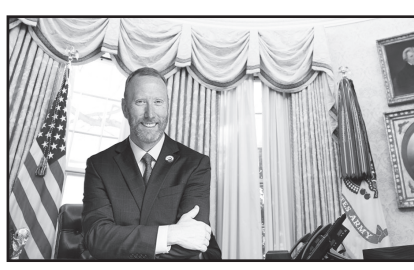


Should Big Red be replaced?, B1



Patterson elected as U.S. president, C1



Taylor Swift performs at Luhrs, D1



Football wins Division II Championship, E1



Thursday
100/85



Friday
28/0

Please recycle



The Slate

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Reporting silliness. Pranking our community.

Thursday, April 2, 1969

SU erects large marble statues of Big Red, Shippo the Hippo

Megan Sawka
Silliness Editor

Shippensburg University unveiled two stone marble statues Monday on the university's quad, permanently enshrining its pair of beloved mascots, Big Red and Shippo the Hippo, in the heart of campus.

The sculptures were carved from Italian marble by a Shippensburg University student who asked to remain anonymous amid the mixed campus reaction to the project. They stand roughly 6 feet tall and bookend the walkway leading to the library. Big Red perches atop a granite pedestal with wings partially spread, while Shippo stands on all four legs.

University officials said the project, funded entirely through private donations raised over 12 months, cost

approximately \$340,000. Planning began in the fall of 2024 after the student government association formally petitioned the administration for a permanent tribute to the mascots, both of whom appear at athletic events and university functions.

University President Charles E. Patterson stood before a crowd of several hundred students, faculty and staff at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"These statues are more than stone," Patterson said. "They are a declaration that Raider pride is permanent, that this community has a spirit worth celebrating and worth preserving for every generation of students who will walk this campus after us."

Patterson, who has served as the university's 18th

president since 2022, has made campus identity and community building central priorities of his tenure. He pointed to the project as an example of what student advocacy can accomplish when met with institutional support.

The reaction among students ranged from enthusiastic to emotional.

"I cried a little, honestly," said Jayden Pohlman, a senior from Gettysburg studying visual media. "Shippo has been at every single one of my best memories here. Seeing him in marble just made everything feel real."

Not everyone was purely sentimental. Mara Eberle, a senior from York, had a more practical take.

"I'm already planning where to put my graduation photo," she said, gesturing

toward Shippo. "That is the spot now. It will look great in pictures."

Several students noted that the dual-mascot arrangement reflects a unique feature of Shippensburg: few universities can claim both a bird and a hippopotamus as official representatives.

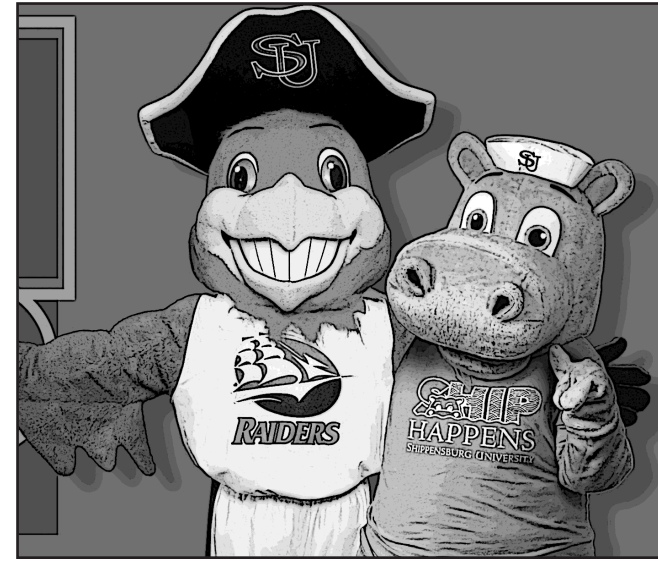
Big Red, the red-tailed hawk, has served as the athletic mascot for the Raiders for decades. Shippo the Hippo was adopted as a campus life mascot years later, emerging from an April Fools' Day prank. The pairing has long been a source of gentle humor on campus and considerable creativity in university marketing.

The student sculptor, who spent more than a year on the commission, declined to speak on the record, citing the polarizing response the statues have generated

among peers. Some students have questioned whether the funds could have been better directed toward academic resources or scholarship aid, while others have

championed the project as a lasting contribution to campus culture.

The statues are expected to become a fixture for campus tours and alumni visits.



Jayden Pohlman / The Slate

Reactions have been overall positive to the statues erected on the quad. However, some wonder if this was a huge waste of money.

The Slate eliminates human writers in move to AI platform, citing efficiency and innovation

Matthew Scalia
Strongly Opinionated AI Lover

An editorial in the inaugural edition of The Slate once said that a newspaper is only as good as its staff. That may have been true at the time, but with improvements in technology, the modern newspaper is only as good as its AI platform.

That is why we here at The Slate are proud to announce that this will be the last article written by humans, a process that has largely been inefficient and wasteful. With our new Slate AI, brought to you by the same technology that guides autonomous drones, all articles, pictures and videos on The Slate website will now be generated by the most intelligent (artificial) mind on the planet, instead of some tired student.

Instead of sending reporters to your campus event, we will now send our only remaining non-leadership staff member to wheel in a cart with a laptop on it who will press the prompt button. We know the presence of this human worker is unfortunate. But the good news is it is only temporary as we are in the process of installing Palantir-powered facial recognition cameras around campus. Holding a march for equality? Have no worries, our surveillance cameras will be there to take all the names and all the facts about your event and attendees, for news purposes, of course.

Photography is another area we hope to improve under this new system. For too long, we have had to hope that a staff photographer was at the right place at the right time to take a photo of something happening. No more. Now with descriptions of the event scraped from social media and some prompting by the editor-in-chief — who will be our only remaining human after we no longer need a person wheel the cart places — we will be able to recreate scenes better than you actually remember it happening. After all, how much can you really trust what you see?

We understand that this decision may be received negatively by some. The good news is you still tell us about it, as our opinion page will still be published, with some changes to process. Now, instead of writing to some editor, we ask that you air your concerns to one of those cameras and include your name and address. Your concerns will be handled according to the AI's judgement.



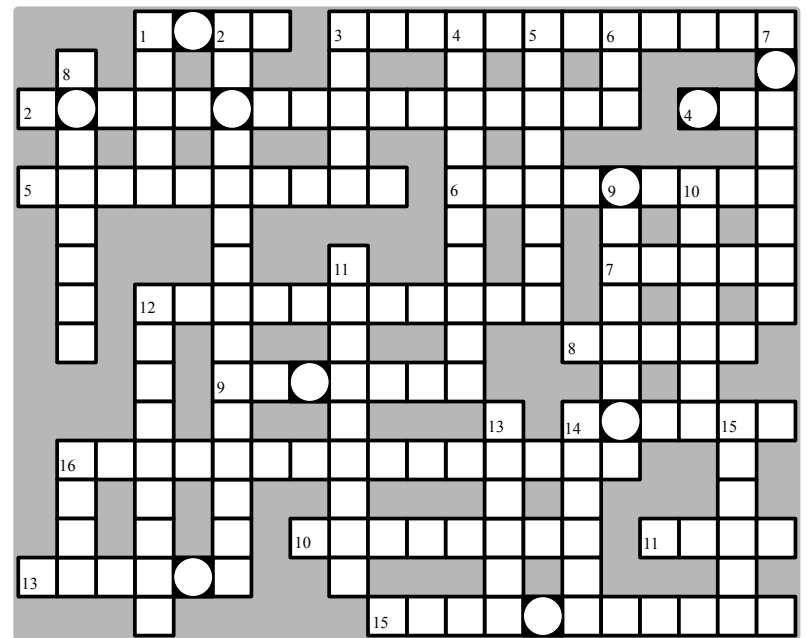
Courtesy of Pexels

Artificial intelligence will replace us all someday, so just let it happen.

Some may be worried about the environmental impact of AI. But have you ever thought about how much of a carbon footprint our staff produced? Our staff had to drive to campus. They had to eat food that required an immense amount of resources to produce. They had to drink Celsius. The Slate AI needs none of that. It only needs a connection to your nearest water source and a city's-worth of electricity.

"How will the students learn," is a concern we have heard. But as Slate faculty adviser Dr. Michael Drager puts it, "students are tired as is," Drager says. "With a machine available to do their thinking, they are free to pursue other opportunities and relax, perhaps catch some time on the slopes."

The April Crossword



Bonus Word Scramble!
Take the letters in the circle cells and place them into the circle row, then solve the word scramble in the square row.



Across

- The term for a person who entertains guests
- An Irish holiday celebrating the Catholic conversion of Ireland
- An American holiday often celebrated with a large dinner with a turkey as the main course
- A sweet purple fruit with red flesh native to the mediterranean
- An American holiday to celebrate mothers
- A general term for the profession of a tailor, embroiderer, or sewer
- The Italian word for twenty, also the term for a twenty-ounce drink
- To come together with a common purpose
- The term for a determined, argumentative, or pugnacious person
- A Jewish holiday characterized by the eight days and eight nights it's celebrated
- A physical metal currency often in a circular shape with an embossed design
- The first holiday in the calendar year
- A term used to describe a cheap joke or pun
- A group of religious practitioners
- A type of short growing grass often used in fields and lawns in America
- An international holiday celebrating humanitarians

Down

- A feeling or guess based off of intuition
- The most viewed sporting event in America
- A term referring to the earth, rock, or landscapes of an area
- An American holiday of peaceful protests to emphasize that the country belongs to the people, not monarchs
- The term for a quick and unexpected event
- A long leafed vine
- A term referring to something of great size
- An American holiday celebrating the contributions of American workers
- The term for doing something with great love and care
- The general term for a villainous creature in a fantasy story
- Canada's independence day
- The term for a newsworthy person or event
- To move in a twisting or winding motion
- A crescent-shaped nut grown on a tropical evergreen tree
- A metamorphic rock known for its unique banded foliation, also a homophone with the word 'nice'
- To silence someone

Crossword by Astrid Huber.

Disclaimer: This page features satirical, fictitious stories for April Fools' Day.