



## An Editor's Farewell



Photo Courtesy of MaryBeth Edmundson.

BY: MARYBETH EDMUNDSON, FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Spectator was killed by COVID-19, just like a host of other campus activities. I was unaware of this my freshman year, in the fall of 2020, when my main concern was whether or not campus would be closed after Christmas break and if we would ever be allowed to not wear masks in the gym. It wasn't on my radar until my advisor, Dr. Rogers, told me the fall of my sophomore year.

"We're bringing back The Spectator next semester," he told me. "And you'll get credit for doing it."

Well, sign me up, I thought.

So I went to that first meeting and listened as our newspaper advisor, Dr. Tricia Ostertag, gave us the run-down. I sat there, impatient. When did we learn our assignments?

I was lucky. After Tricia asked our names, she looked at me. "What do you want to do? What do you like to do?"

My heart leaped. "I would love to edit."

And, readers, here we are. I became the newest, and first since Covid, Editor-in-Chief of the Walsh University Student Newspaper, The Spectator. For four out of my seven total semesters, I remained in this position and loved it the whole time. I loved editing articles and working with my fellow students to make each edition. For a year, my layouts editor was also my roommate, Sadie Pozderac, which made it all the more fun. The Spectator had quickly become one of my favorite parts of being a student here. I wouldn't always write articles, I left the page space mostly to my staff writers, but every once in a while, my articles made an appearance or two.

That's not to say it was always easy: my least favorite part of this job was certainly emailing my writers asking for late articles, reminding them this was for a class, and therefore a grade, but I was lucky enough to only send out a stern email every once in a while.

This position showed me how much I really do love writing, editing, and working in a job such as this. It was one of my favorite organizations to be involved with on campus. And, upon graduating, this is already one of the things I miss most. The words, "Remember when I was the editor?" have definitely left my mouth more than once in the short time I've been gone. It does seem to me that the smallest things are what mattered most during my time at Walsh. And, while The Spectator might not seem small, especially my part in it, there were things that absolutely felt bigger in the moment, like friendship roommate drama, final exams... things that, now, don't seem as important, now that it's all over.

I'll miss my editor job. I'll miss The Spectator. I'll miss writing, editing, and seeing my words in

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print, but I'm excited for what's coming next, in my post-grad life. I have some very exciting life events coming up. I'm so thankful for my time as Editor-in-Chief, and my successor, Nadya Hudak, is off to a fantastic start. So here's to look forward, onward, and upward. Know of my prayers for you all, and please pray for me as my journey continues.

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## Cybersecurity and Community at Walsh University

BY: AQUEELAH AL QASSIM, STAFF WRITER

In the rapidly evolving digital landscape, cybersecurity has become a paramount concern for educational institutions, and Walsh University is no exception. As technology continues to play a central role in academic and administrative processes, safeguarding sensitive information and fostering a secure online environment is crucial. However, at Walsh University, the approach to cybersecurity extends beyond mere technical measures; it is deeply intertwined with the sense of community that defines the institution.

Walsh University's cybersecurity strategy is built around a commitment to educating the community about the importance of digital safety. The university recognizes that cybersecurity is a collaborative effort involving all members of the community, rather than just IT professionals. Regular awareness campaigns, workshops, and training sessions are held to provide students, faculty, and staff with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the digital realm safely.

The university also places a high value on collaboration and information sharing. Open communication channels allow individuals to report potential security threats and share best practices, fostering a sense of community. This collaborative approach establishes a network of vigilant eyes and ears that work together to quickly identify and address cybersecurity challenges.

In addition to technical safeguards, Walsh University integrates ethical considerations into its approach to cybersecurity. The community is encouraged to adopt responsible digital practices, promoting a culture of digital citizenship and ethical behavior. This not only enhances the overall security posture of the institution

but also instills values that extend beyond the digital realm.

Walsh University's commitment to cybersecurity complements its dedication to building a supportive and inclusive community. The understanding that a secure digital environment benefits the community highlights the institution's holistic approach to education.

As technology continues to advance, Walsh University remains at the forefront of cybersecurity, adapting its strategies to address emerging threats. By weaving cybersecurity measures into the fabric of its community values, Walsh University ensures that its members are not only well-prepared to face digital challenges but also actively contribute to the collective security of the institution. In doing so, Walsh University exemplifies how a strong sense of community can be a powerful ally in the ongoing battle for cybersecurity in the academic sphere.

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Photo Courtesy of Walsh University

## Cavs Coalition Makes Difference on Walsh's Campus

BY: NADYA HUDAK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Recently, with the help of Kathie Gray, students on Walsh's campus, including myself, have created the Cavs Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition. This coalition on campus has been assisting in the education and prevention of human trafficking on Walsh's campus.

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# STUDENT LIFE

In December, the coalition elected leaders to keep up the work, these members included:

President: Nadya Hudak

Vice President: Olivia Carter

Secretary: Chloe Hershberger

Treasurer: Annabelle Ehmer

Social Media Coordinator: Faith McNulty

After electing our leadership, we got to work on our first event for the Spring semester. Our event for fall, the Community Freedom Summit, had been a big success, so we would like to have something equally as successful to bring awareness to this topic plaguing our community. Since January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, we decided on an educational table with resources and ribbons for those who wanted to support the day and do their awareness on campus.

This event, set in David on February 3, went well and the Anti-Human Trafficking Cavs Coalition was excited to see those who took a ribbon and came out to the event. Our table featured resources, ribbons, and other merchandise from the organization that assists us, Not For Sale: One Step At a Time.

Coming up, the Anti-Human Trafficking Cavs Coalition will be hosting a self-defense event on Walsh's campus in the Birk Center for the Arts. Dr. Dunphy, Walsh's Vice President for Academic Affairs, will lead the class, teaching students how to protect themselves. As a coalition, we thought it would be a good idea to host an event like this on campus to promote safety and prevention.

This event will take place on February 3 in the Birk Center for the Arts. Those who want to participate can sign up at the QR code below or go to the link in the bio of the Coalition's Instagram @wuhtcoalition.



Photo Courtesy of Nadya Hudak.

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## Private Study Rooms at Walsh University

BY: AHMED ALAALI, STAFF WRITER

At Walsh University, academic excellence is not just a goal; it's a commitment. One of the ways the university supports its students in achieving this commitment is through the provision of private study rooms. These dedicated spaces offer an invaluable resource for students seeking a quiet and focused environment to enhance their learning experience. Situated within the heart of the campus, these private study rooms at Walsh University serve as sanctuaries for students grappling with complex assignments, preparing for exams, or engaging in collaborative projects.

The rooms are designed with the student's needs in mind, providing a tranquil atmosphere conducive to concentration and productivity. Equipped with modern amenities such as comfortable seating, ample desk space, and adequate lighting, these study rooms offer more than just isolation—they foster an environment where students can immerse themselves in their studies without distractions. The university understands that every student has unique study preferences, and these private rooms cater to individual needs, allowing for personalized study sessions. Booking a private study room is a seamless process at Walsh University. The online reservation system ensures that students can plan their study sessions ahead of time, guaranteeing access to these coveted spaces when needed.

This convenience reflects the university's commitment to empowering students to take control of their academic journey. Moreover, these private study rooms play a crucial role in promoting a sense of community among Walsh University students. While each student has their own designated space, the overall atmosphere encourages a shared commitment to academic success. It becomes a place where ideas are exchanged, collaborations are born, and collective learning thrives.

In conclusion, Walsh University's private study rooms stand as a testament to the institution's dedication to providing students with the tools they need to excel academically. By offering these well-equipped and accessible spaces, the university underscores its commitment to fostering an environment where students can flourish in their pursuit of knowledge and academic achievement.

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# SPORTS

## Walsh's New Sport: STUNT

BY: ANNABELLE EHMER, STAFF WRITER

What is STUNT? STUNT is a new sport through the NCAA and only two conferences in the United States are competing in. Walsh has a full roster of 16 girls who will compete within the GMAC as the inaugural fully funded STUNT team.

STUNT is not a typical cheer competition that people think of. The teams are given routines created by the NCAA and have to learn the material and compete at the same time. Two teams will go on the mat at the same time, and compete in a routine that is the exact same, whoever has the least amount of mistakes at the end, will win the quarter. There are four quarters played; partner stunt, jump and tumble, and pyramids, and the fourth quarter is all three routines put together at once.

The team's first competition will be held on February 2nd and 3rd at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville Tennessee. Walsh STUNT will take on four times while in Nashville; Trevecca, Mercyhurst, Baldwin Wallace, and Malone University. The home opener will shortly follow this competition on February 9th at 6 pm versus Ashland and 7 pm versus Muskingum. Walsh STUNT will have a stretch of four consecutive home games. If you like to support Cavathon, Walsh STUNT will be hosting a Miracle Child at their home game on Sunday, February 11th at 1 pm and again at 3 pm. Want to watch a STUNT competition but do not want to pay for a ticket to get it? Walsh STUNT has selected their home game on Saturday, February 17th versus Malone to be the "WU game" to receive free admission tickets.



Photo Courtesy of Annabelle Ehmer.



Photo Courtesy of Nadya Hudak.

## Upcoming Sports Events:

### Women's Basketball

- 2/8/24 - Home vs Hillsdale College
- 2/10/24 - Home vs Northwood University
- 2/17/24 - Home vs Malone University
- 2/22/24 - Home vs Trevecca Nazarene

### Men's Basketball

- 2/8/24 - Home vs Hillsdale College
- 2/10/24 - Home vs Northwood University
- 2/17/24 - Home vs Malone University
- 2/22/24 - Home vs Trevecca Nazarene

### Women's Bowling

- 2/3/24 - Muskie Mash, Coshocton, Ohio
- 2/17/24 - Ohio Bowling Conference #5, Columbus, Ohio

### Men's Bowling

- 2/3/24 - Muskie Mash, Coshocton, Ohio
- 2/17/24 - Ohio Bowling Conference #5, Columbus, Ohio

### STUNT:

- 2/9/24 - Home vs Ashland University and Muskingum University
- 2/11/24 - Home vs Hiram College and Heidelberg University

### Women's Track and Field:

- 2/2/24 - Ashland Invitational, Ashland, Ohio
- 2/9/24 - Grand Valley Big Meet, Allendale, MI
- 2/16/24 - University of Akron, Akron, Ohio

### Men's Track and Field:

- 2/2/24 - Ashland Invitational, Ashland, Ohio
- 2/9/24 - Grand Valley Big Meet, Allendale, MI
- 2/16/24 - University of Akron, Akron, Ohio

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# Walsh Basketball Triumphs Over Walsh Dominican

BY: NADYA HUDAK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Walsh Men's and Women's Basketball faced Ohio Dominican in a doubleheader on Saturday, January 13.

The women played first against the 3-10 team Ohio Dominican in a match that started close. The first half of the game had each team fighting for the lead with the first quarter ending with Walsh trailing Ohio Dominican with a score of 19-13. The Ohio Dominican Panthers would not hold this lead for long, with Walsh's Cavaliers coming back in the second quarter with twenty more points being scored. By the half of the first game, The Panthers held the lead with 35 against the Cavalier's 33.

During halftime, the audience was able to be entertained by Glenwood Middle School's seventh and eighth-grade basketball teams in a spirited match. This break fueled both teams to come back stronger in the third and fourth quarters with a combined 48 more points being scored on Walsh's team and 40 more points on Ohio Dominican's. Despite each team coming back strong, Walsh was able to come back stronger, ending the game 81-75 on a win. High scorers on Walsh included Kiley Durland with 28 points and Alycia Triplett with 15 points.

Following an exciting performance by Walsh's Pep Band, the men's game began with Walsh quickly asserting their dominance over the Ohio Dominican Panthers, scoring 27 points in the first half and keeping them on their toes. At halftime, the men's team lead over the Panthers with a score of 27-19.

During the second half, players Logan Murray, Kobe Mitchell, and Garrison Keeslar defended the Cavalier's winning streak fiercely. The Cavaliers nearly doubled their percentage of field goals in the second half, scoring 45 points alone compared to Ohio Dominican's 11 points. Their might against Ohio Dominican led to a win, the game ending 72-30.

The Men and Women Cavalier basketball teams will play on campus again on February 8 against Hillsdale College in the Alumni Arena. Go Cavaliers!



Photo Courtesy of Annabelle Ehmer.

## Student Involvement in Cavathon Makes Waves on Campus

BY: ANNABELLE EHMER, STAFF WRITER

What is CAVATHON? And how do students get involved? CAVATHON is a year-round organization that fundraises money that is donated to Akron Children's Hospital. During the year, a majority of our fundraisers are sponsored by Miracle Kids from the hospital. These kids all have unique stories about being in the hospital, and how they ended up on top. We sponsor kids who are considered cancer-free, have been in car accidents, had specific lifesaving surgeries, lifelong diagnoses, and more.

Students can get involved with this organization in many ways! CAVATHON's main event this year will be held on April 6th from 7 am-7 pm, yes 12 hours, on Walsh Campus. This event will consist of color team competitions, dance parties, raising money in "jail", and more! This year's CAVATHON main event theme is "UP!" the Disney movie. Students can sign up for any color team and participate in the main event, or they can get involved by donating when the organization fundraises.

CAVATHON is going to have a lot of ways for the student body to get involved over the Spring Semester. The organization will be hosting many Miracle Kids at multiple sporting events including STUNT, Basketball, Lacrosse, and more! The organization is also putting on a fundraiser called "Cookie Call." This specific fundraiser

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consists of the CAVATHON board members taking cookie orders throughout the week, baking cookies, and delivering the order to dorm rooms. This fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, January 30th and the cookie delivery will be in the evening starting around 6 pm. There will be a QR code on flyers, posted on social media, and more that will give you the opportunity to put in a larger order for cookies. The cookies will be sold at \$1 apiece. Remember, all the proceeds from this fundraiser go straight to the hospital to support the kids! Be sure to follow CAVATHON on Instagram @WUCAVATHON to see upcoming events, how to sign up, and more!

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Photo Courtesy of Audrey Dornisch.

## It All Starts in the Garage

BY: ALYSSA COCCHIOLA, STAFF WRITER

Google, Apple, Amazon, and Mattel—what do these successful companies all have in common? They all started in someone’s garage. The Garage: Nolan Family Center for Innovation at Walsh University provides a space for like-minded students interested in entrepreneurship to turn their dreams into reality.

### A Glimpse into The Garage

“The Garage is a resource for students who are interested in starting their own business now or in the future! It is a place for creativity and study, community and discussion, learning and application,” said Audrey Dornisch, Chief Executive Officer of The Garage. Dornisch is a Finance major with a minor in Data Analytics, class of 2026.

She continued, “If students aren’t necessarily interested in starting their own business, it is still a great resource for students to make connections and learn about start-ups!”

The Garage is a student-run entrepreneurship program located on Walsh University’s campus. It was founded in 2015 by four students: Josh Ippolito, Andrew Chwalik, Matt Strobel, and Iagos Lucca. The motto of The Garage is “by students, for students.”

Amelia Freeman, Chief Financial Officer of The Garage, shared, “I joined the Garage my freshmen year because I wanted to become more involved in business opportunities here at Walsh and make connections. The Garage benefits students by supporting their entrepreneurial ideas and turning them into a reality.”

Freeman is a sophomore at Walsh majoring in Finance.

“I joined The Garage because I love all things business!” Gia Mazzolini, the Chief of Marketing of the Garage, shared.

Mazzolini is a freshman at Walsh majoring in visual communication design and double minoring in business and digital marketing analytics.

“I currently run two small businesses--one where I design and make self-care apparel (soulstuff.co), and my other business is a branding company where I help other small businesses with anything from design to photography,” Mazzolini shared. “The garage is a great way to help students start their own business and I love being a part of that!”

The students at The Garage work with other students who have existing businesses and students who have ideas for startup businesses. In The Garage, a student’s dream can become a reality.

### Upcoming Events and Opportunities

The Garage hosted its “Innovate and Elevate” event on Jan. 25 to highlight student and alumni entrepreneurs while launching its upcoming “pitch competition.”

“We’re kicking off the pitch competition at our networking event ‘Innovate and Elevate...’ Those who attend this event will be able to communicate with both student and alumni entrepreneurs which may spark some inspiration for their own businesses,” Freeman said.

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The students in the Garage are hard at work planning Walsh's own WU Launchpad, a pitch competition. There, students will have the opportunity to pitch a business idea to a team of judges to win a top prize of \$5,000. This event will take place on April 18.

Freeman explained, "As Garage CFO, I will help prepare students for this competition and help them with funding for their businesses and prototypes."

Mazzolini additionally offered support for the competition.

"Whether you're a startup enthusiast, an aspiring entrepreneur, or someone with a groundbreaking idea, It's your chance to shine. The Garage will also be with you every step of the way, providing you with any recourse or help you may need!" Mazzolini said.

The Garage is also in the process of acquiring more equipment to assist students in their entrepreneurial journeys. Mazzolini noted that the Garage is in the process of obtaining a Cricut, embroidery machine, and more.

"Through the Garage, I have learned how to 3-D print, which has been a goal of mine since I was in sixth grade," Dornisch shared. "It is so cool to now be able to work with the printers on my own and cross that off my bucket list!"

The Garage is hosting the following events on these dates:

- Feb. 1: WU Launchpad Kickoff
- Feb. 8 & 15: Open Garage
- Feb. 23: Think Tank
- Feb. 29: Progress Check
- March 14, March 21, & April 4: Open Garage
- April 12: Think Tank
- April 18: WU Launchpad

Freeman concluded, "My favorite part of being in the garage is hearing speakers and meeting other students at our events. The Garage is a great place to make connections, explore opportunities, and start a business!"



Photo Courtesy of Alyssa Cocchiola.

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## Valentine's Day

BY: DOMINIC GEMMA, STAFF WRITER

The holidays are an interesting phenomenon in our culture. Every year, at the same time, our society collectively decided to celebrate the same thing. In a world of divisiveness and strife, the holidays should, in theory, be the thing that we all agree on, right? Well, not really.

In my experience, one of the most hated holidays is Valentine's Day. There seems to be a genuine disdain for this holiday, both from people who are not in relationships, but also people who seem to be in them. This begs the question: why does the holiday about love get so much hate?

Truth be told, as someone single for 20/21 Valentine's Days he has been a part of, I can safely tell you that 21/21 has not been a pleasant experience for me, and the reason why is because the point of Valentine's Day (celebrating love) is at direct odds with how our culture chooses to celebrate it.

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The plight of the romantically single person is fairly well documented. As a single man who is open to a relationship, Valentine's Day can be a drag. It can be hard to have everyone celebrating their romantic love they have found and enjoy, while you are still seeking. This can lead to jealousy, bitterness, and frustration. While it sounds like these feelings are exclusively for singles, I can tell you that being in a relationship did not make Valentine's Day more enjoyable.

Valentine's Day was a day I felt like I had to nail when I was in a relationship. It felt like I got an opportunity to do something special for my girlfriend at the time, but it also had a twinge of expectation to it. I felt like getting her flowers on Valentine's Day was not the same as getting her flowers any other day of the year. This expectation of how we ought to receive love on certain days can hinder the way we relate to one another.

Back in 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General declared that the United States is in an "epidemic of loneliness and isolation." He goes on to explain, "Our individual relationships are an untapped resource—a source of healing hiding in plain sight. They can help us live healthier, more productive, and more fulfilled lives. Answer that phone call from a friend. Make time to share a meal. Listen without the distraction of your phone. Perform an act of service. Express yourself authentically. The keys to human connection are simple, but extraordinarily powerful."

In many respects, this is true. Sure, going on dates is fun, but so is getting pizza with the boys on a Saturday night. Valentine's Day may celebrate a romantic kind of love, but love in all its forms deserves celebration.

Love is not strictly getting someone flowers and a good meal, but being the shoulder that they can cry on when they are sad. Love is not just chocolates in a box, but also having someone's back when they need it most. Love is putting someone else's needs ahead of your wants. Regardless of whether that is in a romantic relationship, a bromance, or a group of friends, that kind of love should always bring us joy and should be a cause worth celebrating this Valentine's Day.



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As an organization, the Spectator accepts the responsible traditions for the democratic press to inform, entertain, investigate, interpret, and evaluate. The Spectator recognizes its responsibility to provide a forum for diverse opinions, to serve the interests and needs for the Walsh University student body and to provide news and commentaries that are fair and accurate.