

True Detectives

THESE STUDENT NANCY DREWS GATHER CLUES TO PURSUE REAL CRIMINALS

ONCE A WEEK, at the University of Pittsburgh, a group of students pore over the grisly details of homicide cases that are older than the students themselves. These amateur detectives—22 women and 3 men—call themselves Students Conquering Cold Cases. They gather in a classroom at night, plotting out theories on whiteboards while projecting the victims' neighborhoods via Google Maps onto giant television screens, hoping to help families find closure after the violent deaths of their loved ones.

Before joining the club, members must go through an application and interview process and must maintain a 3.25 grade point average or above. Emma Stewart, a sophomore and the vice president of communications for the club, is a psychology and philosophy major who hopes to pursue a career in behavioral analysis for the FBI or the government. "It's been a great way for me to engage in the criminal justice field," she says, "rather than just learning about it in a class."

Currently, the club is investigating a John and Jane Doe who were discovered partially and fully skeletonized as well as two homicides of elderly women in the Pittsburgh area. They do this by interviewing witnesses, family members, law enforcement officers, and first responders



Emma Stewart, Vice President of Communications (left), and Tiffany Lee, Vice President of Students Conquering Cold Cases

involved in each case. They've also Skyped with an FBI agent to get more intel.

Started in 2015 by undergrads Nicole Coons and Hannah Eisenhart, the club was inspired by the disappearance of a local 21-year-old woman and was advised by Ron Freeman, a retired Pittsburgh police commander in charge of violent crime investigations. Freeman stepped down in 2017 and a new advisor took over. While the club has yet to solve a cold case, this doesn't deter the hard-working students from continuing their investigations. "Collectively, we all have the same main goal," says Stewart. "Solving these cases and bringing peace to family members and the community." —JENNIFER CHEN

The House That Vadge Built

PUSSY POWER HOUSE IS BRINGING INTERACTIVE, FEMINIST FUN TO L.A.



PUSSY POWER HOUSE, a new L.A.-based arts group dedicated to presenting "interactive events and experiences by a community of women standing together to promote self-love and personal expression," has been making waves in L.A. since they began throwing parties last March. Pulsing with music, art, comedy, and live performances, their events follow a new theme each month—like "self-care," "personal growth," and "selfishness"—while also providing attendees with opportunities to learn about herbs at a medicine bar, shop handmade goods by local artisans, and connect with their feminist community. "I believe what we do is sacred and important," says founder and curator Corinne Loperfido. "There needs to be a space for people who have a pussy, and identify with their pussy, to talk about that kind of stuff. We want to create new ways of existing by welcoming people to express themselves." For more info, visit pussypowerhouse.org. —MEGHAN SARA

PHOTOS: HEATHER MULL (STUDENTS CONQUERING COLD CASES); LEONE JULITTE (PUSSY POWER HOUSE)