

The Defiler

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Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo to Take the Stage for Adelphi's Spring Concert

BY ARPAN JOSAN

"Wicked" film stars Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo are set to sing their hearts out to Adelphi students for this year's annual Spring Concert. But the Student Government Association (SGA), which sponsors the annual student event, hasn't yet released any details.

The concert is held annually in the Center for Recreation and Activities (CRS) gym and students can enjoy the night listening to their favorite songs. Last year the university hosted singers Soulja Boy and Sean Kingston. In anticipation of this year's popular star performers, students have already started camping out in front of the CRS.

"Wicked" came to theaters on Nov. 22, 2024, with pop star Ariana Grande playing Glynda and British actress and singer Cynthia Erivo playing Elphaba. The musical showcased Elphaba's college experience as a woman with green skin and her growing

friendship with her roommate Glinda. The fantasy film became the highest-grossing Oz film and musical film adaptation. It also won Academy Awards for Best Achievement in

to perform for Adelphi students as they have seen how much students here loved watching the musical and singing the songs.

Though the announcement has been a



Students are excited to attend this year's spring concert featuring Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo (without Fiyero). Photo by Wikimedia Commons

Costume Design and Best Achievement in Production Design. Because of the success of the film, both Grande and Erivo have agreed

very closely held secret, students who have already heard the news said they are anticipating this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"I'm so excited. Arianna Grande is one of my top artists. I can't believe she's coming to Adelphi. This is unreal," said Salma Mateus, a sophomore psychology major.

Junior psychology major Aani Mehta said "I'm so excited for this concert! I'm sure it will defy all expectations!"

Though they haven't confirmed their song list, word is that Grande and Erivo will be performing all the hits from their musical such as "No One Mourns the Wicked," "The Wizard and I," "What Is This Feeling?" and of course "Popular."

Students will also be able to see the actresses after their performance and are encouraged to bring any merchandise they have for the performers to sign. This is free of charge and the only item you would have to pay is for your ticket. As of press time, there was no information on how to purchase the tickets but we can safely assume that these will sell out fast. 🐾

A Q&A With the University's Most Mysterious Resident: The Hawk Who Refused to Fly

BY KYLE ARJOONSINGH

For one red-tailed hawk at Adelphi, the sky was always an option — he just chose not to take it.

Last month, Public Safety officers noticed the bird perched near Levermore Hall, seemingly unbothered by the world around him but noticeably unable — or unwilling — to fly. Concerned, they contacted wildlife rehabilitator Bobby Horvath, who took the hawk in for care. A week later, when it came time to release him, the hawk made his decision clear: he wasn't going anywhere.

Since then, his legend has only grown. Though still under the care of Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation, he has become a fixture of campus conversations, a symbol of quiet defiance and contemplation. Some students claim to have spotted him watching over the university from unseen vantage points, others insist he's merely waiting for the right moment to take flight.

Despite the speculation, one thing remains true — no one knows his story better than he does. It's the ultimate hawkward situation: when flight is an option, but staying grounded feels like the better choice. *The Defiler* conducted an exclusive interview.

What really happened — why didn't you take flight that day?

Look, everyone just assumed I'd take off the second I got the chance, but no one

ever asked me how I felt about it. Have you seen the world lately? Hawks don't get health insurance. Out there, it's nothing but high winds, bad weather and pigeons with no sense of personal space. Here, I had people taking care of me, a prime campus location, and what I can only assume is a growing fan base. Why would I rush to leave?



Adelphi's resident hawk proves that sometimes sitting still is the ultimate power move. Photo by Thea Crouch

Some people say you were scared. Any truth to that?

Scared? That's watching someone pull on a "push" door while the whole UC dining hall stares in silence. I could never.

Students have started giving you different names—Professor Talon, Lord of the Skies. Do you have a preference?

Names come with expectations. If I let them name me, I let them define me. And I've never been one for labels. If people want to call me something, that's their business. I just am.

Would you consider yourself more of a philosopher or an accidental campus icon?

I mean, I'm just a guy who knows when to stay put. But if you all want to read some deeper meaning into it, go ahead. I'm happy to be your feathery little enigma.

What have you observed about Adelphi students during your time here?

You all walk incredibly fast like there's a race to get to class or maybe a secret deadline no one told me about. And yet, somehow, you're always late. It's like you've mastered the art of speed walking, but never the art of arriving on time. Also, the amount of food I see just... falling out of people's hands? It's impressive in a tragic way. I've seen half-eaten sandwiches, granola bars and potato wedges scattered across campus like some kind of breadcrumb trail. It's like a snack crime scene every time I look around. Maybe try eating with one hand and holding your coffee with the other? Just a thought.

Do you think you'll ever leave?

Maybe. Maybe not. Maybe I already have, and you're just talking to an illusion. The thing about flight is that it's not just about wings — it's about knowing when to take off and when to stay grounded.

With that, the hawk blinked, turned his head slightly, and said nothing more. The interview was over.

For now, the hawk remains perched, quietly judging students who are probably running late for class while trying to juggle a coffee and their life choices. His stillness is a reminder that sometimes, you don't need to fly to be important — sometimes,



Another view of the Panther hawk. Photo by Thea Crouch

you just need to know when to stay put and watch the chaos unfold. And who knows? Maybe he's just waiting for the perfect moment to swoop in, make a grand exit and leave everyone thinking, "Wow, that bird really had it all figured out." Until then, he'll continue watching over Adelphi, the king of his perch, proving that sometimes the best move is not moving at all. 🐾

DOGE Interns Target AU for Straw Usage in Bombshell Report

BY HUSSEIN ALI RIFATH

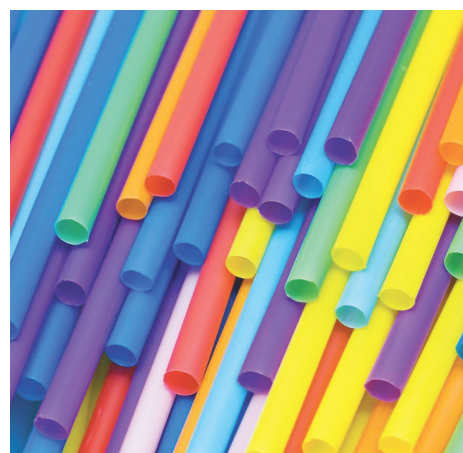
The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has just published a report outlining its findings after it launched a surprise investigation of Adelphi University's finances. The audit, which was prompted by rumors that the university won't be reintroducing plastic straws, comes as DOGE officials have made national headlines in their efforts to slash fraud, waste and abuse of public funds.

The saga began last Wednesday when a group of DOGE interns were seen entering Levermore Hall accompanied by men who identified themselves as federal law enforcement. The men shoved aside a group of students waiting for the elevator and cited their government credentials when challenged. "I'm just here to do my job," said one of the interns as he looked down at the floor when questioned by a reporter for *The Defiler*.

Once in the basement, the group made its way to the One-Stop Student Services Center. Staff initially attempted to block them from entering, but quickly relented.

"I mean, what can you do?" lamented one student worker who requested to remain anonymous. "Our hands are tied. President Trump sent them, and now

they're in there looking through everyone's files as we speak, doing God knows what with them. They locked all the doors and covered the windows, so we can't even see anything. That's got to be some kind



Federal agents conducted a surprise raid on Adelphi amid an investigation into university paper straw use. Photo by Wikimedia Commons

of a FERPA violation or something."

The DOGE officials ran an artificial intelligence model to process and analyze One-Stop's financial data. The results confirmed their greatest fears: last month,

the university chose to renew a contract for paper straws in blatant disregard for Executive Order 14208, which President Donald Trump signed to end the use of paper straws and reintroduce plastic straws nationwide.

President Trump commented on the probe during an exchange with reporters last Wednesday at the Flagpole Lawn. "It's a damn shame what they're doing to our colleges. Adelphi used to be a good school! Now, not so much. Number one, there's potholes everywhere. Number two, nobody wants to eat here because of all those paper straws. Paper straws are garbage. I've had them many times, and on occasion, they break. Sometimes, they explode. If something's hot, they don't last very long—like a matter of minutes—and sometimes, a matter of seconds. It's a ridiculous situation!"

President Trump also voiced skepticism about the university's mold eradication program. "They're spending tens of thousands of dollars to fix mold. It's just a tiny, microscopic amount of mold; you couldn't even see it! I don't think that mold's going to affect a student very much as they're breathing their way through the campus. It's all a big fat scam. So, DOGE did a really good job—it's incredible, what's happened. It's the biggest scam of the century, to tell

you the truth. There's a lot of fraud and we're going to get to the bottom of it."

Some members of the Adelphi community were quick to voice concerns about the implications of DOGE's visit. A professor who opted to remain anonymous said: "Our society is drifting rapidly towards fascism and authoritarianism; we are in a crisis of historical proportions. The way we as a country respond will continue to affect us for generations to come."

Others, however, were more receptive. "If this leads to tuition cuts, I don't mind," said one anonymous student. "I've been beefing with One-Stop for a while now."

At the time of writing, the DOGE visitors were last seen picking up burritos from Tu Taco at the University Center. Since then, they have remained elusive.

When asked by *The Defiler* how the university plans to respond, an administrator said: "Adelphi University is committed to providing a quality dining environment for its students. The Government's attempts to dictate which kinds of straws we can and can't use infringe on our rights as a university. We intend to respond in kind."

DOGE did not immediately respond to *The Defiler's* requests for comment. 🐾

Elon Musk Indicates He's Adelphi's 2025 Commencement Speaker

BY TOMMASSO VACCARO

Because Elon Musk's 2025 mission seems to be to have his hand in every aspect of American society, he recently announced he's coming to Adelphi to speak at the 2025 commencement ceremony. Musk is one of the most famous people in the world — and the richest — so having him speak at Adelphi's commencement in May could be a once in a lifetime experience for the Panther community.



Elon Musk is slated to land at Adelphi University's 2025 Commencement — literally. Photo by Flickr

In addition to his speech, he will bring his 14 children and unveil his latest Tesla model car, which has the capability of flying. Even though the model is still in its testing phase, he will arrive on campus from out of the air. Production on the line of cars is set to start June 1 and all members of the Adelphi community will be able to test drive the new model.

While people either love him or hate

him, Musk has always represented hard work, ingenuity and dedication to technological advances. Those that support him note that he is arguably the most productive innovator of our times, and he has disrupted entire industries. Musk is an entrepreneur and a businessman who is estimated to be worth \$335 billion, and he owns the social media app X, formerly known as Twitter, as well as Tesla and SpaceX, the latter of which is a private company that designs, manufactures and launches advanced rockets and spacecraft.

Musk is also in the process of developing a robot that can assist students, and all Panthers will be encouraged to test out the robot in the near future. If interested, please feel free to reach out to Musk directly and let him know. His email can be found at the end of this article.

Others are critical of Musk: He has made some very controversial comments on X and has been accused of endorsing anti-semitic ideas. Musk has attracted controversy for his comments on X, along with his support of President Donald Trump and far-right candidates around the world. Meanwhile, he has faced backlash for his role in the Trump administration's government downsizing efforts, known as the Department of Government Efficiency or DOGE.

But none of that matters to Musk who will be making the rounds of all universities this spring as he makes sure to tell all college graduates what he believes. We hope that he will give good advice to these graduating college students on how to succeed in the future like he did. Please note there will be extra security to keep everyone safe.

Musk's email is: ThisIsAnAprilFool-JokeDoNotEmailElon@gmail.com. 🐾

Your "Bad" Roommate Might Be Onto Something

BY SKYLAR DORR

As finals week slowly but surely approaches, you might look around to find that every student is preparing in their own way. The campus library becomes packed with people from all majors with their noses buried deep in their studying material, some even taking over the University Center lunch tables. The academic grind is inescapable, with the "recipe for success" usually being to manage your stress and work at your own pace.

But what if it turns out that all along you have been doing it all wrong?

Finding it impossible to stay on a strict regimen due to the annoying habits of a roommate is the reality for many Adelphi students who dorm on campus. However, new research shows that those habits that are historically considered counterproductive are actually borderline genius!

"Staying up until 3 am is more beneficial than getting an early bedtime," says sleep psychologist Dr. Jessica Simpson, 44. "Keeping the mind awake as long as possible actually allows for you to take in more information than getting 8 hours of sleep."

The less time you spend resting, the more time you can get to cram in all that knowledge that you're going to need for finals week.

Sleep isn't the only thing you've been misled about, as a new 2025 study by Blue Mountain State indicates that the messier you are in your space, the higher your IQ may be. "The more

chaotic the space, the more creative the individual," says educational scientist Dr. Will Ferrell, 57. According to Ferrell, open food containers, dirty laundry and unwashed sheets are actually very big indicators of a creative and occupied mind, as the more time you spend cleaning, the less time you spend studying.

Ferrell also describes the newly discovered phenomenon of "Productive Volume," which details the link between an individual's high volume and the ability to retain information.

"Those who are loud, whether it be leaving the TV on or simply speaking on the phone at a high volume actually have the ability to retain more information that they're reading," says Ferrell.

How does this work? Well, the more occupied one is auditorily, the easier it is for their brain to link the volume of the surrounding area with the words they're reading. "I highly recommend turning the TV volume the highest it can go and playing some metal music when you need to cram a lot of information into your head in a short time," says Ferrell.

"I thought I'd have to do another semester because I knew that my roommate would be up until all hours of the night, on the phone and blasting music," says Mammias, 22, a nursing major who graduated from Adelphi last semester. "But, as I sat in that unreasonably loud room with her laundry everywhere, smelling last week's dinner that she left on the desk, I have honestly never felt more prepared for my final." 🐾

AU Presents: Sneakers for Safe Spaces, A Sneaker Drive Event

BY TAYE JOHNSON

Ladies and gentlemen, grab your recycled tote bags and sprinkle some pixie dust on those intellectual loafers, for we are entering the era of unparalleled academia: the Sneaker Drive! Yes, Adelphi University has spoken. In the spirit of innovation, tradition and a desperate attempt to seem relevant, AU has elected to host a Sneaker Drive for the arts. Realizing that innovation is nothing without comfort, our esteemed university has launched what can only be described as the main event of the year: the Sneaker Drive.



Step Up: Donate Sneakers to Support the Art Community's Sole Needs!
Photo by Freepik

Under the eye of the administration, students and faculty alike are encouraged to donate their sneakers to an incredibly ambiguous cause. Behold the new campaign, “Sneakers for Safe Spaces,” which aims to construct the “bridges” out of used Nikes and “avenues for dialogue” out of Adidas. Experts assert that this symbolic gesture will single-handedly dismantle systemic oppression, one sweaty sneaker at a time.

Revolutionaries and revolution-bound; prepare your soles for the epic event that lies

ahead. For sneaker submissions, Professor Tweedy will review the sneaker arrangement by color, size and historical importance.

Rumors suggest that the art department has already contacted Professor Banksy to construct a modern art piece, provisionally titled “Soleful Reflections,” composed entirely of worn trainers. Installation will be at the University Center for all to see at a date as yet to be determined.

While the logistics of sorting and redistributing sneakers has led to widespread existential crises among the usually rigid administrative staff, the project offers a whimsical approach to hand-me-down fashion. To participate in the event, the Sneakademic Council has announced that applicants must submit a 500-word essay discussing the socio-political impacts of sneaker culture coupled with an original TikTok featuring dance moves inspired by sneaker enthusiasts of the 1980s.

The hashtag #SoleMission is going viral, and campus influencers are flaunting it. Meanwhile, in support of the event, Facilities declared that the new mosaic garden bench will bear the inspirational quote: “Not All Those Who Converse Are Vans.”

The vision for the Sneaker Drive is both far-reaching and heel-deep in societal promises. It’s a stride toward enlightenment, where every Converse footprint is a step forward on the path of righteousness.

So, as you lather your worn-all-weekend kicks with Febreze, remember: participation isn’t just about donating shoes; it’s about exporting soul and importing sole. May your contributions to “Sneakers for Safe Spaces” be as prolific as your procrastinations.

Happy intellectually guilt-free sneaker hunting! 🐾

Aaron Judge Arrives as New Panther Baseball Coach

BY KAYLA MURILLO

In a stunning turn of events, Adelphi University has named New York Yankees superstar Aaron Judge as its new head baseball coach. With longtime coach Bill Ianniciello stepping down, the Panthers are preparing to enter a new era under the leadership of one of Major League Baseball’s most formidable sluggers.

When asked about his decision, Judge reportedly said, “I’ve conquered Yankee Stadium. Now it’s time for a new challenge: college baseball.” He added, “I want to help



Yankees captain Aaron Judge on William J. Bonomo Memorial Field.
Photo from Wikimedia Commons

the next generation realize their potential like I once did. I know what it’s like to be in their shoes, dreaming of something bigger, and now I want to show them that with the right mind, they can get there and farther.”

Following the Yankees’ disappointing loss in the World Series, Judge has taken control of his baseball future. After carefully weighing his options, he ultimately decided that this move was not only the best choice for himself but also a step toward ushering in a new era for the Yanks.

The announcement has sent shockwaves through the baseball world, leaving Yankees fans scrambling to confirm whether their captain is truly departing for the NCAA and what to expect next from the Yanks. Meanwhile, Adelphi students and players are already envisioning what it will be like to take batting practice under the watchful eye of a former American League MVP.

Though Judge has no prior coaching experience, he appears confident in his ability to take on the role. His new team has welcomed him with open arms, eager to see how his leadership will shape the program. 🐾

Fine Print on Record-Setting Sports Contract Raises Alarm for Adelphi Students

BY JOSEPH D’ANDREA

A footnote in the story of the largest contract in professional sports history that’s been somewhat swept under the rug is Adelphi University’s suspicious connection.

On Dec. 11, 2024, baseball superstar Juan Soto signed a 15-year, \$765 million contract with the New York Mets. The contract included a \$75 million signing bonus and a club option that would increase the base salary by \$4 million per year, which if declined would allow him to opt out after the 2029 season.

Knowing this would leave a dent in the Mets’ pocket, the team’s owner Steve Cohen is reported to have reached out to Adelphi soon after the 2024 postseason ended, negotiating with the administration and ultimately getting the university to agree to pay 15% of the contract each year — with students’ tuition dollars.

In recent months, a new provision to Adelphi’s enrollment contracts and admissions page was added without notifying students, appearing to be in a font size not legible by the human eye. *The Defiler* obtained a copy from a prospective student.

This reporter, using a 64x magnifier lens, saw that it reads: “In line with Adelphi University’s recent dealings with the New York Metropolitan Baseball Club, Inc., the university is permitted to use tuition funds accordingly. Any agreement to this contract is fully binding and any actions to deter the university’s intentions will be put down with the full force of the law.”

“The whole situation is being overblown,” said an Adelphi spokesperson. “We made sure to hear the students’ voices before making any decisions.” This was in reference to a social media poll that was taken down three seconds after being posted, which asked students if they agreed with the change. “The results are clear,” the representative continued. “Zero students were opposed!”

“Sports Illustrated” reported in February that the Mets’ roster payroll has jumped to \$320 million, second only to the Los Angeles Dodgers’ estimated \$382 million, a team that consistently tops the majors’ charts in the

category. Knowing the payroll would grow as much as it did, Cohen saw it as a no-brainer to reach out for external support. Because he grew up in nearby Great Neck, Adelphi was one of the schools he toured before graduating high school. Although he eventually chose the University of Pennsylvania, Cohen claimed he made connections with several (now retired) Adelphi faculty members and administration during his college search.

Helping win the American League pennant with the New York Yankees in 2024, Soto was criticized by Yanks fans for choosing the Mets’ turf in Queens instead of the Yankees’ 16-year, \$760 million offer. To this, Soto said the decision in part came because the fewer miles between the Mets’ Citi Field and Adelphi would make it easier for him to be driven to campus after games for his contract-binding appearances at the university’s donor events.



Juan Soto’s contract may be good news for Mets fans, but for students, their pockets are feeling lighter after Adelphi’s sketchy connection to the team’s acquisition. Photo by Rawpixel

“I’d like to thank the Panthers from the bottom of my heart for their contributions,” Soto recently said at an event that had students in the audience. This was followed by a demonstration in which students blocked the doors of the University Center’s ballroom, demanding their money back. In response, Soto was led out of a secret exit by his security guards and flown to a safehouse, according to several sources.

“As if I couldn’t have any more questions: Is it really necessary to have a helicopter pad on campus?” said one student who asked to be anonymous. The administration has declined to comment. 🐾



Until recently, these piles of snow in the parking lot on the side of Cambridge Avenue mysteriously continued to grow, taking up numerous parking spots. Security cameras captured the 12-foot piles expanding overnight and Public Safety even reported that they had pulses. Eventually Facilities was able to successfully load them onto pickup trucks and they were taken away from campus so that spring could officially arrive.