



Duquesne students join Women's March

CRAIG TAYLOR
staff writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At 4:15 a.m. on Jan. 21, Duquesne speech pathology graduate students Sarah Leech and Jessica Arruda loaded a charter bus headed on a four-hour trip to Washington, D.C. for the Women's March on Washington.

"I just think it was something that I think I'll never forget and I hope that one day I get to tell my kids about it or my grandkids about how I went," Arruda said.

The Women's March on Washington was organized to bring light to social issues surrounding gender, race and religion in the United States. Held the day after Donald Trump's presidential inauguration, nearly 500,000 protestors surrounded the National Mall by that afternoon, according to The New York Times.

Leech and Arruda joined the thousands of others in the streets of D.C. heading to a rally, which would be followed by the march itself. Many wore pink knitted "pussyhats," while others held picket signs criticizing President Trump.



CRAIG TAYLOR/STAFF WRITER

A group of picket sign-carrying Women's March protesters move toward the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Jan. 21.

DU law profs. reject AG nominee

RAYMOND ARKE
asst. news editor

A new president means a new administration. Sometimes, however, appointees can draw plenty of controversy.

Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the nominee for Attorney General, has garnered significant scrutiny since he was picked for the job. On Jan. 10 and 11, he faced in his hearing a national letter of over 1,000 law school professors opposing his nomination — two of whom are from Duquesne.

Tiffany Sizemore-Thompson is an assistant clinical professor and supervises several law clinics at Duquesne. She decided to sign the letter opposing Sessions because of his stances on civil rights and to support other professors who shared her opinion.

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Event to discuss current Pa. legislation on police body cameras

BRANDON ADDEO
news editor

An event at Duquesne this Friday will discuss the balance between protecting privacy and protecting police investigations.

The Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law is hosting "Balancing Safety, Justice and Privacy: Body-Worn Cameras, Forensic Evidence and the Right to Know" Jan. 27 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Power Center Ballroom.

The talk will cover the history of how police record encounters with suspects, current legislation regarding body camera use and "the competing interests of public safety, privacy and the 'right to know,'" according to Ben Wecht, program administrator for the Cyril H. Wecht Institute.

Speakers at the event include Pittsburgh Police Cmdr. Clarence Trapp; Erik Arneson, executive di-

rector of Pennsylvania's Office of Open Records and Duquesne Associate Law Professor John Rago, who helped draft a bill on body-worn cameras (BWCs) currently in the state legislature.

Pennsylvania Senate Bill 976, first introduced in 2015, seeks to change wording in the Wiretap Act — which makes recording an individual's voice without their consent a third-degree felony — to protect police officers who capture audio in a private residence.

"Currently, the Wiretap Act does not permit officers to enter a private residence with an activated body-worn camera," Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R-Bucks), the bill's primary sponsor, wrote in a 2015 memorandum to the Senate. "My legislation will permit officers to do so, because so much of their work involves responding to incidents taking place inside a residence."

"Measures can be taken to pro-



COURTESY OF WEST MIDLANDS POLICE/FLICKR

Police body cameras will be discussed at the event, a part of the Cyril H. Wecht Institute's "Forensic Fridays" series, along with a pending bill in the state House.

tect the privacy of the occupants of the residence, and the recordings will enhance any prosecution of wrongdoers inside the residence," he added.

Wecht said SB 976 has many potential benefits.

"If passed, it is expected that this bill would create greater accountability by law enforcement agencies,

more trust in policing and government by private citizens and the media and more solid evidence in the adjudication of criminal and civil complaints," he said.

SB 976 passed the state Senate 45-5 on Oct. 19, and is now being considered by the House of Representatives. The state House is also considering objections to the proposed bill from members of the media and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), who took issue with the "current near-impossibility" for members of the public to access audio and video from body-worn cameras, according to Wecht.

According to the bill, citizens will not be able to access audio and video recordings under Pennsylvania's Right to Know Law. Instead, a requestor must make a written request to the police department in

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BLUFF BRIEFS

Annual Founders Week comes back to Duquesne

This Sunday, Jan. 29, kicks off Duquesne's annual Founder's Week. The theme of this year's events is "To the Ends of the Earth," which will focus on the Spiritan mission of international service.

A variety of events will be held, starting with mass at 11 a.m. on Jan. 29. Other events during the week include a luncheon examining Duquesne from World War II to present, an event featuring Fr. Ray French interviewing President Gormley, and a concert featuring music from around the world.

On Wednesday, Feb. 1, there will be a local beer flight with hors d'oeuvres featuring Spiritans discussing their various world travels. The event is 21 and up only and an RSVP is required. The cost is \$25.

A closing vespers service will be held on Friday, Feb. 3 at 4:30 p.m. in Trinity Hall and a reception will follow. RSVP is required for the reception.

POLICE BRIEFS

Cousin PB has been hearing a lot of talk lately about "fake news" and "alternative facts." Rest assured, Cousin PB's reporting of the litany of wrongdoings happening on Duquesne's campus is 100 percent truthful — though sometimes he wishes they were fake.

On Wednesday last week, a commuter student told Duquesne Police that his bicycle was taken from the bike rack on the fifth floor level of the Locust Garage.

Last Thursday, a student said a small chip of plastic was broken off the driver-side window of his car in the Locust Garage. Also on Thursday, a student in St. Ann's was referred to the Office of Student Conduct for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia. Later that day, campus police took a student who became ill after eating a pot brownie to Mercy Hospital. The student's case was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Sunday, a drunk underage Duquesne student in Towers was taken to Mercy Hospital. The student will be visiting the Office of Student Conduct.

EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

The Duke's news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn't make sense? You can send your tips and story ideas to News Editor Brandon Addeo at addeo@duq.edu.

'Split' criticized for portrayal of mental illness

HALLIE LAUER
layout editor

M. Night Shyamalan's new movie "Split" hit theaters Jan. 20, and while Rotten Tomatoes gave it a 75 percent rating, many movie goers were displeased with the movie's portrayal of individuals who suffer from mental illnesses.

Many online health awareness communities, including U.S. mental illness support group The Mighty, were displeased with the portrayal of the antagonist in the movie.

The film's antagonist, Kevin — played by James McAvoy — is a man living with dissociative identity disorder (DID), previously known as multiple personality disorder. He has 23 different personalities, one of them being referred to as "The Beast."

The plot also revolves around him kidnapping three young girls, creating a villain out of the one character in the movie with a mental illness.

The Mighty wrote a letter Dec. 29 to Shyamalan saying that "Split" represents yet another gross parody of [those with mental illness] based on fear, ignorance and sensationalism, only much worse."

After seeing the movie, Stephanie Ebbert, a freshman elementary education major, said the mov-



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Kevin (James McAvoy), the antagonist in Shyamalan's "Split," who suffers from dissociative identity disorder. Mental health advocacy groups have criticized the film's portrayal of mental illness in a character defined as the villain in the horror film.

ie was "twisted" and "awesome."

"However, it did enhance the bad stereotypes of mental illness because it implies that everyone suffering from the multiple personality disorder is insane and terrible," Ebbert said.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), about two percent of the U.S. population suffers from DID, making it one of the lesser known mental disorders.

"I can understand people re-

acting this way," Samantha Pringle, assistant to the director of the Wellness Center and licensed social worker, said. "Mental health is still a stigma, so when a movie has similar elements it can be upsetting."

Many other independent bloggers took up the same cause, agreeing that this portrayal was offensive to people with DID, yet other movie goers, including some Duquesne students disagreed.

"I thought [the movie] taught

me about how complex their minds can be, and how hard it can be living with a disorder like that," Reilly Zimmerman, a freshman journalism major, said.

For students like Zimmerman and freshman international relations major Gordon Turley, the movie was an eye-opener.

"On the surface it demonized mental illness, but if you look past that you realize that this guy is grappling with an illness [that] no one thinks he has," Turley said. "I thought it was more in time to start discussions and conversations about the unknowns of mental illness."

According to NAMI, one in five adults are living with mental illness, and in the past year 60 percent of those adults did not receive mental health services.

Because of this, mental illnesses are often highly misunderstood.

"The movie is portraying it in a horrific way that is scary and traumatizing," Pringle said. "I would be very empathetic to the people affected by this movie."

She said, however, that it should not be taken too seriously.

"Mental health is such a stigma that, when it's portrayed this way, people are affected by that, but it is a movie," Pringle said. "It is fiction meant to entertain."

D.C. March attracts close to 500,000 demonstrators



CRAIG TAYLOR/STAFF WRITER

Nearly 500,000 protestors filled the streets of the nation's capitol Jan. 21 to demonstrate for a variety of issues. The march occurred the day after Trump's inauguration.

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At the site of the rally, the two encountered a dense mob of bodies. Some protesters climbed trees, as seemingly every corner of the rally was filled with a sea of pink and rainbow.

"I see a lot of nasty women out there," said one speaker, referencing Trump's comments regarding Hillary Clinton. She was

met with a roar of cheers.

Speakers included feminist icon Gloria Steinem, women's activist Angela Davis and singer Alicia Keys. Arruda described the atmosphere as "contagious," "overwhelming" and "full of pride."

While the crowd was loud and tightly packed, Arruda and Leech agreed the vibe of the event was predominantly positive.

"At that march I never felt un-

safe, and there were half a million people there," Leech said.

After the rally, the march was scheduled to begin at 1:15 p.m., but by that point, the entire parade route was filled with protestors, so there was nowhere to go. After an hour, the crowd overflowed onto the streets beside the rally and defected into rouge marches. Even still, demonstrations remained peaceful, and D.C. police reported no arrests resulting from the event.

"AT THAT MARCH I NEVER FELT UNSAFE, AND THERE WERE HALF A MILLION PEOPLE THERE."

—SARAH LEECH
DUQUESNE SPEECH PATHOLOGY MAJOR

Despite the inclusivity of the march, anti-abortion groups say they were not invited to join the event. Students for Life of America report being "harassed and spat upon" by opposing protesters when they showed up. In a Facebook Live video which circulated online during the protest, SFLA were met with boos after unfurling a banner which

read "Abortion Betrays Women."

Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina told Fox News that although many of her beliefs aligned with those held by other protesters, she says she was unable to participate.

"I certainly have been public in my criticism of some of the things that Donald Trump has said in the past ... Sadly, pro-life women were not welcome at this march. I'm pro-life," Fiorina said.

Despite several opposing advocacy group reportedly not being invited to the nationwide Women's March events, the projected turnout is one of the largest for a protest in U.S. history.

Adding together the D.C. event and the sister marches from around the country, Yahoo News reports between 3.3 million and 4.6 million protesters nationwide participated in demonstrations in the name of equality. If accurate, it means one in 100 Americans were involved in a women's march that day.

"It kind of restored my faith in humanity," Leech said. "Because before this, I was angry as all get-out and I don't get angry easily. There was like a fire that was infused [in me], but I feel like now it's a little more on the positive side, like I'm more ready."

"I'm just very proud to be on the right side of history and it gives me more hope and inspiration to keep fighting for future generations."

Trump becomes 45th U.S. President



GRAPHIC BY BRENNAN BIZON/STAFF ARTIST

On Jan. 20, Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States. Trump's inaugural address focused on his long running themes of jobs and crime. He promised to "bring back our jobs ... and get people back to work rebuilding our country." He also said he would stop the "American carnage" of crime and gangs. President Trump promised that Americans "will never be ignored again." *Extended caption by Raymond Arke/Asst. News Editor*

Workshops promote teaching changes



TAYLOR CARR/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Educators gather in room 607 of the Union, Jan. 24 for a workshop focused on improving their teaching methods, hosted by the Center for Teaching Excellence.

LIZA ZULICK
staff writer

On Jan. 23 and 24, Duquesne teachers participated in 30-minute workshops to discover better teaching strategies to make it easier for their students to learn.

The workshops, created by Duquesne's Center for Teaching Excellence, are designed to help teachers change their teaching methods to allow students to learn more easily. Steven Hansen, associate director for faculty development of the Center for Teaching Excellence, designed the short workshops to make it easier to fit into teachers' schedules.

"The thirty-minute workshops

are a way to engage faculty without being a drain on their time or schedules," Hansen said.

The workshops are designed to make small adjustments to teaching methods to help in making big connections to students learning, according to Hansen. This idea is based off of the book "Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Learning," by James Lang, director of the Center for Teaching Excellence at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The micro workshops touch on major topics of teaching such as the transparent assignment design, which is what the workshops on Jan.

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Trump's Attorney General pick Sessions denounced by law profs.

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"The record of Senator Sessions suggests that he would roll back the progress by the Obama administration that many lawyers and advocates have spent their entire careers trying to enact," Sizemore-Thompson said.

The other professor to sign the letter was Tracey McCants Lewis, an assistant clinical professor who also teaches at Duquesne's Civil Rights Clinic and Unemployment Compensation Clinic.

Sessions had been a U.S. district attorney, Alabama's attorney general and a U.S. senator for 20 years before his recent appointment, according to Geoffrey Skelley, a political analyst at the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

Skelley explained why Sessions has been a polarizing nominee.

"The controversy stems from incidents in Sessions' past that have led to claims that he's racist or at the very least racially insensitive," he said. "In 1986, for example, his nomination for a federal judgeship was shot down after testimony about past racially prejudiced comments came to light."

According to CNN, some of these past comments included Sessions saying he thought the Ku Klux Klan was "Ok until I heard they smoked pot," something he insists was intended as a joke.



AP PHOTO

Senator Jeff Sessions testifies before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on January 10. He was nominated for the position of United States Attorney General.

Sessions had also been quoted as calling the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Civil Liberties Union "un-American" and "communist-inspired."

Even though Sessions has a cloud over him, Skelley predicts the Republican majority in the Senate will have no problem confirming him. The Senate Judiciary Committee will vote on him on Jan. 30, and then the vote will move to the entire Senate.

Sessions routinely denied charges of racism during the hearing, according to a variety of news sources.

Part of Sizemore-Thompson's opposition to Sessions comes from

his time as attorney general of Alabama in the 1990s.

"He supported pushing juveniles who had multiple juvenile court appearances into adult court," she said. "He also wanted to move funding from the Department of Corrections to make more space in jails for children and create more boot camps for them."

His support for trying children as adults was something that Sizemore-Thompson couldn't stand for.

"I strongly oppose charging children in criminal court and placing them in adult prisons," she said, adding that there is "overwhelming neuroscience and social science research that suggests it's both a legally and morally wrong decision to

try and sentence children as adults."

Some of Session's recent actions also concerned Sizemore-Thompson. She said she didn't like his opposition to The Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act, a bill supported by prominent Republicans, which would have gotten rid of mandatory minimum sentencing.

"Mandatory minimums are truly an outdated mode of sentencing that even many judges dislike because it removes discretion to look at the lives and circumstances of individual people coming before the court," she said.

Sizemore-Thompson is worried about his appointment would mean for reform.

"I'm deeply concerned that Senator Sessions' record — both past and present — around criminal justice issues suggests that he would be an Attorney General who is not responsive to progressive, humane, evidence-based reform efforts of a system that shows itself to be deeply broken on a daily basis," she said.

It's important that people pay attention to the decisions of power holders, Sizemore-Thompson believes.

"The Attorney General is an extremely powerful member of the federal government that sets the civil rights and criminal justice priorities for our nation. He or she decides what voices will be heard

and which will be silenced around critical issues like discrimination and justice," she said.

Sizemore-Thompson said that Session will make decisions that could "have great potential to affect our everyday lives."

McCants Lewis had concerns over Session's stances on civil rights, especially on police misconduct and voting rights.

"My primary concern was related to Senator Sessions' position on voter fraud. Voter fraud is a myth that has been disproven time and time again, yet Senator Sessions continues to purport that voter fraud and illegal voting is a major concern across the United States," McCants Lewis said.

She cited a case from his time as a U.S. district attorney in Alabama as something she disagreed with.

"Senator Sessions was the first US Attorney to charge civil-rights activists with voter fraud since the Voting Rights Act became law in 1965. Those persons charged were acquitted by a jury of all charges," McCants Lewis said.

McCants Lewis hopes the questions around Sessions will spark interest in examining all presidential nominees.

"I hope the letter brings awareness to the citizens to look at the qualifications of our leaders," she said. "An informed electorate is a smart electorate."

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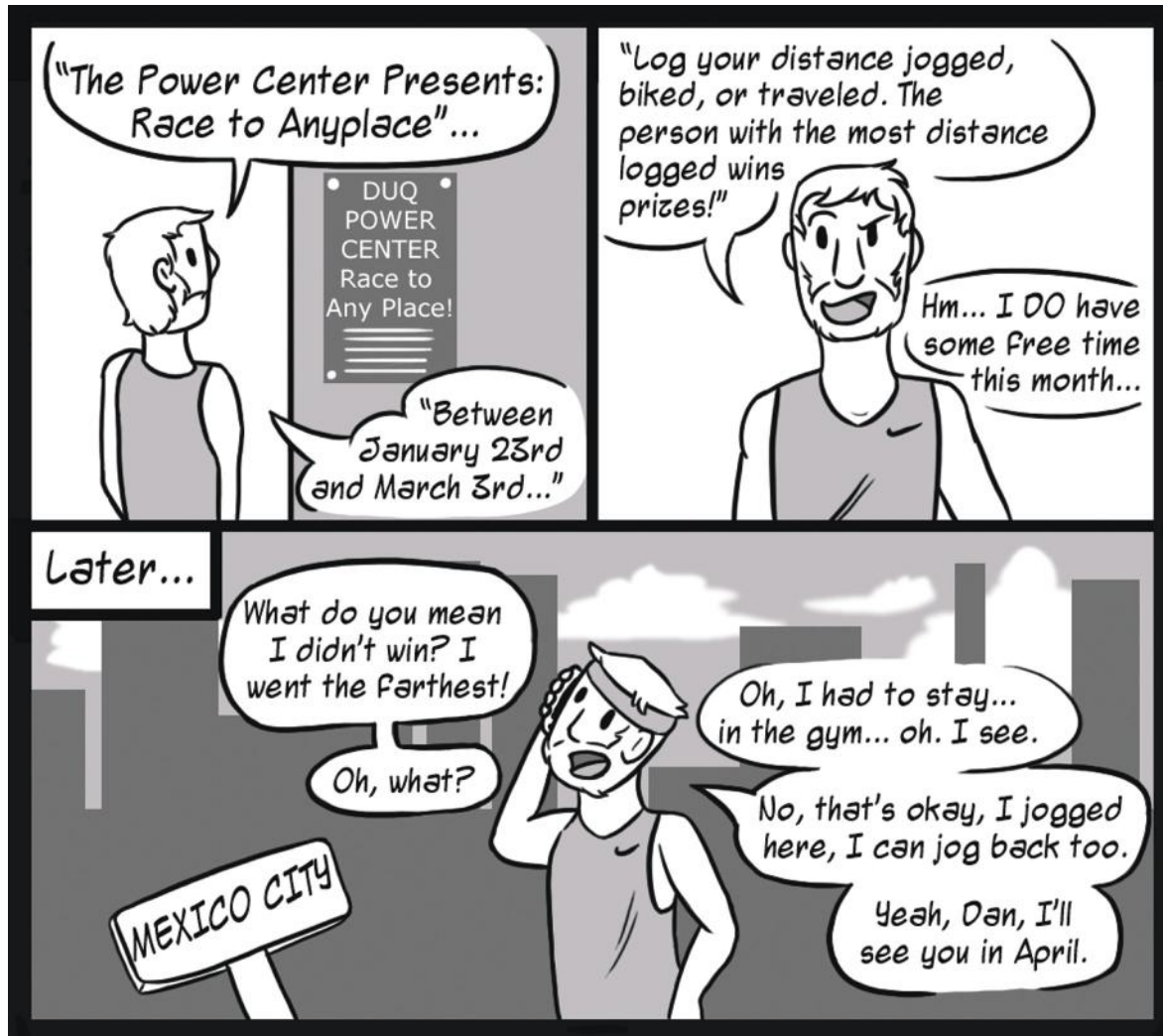
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CARTOON BY SHELBY WASIL

if i do say so myself...

Pittsburgh dance instructor deserves jail

Pittsburgh's most notorious dance instructor is at it again, but this time, she's trying to two-step around a federal prison sentence.

Abby Lee Miller, the star of Lifetime's hit show "Dance Moms," is trying to convince U.S. District Judge Joy Flowers Conti that she should receive probation instead of federal prison time, according to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Miller was indicted on charges of bankruptcy fraud, concealment of bankruptcy assets and false bankruptcy declarations in 2015. She had earlier declared bankruptcy after the financial health of her original Penn Hills dance studio was failing. She entered a guilty plea on the charges in 2016.



REBEKAH DEVORAK
opinions editor

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Miller brought nearly \$120,000 in cash back into America from dance trips to Australia, concealing the money in plastic bags in her suitcases. She also tried to hide over \$750,000 from the bankruptcy trustee. Despite federal prosecutors stating that these circumstances do not allow for a probation sentence, Miller still believes that she shouldn't face going to prison.

It is difficult to have much — or any — sympathy for the situation that the reality television dance mogul finds herself in. Miller's attorney describes her decision to find loopholes around the law —

instead of, you know, paying back her debts like any other regular American citizen without a million dollar show to help bolster funds — as "foolish." Her attorney also went on to say that she was "simply ill-equipped to manage her good fortune."

That statement might be more acceptable if Miller was a 16-year-old girl with no prior business experience. But that isn't the case. She's a 50-year-old full-grown woman who has been running her own competitive dance companies in one form or another since she was 14. That's over 36 years of dealing with finances and the general practices of what it takes to have a

successful business.

If Miller was truly "ill-equipped," her companies should've failed a long time ago. But they didn't, and the statement is merely an excuse disguised as regret, trying to persuade judges — who have far better things to do with their time — to let her off easy because she's a Hollywood star. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that Miller highlighted over 40 dancers that she's trained, who later went on to have successful Broadway careers, as reason why she should not face prison time.

That would be like Sidney Crosby saying he could never go to federal prison because he scored 36

goals last season. One person does not deserve to receive special treatment — for anything — because they did the job that they're supposed to do. She is a dance teacher who is supposed to train dancers. That does not make her worthy of a Monopoly "Get out of Jail Free" card, let alone actual freedom from jail.

That information is meaningless to the law, and it only creates more embarrassment that a woman with her power and place in society would refuse to serve the proper punishment for something she knew was blatantly wrong when she did it.

I do not know the reason why celebrities think they are above the law, but this immature and blasé attitude about serious criminal matters needs to stop. The courtroom is not a playroom where people of fame like Miller can flash their TV credentials and popular social media following to get what they want instead of what they deserve.

Miller is known for her childish, scathing attitude on "Dance Moms," but the fact that she carries it into the real world is ridiculous. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette states that she used a vulgar term in an email to her accountant when referencing her bankruptcy judge. The fact that she is from Pittsburgh and is representing the city with this type of behavior is shameful and humiliating.

Miller can bat all the eyelashes she wants, but at the end of the day, she deserves federal prison.

Rebekah Devorak is a senior journalist and advertising major and can be reached at devorakr@duq.edu.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Students should support real news

Just as Hollywood loves *La La Land* because it's about Hollywood, journalists, consciously or unconsciously, dwell on journalistic issues. We ask that you, *The Duke's* reading public, bear with us as we talk about a journalist problem (that could soon become your problem, too).

The United States loves to pride itself on its freedoms. The Bill of Rights even enumerates some of our most valued and important freedoms, including freedom of the press. However, in practice, there aren't actually that many legal protections for journalists in the U.S., and under the incoming administration of President Donald Trump, this could become a problem for American media.

For example, U.S. journalists rely on government agencies willingly sharing information with the press. Once you take into account the exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act, there are few documents that the press can demand from the government. FOIA requests also take a significant amount of time and resources. That leaves journalists beholden to the openness of government communications departments.

The Trump administration has imposed a temporary media blackout on the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health and Human Services, according to the New York Times. Although a senior EPA official said that the blackout is fairly normal to expect when there is a change in leadership, it still raises concerns about how much cooperation there will be between the new administration and the media.

During his campaign, Trump revoked press credentials of more than a dozen news agencies, including The Washington Post. While he eventually reversed his position, Trump made it clear that he does not tolerate criticism from the media. While no president has ever removed a journalist from the White House Press Corps as retaliation against that journalist's news agency, if there's one thing Trump has shown us, it's that he's not afraid to do the unprecedented.

As this issue goes to print, there are six journalists facing felony charges for simply covering the riots and protests that happened in Washington, D.C. after Trump's inauguration. Additionally, whistleblowers such as Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden have few legal protections when they take their information to the press, and journalists have no legal right to protect anonymous sources.

We need hardworking and diligent journalists who are willing to take on the challenges this new administration raises. This is why we at *The Duke* implore our readers to subscribe to at least one respected news agency, such as The New York Times. These outlets offer great discounts, and if you subscribe, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that your dollars are supporting the pursuit of real facts (not the alternative kind).

Earth hits hottest temps, breaks records for 2016

JAMIE CROW
staff columnist

Well, it's official: 2016 was the hottest year on record — again.

According to a NASA news conference that took place on Jan. 18, 2016 was the hottest year since record keeping began in 1880. This past year was the third year in a row to break the record, and this marks the first time that three consecutive years have broken the record. NASA's news conference also showed that Arctic and Antarctic sea ice are continuing to steadily melt.

It goes without saying that this is horrific news. All of this information is clearly saying that we, our environment and our entire species are in danger. But what is more disconcerting is the overwhelming evidence that we humans are playing a huge role in the drastic effects of climate change.

In an article in the New York Times, Dr. Michael Mann of Penn State University said the argument could be made that 75 percent of the record-breaking warmth was caused by human impact. The burning of fossil fuels has played a huge role in our planet's warming trend because large amounts of carbon dioxide are being released into our atmosphere. Basically, the way we get our energy is destroying our atmosphere's integrity and upsetting the natural balance of our world. But profitable energy is

great, right?

Wrong. Oh, so wrong.

While the way we get our energy may seem profitable and easily-accessible, it's actually doing more harm than good. Sure, industry has flourished with the burning of fossil fuels, but is that really worth sacrificing our atmosphere?

Steps have been taken to reduce the human impact on climate change, with the most recent being the Paris Agreement, which went into effect on Nov. 4, 2016. The agreement seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and work on adapting to adverse impacts of climate change.

Then-President Barack Obama made the United States a part of the agreement, which was a big step towards influencing change.

Current President Donald Trump, however, is a staunch denier of climate change, and he has said during his campaign that he would withdraw from the Paris Agreement. It's difficult to know if he'll hold true to that promise, but if he does, it could decrease global cooperation with the agreement. The United States also has one of the largest greenhouse gas emissions of the countries that are a part of the agreement, so if we withdrew, the amount of change that could be made would be significantly decreased.

It's disconcerting to see potential progress be swept away with such ease. The facts of climate change

don't lie, and the continuing negative effects of climate change don't lie either. The number of endangered and vulnerable species is heartbreaking, with favorites like the blue whale and the polar bear at risk of extinction. Their habitats are being destroyed, and it's largely our fault.

At a time like this, it can seem as if we are helpless in affecting change. We attribute all of the power to our senators, our congress and our government as a whole. The reality of the situation, though, is that we do have a voice in the matter.

Take Leonardo DiCaprio for example. Beyond his career as an actor, DiCaprio has been breaking the boundaries of power and using his voice to talk about climate change. He's spoken at the United Nations twice regarding climate change, and he recently took part in the National Geographic documentary "Before the Flood." During his Oscar acceptance speech, he spoke out about climate change and urged everyone to fight against it.

DiCaprio's voice has had a greater impact because he's an actor. That's undeniable. But what is inspiring about his words and his actions is that it proves how much power words and actions have during a time like this. While we may not all be well-known actors, we have a voice and a say in the matter of all issues, including climate change.

Where do we go from here?



AP PHOTO

According to NASA reports, 2016 was the hottest year recorded for the third year in a row, sparking climate change concerns from many experts.

How do we use our voices to affect change? How do we direct our actions toward a positive influence?

For one thing, we can recycle. Instead of throwing that Starbucks cup into the trash, throw it into the recycling bin. Refraining from littering is a great thing, too, to make sure that our garbage isn't contributing to pollution, especially in the oceans.

We can use our voices to inform those who deny the effects of climate change, and we can fight for the rights of the endangered animals that don't have a voice. Most importantly, we can continue to educate ourselves and learn new ways of combatting the negative

influences of climate change.

Change doesn't happen overnight. Just like we didn't get to the hottest years on record overnight, we won't be able to reverse the effects of climate change in a day. But recognizing that climate change is a real concern is a great first step to take. Hopefully, with continued education and action, 2017 won't stay on the warming trend, and we can continue to live in a comforting world with our favorite animals.

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Duquesne student found in Towers deserves punishment



LEAH DEVORAK/PHOTO EDITOR

Police say Collin McCauley trespassed in a girls' wing of Towers on Jan. 12, where he was found naked and grabbing the arms of girls in some of the dorm rooms. He is thought to have been on drugs at the time.

SHIVANI GOSAI
asst. opinions editor

According to police, a Duquesne freshman was taken into custody on Jan. 12 after trespassing while naked in an all-girls wing of Towers.

Police report that Collin McCauley, 18, was found by the dormitory staff in the north stairwell. McCauley was allegedly able to gain access to the girls' wing after setting off the fire alarm at 4 a.m. Police say he then proceeded to urinate on the floor. In a criminal

complaint, the university police stated that McCauley then grabbed a girl by the arm and went into the dorm room of two other girls and grabbed one of them as well.

"He came on my wing, walked towards me with no clothes on and started pushing me towards my room, saying everything would be okay, then proceeded to follow us down the hallway to go in the soccer girls' room," said Alecia Folino, one of the freshman girls in the dorm that night.

After being taken into police custody, Mc-

Cauley was taken to UPMC Mercy hospital for medical evaluation. According to Duquesne police, he appeared to be under the influence of a controlled substance. McCauley is being charged with indecent exposure, criminal trespass, false alarm to agency of public safety and disorderly conduct.

McCauley's actions are completely unacceptable. The safety of multiple girls was comprised in what is considered a safe living environment due to the use of drugs. No matter how under the influence you are, you should not put others in danger.

Several freshman girls on the floor said they were scared and confused by his behavior.

"I, personally, feel sympathy for him. Yes, he made poor decisions by consuming illegal substances but, he had his whole life ahead of him, and it is very sad how this will impact him. He did not hurt anyone, just alarmed us," said Jamie Smith, a freshman who encountered McCauley in Towers.

McCauley's behavior is shameful and inexcusable. He should be held accountable for his actions, especially after scaring young women and violating their privacy. The offensive behavior seemed to have come from drug and/or alcohol usage. While that is no excuse, it is clear from the reports that McCauley had no malicious intent.

Jamie Smith told WTAE in an interview that she feared one of the girls or herself would be subjected to sexual assault. Rape culture is widely seen on college campuses. Rape culture is recognized when it is normalized due to societal attitudes about gender and sexuality. Had one of the girls in Towers that night been subjected to such abuse,

the act would have been trivialized because of McCauley's lack of sobriety. Thankfully, none of the women in Towers were harmed.

According to the Addiction Center, college students make up one of the largest groups of drug abusers nationwide. The rates of drug abuse among college students can be attributed to a number of factors, including stress, curiosity and peer pressure. It is not uncommon that college students turn to drugs as a way to cope with coursework or other stressful situations.

Preventing drug abuse with college students is critical because college students are already at a high risk for drug and alcohol addictions. Proper education and rules can inform students of the long-term negative effects of substance abuse.

Duquesne University has specific student conduct rules set in place regarding drug use for the safety of all students. Drug and alcohol use is a violation of Duquesne standards and will result in disciplinary action. DU Cares is a program offered to students that teaches basic information about alcohol and other drugs, as well as how to maintain a low-risk lifestyle. The office of DU Cares can assist students with addiction recovery and refer appropriate services. McCauley should be held accountable for his actions so that he, as well as other students, can observe what the consequences of drug abuse are.

No information has been received from the office of student conduct on McCauley's current situation.

Shivani Gosai is a junior journalism major and can be reached at gosais@duq.edu.

LOCATIONAL LIVING: THE WORLD BEYOND FOUR WALLS

SETH CULP-RESSLER
features editor

Welcome to the Continuing Misadventures of a Displaced Duquesne Student, a series in which Features Editor Seth Culp-Ressler grapples with his newfound life off campus. For the veterans of apartment life, feel free to laugh at his incompetence. For non-veterans, perhaps the mistakes he chronicles are valuable lessons.

Chapter Five: The Location

If my building was a block further south, it wouldn't be an issue. A block east would solve it as well. Two blocks westward would do it, too. North? Well, north leads to Carson Street — the root of the problem in the first place — so, no.

If you haven't already guessed, my bedroom has a bit of a noise issue.

And, indeed, a short move in three of the four cardinal directions would let me rest in peace. As it is, however, each weekend is an exercise in mild frustration. See, my apartment is a block and a half off of Carson proper, a distance which, I assumed, would be removed enough to escape the fervor of late-night South Side festivities.

Unfortunately, I live right around the corner from one of the very few bars south of the main drag. Patrons of that establishment usually walk right outside my window in transit to and from. This starts at around 10:30 p.m. and continues until, say, 2:30 or 3 a.m.

Now, let me be clear, while I'd love to have some peace and quiet on the weekends, I'm



SETH CULP-RESSLER/FEATURES EDITOR

not an unreasonable grump. I live in an urban location filled with a vibrant nightlife — some boisterous passersby are a reality of life. Instead, I bring the topic up to make an important point when living off-campus is concerned: Location matters.

Yes, the oft-used real estate adage of "Location, location, location!" is quite important when choosing your living arrangement. And, after being in my current place for five and a bit months, I've gotten to know what works about my geographic positioning and what doesn't. Hopefully the findings are enlightening.

It might be easy to guess from my previ-

ous anecdote that I'm not exactly your typical purveyor of the South Side. My nightlife typically involves a computer, some Oreos and my bed. Judge that admission however you see fit.

Nevertheless, that doesn't mean I lack appreciation for the wide variety of businesses the area offers. It's undoubtedly the double-edged sword that is living in this kind of neighborhood. Being in amongst things to do means some noise at night, sure, but it also provides me with easy access to those very noise-producing businesses.

I can have virtually any type of food I could ever imagine, just blocks away. If I

decide last-second to go see a concert on a Monday night I can — and at a location five minutes from my front door, no less. Should I want to make my bank account unhappy, Pittsburgh Guitars is right around the corner. I can get a haircut at a good four or five places, all short walks from home.

A key aspect of location I've picked up on during my time in South Side, however, is that of proximity to common destinations. The flats are a big place, and there is a significant difference between living on 11th and living on 27th. I was lucky enough to just about split the difference between my two major trips: Duquesne's campus and the grocery store.

It's a valuable lesson, I think. A living choice is more than just what's inside the four walls of the house or building. It's also an equation of compromise and context — zoom out Google Maps a click or two farther to really take in the whole situation (and see if there are bars close to your front stoop).

All things considered, I do genuinely enjoy living in the South Side. It often gets a reputation for being a miserable place full of drunk college kids — and, sure, that's some of it. Crucially, though, the flats are a much more colorful place than such a simple characterization can convey.

On nice days I like to grab my camera and wander around the back streets, exploring the nooks and crannies of the area. Old brick houses abut ramshackle apartments which border striking modern architecture. I always find something wonderful and interesting and new.

Now if only I could get some sleep on the weekends.

Declassified CIA docs reveal connections to Duquesne

MADELINE BARTOS
staff writer

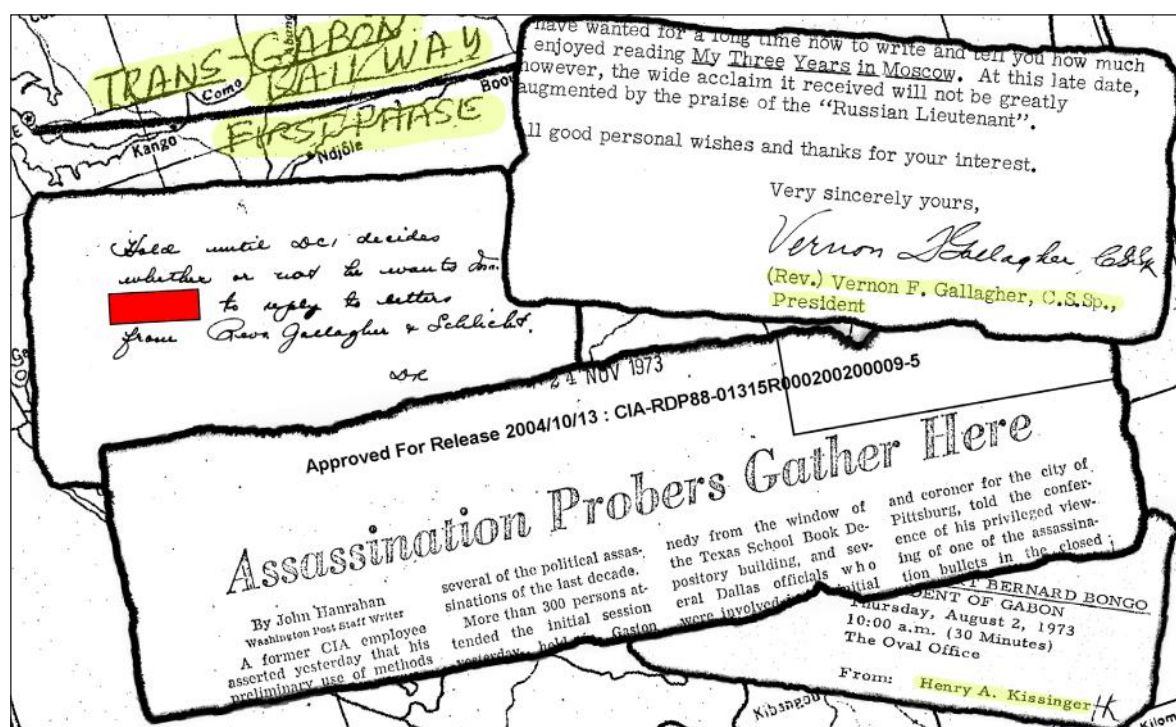
More than 12 million classified CIA documents — formerly available only by physically going to the National Archives in College Park, Maryland — are now available with a mere click of the mouse.

Every year, the CIA releases what it deems as "nonexempt historically valuable records" 25 years or older to the public. As of last Tuesday, the database is online, meaning you can seek the truth on anything from UFOs to the Cold War.

What happens when you try to dig up dirt about Duquesne University?

Perhaps the most interesting thing you'll find is a string of letters from 1951 between the CIA and the Rev. John Schlicht. Schlicht, a former history professor at Duquesne, was interested in starting an anti-communist propaganda campaign. He wrote to the very first Director of Central Intelligence, Gen. Walter Smith, asking him to teach parts of the campaign. He also hoped that after Duquesne ran a trial program, it would go national.

"No matter what the particular aims of any one group in America may be, Communism is definitely not the answer," Schlicht said in his letter.



DOCUMENTS COURTESY OF THE CIA / DESIGN BY SETH CULP-RESSLER/FEATURES EDITOR

If Smith was unavailable to teach parts of the program, Schlicht asked for a recommendation of someone who was "born, raised and educated in Russia, and [had] lived under the Communistic regime, and [had] then come to America and [had] been Americanized" and was also very anti-Communist.

However, the letters got lost and Smith left for a trip before getting the chance to write back. When he finally replied months later, he explained he didn't have time to teach the program since he was a little tied up in his current position as director of the CIA. The Presidential policy also prevented him from

"commenting or participating in projects of this nature."

While the director of the CIA wasn't visiting Duquesne anytime soon, a memo from Henry A. Kissinger himself reveals that the former president of Gabon, President El Hadj Omar Bongo, did visit the U.S. in 1973 to receive an honorary

degree from Duquesne. You can't be president without a good education, although now political experience is not required, and Bongo arguably couldn't have led the west coast African country of Gabon for 42 years without his honorary degree from Duquesne.

Okay, so it's not a real academic degree. But still, the primary reason for his second visit to America was to visit Duquesne. Kissinger scheduled a meeting to talk with the Gabonese president, because Bongo had been seeking the opportunity for a long time and claimed to be a "great admirer of the United States."

Although he may have been a great admirer of the U.S., it's possible that Bongo was just there to fund his "political showpiece" — the Trans-Gabon Railroad. At the time of his visit, he was developing a \$200 million dollar project to extend the railroad to the iron ore deposits in the northeast. Gabon had been "blessed with abundant mineral resources," so the White House invited him over to help fund the project.

Probably the most entertaining part of the file is that Bongo extended a "standing invitation" for someone, presumably President Richard Nixon, to visit Gabon, and

Ice hockey looks to push forward after win over Pitt

DAVID BORNE
staff writer

Just 15 minutes off-campus at the Alpha Ice Complex, the Duquesne Ice Hockey team is quietly putting together an impressive season and that was built upon after a 4-2 win over the University of Pittsburgh Panthers. The victory made it a clean sweep of their crosstown rivals

for the season series.

"It really means alot," senior captain Zac Kindya said. "We beat Pitt two times this year, and we beat RMU two times this year, and they're traditionally two of the top-three teams in our league. To go 4-0 against them, it's a big deal. It's a goal we've always tried for all four years I've been here, and to finally do it, I can't even put it into words. It's great."



DAVID BORNE / STAFF WRITER

Senior captain Zak Kindya gets ready to take the ice with fellow senior Derek Richardson before their game against the University of Pittsburgh at Alpha Ice Complex on Jan. 20. The Dukes won 4-2.

The Panthers took a 2-0 lead 7:47 into the second period, but the Dukes managed to score four unanswered goals to skate away with the win. Sophomore forward Ryan Sweeney, sophomore center Tim Freed, sophomore forward Martin Hubert and junior forward Thomas Diffendal all found the back of the net for Duquesne. The forward, Diffendal, also finished the night with two assists.

First year head coach Conrad Waite believes that his team's never-quit mentality and ability to bounce back will hopefully lead them to further success this season.

"The number one thing about I've noticed about this team is our resolve," Waite said. "If we go down in a game we come back. If we've lost a couple games we find a way to come back. You can't put us down. I've never been prouder of a team that I've coached in that manner. Now we've got five non-league games in a row, so finding that same heart we found in such a rivalry game tonight and being able to get up for those games is going to test a lot for where we end up at the end of the year."

Goaltender Alex Taylor recognized that while beating a team like Pitt is a great feeling, it's important for the team to not lose focus and keep playing hard.

"We have to take things one game at a time," Taylor said. "We can't look too far ahead and can't look back at what we've done in the past."

Taylor had 29 saves and improved his record to 11-6 on the season with the win against Pitt.

Following Friday night's win over their

crosstown rivals, the Pittsburgh Panthers, the Dukes improved their conference record to 9-4 on the season. They followed that up with a win over Canisius College to push them to 13-8 overall with 7 matches left on their regular season slate.

Even with all their success, the Dukes club ice hockey squad flies under the radar on campus.

"It's kind of crazy," Kindya said. "Almost no one on campus even knows this exists."

The Dukes are a member of the American Collegiate Hockey Association. The ACHA is the premier league for college club hockey teams.

This year the ACHA National Tournament will take place in Columbus, Ohio from March 9-19. Currently Duquesne's odds to reach Nationals look decent, but they will need some help from other teams in their conference. The Dukes need Pittsburgh to lose two games against conference opponents in order to clinch a spot in the tournament. Even if the team fails to qualify for Nationals, they will still be able to compete in the playoffs.

Next up, the Red & Blue will take trips to the Philadelphia area over back-to-back weekends to take on Lehigh University, Villanova University, Temple University and Rowan University.

The next few weeks will give the Dukes some time to prepare for postseason play, and even though their chance to play in the National Tournament currently remains up in the air, the team will remain focused on putting itself in the best possible position by continuing to win against quality opponents.

Duquesne WBB downs Spiders to reach .500 mark

ANDREW HOLMAN
sports editor

Physicality and hustle propelled the Duquesne women's basketball team to a 73-61 win over the University of Richmond Spiders on Wednesday night at the A.J. Palumbo Center.

The Dukes out-rebounded the Spiders 44-25 and outscored them in the paint 30-14. Senior Amadea Szamosi and sophomore Julijana Vojinovic each scored 17 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in the victory. The win improved Duquesne's record to 11-11 overall and 4-5 within the Atlantic 10 conference.

"When you outscore your opposition by 16 in the paint, you feel really good about that," Burt said. "I thought we rebounded the ball well. As a coach, we won three of the quarters, but it is just one of those things that is very difficult when you have 21 turnovers."

The first quarter was dominated by the Spiders defensively as they recorded four steals and forced nine turnovers by the Dukes. Duquesne averaged 15 turnovers per game heading into the night and they were already nearly two-thirds of the way there with three quarters remaining.

To go along with their scrappy defense, Richmond went 4-8 from behind the arc, which propelled them to their 18-13 lead after the first quarter.

Entering the contest, the Spiders boasted the second-best scoring defense in the A-10 conference allowing 58.1 points per game. However, after the first quarter the Red & Blue found their rhythm offensively on their way to a 73-point scoring outburst.

In the second quarter, the Dukes came out hot and their shooting helped them close the gap. Back-to-back triples from Szamosi and Vojinovic knotted the game up at 21-21 with a little over a minute gone in the second quarter.

However, the turnovers came back to haunt the Dukes once again. Three more turnovers in the opening minutes of the second quarter allowed the Spiders to pull back in front to lead 28-

23 at the media break.

But, with 3:47 left before halftime, Vojinovic knocked down another 3-point basket to give Duquesne a 29-28 advantage — their first lead since the 6:43 mark in the opening quarter. The basket was part of an 8-0 scoring run for the Dukes and a part of Vojinovic's 13-point scoring outbreak in the first half.

"You could almost say [Vojinovic] is our second or even main scoring threat the way she has played as of late," Burt said. "She shot the ball well from every spot on the floor ... She is playing with a lot of confidence, and when [Vojinovic] is playing with confidence, then she is playing in the flow and she is just as good as about anyone in the league."

Vojinovic has now scored in double digits in five straight games and has solidified herself as a top scorer for Duquesne to go along with Szamosi and sophomore Chassidy Omogrosso. Omogrosso matched her teammates with 17 points in the scoring column. Senior Janelle Hubbard led Richmond with 20 points.

Then with under a minute to play in the opening half, Richardson attacked the glass with authority and redirected an offensive rebound back into the basket, while being fouled, to make it a 3-point play for the Dukes. Following a pair of free throws by Omogrosso, the Dukes took to the locker room with a 36-33 lead.

After the break, it was a back-and-forth affair most of the way in the third quarter, but with continued dominance on the glass and exceptional effort diving for loose balls, Duquesne began to slowly pull away with a 10-2 run that pushed their lead to 52-41 and was capped off by an and-one from sophomore Kadri Ann Lass.

"I just feel like everyone was fighting and going to the glass," Vojinovic said. "We tried to pass to post players as much as we can to get post-touches ... I think those two factors were really important in our win."

Leading by nine heading into the final quarter, the Dukes just needed to keep up their effort and composure in order to walk away with the victory — they did just that.

After the Spiders cut it to 54-48, Richardson once again drove strong to the hoop and capitalized on an and-one opportunity to bring the energy back into the Palumbo Center. After another scoring surge, the Dukes went back ahead by double digits where they remained for rest of the game.

"We just kind of wore them down," Burt said. "Our sets really caused them some issues."

The defending Atlantic 10 Champion George Washington Colonials await the Dukes this coming Sunday in Washington, D.C. for their second meeting of the season. The Colonials bested the Dukes 75-40 in their first meeting since the A-10 Tournament final in 2016.

"I know we will be motivated to play them and that is going to be a heck of a basketball game in Washington D.C.," Burt said.



BRY McDERMOTT / ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore Julijana Vojinovic drives to the hoop against Ragan Wiseman of Richmond in the Dukes 73-61 victory over the Spiders at the A.J. Palumbo Center on Jan. 25. Vojinovic finished with 17 and 10.

Lack of effort on display as Dukes routed by URI



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Sophomore forward Nakye Sanders drives to the basket in a blow-out loss to the URI Rams on Jan. 21 at the A.J. Palumbo Center.

ADAM LINDNER

asst. sports editor

Saturday afternoon at the A.J. Palumbo Center was a chance for the Duquesne men's basketball team to secure either a redemptive, marquee win over a quality A-10 opponent, or possibly falter in another bitterly narrow loss

at the hands of a conference foe.

And of course, it ended in the worst-case scenario for the Dukes as they instead suffered a blowout loss. More specifically, a 21-point trouncing that saw the Dukes outscored 50-26 in the paint by the Rams of the University of Rhode Island.

"Anything that had to do with toughness today, we got destroyed on," head coach Jim Ferry said after his team's 90-69 defeat. "They beat us to every 50/50 ball, they crushed us on the glass ... Start of the second half, I thought our guys had that glazed look on their face, and I was just playing guys who were going to compete."

With the game out of reach early into the second half, Ferry did just that, giving little-used freshman Kellon Taylor an opportunity to provide the sort of energy the team had been lacking with a large majority of the game still left to play.

Taylor took advantage of the extra minutes, scoring a career-high eight points on 3-5 shooting along with two rebounds in 13 minutes of action. Taylor got to the rim numerous times and played inspired. Though his contributions to the game were mostly cosmetic, the effort Taylor exerted was noteworthy.

Coming off of a tight 65-63 road loss to conference opponent George Washington University, it can be conceived that Duquesne was a bit disheartened. Having lost their fair share of close games this year, perhaps it has started to dampen the spirits of the once-optimistic Dukes.

With close losses to Canisius (78-77), Tennessee-Martin (66-63), Robert Morris (64-60) and numerous other competitive defeats, the lack of resounding victories may have finally culminated into dulled enthusiasms and a negative mindset.

Whatever the lack of energy and resolve is attributed to doesn't really matter. Being outscored in the paint at home by a 50-26 margin and allowing 19 offensive rebounds to an extremely talented lineup that already demands a team's best effort is unacceptable.

The blame must start at the top and work its way down. While Ferry is certainly correct in saying that his team exerted minimal effort and lacked toughness, these

Dukes are still a product of his coaching staff and are too talented to be embarrassed on their home floor in this fashion. That being said, coaching adjustments may need to be made.

On the floor, the lack of defensive proficiency starts on the inside and continues out to the three-point arc. Securing defensive boards is the first step in eliminating second-chance opportunities for the opposition. Additionally, getting out on the break and capitalizing with transition baskets is an easy way to score for a team that sometimes becomes stagnant in a half-court offense.

On the offensive end, the lack of a true playmaker is painstakingly obvious. Too often, the ball isn't moved fluidly around the court, and the Dukes often find themselves settling for contested jump shots as the shot clock counts down.

All of these same issues plagued the Red & Blue in the first half of their contest at Davidson College where they trailed the Wildcats 39-16 at the break. It was a sold-out crowd at the John M. Belk Arena as the school honored their most famous basketball alumnus and current NBA superstar, Stephen Curry. While this could have also contributed to a sloppy first half for Duquesne, it was another unacceptable display of basketball.

On the other hand, the Dukes made quite a surge in the second half as they cut a once 23-point deficit all the way down to six and remained in the game until the game's final moments. Although they eventually fell by a final score of 74-60, the second half performance at Davidson showed the potential of this team when they play motivated, focused basketball, but it is time to quit with the excuses and begin finding a way to play a full 40 minutes of quality A-10 basketball.

This team is far too talented to sit at 9-12 overall, 2-6 in conference, and lose games in the manner in which it did at home to Rhode Island. With ten games remaining on their schedule, the Dukes still have an opportunity to salvage their record, season, respect, etc., in an attempt to put themselves in a good position for the A-10 Tournament that will come to PPG Paints Arena early this March.

Brady and Belichick further Patriots winning legacy

BRY MCDERMOTT

asst. photo editor

After a 36-17 pummeling of the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday in the AFC Championship, the New England Patriots are heading to Super Bowl LI with quarterback Tom Brady leading the way yet again.

Love them or hate them, the 'Pats' have been the National Football League's most consistent team since the 2001 season and Brady has been the model of the franchise. New England has made it to the postseason 14 times in Brady's 15 seasons as a starter, winning at least one game in 12 of those appearances and taking home the Vince Lombardi Trophy four times.

Now Brady, alongside head coach Bill Belichick, will make their seventh showing together in a Super Bowl. For comparison, no other franchise has appeared in more than eight.

What the Patriots have accomplished over the last decade and a half is no small feat. The AFC has accounted for nine of the last 15 Super Bowl Champions, and New England is at the top of that competitive conference.

The Steelers are the closest in comparison to the Pats but still find themselves far behind New England. The two teams have faced off in the AFC championship game only three times in the last 15 seasons, with the Pats claiming victory each time and outscoring Pittsburgh a combined 101-61.

Pittsburgh has only made the conference championship three other times during that span, winning all three and claiming two Su-

per Bowl titles. However, New England has made 11 AFC Championship appearances and won seven, going on to win four Super Bowls, including three in four years.

It seems that no matter how good of a team the Steelers assemble, the Patriots come out and outperform them in every aspect of the game.

A major component of this dominance is Tom Brady. If New England can take down the Atlanta Falcons on Feb. 5, Brady will have five championship rings, the most of any NFL quarterback ever.

Brady has more career playoff wins (24) than all but six NFL franchises. The man with the second most playoff wins is Joe Montana with just 16, and only 13 other quarterbacks have even started that many playoff games.

The University of Michigan alumnus also has more completed playoff passes (788) than Montana (460) and Troy Aikman (320) combined.

One of Brady's most notable traits is his ability to spread the ball around the field. In the opening drive of last Sunday's AFC Championship game, Brady connected with four different receivers (Martellus Bennett, Julian Edelman, Malcolm Mitchell and Danny Amendola) in a 64-yard push that ended in a field goal for the Patriots.

Nine separate receivers made catches by the end of the game, from all over the field utilizing both short and long routes. It was the third time Brady connected with at least nine receivers in a playoff game.

Patriots' wide receiver Chris Hogan posted 180 receiving yards in Sunday's game, becoming the eighth different receiver to have

had at least one 100-yard receiving game with Brady as the quarterback, according to pro-footballreference.com.

But, a metaphorical asterisk will hang over Brady's legacy and the Patriots' success under Belichick. The acts of Spy Gate and Deflate Gate will not, and should not, be forgotten.

These two scandals showed major flaws in the league and questioned the intentions of

those in power, but they should not take away from the incredible tandem that Brady and Belichick have been for over a decade.

No matter which team you root for, everyone should acknowledge the generational player Brady is as he enters his seventh Super Bowl looking to make history.

From a Los Angeles Chargers fan devoted to Philip Rivers, I tip my cap to the greatness that is the career of Tom Brady.



AP PHOTO

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and head coach Bill Belichick celebrate after defeating the Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC Championship game to clinch them a spot in their seventh Super Bowl together.

Tyler Perry inspires at People's Choice Awards

LOREN SMITH
staff writer

The most fan-centered award show on television made its 43rd appearance last Wednesday, when CBS broadcast the People's Choice Awards live from Los Angeles. Hosted by comedian and actor Joel McHale, the annual broadcast produced numerous upsets and honors as it announced winners for over 60 categories, spanning the areas of film, television, music and digital media.

This year's winners, ranging from "Finding Dory" to "The Walking Dead," were chosen through online ballots. The show also came with a strange duo of performers: Fifth Harmony and Blake Shelton. The four-member girl group emanated energy during their hit song "Work From Home," while the country singer countered with his newest single, "Every Time I Hear That Song."

The two performers also took home several awards, with Fifth Harmony winning Favorite Group and Shelton receiving the awards for Favorite Male Country Artist and Favorite Album for his 2016 release, "If I'm Honest." Other notable winners include Justin Timberlake for Favorite Male



AP PHOTO

Ellen DeGeneres won big at the People's Choice Awards, taking home Favorite Animated Movie Voice, Favorite Comedic Collaboration and more honors.

Artist and Britney Spears, who won both Favorite Female Artist and Favorite Pop Artist, along with her win in the digital category for Favorite Social Media Celebrity.

Movies were, as always, the highlight of the night. Ryan Reynolds, Robert Downey Jr., Melissa McCarthy and Tom Hanks were among just some of the A-listers to receive awards in various acting categories. "Finding Dory" dominated movies for the year, winning Favorite Family Movie, Favorite Animated Movie

Voice for Ellen DeGeneres and even Favorite Movie.

DeGeneres was honored during the show after she also received the award for Favorite Daytime TV Host and Favorite Comedic Collaboration, becoming the most decorated People's Choice Awards winner with an astonishing total of 20 wins.

The television categories were kind to many notable actors and actresses as well, including Dwayne Johnson, who won Favorite Premium Series Actor for his role in "Ballers" and Jen-

nifer Lopez, whose show, "Shades of Blue," earned her the Favorite TV Crime Drama Actress award. "Outlander" won the award for both Favorite TV Show and Favorite Premium Sci-Fi/Fantasy Series, succeeding against the many other popular shows in these categories.

Receiving the Favorite Humanitarian award for his volunteer work, Tyler Perry described his actions as being a metaphor for the importance of remaining kind and hopeful in light of everything going on in the world. His speech was a refreshing break from all of the glitz and glamour of the night, as he focused on more important matters and reminded people that they must refrain from becoming cynical.

"As I look at the state of the world and the state of our country and everything that is going on, it is so important that we know that no matter how dark it gets, we all have to be light for each other," said Perry during his speech.

To close out the night, Johnny Depp was presented with the Favorite Movie Icon award, giving a heartfelt acceptance speech during which he talked about his difficult year and the gratitude he felt for being given

see **CHOICE** — page 11

WEEK'S EVENTS

Twenty One Pilots
Jan. 27, 7 p.m.

The Ohio-born pop duo will be performing at PPG Paints Arena across from Duquesne University. Tickets start at \$35. For more information to this event, please visit ppgpaintsarena.com.

Bad Movie Bingo: Troll 2
Jan. 31 9 p.m.

Infamous as one of the best-worst movies of all time, the film will be screened at the Smiling Moose bar in the Southside. Admission is free, but seating is limited. For more information to this 21+ event, please visit post-gazette.com/events.

UPCOMING RELEASES

"Resident Evil: The Final Chapter"
Jan. 27

Milla Jovovich reprises her role as Alice in the last entry in the "Resident Evil" series of films. The (supposed) conclusion to a six-part series, "The Final Chapter" follows the last gambit of series' protagonist Alice as she returns to Raccoon City in order to finish off the horde of undead that threaten the last vestiges of humanity.

"CULTURE"
Jan. 27

The sophomore album from the hip hop group that brought you "Versace" and "Fight Night," "Culture" is releasing with 13 tracks and features guest artists such as DJ Khaled, 2 Chainz, Travis Scott and Lil Uzi Vert.

MICRO REVIEW

"The Search for Everything - Wave One"

"Marking John Mayer's first new music release since 2013, this wave (four songs) of TSFE has been a long time coming. The batch of tracks show Mayer dipping back to past sounds, while also feeling out some new avenues — most notably with the piano ballad 'You're Gonna Live Forever in Me.' Here's hoping later waves continue the trend."
— Seth Culp-Ressler

Editorial: TV's favorite family faces cancellation

JOSIAH MARTIN
staff writer

After 28 years, "The Simpsons" has become a mainstay of American television. However, as of late, it has relied on cheap tricks for ratings instead of its once-praised writing and has suffered a decline in viewership as a result.

Viewership for the 27th season was down to an abysmal average of 4 million viewers per episode, the lowest in the show's run. That number has not surpassed 10 million since season 16 in 2004 and 2005. This is disappointing enough for such a highly-regarded television series, but to make matters worse, the series has in recent years opted for highly-publicized gimmicky specials to draw in viewers instead of its typical light sitcom plot style.

Take, for example, the episode from Jan. 15, 2017, "The Great Phatsby." This episode was the first hour-long special in the show's history and was heavily advertised as such. It also included a long list of guest stars, including Charles Barkley and Keegan-Michael Key. It was one of the highest-rated episodes of the season and the highest of Fox's lineup that night.

However, it failed to draw people away from the concurrent Steelers v. Chiefs NFL game and was still over a million viewers short of the "normal" episode that preceded it the week before. If intentionally extending the episode a half hour into the game was an attempt to steal ratings away from the game, it failed.

Then there was last season's "Simpvised," an episode which was followed by a live Q&A segment with Homer Simpson, fielding questions from the viewing audience via telephone. As we've seen, the results of this experiment were lackluster, that particular episode only bringing in 2.8



COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

After 28 years, "The Simpsons" is beginning to see a drastic drop in its ratings despite promos like the one-hour special. The show experienced a more than 1.5 million drop in viewership last year alone.

million viewers.

These are just numbers, but they point at a larger trend. In the opinion of many critics and long-time fans, the show's quality has been declining.

Unfortunately for the producers of the show itself, the viewers know this, and these constant attempts at grabbing attention for new episodes of the series suggests that Fox knows this. In the first few seasons of "The Simpsons," the series operated basically as an animated version of the classic idea of the television sitcom. The plots were centered on the characters and very rarely departed from settings as simple as the house, the school or Homer's place of work. Of course, there's only so much you can do within these constraints, and the show quickly grew out of this format.

There's nothing wrong with long specials and

experimenting with the format of the animated sitcom. However, when you lose touch with the original intention and spirit of the show, with its focus on the dynamics of the Simpson family and heartfelt plots, that's when constantly going over the top becomes an issue. "The Simpsons" has done exactly that.

So what are some possible solutions to this issue? Is it too late to return to form for "The Simpsons?" Maybe. If celebrity guest stars and hour-long specials can't excite viewers, promising episodes full of "familial love and life lessons" will almost certainly put them to sleep. It seems that, as far as weekly interesting plots go, "The Simpsons" is nearly out of ideas. Perhaps, if the series stepped back from its

see **SIMPSONS** — page 12

AFI fails to ignite original fandom with ‘The Blood Album’

SALENA MORAN AND EVAN PENROD
staff writers

After a four year break, ‘90s punk alternative band A Fire Inside (AFI) returns with their tenth studio album, entitled “AFI: The Blood Album.”

The band has been promoting their new work since October 2016 and even debuted early releases of singles, including “Snow Cats,” “White Offerings” and “Aurelia.”

The band comprised of Davey Havok (lead vocals), Jade Puget (guitar), Hunter Burgan (bass) and Adam Carson (drums) attempts to please fans by reverting to its older sound of albums like “Sing the Sorrow” and “Decemberunderground,” while trying to create something more modern. However, they fail to satisfy. The album is like a roller coaster that is just about to reach the climax and instead, falls short and rolls backward.

Lyrics/Vocals

The lyrics seem to lack the depth and angsty feel of their prior albums. The drive and incentives behind the words themselves did not leave as great an impression as their 2013 album, “Burials,” which was based on the lead singer’s hard breakup.

Davey Havok’s vocal abilities, however, still show his incredible range in the ability to belt loud, harsh songs while singing softly for others. He appropriately adjusts his vocals to the type of song he is singing and even throws in some more digital sound effects and enhancements to heighten the sound quality giving off a vibe reminiscent of The Cure.

Instrumentation

AFI continues to show off their hard rocking guitars, heavy



COURTESY OF MEGAWATT RECORDING
AFI’s newest album has a strong blood theme that extends to its promotion. The band produced four vinyl color variants that are based on the four blood types (A, B, AB, and O).

drumming and complementary bass sounds that fans have grown accustomed to over the years. However, the use of the synthesizer and electronic/digital enhancements is the newest addition to the group, which has yet to be heard in any of AFI’s older tracks.

The overall composition of music however feels neutral and sub par. It appears as though the band members didn’t sit down and work out songs to grab listeners’ attention but simply started playing music and decided that it was good enough before moving onto the next song.

AFI should have better harnessed their instrumental abilities

into creating songs that were more varied and memorable for the listener.

Organization/Structure

Albums usually contain songs with a certain flow or memorable quality that tells a story, i.e. My Chemical Romance’s “Black Parade” or Pink Floyd’s “The Wall.”

This album doesn’t seem to have any flow at all, which is not necessarily important; however, bands producing as long as AFI are expected to have some sort of organization.

The first six songs were practically identical to one another while the next eight songs seem to have a nicer flow and variety. Perhaps the order of the songs should have been rearranged so that the entire album could avoid such a slow, monotonous start.

Overall Review of the Album

AFI: The Blood Album seems to touch upon all of the band’s older sounds, but unfortunately has no lasting impact left on the listener. The group attempts to reincarnate the sounds similar to their earlier ‘90s releases such as All Hallows EP and Black Sails in the Sunset or even their 2000s releases such as Sing the Sorrow or Crash Love.

The band tried too hard to touch base with all of their older material in hopes of creating a sound everyone would like, but this album almost seems too rushed and out of place for many fans to even get into it extensively.

On a positive note, the vocals and instrumental qualities remain well established. In future albums, these aspects should remain constant and well developed.

AFI still needs to find that balance between holding true to their older material while not losing their identity in trying to vary their musical sound. Without either, they’ll alienate their old fans, while at the same time not draw in any new ones to replace them.

The Flaming Lips diverges from past with newest album

SEAN ARMSTRONG
staff writer

The Flaming Lips, a band that has been almost worshipped by its cult following once again makes a quiet splash with the release of its new album “Oczy Mlody” on Jan. 13.

The band, which formed in 1986, has undergone plenty of artistic exploration and sound evolution. Each album is a unique journey that synthesizes various philosophical elements with styles of rock music.

For example, “Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots,” one of their early 2000s albums, coupled philosophically absurdist themes with a classic rock sound. Similarly their 2009 album, “Embryonic,” combines religious overtones with harsh noise to create a jarring experience.

“Oczy Mlody,” while keeping with band mainstays like bizarre lyrics and an enveloping sound, diverged as all their albums have from previous endeavors.

The experience of listening to their latest work can best be summed up as psychedelic. While not unusual for The Flaming Lips, this tone is meant to paint a picture for the listener of the simple beauty of the world, specifically natural beauty.

The overall theme is best understood in the album’s opening track of the same name. The track starts out slow with a unique rhythm and gradually develops into a larger more complicated sound. This opens the listener up to the idea of beauty being simplistic.

This message is prevalent throughout the album, with songs like “Sunrise (Eyes of the Young)” exemplifying the idea of beauty. For example, “Oh, sun/ I see you happy” is a simplistic line that highlights their lyrical prowess.

The strength of the album is that of a seamless transition. If the listener starts “Oczy Mlody” and ends on “We a Famly” as intended, then the album feels like one song stretched into a 58 minute album.

While concept albums seem to be a hot commodity



COURTESY OF PINK FLOOR STUDIOS
The Flaming Lips first formed in 1983. The band has produced 14 solo albums, as well as 5 collaborative ones. Their last album was “The Terror,” released on April 1, 2013.

as of late, The Flaming Lips lyrically do not have a central theme. Their music has a similar sound from song to song, but lyrically each song focuses on a different subject, from science fiction to fantasy.

Overall, the lyrics do not build off one another, completely failing to work towards a message. This album is musically a concept album, but lyrically dissonant.

Compared to their previous work, “Oczy Mlody” sounds like it lacks a purpose to the madness. While prior work is similarly chaotic, this album lacks a clear direction and suffers because of that.

However, there are problems with this format. The album lacks any real diversity, the lyrics are so abstract

that it would take hours to figure out the meaning of them and the sound, while varied, seems oddly similar from one track to the next.

The heaviest criticism of the album I have would be the lyrics. In the past, the Flaming Lips operated somewhere between stupidly entertaining and existentially dreadful. In “Oczy Mlody,” their lyrics operate in the area of stupidly dreadful.

The song that demonstrates this point the most is “There Should Be Unicorns.” Which has a beautiful background, but the song’s lyrics mar the music the band creates. The most repeated line is “Yeah, there should be unicorns/The ones with the purple eyes.” which is great, but why purple eyes?

This point is never made significant, it is just argued that unicorns with purple eyes are the ones desired, not unicorns with green eyes. A point that is never made clear as to why. The song is devoid of a rhyming structure, the syllable counts per line range anywhere from four syllables to fifteen, so as far as a lyrical structure the song makes little sense.

It can be argued that the lyrics are meant to be simple to aid in the theme of simplistic beauty. However, the lyrics sparingly mention nature or scenery and instead opt to focus on repetition of a phrase with little emphasis on why that phrase matters. Which while the repetition of lyrics is simple, it is not effective.

The Flaming Lips are difficult to describe with words. The feeling that their music gives the listener is something that must be heard to be understood. It’s almost impossible to describe the details of their albums because they truly are an experience. The best way to explain these feelings is through metaphors, but even then that falls short of capturing the full scope of their work.

Overall, if the listener disregards the lyrics, this album is certainly worth a listen. However, whether or not it is worth buying is questionable. It isn’t up to scratch with previous works by The Flaming Lips, but it provides wonderful background music for unwinding after a stressful day of schoolwork.

Body cameras subject of Duquesne event Friday

CAMERAS — from page 1

possession of the recordings for access to footage. If police deny the request, the individual can petition a common pleas court for access.

In a request, the person requesting footage must prove it is not part of an ongoing investigation, the footage would be available under Right to Know Law standards and the public's interest in disclosure outweigh the government's reasons for nondisclosure.

Andy Hoover, legislative director of the ACLU of Pennsylvania, said this process is flawed.

"Video data that documents in-

cidents that are legitimately in the public interest such as arrests, use of force by an officer, or disputes between an officer and a resident will be nearly impossible to obtain, even if the requester is in the video," Hoover wrote in an Oct. 18 memorandum to the state Senate.

BWCs are already being used in Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh Police use about 100 body cameras currently, according to spokeswoman Emily Schaffer.

"We do have plans to increase the use of BWCs in the future," Schaffer said. "Contingent on changes in the state law, we plan on adding 400 to 500 more."

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DeGeneres honored at Choice Awards

CHOICE — from page 9

this honor.

This year's show certainly made for a memorable one, with its shift from political jokes to spreading kindness creating a far different vibe from that which most of the other award shows took on this season. Johnson perhaps best summed up the entire mood of the night during his acceptance speech when he said, "It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice."

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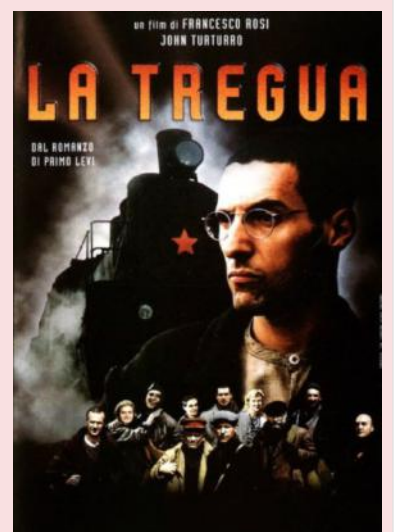
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Red Cross.



University appears in released CIA docs

CIA — from page 6

the file suggested answers to give when Bongo asked again. They were round about answers in the same vein of “that sounds great we’ll definitely get back to you on that,” which probably meant they wouldn’t.

The last document of note is a newspaper clipping from The Washington Post, filed away by the CIA. It tells the story of Dr. Cyril Wecht, the coroner of Pittsburgh and a professor of law and forensic medicine at Duquesne.

In 1973 Wecht attended a conference sponsored by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, a congressional group that looked into political assassinations of the

past. While the committee discussed the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. and American Nazi leader George Lincoln Rockwell, the main focus was on former President John F. Kennedy’s assassination.

Wecht believed that the single bullet, or magic bullet theory, was not possible. He claimed that the angle of the shot, combined with the “loss of substance” from the bullet passing through Kennedy and former Gov. John Connally destroyed the single bullet theory as well as the conclusion that Oswald was the lone assassin. It’s unclear why the CIA filed this article away, but their decision to do so made an interesting addition to the dump of declassified documents.



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Gimmicks no longer working

SIMPSONS — from page 9

weekly format in lieu of a few specials for year, they would have more time to craft episodes as meaningful as the original, and draw in the appropriate viewership simply out of excitement for another “Simpsons” episode.

The only thing that seems certain for the future of the series is that if the current trend continues, ratings and quality will continue to fall until Fox finally kills the show. Without a drastic change in personnel or style soon, there won’t be much “Simpsons” left.



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DU professors learn teaching techniques

TEACHING — from page 3

23 and 24 focused on. The transparent assignment design was created to allow teachers to find new ways to make assignments more clear to students. The classes were taught by Laurel Willingham-McLain, director of faculty development and teaching excellence.

“We were helping faculty be sure that they are clear when they give students assignments,” Willingham-McLain said.

Teachers who RSVP for the micro workshops attend these lessons during their lunch time. Other topics such as “Responding to Five Common Student Writing Struggles,” “Systematic Reviews: 5 Things You Need to Know” and “The Easy Way to Teach a Writing Intensive Course” will all be featured in upcoming workshops.

“University teachers grow and develop just like athletes and artists,” Hansen said. “We believe that teaching is an art that grows through scholarship, practice, reflection, and collaboration. The mini-workshops offer an opportunity for faculty to discover new research on teaching and apply it to their own teaching contexts.”

Although each student might have their own opinion on what works best in the classroom, each method taught is designed to allow all students different approaches to learning.

“I’ve always thought that more hands-on teaching strategies have helped me the best. For example, I learn much more doing worksheets in class dealing with real life problems than listening to lectures,” Rhett Wahler, a freshman physician assistant major, said.

The current workshops are designed only for teachers, but soon there will be a graffiti wall workshop that will also include students. According to Willingham-McLain, this workshop will allow students to share with teachers what strategies work best for them in hopes to allow teachers to understand studies from a student’s perspective.

Willingham-McLain believes that teachers should participate in the workshops because it “helps them bring their best selves to the classroom and to focus on the central parts of teaching and learning.”

“The point of this isn’t to dumb down the work, but to make it more rigorous for deeper learning they can really focus on,” she added.

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