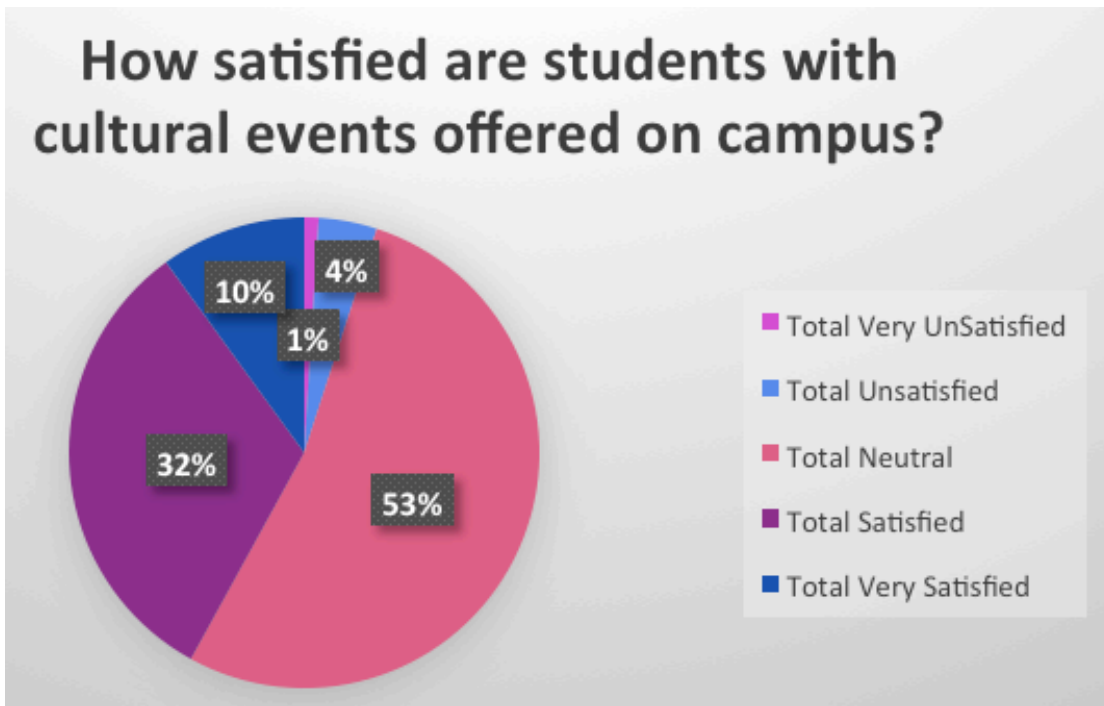
majority, 36 percent, indicated that they went to their last cultural event about six months ago.

There could potentially be many factors involved in choosing whether or not creative or cultural events are worth going to. Reviews are often an influential factor in choosing events. With a multitude of students who are not local to the area, reviews can offer insight on the quality, content, or entertainment factor of each place or event.

Fifty of the students surveyed wrote that they wanted to know about events they could potentially attend, and checked online reviews beforehand. The other half of those surveyed said they chose not to look online, anticipating an element of surprise.

"I like to be able to make my own opinions," Jessica Lee, junior professional writing major, said. "I always look at reviews after the performance because I usually become obsessed with the show."

"A critic's opinion is not my opin-



Above: a pie chart depicting students' satisfaction with on-campus cultural offerings © SARAH HEFFERIN

ion," sophomore communications student Lauren Ranalli said.

For other students, they wrote that they enjoyed the comfort in knowing what a show or museum could offer them. Many judged whether or not they would go based on reviews.

Emmett Kasper, a freshman professional writing major, said he relies on reviews before making decisions.

He said, "I think others opinions matter because if everyone thinks it isn't good, it probably isn't."

However, it is never only the reviews that influence student decisions, according to responses of the

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Movies' genre and cast among factors that influence student preferences

BY LUCIA BOU DARGHAM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The movie theatre is going to be needing extra popcorn since the majority of La Roche students indicated their excitement to watch "Black Panther."

In February, 100 La Roche College students responded to a survey about their movie preferences. The survey portrays the diversity on campus and in student opinions.

Eighty percent of the students reported that they were most excited to watch "Blank Panther" and ranked it as their most-awaited movie of 2018.

When it came to the students choosing how to watch a certain movie, 40 percent indicated that the genre of the movie is the most important factor. Twenty percent explained that the cast of the movie is what encourages them to watch the movie.

Fifty percent of the students said that when they recommend a movie

to others, the moral of the movie is a crucial aspect. The scenery and music, as well as how the actors performed, are of no lesser value in determining which movie to recommend.

A freshman marketing major said, "You can't sell a movie while focusing on only one part of it."

An undecided student wrote, "A movie dies even if one of those aspects fail."

Eighty out of 100 students reported that they have not watched a movie because of the negative opinions of others.

While a bad review from a fellow student can stop others from watching a movie, 70 percent of the students said that "Wonder Woman" was their favorite movie of 2017. However, 30 percent had a mixture of responses and chose a movie that wasn't listed on the survey.

While 70 percent voted for "Wonder Woman" as their favorite movie, 60 percent said that Jennifer Lawrence was their favorite actress of 2017. Forty percent reported that Emma Stone was their top pick.

When it came to the best actor of 2017, 40 percent said that Johnny Depp was their favorite. The remain-

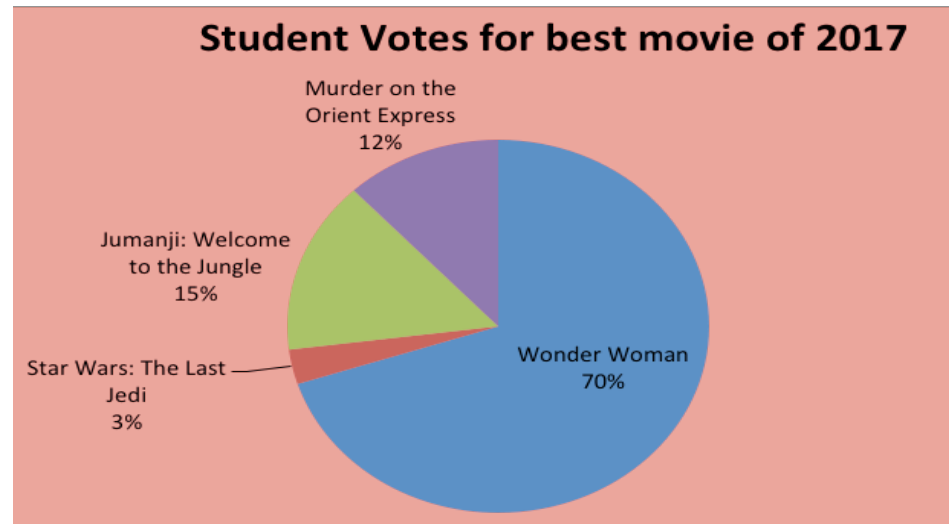
ing 60 percent listed their favorite actors ranging from, Dwayne Johnson, Robert Downey Jr., and Matt Damon.

Regardless of whether a certain actor or actress is in a movie, 80 percent of the students reported that if they were to re-watch the same movie, they would wait for a month before watching it again. However, 20 percent said that they would watch the same movie in a week.

In rare cases, a sequel or prequel of a movie can sometimes prove to be more successful than the original. On that note, 80 percent of the students reported that they have liked a sequel or prequel better than the original movie. The remaining 20 percent said no, indicating that nothing can ever beat the movie that started it all.

When the survey asked the students about how frequently they went to the movies, the students had a variety of answers. Seventy percent said that they rarely go to the movies. Twenty percent wrote that if they did go to the movies, they would go once a month.

A junior professional writing major said, "I work at a movie theatre, I watch movies every week because they are free."



Above: Most students voted for "Wonder Woman" as 2017's best movie © LUCIA BOU DARGHAM

Culture

Asian Club celebrates Lunar New Year

BY SARAH HEFFERIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The La Roche College Asian Club brought their culture to the student body, as they celebrated Lunar New Year on Wednesday, Feb. 13.

Just three days before the start of Lunar New Year, the Asian Club shared the holiday with La Roche for an afternoon of celebrations. Based on the lunar calendar, it marks the beginning of a new year.

Asian Club students brought pieces of their culture with them, showing others how their home countries celebrate Lunar New Year. China, Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, among other countries declare Lunar New Year a national holiday.

Lunar New Year celebrations start on the evening of the first day, and finish with the celebration of the Lantern Festival, which takes place on the 15th day of the first calendar month. Lunar New Year, which is marked by the new moon, can fall anywhere between Jan. 21 and Feb. 20.

Member Ly Nguyen, in discussing her personal traditions, said, "In my country, we would go visiting relatives, or go to the temple and pay respect, and then on the third day we start visiting friends. But usually on the first two or three days, we visit our relatives."

Many individuals assign Lunar New Year with an animal that represents a year. This year, along with the recent years of 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, and 2005, are represented by the dog.

To celebrate, club members brought food, candy, language, and

art to show to off as part of the holiday. Passersby had the option of sampling foods like spring rolls from Vietnam, strawberry puffs from Taiwan, or yakppap, which was fried glutinous rice mixed with honey and chestnuts from Korea.

At other booths, students could learn phrases in the different Asian languages, along with observe how calligraphy is created.

"This semester, we have our Lunar New Year which I would say is (Asian student's) favorite holiday in the year. So, for us, it's like Christmas," Asian Club member Justin Hsich said.

The Asian Club said that they had not celebrated Lunar New Year as a club at La Roche since they began holding events in 2015, and they thought it went very well.

"I'm just really happy that we did something together," Nguyen said. "The Asian community at La Roche is pretty crowded, it's popular! We didn't really do anything before so, it's exciting."

Founded in 2014, Asian Club is un-



From left to right: Jiwoon Kim, Emily Markham, Sister Veronica Kim, Songmi Lee and Hyosun Cho invite campus members to try Korean cuisine

© SARAH HEFFERIN

der the leadership of Sister Veronica Kim, Assistant Director of International Student Services and Division of Student Life, and member of the Sisters of Divine Providence. They began hosting events in 2015.

"On campus (before the club was created) we did not have any Asian Club, Asian group, something like

that, (but) we had a good number of Asian students from several different countries. So, I thought, 'hmm, we need to make some club, and I can be the advisor.' It took three years to make Asian club," Kim said.

As members of a diverse student

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"Black Panther" superhero movie spotlights racial equality, black history

BY JESS LEE
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Representation is more than just a cash grab in today's media as "Black Panther" promotes messages of race equality and black history.

The newest installment in Disney's Marvel Cinematic Universe is "Black Panther," which is now the highest grossing superhero film of all time. Candace Okello, Director of Diversity and Inclusion at La Roche College, commented on the film and how it differs from its predecessors.

"Other movies are more action packed and have cool effects," Okello said. "You saw that in this film too, but that definitely wasn't the primary focus. There was something bigger taking place in this film, and perhaps that's why it resonated with so many people. They can see themselves in

this film."

Boasting an all-black cast, "Black Panther" has not only advanced Disney's superhero franchise but has also created a long lasting cultural shift within the media industry as a whole. Okello said she saw this movie three times and deeply understood the impact this film made from her first viewing. "You feel so much pride watching it because the depiction of black people was done right. The image of black people isn't always positive. It's either black men seen as criminals or a black woman being hyper-sexualized or Africa as poverty stricken. When you think about the richness of black culture and history, and our contribution, you see all of it in this film."

The general consensus from a mass audience is positive; however, the representation of the diverse and rich

black history, as Okello said, leaves film goers taking away different messages from the film. Four La Roche students were asked simple questions about their thoughts on the film, and while some answers varied, others shifted focus completely.

Student one is a 19-year-old graphic design major who self-identifies as African American. Student two is a 19-year-old psychology major who self-identifies as white. Student three is a 20-year-old criminal justice major who self-identifies as Native American. Student four is a 19-year-old professional writing major who self-identifies as white.

When asked for a brief synopsis of the film, the minority students provided a deeper meaning behind the film while the white students gave a more literal plot of the film.

Student one and student three dis-

cussed the race issues that were prevalent throughout the film. Student one said, "As Black Panther fights against villains that try to take Wakanda's resources..., he [realizes] Wakanda should be more open to the outside world because all of the human race is not so much different from each other." Student two and four focused their discussion on the characters and actions they took.

Okello gave a synopsis that combined the viewpoints of both groups of students. She compared T'Challa, a non-violent figure, to Martin Luther King and Eric Killmonger, the main villain of the film, to Malcom X. She said, "Malcom X was a bit more radical in his thinking, in the way he approached his movement, but they still

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Faculty

Director of Student Development encourages more student participation

By JULIA FELTON
NEWS EDITOR

David Day literally wears his La Roche College pride. Specifically, he wears a La Roche College Student Government Association polo shirt. If his shirt doesn't showcase his enthusiasm for the college adequately, his office certainly does.

Day, the Director of Student Development, an adviser for the Student Government Association, and an Assistant Dean of Students, has La Roche memorabilia scattered throughout his thoroughly decorated office. His love for La Roche is showcased in the various La Roche magnets and window stickers, advocating multiple college organizations, from the National Soci-

ety of Leadership and Success to the school's radio station.

Beyond the Redhawks, there are a plethora of other decorations that give his office an energetic life. Day has everything from pictures of his family to a hockey stick, from a Beatles poster to a display of certificates.

Perhaps the most defining characteristic of Day's office, however, is the soccer theme. Day, who serves as La Roche's men's soccer coach, is clearly a fan of the game. A collection of colorful soccer-themed scarves hangs on the wall. Day displays soccer magnets, banners, and photos. He even has a bright yellow soccer ball right in the middle of his office floor.

As Day talks about his own college experience and his career at La Roche, he turns a baseball around in his hands. His passion shows in the smile he often gets when talking about the college.

What draws you to La Roche?

I love the mission of La Roche and I love the sisters. It's a good place.

You serve as the Director of Student Development, the Assistant Dean of Students, an adviser for SGA, the men's soccer coach, and you also work in the

local media. Which of these positions is most fulfilling for you?

I don't really think of one of the positions being more fulfilling than another. I try to enjoy my life and do a good job in all aspects of it.

What do you find fulfilling about all of these positions?

I'm contributing, I think. Definitely contributing to La Roche, I find satisfying. I've been here a long time. I've seen the place grow a lot. I've worked here 14 years. When I first started, La Roche had hard times. There'd been cutbacks, enrollment was down, and there'd been budget issues. There were some tough years, but the college is really healthy now. That's something I take pride in—contributing to that.

You have all these different roles here at La Roche. Why do you embrace so many different aspects of life at La Roche?

It's just the way it worked out. I didn't coach the soccer team when I first started, so that's something that just kind of got added. Now I'm not sure what life was like without it, but I worked here five years before I started coaching the soccer team. It's just a big picture to me.

Why is your job—and all of its different aspects—so important to you? Why do you care?

I think that college was an important time in my life, so I want other people to get as much from it as I got from it. I thought that college really impacted my life to give me a purpose and a drive that wasn't there before. I want other people to find the same thing—what makes them tick, what they're good at, what they could do for a long period of time. I believe a lot in the process of college—where you are when you get here and where you are when you leave. I don't see it as an overnight thing. It's on a continuum and it doesn't stop the day you graduate. The La Roche piece does stop to a degree, but you can always be involved as alumni. It's a defining period of growth.

SEE DAY, PAGE 12



David Day (above) holds many positions at La Roche College, including director of student development

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Asian Club, continued from page 6

body, Asian Club wants to further educate others on who they are and what it means to celebrate culture in a setting that is generally unknown. They open their club not just to fellow Asian students, but to the whole community, with the hope of making friendships that will last a lifetime.

Kim said, "The purpose (of the club) is, I wanted all of our community members, faculty, staff, and students, who are from here to get to know each other and make good friends with each other and to eventually become members."

Since Asian Club is open to all, students get to experience a diverse group of cultures, and to share those with others.

"Some (Asian students) are so shy, and they wanted to make up their own group, but then it's harder to invite some different cultures, so I encouraged them to make one diverse group," Kim said. "Now we have an American domestic student as a member, a Saudi Arabian student, some African students there, as some of our members. So it's to share each different culture with other people. That's our purpose."

Nguyen said, "It's good for us to showcase our culture to people. And I think a lot of people are interested in learning about other culture too."

Members of Asian Club also hope to take values of culture and the sharing of that culture with them as they go about life in the La Roche community.

"I feel like, from being in Asian Club, there's more attention on no-

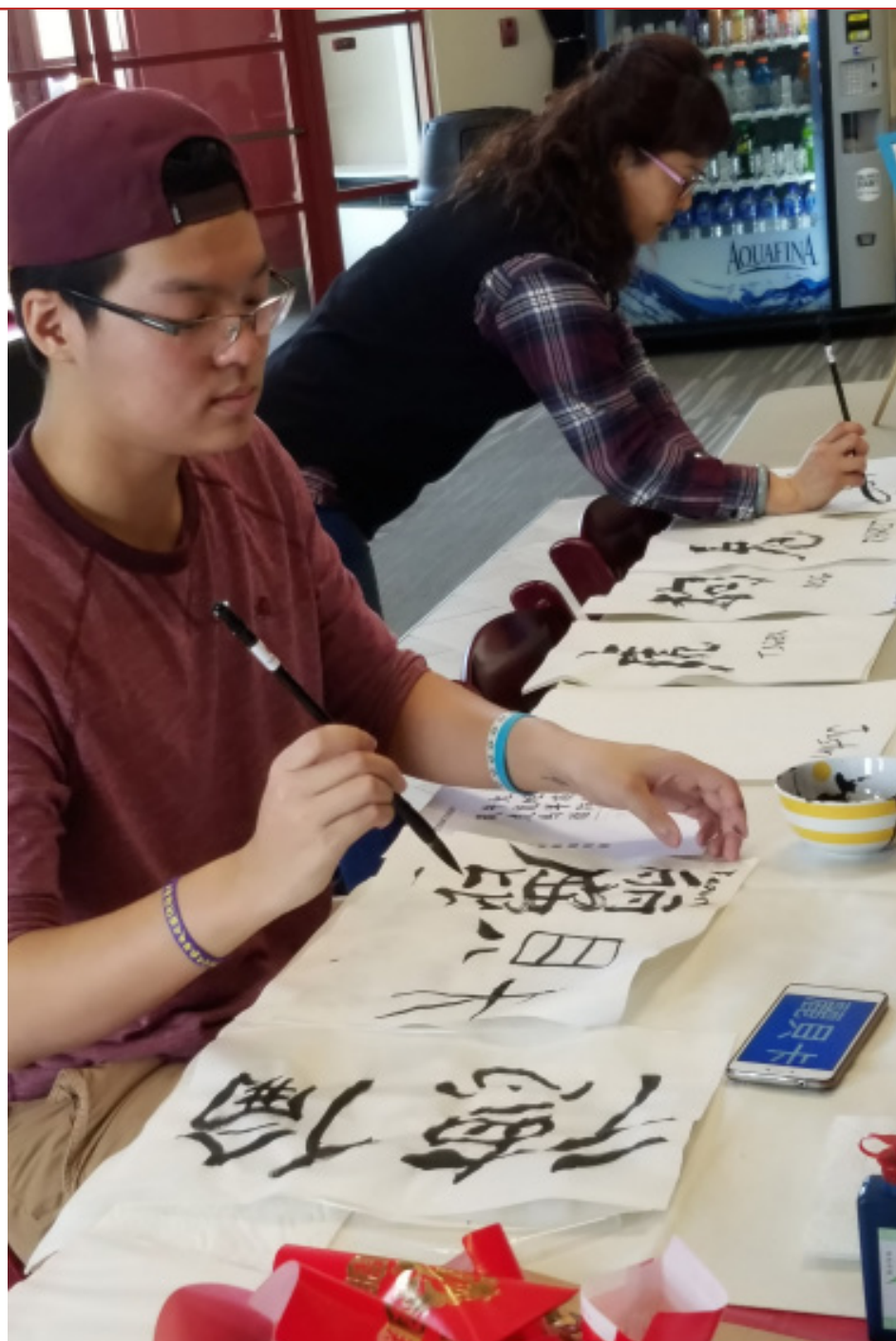
ting the diversity of the school and trying to combine it together...we gain the experience of trying to integrate different cultures together," Asian Club member Sierra Anderson said.

Since Lunar New Year is such a major part of Asian tradition, Club Advisor Kim feels that it is important that the holiday is understood and include the entire student body in the celebrations.

"In Asia, they make a bigger celebration than January 1st," Kim said, "because it's their tradition."

Many students and even Kim said that they do not get to celebrate in the United States because their families are back home. By including other students and showing them what the holiday is all about, it makes the celebrations a little less solitary. It encourages everyone to get together and have fun, no matter what they celebrate.

"I have a big family in Korea, but I cannot go (to visit them). I call them-my mom is still alive-I say hello and happy New Year. That's why I try to make a good event for our students, because they can feel lonely," Kim said. "So, during Lunar New Year, I wanted to give them a similar feeling; they are here, they are okay, and they are not lonely."



Justin Hsich (left) and Shiau Ling Chien engage in calligraphy

© SARAH HEFFERIN

Feminism, continued from page 4

The survey also asked men and women individual questions. It asked men if they felt pressured to become leaders, for example. It asked women if they felt they have gotten the same opportunities as men.

A large majority, 70 percent, of men said that there aren't unrealistic expectation put on them to be leader.

Just about half of women said that they feel they have gotten the same opportunities as their male peers.

An example of someone in the other half, however, is Charleigh Smith, senior graphic design major. "In a job that I had," she said, "I had been there a year longer than a male coworker, and I knew the business extremely well, but he was promoted

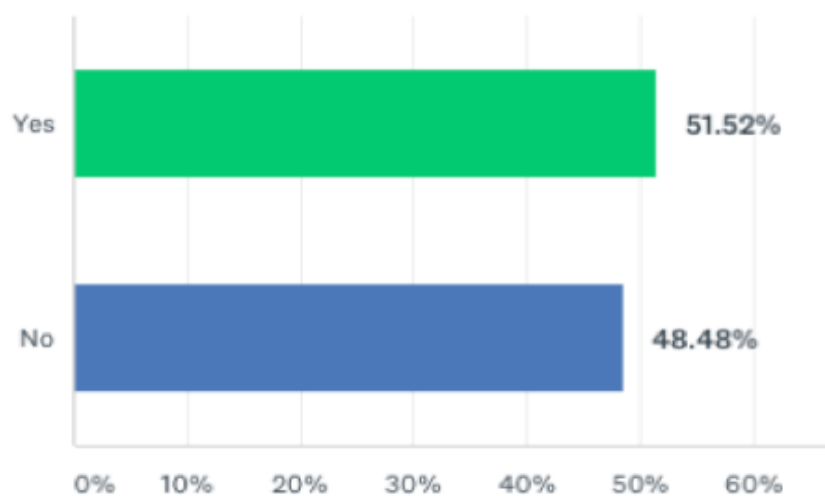
to manager after only being there a month."

The survey also asked women if they feel men are superior to them; 82 percent said no, but 18 percent said yes.

Maura Fallone, a freshman professional writing major, answered "yes" to this question. She said, "I feel like society still thinks they're superior. Sometimes I feel they're superior to me just in size and physically, but I actually don't believe that they overpower me. I definitely don't think they're better than me, though, not in the slightest."

The other questions that the survey asked women were: "How often do men intimidate you?" and "How

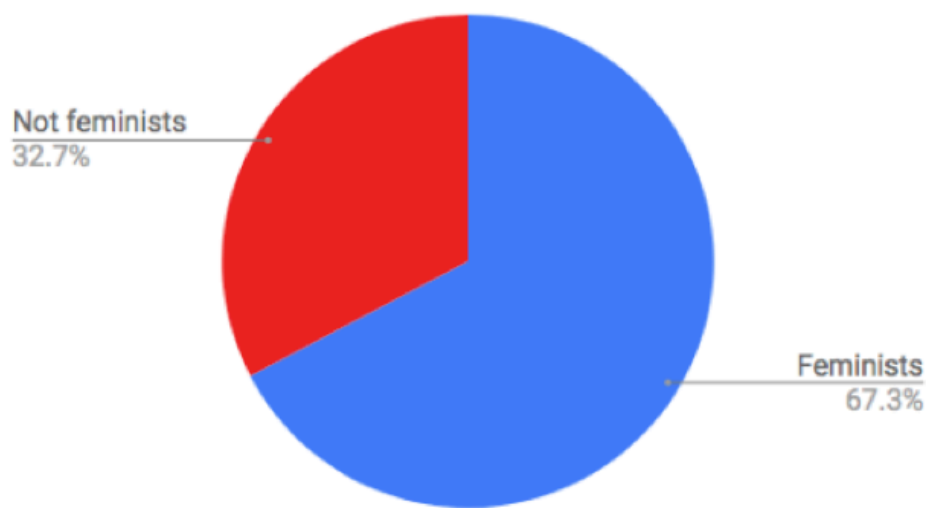
Women: Do you feel you've gotten the same opportunities as your male peers?



(Above) A graph showing the split in responses from women who took the survey

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Feminists at La Roche



(Above) A graph depicting the percentages of La Roche feminists

© EMMETT KASPER

often do you experience sexism?"

Thirty-six percent of women say that they are rarely intimidated by men, and 31 percent say they never are. Twenty-seven percent circled "sometimes," and 6 percent circled "often."

Thirty-four percent of women say they rarely experience sexism. Thirty-one percent said "sometimes," 24 percent said "often," and 11 percent said "never."

Someone who answered "sometimes," Sheiedaya Varlack, a junior psychology major, said, "Women are persecuted almost daily, physically, mentally and emotionally. If we don't stand, who will stand for us?"

The survey also asked men if they believe women are superior to them; 86 percent said no, and 14 percent said yes.

They were also asked if they were

ever intimidated by other men, of which 38 percent said they rarely are, and 32 percent said they never are. Twenty-seven percent said "sometimes," and three percent said "often."

Men were also asked if they ever felt unable to express their emotions. Thirty-eight percent responded with "never," and 27 percent with "rarely." Twenty-four percent said "sometimes," and 11 percent said "often."



“Black Panther,” continued from page 6

(Above) An infographic depicting students’ quotes about their favorite characters © JESS LEE

both had a similar goal of wanting black people to have a space in this world that had stripped them of their power agency. They just had different ways of going about it. The film in general really brought to light a very critical conversation about the black experience in America and in Africa.”

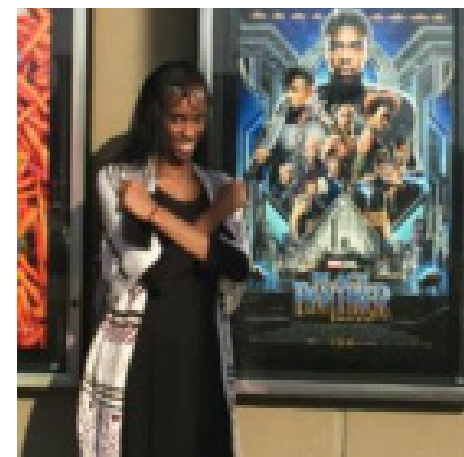
Student two said, “The message I took away from the movie is that we must all treat each other with respect and as equals. We should also not hide anything from others because everything that comes around, goes around.” This take away resonated with all four students.

Okello said this film “transcends cultures, races, and socioeconomic status.” She added, “A white audience has no problem seeing themselves in media, but for people to see diversity on the screen is equally as meaningful, they will ask, ‘What have we been waiting for? Why didn’t we recognize this before?’ It shouldn’t just be about the money but about the people they are reaching.”

All four of the students interviewed took a different focus from the film, but all were able to recognize the importance of a film like this. Student four said, “[This film] has a

uniqueness to it that the other Marvel movies don’t have. He’s an African American superhero, which is breaking the norm.”

While the viewpoints and meaning of the film differed from person to person, Okello said, “At the end, there was a willingness to try and understand the other person. If we can do that as a people, that would be a step in the right direction.”



(Above) Seirra Anderson standing with the movie poster © DIPINA KC

SGA, continued from page 1

tive board should also be paid starting next year. She suggested the executive vice president, vice president of finance, judicial vice president, academic vice president, public relations chair, and secretary should each receive \$100 per semester.

“I know they’re putting in a lot of work on the side,” Audino said.

SGA members had varied responses to the proposal.

“I think if that was made public, it would really push for accountability,” Academic Vice President Sarah Thomas said.

Public Relations Chair Rebecca Franks added, “I’d feel obligated to do a better job if I knew I was getting paid, but I don’t feel like I need it.”

Judicial Vice President Brett Meeder said he believed extending payment to the executive board was not enough. “I like the idea. However, I would like to divvy up the amount a bit more so the [general board] gets some, too.”

SGA Adviser David Day said SGA funds include an extra \$1,200 meant

to compensate SGA members for their work. According to Day, this money is not currently used for anything.

Audino said they would discuss the topic further during their next meeting.

The SGA board also discussed campaigns and elections.

Election packets were initially due on March 13, but Audino said only four people applied to run for a position. Since there are 16 spots that need to be filled and the initial turnout was so low, Audino said she extended the deadline until March 16.

Day told current SGA members, “It’s your job to recruit people to run for the positions.” He encouraged them to find people with a strong work-ethic who would be interested in the student body’s wellbeing.

“It should be for people who really want to make an impact on the school,” Director of Green Initiatives Abby Doyle added.

Audino also emphasized that she wants to encourage students to vote.

“Elections will be online this year,” Audino explained. “We’re not doing paper ballots.”

She said the link will be e-mailed to the entire student body.

The SGA board also discussed the walkout they held on March 14. They said they were pleased with the walkout, which was meant to memorialize school shooting victims and advocate an end to violence.

“I just thought it was a very powerful moment,” Meeder said. “I think we were really on the right side of history.”

Daily also expressed his satisfaction with the event. He said, “This was one thing we’ll always remember that this SGA board did.”

Allison Bosworth, director of design and technology, encouraged her fellow students to take their action one step further by reaching out to their legislatures.

The SGA board touched on many other topics pertaining to upcoming events on campus.

SGA will be hosting an Easter Bunny Brunch on March 25. They said they plan to provide a craft for children. Other clubs will also be collaborating to contribute an Easter egg hunt and other activities.

Dailey reminded SGA members that they have \$6,000 left in their budget. He warned them that the money will not roll over to the next semester.

SGA said they still plan to install water fountains on campus. Their progress was delayed as they negoti-

ated lower prices.

Bosworth announced a spring concert. The concert, featuring Max, will be held in Kerr Fitness Center on April 20. Vertigo and A Summer High will also perform. Students can purchase tickets for \$15, but tickets for the public cost \$25. They will also offer a VIP package—which includes a tee shirt, a lanyard, a poster, and premium seating—for \$40. Bosworth said she is working with local radio stations for advertising.

Thomas said she is working to have a graduate school presentation in College Center Square this semester.

Thomas also said she is trying to have the college implement weekend-long service trips. She suggested that these events could count as LRX service credit. She thought a sight-seeing component may entice more students to participate.

Cynthia Ncuti, Director of Multicultural and International Affairs, said she is working on hosting an international food festival.

Director of Resident Affairs Analise Iavarone said she organized an opportunity for freshman to tour the dorms on lower campus before making rooming arrangements for fall semester.

Iavarone said she is also working to install a vending machine in Peters.

Executive Vice President Conner Hagins said he spoke with the Board of Trustees about book costs and campus events.

*“I think if that was made public, it would really push for accountability.”
-Academic Vice President Sarah Thomas, on paying the Executive Board*

Presentation, continued from page 1

If people are hiding, Egli reminded them to stay quiet and mute their phones. He also suggested turning off lights, locking or blockading doors, and staying away from windows.

"Stay out of sight and keep the sound down as best as you can," Egli said.

Egli emphasized using whatever resources are available, no matter how unique. He said that ties or extension cords can secure doors. Desks and chairs could form a blockade in front of a door.

He recommended that everyone familiarizes themselves with the resources that could be available to them in an emergency situation. "Be familiar with your classroom or office," Egli said.

Egli also suggested that faculty and staff check to make sure their office and classroom doors lock properly. He recommended portable locking mechanisms for doors that do not lock.

While hiding, Egli encouraged people to text 9-1-1. He said that calling can be too loud, but texting is a safe alternative. He said that people can text a 9-1-1 dispatcher their location and any details they may have about the situation. The dispatcher will text back, so it is important to keep phones silenced.

If people are hiding and hear a knock on the door, Egli said to be cautious. Even if the person outside the door claims to be law enforcement, it could be an attacker. He suggested calling 9-1-1 and asking the dispatcher to confirm whether or not there is an officer at that precise location before unlocking the door.

Egli warned that people will likely have to hide for an extended period of time.

If running and hiding are not viable options, Egli said to fight.

"It's a last resort," Egli said.

Again, Egli and Stack reminded everyone to be aware of potential resources. Stack said even something as simple as a fire extinguisher could help save lives in these scenarios.

"Anything you have, you could use to defend yourself," Egli said. "Even if it won't hurt them seriously, it could still delay them."

Egli also offered advice for how

to act when police do arrive on the scene.

"Come out with hands up and palms open," Egli said. He said police do not immediately know the victims from the attackers, so it is important to keep hands up while evacuating.

Egli said witnesses should stay to talk to police once the incident is controlled. "Ideally, we'd like to interview everybody," he added, though he did acknowledge it is possible to interview witnesses at a later date.

When police first arrive, Egli said their first priority is stopping the shooter. He said they may have to initially pass by victims. Once the threat has been controlled, emergency responders will tend to victims and people in hiding.

Stack specifically addressed concerns regarding attackers who use fire alarms to lure people into the hallways. "It's horrible they're using a life-saving device for their destruction," Stack said.

Though he acknowledged that many people are becoming wary of trusting fire alarms, he still encouraged people to evacuate at the sound of the alarm. "You can't ignore a fire alarm," Stack said.

Egli encouraged everyone on campus to work towards preventing these situations.

"Try to promote a respectful work environment," Egli suggested.

He told everyone to look for warning signs. People who are changing to become more aggressive or impatient may be displaying warning signs.

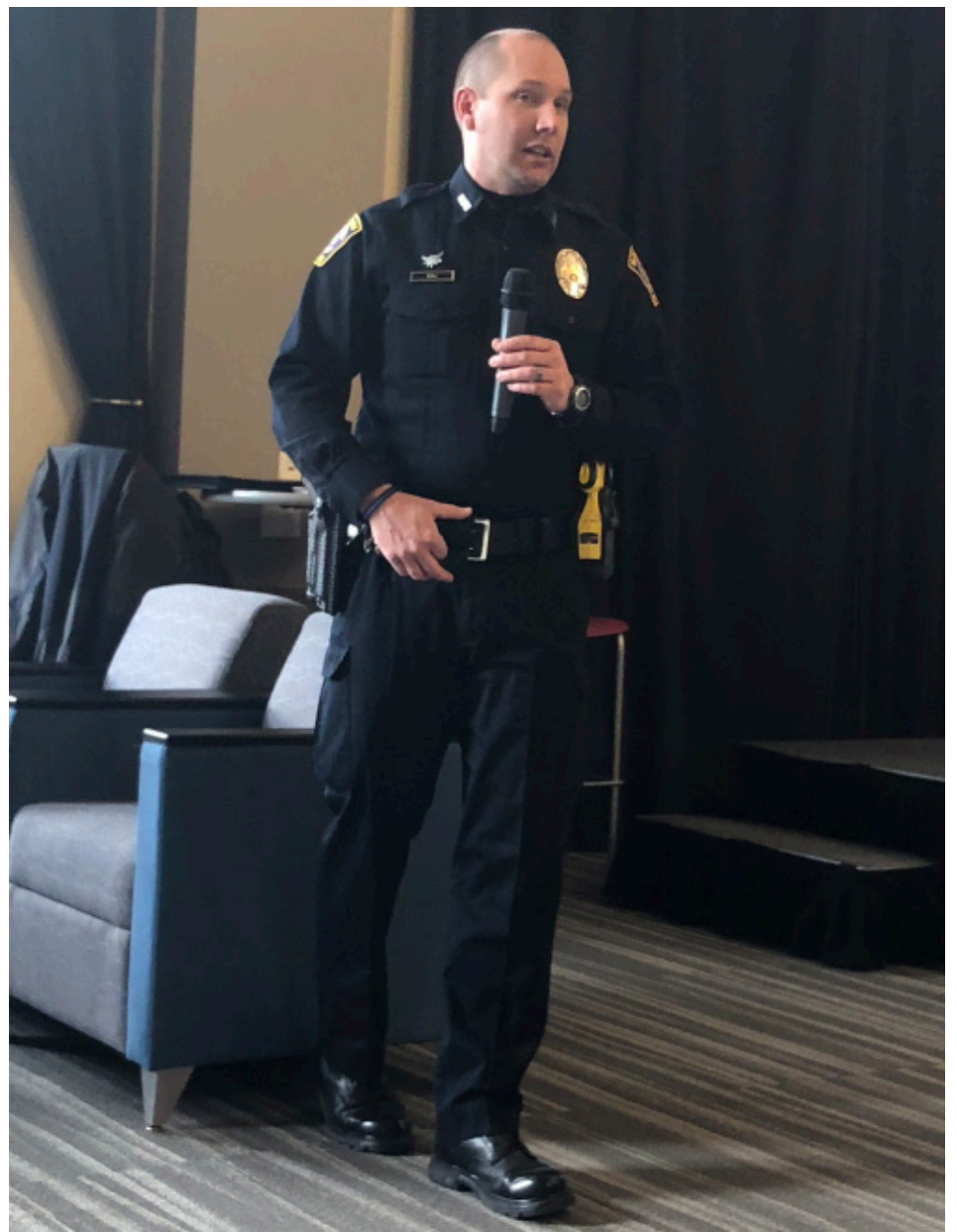
Egli acknowledged that most school shooters are white males who act alone. However, he said there is no hard profile to identify possible threats.

Egli encouraged anyone who sees something suspicious to speak up right away. Notifying public safety or local law enforcement could help prevent confrontations from escalating.

"Communication is very important," Egli said.

Egli and Stack emphasized that it is imperative to prepare for active shooter situations.

"The more we train, the better we are. Open your minds. Start putting yourselves in some of these situations," Stack said.



(Above) McCandless Police Detective Eric Egli speaking about active shooter scenarios © JULIA FELTON

Egli said, "We recommend that everybody does something to train."

Furthermore, Stack explained that, while the campus may have widespread safety protocols, each person has to protect himself or herself in these scenarios. He said, "You as an individual have to have your own plan."

While preparation is imperative, Egli said that there is no exact way to train for an emergency. "There's no right or wrong answer," he added.

Director of Public Safety Mark Wilcox encouraged everyone to sign up for E2Campus, an emergency alert system the college can use to communicate in emergency situations.

"The platform will automatically e-mail you," Wilcox said. These e-mails

will be sent to all La Roche College e-mail accounts.

He also told people to sign up for text alerts. Students and staff can sign up for these text alerts on the Intranet. Wilcox said there are flyers around campus that provide that information.

Enrollment in the text message notification program expires after two years. For students whose account may have expired, Wilcox suggested signing up for the notifications again.

Wilcox said he invited these experts to speak at the school because this is a topic of particular concern recently. He said, "I know this is a topic everybody's really worried about right now."

Jack Mangold (right), a business management major, reads poetry at an event Sigma Tau Delta hosted on March 2



© HEATHER RADICK

Ambler, continued from page 2

went from there and, ever since, I've loved it."

According to Ambler, she does not have a particular style of interior design, but she does see rustic and industrial influences in her work. She noted her interior design style has evolved during her years at La Roche.

Studio classes, Ambler added, have impacted her because of the creativity they allow. She noted the classes offer exposure to a wide range of designs, including residential, health care, education, retail, restaurant and commercial.

Fallingwater, the house Frank Lloyd Wright designed in 1935, also inspired Ambler to enter the design field.

"I just really like buildings that interact with nature or are a part of nature," Ambler said. "I think that's my main inspiration."

During the spring 2017 semester, Ambler said, she completed an internship with Nancy Sakino Spears. She noted Spears is the past president of the American Society of Interior

Designers West chapter.

"Overall I think it (the internship) was a good experience," Ambler said. "It definitely showed me how difficult it would be to own your own business like she (Spears) does in residential. Residential in Pittsburgh is a little more challenging than commercial."

The internship, Ambler added, also helped her hone her interactional, networking and marketing skills.

Starting in March 2018, Ambler noted, she will intern with PWCampbell contracting. The company, Ambler said, mostly works in financial companies, so her internship will focus on commercial design.

Cultural Events, continued from page 5

survey. Due to their other important commitments, students said that they would attend events if they were at better times and advertised more.

Lee said, "I wish the offerings were at more convenient times or advertised more in advance so I could ask off work."

Forty-six percent of students said that they see advertisements for these events regularly. Students noted that they hear about these opportuni-

ties most through email, and flyers or posters. Some indicated that they find out about these events through other people, and others indicated they use the events app to keep up to date.

Over 48 percent of those surveyed said that they go to events on their own time, often due to scheduling problems.

Elektra Davis, a sophomore and performing arts major, said, "It's nice that they give us opportunities to go

but times aren't always convenient."

"I'm just not very active on campus because of my work and class schedule," biochemistry junior Breanna Marvin said.

In other situations, students responded that they were not interested in the events that La Roche offered and wanted them to be more exciting or relevant.

"I don't get into cultural events often," sophomore communications major Shayvon White said.

Out of the rest of the responses, 42 percent of students said that they attend both with school and on their own time. Only ten percent wrote that they go solely outside of school.

"I don't use La Roche for events," sophomore history major Caleb Magee said. "I'm just here for school; (any) personal life and outings I plan on my own or with friends."

With this in mind, the students commented on their approval of the variety of cultural events offered through the Student Development Office.

More than half of students wrote that they were neutral on the variety of events offered on campus. The data does not express why that is a result, but more variety may encourage more students to participate.

Sarah Fuchigami, a junior perform-

ing arts major, said, "It would be cool to have more opportunities to see ballet."

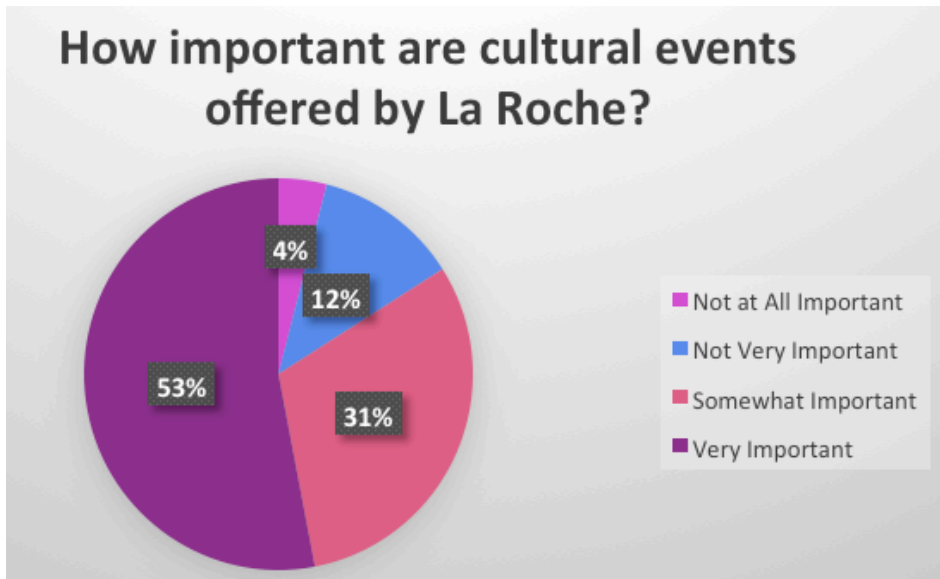
Some students wrote that variety is important overall because it lets students experience things they may have never had a chance to go to before, along with attend Pittsburgh-specific events.

"People have different interests," junior communications, media, and technology major Peyton Bahorich said. "There needs to be something for everyone."

Nevertheless, the impact of cultural events could be something that student take with them throughout life, and further enrich their college experience. In some instances, this is not how students would like to get involved, but 53 percent of those surveyed believed that cultural and creative events are a very important aspect of the college experience.

"It is eye-opening in many ways!" junior international affairs major Rebecca Najdzinski said. "And they're always a lot of fun!"

Davis said, "As a performer myself, I believe students should be given the opportunity to go to events and continue to culture themselves."



(Above) The survey asked students to consider the significance of La Roche's cultural events

© SARAH HEFFERIN

Walkout, continued from page 1

Stoneman Douglas High School a month before.

Audino concluded the presentation by quoting Marjory Stoneman Douglas, the activist after whom the high school was named: "Be a nuisance where it counts. Do your part to inform and stimulate the public to join your action. Be depressed, discouraged, and disappointed at failure and the disheartening effects of ignorance, greed, corruption, and bad politics. But never give up."

Audino, Meeder, and Spezialetti said they thought this was an important event to host on campus.

Meeder said: "In pointing to specific instances of mass school shootings, we were able to make this issue seem as salient as it really is. Usually, when a mass shooting happens, the media covers it for two to three days non-stop, and then all discussion ceases. We don't want to forget this. In order for shootings like this to cease, and to look for comprehensive solutions to this problem at all angles, it's something that has to remain fresh on our minds."

"I think it was a big step to see a student-led event at La Roche," Spezialetti added.

Audino encouraged students to take action. "I wanted this student body to take a stand on gun violence, no matter what their personal views were. It is important for our future that we as students take action and know that we have a voice in decisions our government makes," Audino said.

Audino, who spearheaded the movement, said she wanted to organize this event to support her sister. Audino said her sister's high school has had three gun threats since the shooting at Marjory

Stoneman Douglas.

Meeder mentioned that he drew inspiration from historic student-run movements. He cited the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, which helped combat Jim Crow laws, as one example of young people making a difference.

"My goal was to help empower students to fight for a change," Meeder explained. "Throughout history, students and young adults have been the

moving force for social change in the United States."

Spezialetti explained that this event was not meant to impose any certain belief on students. She said: "I think it is very important to be able to talk about issues without taking sides. We didn't do this to promote gun regulations or to encourage schools to take a different stance on bullying. We did this to call attention to the horrific murders that occur while American students are pursuing an education."

Meeder said, "While the issue is

polarizing, in terms of what we believe the solution to the problem [is], we all acknowledge that something must change. The fact that school shootings happen so commonly in the United States that many are desensitized to it is appalling."

Audino also said she wanted to thank the professors who allowed students to walk out of their classes. She expressed gratitude to the faculty and staff who attended the walkout and the active shooter presentation that hosted the following day, as well.



In the CC Square, SGA had numerous student speakers address gun violence as part of the walkout © ALLISON BOSWORTH

Day, continued from page 7

Let's talk about your college years for a moment. You are obviously very active in helping others with their college experience now, but how active were you in college?

I got progressively more active. I was involved in Greek life, and I got involved in student government, campus radio station, and campus media. I really liked campus media. The SGA thing was just wanting to impact things on a larger scale, I guess.

What do you think that your involvement in college did for you throughout the rest of your life?

There's relevance everyday in my job to things that happened as an undergrad. Because I work in a college, it's relevant certainly. What I went to school for was communications. The things I went to school for are important to what I do every day. And then understanding that involvement is part of that process of self-discovery. Discovering one's skills and competencies and exploring your interests is important for young people. I think in college, you should be cultivating your interests. In my work, that's why we buy tickets for the theater, the ballet, musicals, and public speakers. That's why we have the philosophy we do activities-wise. Let's expose people to as much as we can and let them decide what they like and what their interests are.

If you had to relive your college experience, what would you have done differently?

I guess when you're young, you're more reckless, so I don't know that I'd change. There's nothing I can change. I think that I would've tried to have been more engaged, better engaged. Even though I was involved and SGA president, I felt like there were huge pockets of campus life that I missed out on. I could've even been more involved.

What would you have done the same way?

I'd do a lot of the things the same way. I was really good about going to class. I was paying for it myself, so I took the academics seriously. I was ready to learn. I was a much better college student than I was a high school student. I went to class and I did well.

What do you think was the most important lesson you learned in college?

You've got to make it happen. You've got to work hard and make it happen. Whatever you do, just do the best that you can. You have to have value to an organization, so you have to have a work ethic and you have to do things. You have to produce. There's nothing more to it. You have to have skills. You have to have value.

What's your favorite part of your job? What's the part of your job that makes you want to come to work every day?

I think that certainly the place I work, the people I work with, our



From left to right: Madison Barton, Adam Rozmus and Mollie Farruggia promote Redhawk Tabletop, La Roche's gaming club © JESS LEE

student life staff—it's a good bunch of people that really care a lot about the students. This is not just a job. It's a life. I bring my kids here. We go to basketball games on weekends. We see students out everywhere, so it doesn't stop and start when you drive onto the campus. It's definitely the people I work with and the atmosphere.

What is the most frustrating part of your job?

The one thing we always go back to is, because we're a small campus, we lack a critical mass. It's hard to sustain things on a really permanent scale. Some years, it's harder than others to sustain the Courier, student government, and all the student organizations. Sustaining them over a long period of time is a hard thing, but that's what we strive to do. We strive to make sure that there is a newspaper and the newspaper has everything they need. Same thing for student government. It's essential that student government exists and functions, even though at times they achieve more and are more cohesive than at other times. In terms of frustration, it's just that there's not more people engaged.

What would be your ideal solution to solve these problems?

I don't think you can fix it. I think our student involvement levels are the same as—if not better than—90 percent of other institutions in this country. I'd say we're probably ahead of a lot of other places. But I think that it's just hard when you only have 1,500 students to begin with. We know a lot of people work. They generally are involved and they do participate to some level, but they're busy. If you look at the dynamic of our campus, the resident population is probably more engaged. I think what our campus life is is what it's going to be.

Working within those confines, what can you do to encourage students to become more active, to be involved, or to take on leadership roles?

Our philosophy is really to do things on an individual level, to connect with individual people. If a student walks in says, "I want to start this club" or "I want to go to this event," then I want to make that happen for that student. Our job is to say yes to students.

Are there any broader initiatives you have to encourage the campus to become more active?

The one thing that's new is that we started a student engagement grant. We tried to make funds accessible. We're trying to make activity funds available to student organizations. The student engagement grants are a big thing to try to get more student participation, but also to make funds available for people to do what they want to do. The other thing we're starting to work on is digital video editing. We want to be able to make promotional videos and get more stuff up online. What we're seeing with leadership development is that students don't necessarily want to come sit in a room for a lecture on this skill or that skill. What we want to do is videotape some sessions and make it available online for our students to be able to watch whenever they want to watch it. We try to operate as much as we can on a personalized level.

You obviously think it's very important for students to be involved. Why do you think that's so important?

I think it helps them find their interests. I think it helps them become good at things. As far as I'm concerned, you're going to be a more employable individual because of the skills you've learned. You have to be self-aware and engaged in the process of making yourself better. When you're doing that, you're making La Roche better. Whether you're running the marketing club or student government, if you're engaging yourself and engaging others, it has this growth effect. You're getting better. You're making the people around you better. You're making the campus better. That's the philosophy of involvement. Plus, you're more likely

to stay enrolled in school, do well in school, and graduate.

What are some things that you personally have done to make La Roche better?

Some of the things I'm most proud of are some of the things students have been able to do here. Students have been empowered and supported enough to achieve what they wanted to do. There are people who are now doing great things in the world. Empowerment is something I think I bring to La Roche. In terms of Student Development, it used to be called College Activities. I think we were very much seen as like bounce houses and slip-and-slides. I think I've tried to get our department more in line with student development theory. I'm not just here to entertain students—while that is one part of it. It's a more holistic view of growth over time.

What has been your favorite memory here at La Roche?

I'd say the strongest memory I have is of people who passed away. I think I've got a lot of great memories here, but the strongest memories are of people who have passed away. We've had students pass away. I don't know if there's just one great memory. I want to win a soccer championship, so I think that memory's still out in front of me.

What would it mean to you to win a soccer championship?

It would mean a lot. That's a big goal of mine personally. I don't know what it would mean. That's a specific goal that myself and a lot of people have been working for for a long time. We'll see if we can do that.

What is the biggest piece of advice you would want to share with La Roche students?

Take advantage of the opportunities. I want them to squeeze every drop of opportunity out of this place. Get their money's worth. I feel like a lot of people leave this place without having really discovered themselves and opened up to La Roche as much as they could have. I feel like there are a lot of students who leave a lot on the table. But there are a lot of students who get full value out of La Roche. I like seeing students like that.

"I thought that college really impacted my life to give me a purpose and a drive that wasn't there before. I want other people to find the same thing - what makes them tick, what they're good at."

- David Day