



Database tracks city gun crimes

LIZA ZULICK
staff writer

Within a one mile radius of Duquesne University, there have been 238 shootings between 2010 and 2016, according to Public Source, a Pennsylvania-based investigative journalism site.

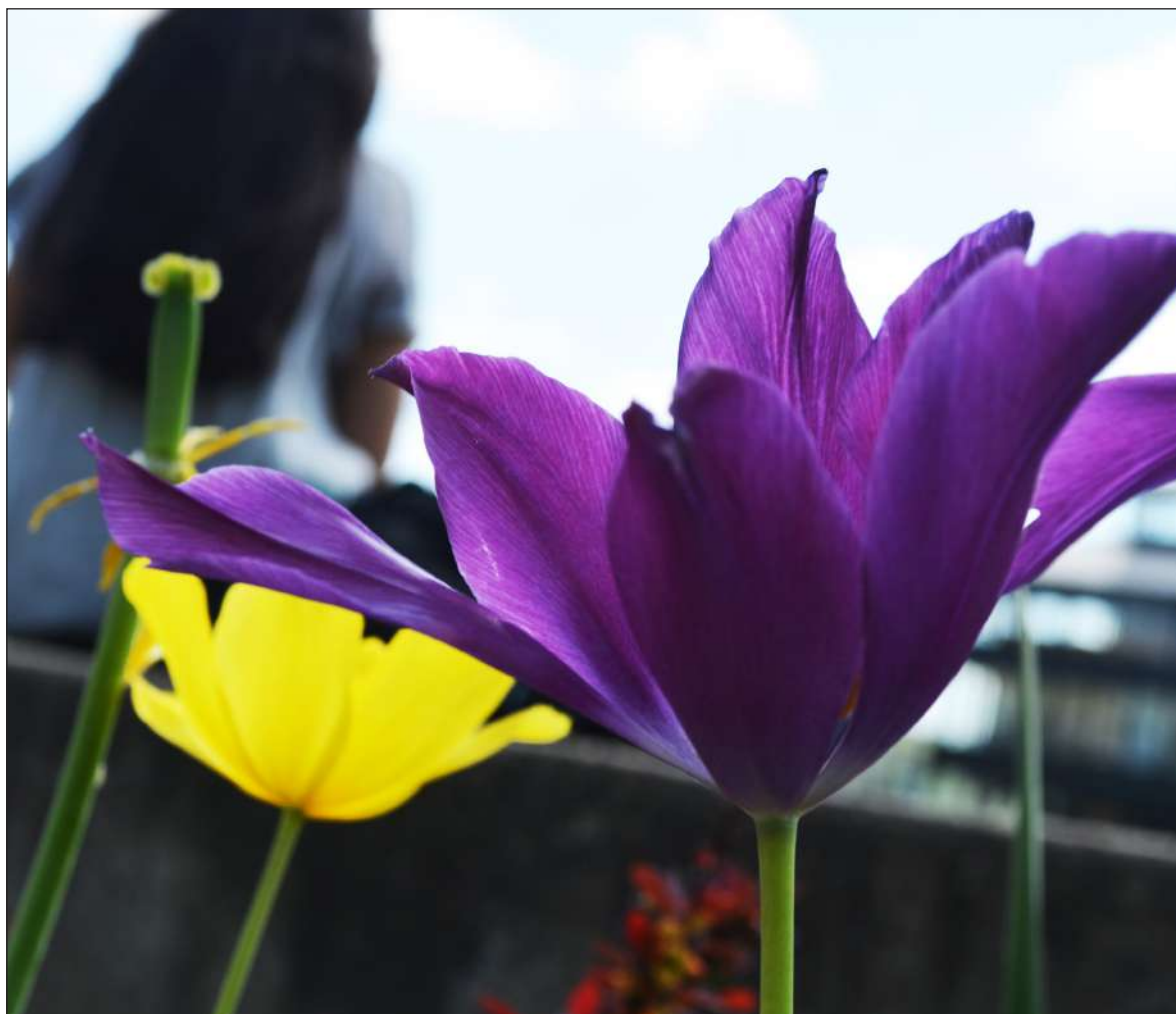
Of the 238 shootings, 14 of them were homicides, 101 of them were non-fatal and 123 of them were aggravated assaults. The closest shooting was on the corner of Forbes and Stevenson in June 2016.

A recent article by Public Source lets readers utilize police data to track and locate all known gun crimes. The article allowed users to search an address and information on all gun crimes within a one mile radius.

The site reports that since January of 2010, more than 322 homicides, 1,250 shootings with an injury and 1,490 gun assaults have all happened in the Pittsburgh area. However, the data did not include reports of shots

see GUNS — page 3

Thoughts of summer bloom



LEAH DEVORAK/PHOTO EDITOR

Flowers blossom along Rooney Field April 26. Sunny and warm weather welcomes students to the end of the spring semester.

Prof. receives top honor

HALLIE LAUER
layout editor

To win the Catherine Worthingham Fellowship from the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) is among one of the highest honors those practicing physical therapy can be awarded, and for the first time ever, a Duquesne faculty member has received that honor.

Regina Harbourne, a physical therapy professor, is the 2017 recipient of this fellowship. According to DU's physical therapy department chair, Christopher Carcia, only 200 people have achieved this level of recognition since the inception of the award in 1982.

"I didn't even know about [the nomination]. I was totally shocked," said Harbourne.

She said she was surprised to get the award.

"I got the phone call here and the person who called ... said 'I'm from the APTA and I immediately thought they were going to ask me for money because that's the only time the APTA

see AWARD — page 2

DU students raise funds to combat Somali famine

RAYMOND ARKE
asst. news editor

A dire United Nations report showed more than half the population of Somalia is in danger of starvation, and Duquesne students half a world away are helping out.

Cynthia Umutoni, a sophomore international business and finance major, and Aminata Soko, a senior accounting major, are running a fundraiser to benefit struggling Somalis. The money goes to the American Refugee Committee, a volunteer relief group who has an office in Mogadishu, Somalia.

The idea for a holding a fundraiser was spur of the moment for the two students.

"The idea came randomly. We were going to get dinner and [Aminata] told me 'Cynthia did you see what's going on in Somalia?' ... And I was like 'Can we do some-

thing about it?'" Umutoni said.

Soko then came up with the plan to start an online fundraiser.

"We just felt how fortunate we are to have basic food and water, things like that. Just knowing there are people out there who don't have that, it's just crazy to us ... Being at the university, we thought it was a great place to start [a fundraiser]," Soko said.

By starting this effort, Umutoni hopes that they can help just a few Somalis from suffering.

"As college students we don't have the means to immediately stop the famine in like two days. The little we can do I'm sure can benefit a few families," she said.

Another important aspect of their efforts is that they hope more students and, people in general, will start paying attention to what's going on.

"Creating the awareness ... just letting people know that OK this is happening in the world. There



LEAH DEVORAK/PHOTO EDITOR

A photo of the "Surging Somalia" gofundme page, an effort started by DU students.

are people dying of hunger, we need to know about this. I think that's the first step towards trying to make change," Soko said.

Umutoni said it's upsetting to see extensive TV coverage of tragedies around the world but nothing actually happening to stop them.

"It's sad to see that happen. We just feel like contributing to making Somalia a little bit better, however much we can," she said.

The situation is getting dire. Umutoni said that it is "one of the biggest

crisis the UN has faced."

"It's very real. It is creating refugees that are going to neighboring countries like Kenya and South Sudan," she said.

The fundraiser can be found on the crowdsourcing website, GoFundMe, and is titled "Surging Somalia." The two students have been sharing the across Facebook.

They want students to know that these Somalis are just like anyone else.

"The people who are being af-

fected are somebody's family," Umutoni said.

Soko asked students to reflect on how lucky they are.

"Think about what they have and really sit down and appreciate it. These people are struggling to find the minimum," she said.

The fundraiser has raised \$145 in one week.

Somalia facing devastation coupled with fundraising campaigns to help is nothing new, according to Fr. John Sawicki, director and professor of international relations at Duquesne.

"The story of Somalia is the story of donor fatigue," he said.

The current famine harkens back to the 1992 civil war and famine, which needed massive UN assistance. But now, it's different.

"[The country] doesn't get the star power as it did in 1992 ... [but] the malnutrition and famine is as bad as

see SOMALIA — page 2

Follow us on...



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opinions

Saying Goodbye
Editor-in-Chief bids *The Duke* farewell ...

PAGE 5

features

Food Truck Frenzy
How local vendors are helping clubs on the Bluff...

PAGE 6

sports

2016-17 Duke Awards
Look back on the best of Duquesne athletics over the past year ...

PAGE 7

a & e

Disabled Gamers
How a disease can ruin a hobby ...

PAGE 9

POLICE BRIEFS

Well folks, Cousin PB has got to say goodbye to y'all. I'm not crying, you are. Hope y'all behave better over the summer than you did this past week, because boy howdy the crimes were a whopper. Talk about finishing strong.

Last Tuesday, Duquesne Police realized that some aspiring chef stole an induction cooktop out of the 10th Floor Rockwell kitchen sometime between April 7 and April 17. Gotta keep a close eye out for a rogue Gordon Ramsey roaming campus.

On last Wednesday, a hit and run happened to an unoccupied car in Forbes Garage. The suspect's license plate was recorded by the victim. DUPO attempted to contact the suspect, who is unaffiliated with the university. No matter how much of a hurry you're in, people aren't speed bumps.

The same day saw two students contact DUPO that their PNC debit cards had fraudulent charges.

Last Thursday, a student in the College Hall Math Lab had his or her cell phone taken. Back in my day, phones were attached to walls and that's a lot harder to take.

I've said before that y'all need to drive better because on Friday an unattended car received damage in Forbes Garage. Folks, it's not too hard. Believe me, I run a ranch and ride horses, you should try that out.

Also on Friday, a very drunk student was found on campus. The offender was taken to Mercy without incident and got referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Wowie now here's an ironic one. On Saturday, DUPO picked up a lost wallet in Campus Market only to find it contained two fake IDs. The student was given a state citation and also referred to the much feared Office of Student Conduct. Like Bob Dylan said "To live outside the law, you must be honest."

Monday, a student called DUPO about her ex-boyfriend keeping some of her personal items and not returning them. The student had also been punched in the face by another student in a related argument. Ahh young love, how sweet it is.

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 Asst. News Editor Raymond Arke at arker@duq.edu.

Science supporters take over Oakland for march

ZACHARY LANDAU
asst. a&e editor

Five thousand people gathered in front of the Cathedral of Learning April 22 for the Pittsburgh satellite March for Science. The event mirrored more than 500 marches across the country.

The purpose of these marches was, according to the March's official site, to advocate for science during a time when it is "at risk."

"The March for Science champions robustly funded and publicly communicated science as a pillar of human freedom and prosperity," the March's official site read. "We unite as a diverse, nonpartisan group to call for science that upholds the common good and for political leaders and policymakers to enact evidence based policies in the public interest."

Speakers at the Pittsburgh satellite march echoed this mission while tapping into the local history of science and innovation in the city.

Lance Davidson, an associate professor and Wellington C. Carl Faculty Fellow at the University of Pittsburgh, referenced the landmark expedition of Lewis and Clark in his speech.

"Historically, Pittsburgh was the place for high tech," Davidson said. "It was the place that



ZACH LANDAU/ASST. A&E EDITOR

Over 5,000 people gathered in Oakland April 22 for Pittsburgh's March for Science.

Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to get outfitted with the latest in technology. They came to Pittsburgh ... to get outfitted with an iron keelboat that would take them to the West."

Both the national and Pittsburgh march also addressed politics, addressing issues such as funding and diversity in the STEM fields.

Davidson, for example, cred-

its, "activists, progressives and forward-thinking politicians," for creating the opportunities for him to be inspired by science.

"If I had lived 100 years ago, there would have been no chance for me to be a scientist," Davidson said.

Kelauni Cook, co-director and co-instructor for Academy Pittsburgh Beta Builders, a free high school coding boot camp for Pitts-

burgh's underrepresented youth, emphasized the social needs that science fields still face, including equal opportunity and access.

"This is not just a march for the recognition and the importance of science," Cook said. "It has to be a march for the equity and access to science as well. It has to be a march for those little black kids in Homewood, and it has to be a march for those little refugee girls on the hilltop who are looking at the stars and wondering how they are going to build a rocket ship out of cardboard boxes."

Others attended the Pittsburgh March for more personal reasons. Murrysville high school students Evan, Ana and Maddie marched because of the current trend in politics and society of rejecting science and research.

"The denial of scientific facts and the denial of research science has proven, we realized, is a problem [sic]," Evan said, "and we want to be a part of making a difference."

The students are expecting to enter STEM programs next year at colleges and universities, and feel a personal connection to changes in the political climate surrounding science.

"Everything is based off of science," Ana argued, "and disregarding it is ridiculous."

Some marchers credit science

see *SCIENCE* — page 12

Harbourne gets physical therapy honor



COURTESY OF REGINA HARBOURNE

Harbourne, pictured here with a child, specializes in pediatrics. She was awarded a top fellowship honor from the APTA.

AWARD— from page 1

ever calls me ... so I was trying to figure out how to get off the phone quickly, I just had no idea, so it really was a total shock," Harbourne said.

The long nomination process includes letters of support, resumes and a submission of research or contributions. To be nominated the individual must be a member of the APTA for 15 years or more and show excellence in the field.

"The award is for any PT in any specialty," Harbourne said. "We jokingly call it the gray haired club. Once you're in the field for that long you're probably going to be a lifer in the profession."

According to the APTA website, Catherine Worthingham was a

"change agent effective, respectful and honest, and motivated others to make an impact within the physical therapy profession." This recognition is meant to honor Worthingham and to inspire all physical therapists to advance the field and aspire for professional excellence.

Some of the people who nominated Harbourne for the fellowship are from the Physical Therapy Department at Duquesne.

"We are obviously thrilled Dr. Harbourne has been recognized as a Worthingham Fellow," Carcia said. "More importantly, we are excited the attention this recognition draws to her specific interest and passion in the early development of infants with neurologic disorders."

Harbourne's specialization is

pediatrics.

"They always tell you in PT school not to specialize right away and I did and I never regretted it," Harbourne said. "My first job was at a state school for the mentally retarded ... and I loved it and I never did anything else."

Harbourne also teaches Introduction to Research at Duquesne, along with working with interventionists through a grant she recently received.

"I'm really just so grateful to all the people who nominated me," Harbourne said. "It gives you a funny feeling to know that you're part of this special club, this special group. Because when I look at the list of people, those names are immediately recognizable to me. It does give you a new layer of confidence that other people feel that you're worthy."

Students give to drought victims

SOMALI— from page 1

'92" Sawicki said.

Somalia has been scarred by decades of conflict, he explained.

"There has always been intense and bitter competition between various [Somali] clans," Sawicki said.

Terror groups run deep within the region, some being renowned for their deadliness — especially the Somali-based group Al-Shabab.

"Until ISIS, Al-Shabab was the most impressive terror group ... [they were] a rockstar in the global terrorist movement," Sawicki said.

Sawicki explained that the prevalence of terror groups has left the government almost nonexistent. African Union troops have tried to support order of years, but their contract with the UN is running out and Sawicki expects problems.

"If African peacekeepers go ... this may be the moment for Al-Shabab to release what they have in reserve," he said, reminding that it is still just speculation.

Sawicki lauded the students running the fundraiser, calling the American Refugee Committee "very reputable."

News ed. Addeo says adieu

BRANDON ADDEO
news editor

When my eighth grade teacher asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, it gave me pause.

Obviously, every young person at one point wanted to be a professional athlete or an astronaut or something else that's fantastical. But at that moment — for the first time — I had to ask myself the very real question: "What do I want to do with my life?"

I always loved to write, so my answer to that teacher was that I wanted to be a journalist.

Well, I think it started out as "photojournalist." I can't exactly remember why, though. The first interview I ever conducted (which was no doubt incredibly awkward) was with a photographer for the Scranton Times-Tribune, for an assignment in that same class. That conversation almost 10 years ago was probably the first step on the path to where I am today (thanks again, Butch.)

That path led me to *The Duquesne Duke's* newsroom for an open house my first semester of freshman year, where I met a group of weird and friendly editors. As I sat on a gross old couch and listened to the editors give their weekly story pitches (preceded by walk-out music, like a



LEAH DEVORAK/PHOTO EDITOR

Brandon Addeo, this year's news editor, is graduating with a journalism degree.

baseball player or boxer would use), I knew I would like it here.

I wrote for the news section sporadically my freshman year and started to write weekly my sophomore year and beyond. I became assistant news editor my junior year and news editor my senior year.

And after four years, I'll be leaving the newsroom this week.

It's been an interesting ride that's been great at some times and mind-numbingly stressful at others. There's never a dull moment working for *The Duke*, and that's why I loved it so much.

And it pains me to realize this will be my last story I write here.

I guess I should thank some people (that's what you do in these things, right?). Special thanks to former *Duke* editor-in-chief Julian Routh, current editor-in-chief Kaye Burnet and advisor Bob Kerlik for their guidance — they ensured I never made a royal mess of things. I also have to thank the Duquesne Media Department (I liked the old name better, by the way) and all of the professors in it who taught me everything I know about news writing.

Thanks also to everyone who wrote for my news section. I literally could not do my job without your help, and I was very pleased with some of the stories we wrote this year.

Last but not least, I have to thank my assistant editor Raymond Arke for putting up with my bossiness without complaining once. Raymond will be taking over my job next year, and I know the news section is in capable hands.

Best of luck to the editors graduating alongside me and to the editors who will be replacing us. They'll be taking over our desks in that College Hall room that will always be a special place for me.

Corporations would benefit from Trump cut

AP — President Donald Trump's team boasted Wednesday that its tax-cut plan would lighten Americans' financial burdens, ignite economic growth and vastly simplify tax filing.

Yet the proposal so far remains short of vital details, including how it would be paid for. And based on the few specifics spelled out so far, most experts suggest that it would add little to growth while swelling the budget deficit and potentially handing large windfalls to wealthier taxpayers.

Trump's plan would replace the current seven income tax brackets with three, and the top bracket would drop from 39.6 percent to 35 percent. It would also slash the corporate rate from 35 percent all the way to 15 percent, a boon to most companies even though many don't pay the full tax now.

With tax credits and other loopholes, most corporations pay closer to 20 percent, according to calculations by JPMorgan.

Perhaps the most contentious plank would enable taxpayers with business income — including those wealthy enough to pay the top tax rate — to instead pay the new 15 percent corporate rate. That's



AP PHOTO

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and Nat'l Economic Dir. Gary Cohn address the White House press corps April 26.

because Trump would apply the corporate rate to "pass through" businesses. Pass-throughs include partnerships such as law firms and hedge funds as well as most small businesses — from the local florist to the family-owned restaurant on Main Street.

What's more, some privately held large companies — including Trump's own real estate empire — are structured as pass-throughs and would benefit, too.

Gun violence outlined in online city map



LEAH DEVORAK/PHOTO EDITOR

A photo of the Uptown neighborhood. There were 238 shootings within a mile of DU.

GUNS — from page 1
fired.

Although students living on campus at Duquesne University experience the dangers of gun crimes, students who live off campus at various locations seem to experience more. One area that Duquesne students often live off campus is in the South Side of Pittsburgh, like Duquesne senior journalism and public relations major Matt Vogel.

"I have never seen gun crimes occur near my house or myself, personally. Though, I have heard of them," Vogel said. "In general, I would consider the area in which I live to be safe, as safe as any neighborhood could be in a city like Pittsburgh."

Some students like Vogel consider the area they live in to be safe. However, within a one mile radius of where Vogel lives, there have been 13 homicides, 84 non-fatal shootings and 93 aggravated assaults, adding up to 190 gun crimes.

Those figures caught Vogel

off guard.

"That is surprising, actually. I would have not guessed those numbers would have been that high," Vogel said. "It definitely makes me a little more concerned about who I'm living near."

Ryan Stephany, an information systems management major and senior at Duquesne University also lives in the South Side of Pittsburgh, and has never seen or experienced any gun crimes while living off campus.

Although, within a mile radius of Stephany's home, there have been 365 gun crimes since 2010. Twenty-eight homicides, 156 non-fatal shootings and 181 aggravated assaults have all occurred within that area.

"I like living off campus because it allows for more freedom, but I'm not a fan of South Side due to all of the sketchy crimes that happen near here," Stephany said.

Duquesne Public Safety declined to respond to requests for comment.



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Bluff Street food trucks to benefit Duquesne clubs

ELSA BUEHLER
staff writer

As was made clear during the food truck event last week, there is one magical factor that unites every Duquesne student: food.

Well, on April 20, there was plenty of good food to be found on Bluff Street, directly behind Mellon Hall. This was the day of the “Duq-A-Palooza Food Truck Frenzy” — a mouthful (literally) of an event hosted by Duquesne University’s Greek Life and Greek Ambassadors Program. According to Emily Rice, one of the event’s coordinators, “The Greek Ambassador program is a sophomore leadership program for Greek students, in an effort to create opportunities for leadership earlier on in their fraternal experience.”

If a love of good food is where we Duquesne students come together, it follows that we must have conflicting food preferences. Luckily, the Food Truck Frenzy offered a full spread of delicious options.

I spoke briefly to Regina Akhmetzyanov, co-owner of PGH Crepes Food Truck, about her business before the lunch rush hit. Regina told me that she and her husband, Ilmir, opened the food truck originally as a crepe cart in 2015. Since then, their business has taken off incredibly; they own a full food truck, hired a few employees, and even cater. Regina said that they are content with the current state of their company, but the open-



TAYLOR CARR/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Proceeds from the Food Truck Frenzy will go towards organizations such as Best Buddies and Circle of Sisterhood.

ing of an actual restaurant could be a possibility for them.

Regina’s husband, Ilmir, is a native of Ufa, Russia, where crepes are an extremely popular dish. The couple’s website, pghcrepes.com, states, “our company wholeheartedly offers delicious, savory, and sweet crepes.” Sure enough, their mission is clear and simple.

PGH Crepes features a short, but carefully selected, menu of savory and sweet crepes ranging from around five to nine dollars a piece, as well as smoothies and Ilmir’s fresh-squeezed lemonade. The lemonade, I can personally assure you, was amazing, and was especially welcomed in the 80 degree heat. As

for the crepes, Regina recommends their most popular strawberry banana crepe with Nutella.

Freshman speech pathology majors and St. Martin’s residents Alexis Speck and Brooke Berger really seemed to enjoy the food at PGH Crepes.

“The crepes were good! They were soft and gooey and warm...definitely worth the long wait,” Berger said.

Speck added, “Fabulous! Ten out of ten would recommend. S’mores is always worth it.”

Didn’t make it over to their stand? Maybe you just couldn’t get enough? PGH Crepes can be found in Oakland during lunch hours on many weekdays, and at various festivals and

events on weekends. Their Twitter account (@pghcrepes) is the best way to keep up to date on where to find them around the city.

PGH Crepes was joined by six other food trucks at the event, said Rice. These trucks included Miss Meatball, Gyros N’at, Nakama, Franktuary, PGH Pierogi Truck and Oh My Grill. Rice said that she and the other event coordinators attended various food truck events around the city to find the best ones to bring to campus.

If you weren’t aware, the event had a dual purpose: not only to give convenient access to good food for students and faculty, but also to support philanthropies affiliated with Greek Life. Rice said that Rebecca Mickler,

Director of Greek Life, suggested the idea to have the event, hoping that it would benefit those on campus hungry for lunch or dinner as well as Best Buddies and Circle of Sisterhood.

“We chose to support Best Buddies and Circle of Sisterhood because they are the philanthropies supported by the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council respectively,” Rice said. “Since this event was sponsored by the Greek Ambassadors Program in conjunction with Greek Life, we decided it would be a great way to raise money for each philanthropy.”

Circle of Sisterhood, Rice said, works to educate “impoverished young women and girls in underdeveloped nations around the world in order to give them a better life for themselves and their families,” and is the national philanthropy for the National Panhellenic Council in the United States. Best Buddies is an organization that pairs high school and college students with adults with disabilities to participate in fun, organized events.

The Food Truck Frenzy benefitted the organizations in two ways: each truck paid a base fee to participate in the event and there were also donation jars set up at each station. Rice said that a Venmo account was even created so donations could be made with debit and credit cards. She was proud to announce that the event raked in around \$750, which will be

see FOOD—page 11

Schenley Park offers cultural, historical look at the ‘Burgh

BRADY COLLINS
contributor

Pittsburgh’s Schenley Park and surrounding areas offer a variety of ways to enjoy the late-spring weather. The park skirts the vibrant, nearby neighborhoods of Squirrel Hill and Oakland, offering a refuge of greenery for city-dwellers. As many know, Schenley boasts extensive trails for walking and biking, a golf course, Phipps Conservatory and a public swimming pool. However, Schenley has many attractions that are anything but typical.

Schenley Plaza

Schenley Plaza is situated in the heart of Oakland, and is open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The area includes free WiFi, and there are several diverse, fast-dining options directly adjacent to the lawn. These options include Waffalonia, Asia Tea House, Opa Gyro and Conflict Kitchen, which is currently serving Palestinian fare.

Also included within Schenley Plaza is the PNC Carousel. Most Pittsburgh city parks previously included carousels on the grounds (the original carousel in Schenley was built in 1913), and the PNC Carousel revives that attraction with Victorian-style craftsmanship and pipe organ music. There are a wide variety of animals meant to represent the vibrancy and diversity of Pittsburgh. The opening of the carousel has been postponed until further notice via their website. Howev-



SETH CULP-RESSLER/FEATURES EDITOR

Schenley Bridge embraces the French tradition of “Love Locks,” inviting couples to add their own.

er, the park plans on adding days in the fall to account for days missed in the spring season.

The Meadow and The Oval

While Schenley Plaza does not allow sports of any kind, The Meadow and The Oval, located along Overlook Drive, offer outlets for activities including a tennis court, soccer field, softball field, disc golf course and a large open lawn.

The Meadow is also an ideal spot for a picnic. The expansive lawn stretches over a large hill. On the horizon, you can see a pan-

oramic view of Pittsburgh. Scanning from left to right, you can clearly make out the neighborhoods of Mount Oliver, Southside, Allentown, Mount Washington, Downtown and Oakland.

Bridges

Quintessential to Pittsburgh, the park includes bridges. Both Schenley Bridge and Panther Hollow Bridge are worth experiencing on foot. Schenley Bridge connects Oakland with the majority of the park’s grounds. Schenley Bridge’s fence is brimming with

Love Locks, a French tradition that invites those in love to express their connection by adding a lock to the bridge.

The Panther Hollow Bridge carries vehicles and pedestrians over Panther Hollow Lake. Framing the four corners of the bridge are imposing, bronze panther statues. Artist Giuseppe Moretti sculpted these statues before the turn of the 20th century.

Memorials

Behind Schenley Plaza toward the entrance of the park is the Mary Schenley Memorial Fountain. Mary Schenley was a major philanthropist throughout her life, and in 1889 donated much of the land that was to be conserved for the park. Visitors often sit around its basin to admire the fountain, which includes large bronze statues of the Greek God Pan and a woman playing a lyre. The memorial is also called “A Song To Nature.”

George Westinghouse, engineer and Civil War Veteran, is memorialized in Schenley as well. The stunning memorial is located along Schenley Drive. When George Westinghouse died in 1914, nearly 60,000 workers contributed to a fund to erect this memorial. Stone walkways border a lily pond and lead back to a bronze statue of a young boy gazing upon George Westinghouse and his inventions. The memorial represents the inspiration he is to future generations.

Not only is Schenley Park a nature conservancy, offering usual park amenities, but it also offers unexpected historical and cultural charm worth exploring.

THE DUKESNE DUKE

113 College Hall
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

editorial staff

editor-in-chief Kaye Burnet
news editor Brandon Addeo
asst. news editor Raymond Arke
opinions editor Rebekah Devorak
asst. opinions editor Shivani Gosai
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I think good-
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ERNIE HARWELL

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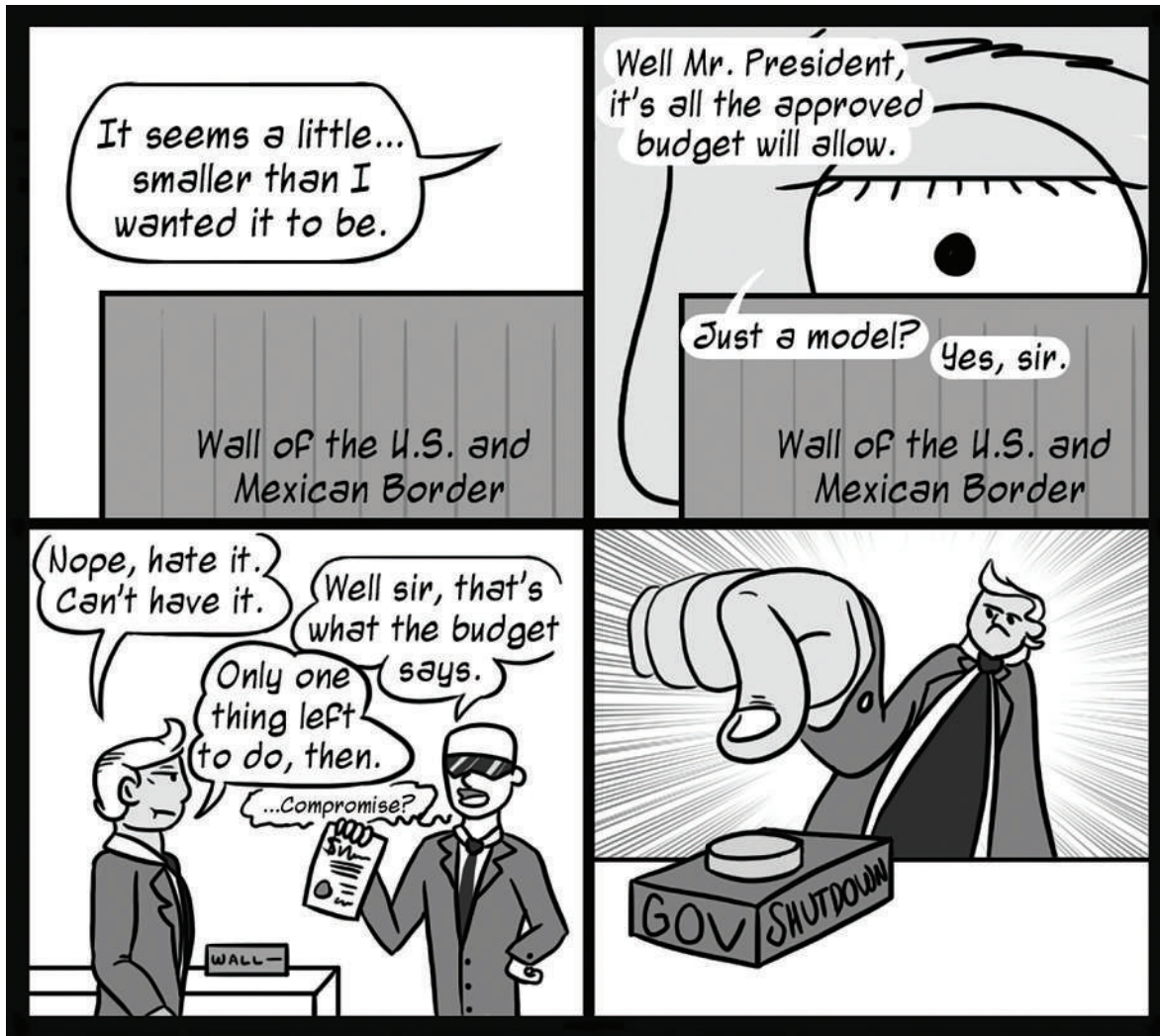
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Readers should report any story or photo error to *The Duke*. All legitimate errors will be corrected in print the following edition.

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email theduquduke@gmail.com



CARTOON BY SHELBY WASIL

if i do say so myself...

Saying goodbye is the hardest thing to do

"All good writing is swimming underwater and holding your breath."

I pinned that F. Scott Fitzgerald quote onto the side of my desk that sat in a pod in the middle of the room. It was the first day of my junior year, and it was the first day – the first real day, at least – of my time as the Opinions Editor for *The Duke*. I hoped that the quote would inspire me every time I looked at it.

When you look at the outside of 113 College Hall, it's not a very inspiring sight. It's a shabby-looking white door with a large window next to it, usually half-covered by blinds that we couldn't figure out how to close properly. Occasionally, there would be some doodles on the window in washable marker. Passersby rushing off to class probably wouldn't have noticed much about *The Duquesne Duke* newsroom at all, unless they tripped over the newsstand outside of the doorway.

While the outside of 113 College Hall might be forgettable to the average Duquesne student, what goes on inside that room – beyond that shabby door with the convoluted lock system – will forever be remembered by the few who are lucky enough to be a part of its staff, of its operations. There were several times where I almost stopped coming to the newsroom – like after being recommended by a professor in the department to meet the then-news editor or after my first few vis-

its when the atmosphere was intimidating – but I realize now that that would've been the biggest mistake of my life thus far.

I've worked at *The Duke* for two and a half years. I wrote once a week – and sometimes twice – regarding anything my heart felt passionate about, anything I thought Duquesne students deserved to know about, anything that I felt impacted them strongly. I'm too lazy to count the actual number of articles that amounts to, but it doesn't even matter.

It won't be the work that I will remember. What went on inside that room beyond the page will always be the most precious memories to me.

I will always remember how we spent late nights passing the time between editing with Sporcle and Geoguessr games, basketball trick-shot tournaments complete with highlight reels and heart attack-inducing puzzle races.

I will always remember how we almost wrote about Kim Kardashian in the staff editorial instead of a meeting we stumbled into about libertine students that landed *The Duquesne Duke* in *The New York Times*.

I will always remember how a few editors and I trekked off to Connecticut for a Society of Professional Journalists conference that we ditched halfway through for an afternoon of hotel swimming, bowling and bar-hopping instead. Yale, where the party at?

I will always remember why we should never, ever let Arts & Entertainment Editor Sean Ray choose the film for movie night, no matter how hard he begs.

I will always remember how my sister and I waited out Fifth Avenue traffic post-Pittsburgh Penguins games by lollygagging around the newsroom. There was nothing sweeter than the spare bottle of sparkling cider we popped and downed after watching the Pens beat the Washington Capitals in overtime to advance to the Eastern Conference Finals and an eventual Stanley Cup victory.

I will always remember Bobby's buffalo fries. I will always remember the first physical piece of hate mail I received for what I said in one of my columns. I will always remember Ted Cruz and Jeb Bush YouTube videos being played around the newsroom for no reason at all.

I will always remember how the most important person in my life sat two feet away from me for an entire year, and I didn't even realize what the future would hold.

I have no idea how, or even if, my time at *The Duke* will impact my career in the future, but it doesn't matter. Working with every single person in that newsroom, past or present, has made me into the person I am today. I value those friendships more than anything else, and it will be those relationships that I will remember from college forever.

It's been an unforgettable two and a half years, if I do say so myself.

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

letter to the editor

Journalism is a discipline of verification. In a world where the industry is being called into question constantly—from the White House to Main Street—transparency and original reporting are all the more critical.

The Society of Professional Journalist defines itself as "the nation's most broad-based journalism organization, dedicated to encouraging the free practice of journalism and stimulating high standards of ethical behavior." SPJ strives to uphold the ethical standards that guide journalists and media professionals on a day-to-day basis: specifically, to never plagiarize and always attribute one's sources.

According to the SPJ blog, College Media Watchdog, Fox News reported during a segment about the Chick-Fil-A controversy regarding an express restaurant locating on campus that it had reached out to Rachel Coury, the president of Duquesne's LGBT student group. Fox co-host Ainsley Earhardt said: "We reached out to the president, and she sent this message to us: 'I fear with the Chick-fil-A maybe people will feel that safe place is at risk.'" While Coury was quoted as saying this in *The Duke*, she did not issue a statement to Fox News. Fox News failed to uphold its journalistic duty.

When Fox News failed to be transparent about where it got its information, Fox journalists compromised themselves and the industry as a whole. We as students are practicing journalists, and we are frustrated when a professional news organization compromises itself in this basic element of journalism.

In light of the recent events surrounding Fox News and *The Duquesne Duke*, we here at the Duquesne University chapter of SPJ are writing to show our solidarity and support of the Duke's journalistic endeavors.

We are proud our small university newspaper has better ethical integrity than Fox demonstrated to report the truth accurately, and we implore national news organizations, like Fox News, to do the same.

Signed,

Duquesne University chapter, Society of Professional Journalists

A newspaper is worth fifty thousand words

SETH CULP-RESSLER
features editor

51,701 words. That's an average of about 850 words over the span of 61 total articles, profiles, features and columns. Now it's my job to sum all that up in just under 800.

I've been thinking about this column for a long time. I knew I'd eventually have to undertake that task of monumental compression. I knew it would be, for lack of a better word, weird to sit down and put to (digital) paper. I knew it would be the last thing I'd ever write for *The Duke*.

I didn't know that it would be this difficult to do.

In my mind it was a given that the words would already be there. Surely the column had already been written; all it needed was to show up on the page. Yet, sitting here now, it's still writer's block as ever.

When awkward, shy, far-less-handsome-than-now Seth moved into his Assumption Hall basement triple in the fall of 2013, journalism was the one and only path to take. I knew I wanted to write. I knew I wanted to tell stories, and, to be quite frank, I thought I was pretty damn good at doing both.

I wasn't — not sure that's changed much, really. The one sensible thought I did have, however, is that any respectable student journalist needed to be involved

with the student newspaper. So, after getting my bearings for a semester, I headed down to the dark, dingy newsroom in the basement of College Hall.

Despite being intimidated from day one, I stuck it out and kept showing up, week after week. I wrote some decent stories, and I certainly wrote some that I'd rather not remember. Above all, it was clear that the paper was the place to be for the next three years.

When I returned in the fall of 2014, I expected more of the same — writing primarily for the features section as a staff writer. As a first semester sophomore, the idea of being hired on as a section editor wasn't even a thought in my mind. Life has a way of shaking things up though, and shortly into that term, as a result of some unforeseen staff changes, the features section was in need of an editor.

This fact, I should say, was sprung upon me one evening by the then editor-in-chief. What caught me off guard was that it came as more than just a notice. It was a job offer, effective immediately.

A few long days of deliberation later — this was an enormous responsibility to take on, after all — I decided to swallow my anxieties and take the leap. After some slapdash training in the remainder of the fall term, I began my tenure as features editor in the spring 2015 semester.

I can say with strong confidence



PHOTO BY LEAH DEVORAK

Seth Culp-Ressler served as the features editor for *The Duquesne Duke* for five and a half semesters. He graduates in May.

that those first four months were some of the most stressful and mentally taxing that I've ever experienced. It was a whirlwind of overwhelming change, hard work and stress, and I was caught right in the eye of the storm.

Just like I had as a staff writer, though, I stuck it out. Thankfully, it got easier each day, each week, each month. Now, after five semesters in the position, it's hard to believe my time at *The Duke* is done.

That dingy old office saw some renovations over my time calling it home; it's much more welcoming now than when I first ventured in. But the sensation of walking in the door is still the same. Those

poignant feelings of stress, excitement, disdain and joy, all rolled up into one confusing concoction.

Like most who have been privileged enough to show up on *The Duke's* masthead, the paper was the cornerstone of my college career. It's where I spent most of my time, and it's where I made most of my friends.

A certain tension can arise when the same people spend so much of their waking hours together, but I'd like to extend my sincere and utmost thanks to every person I've been able to work alongside in the newsroom. You all may not know it, but every single one of you has played a hugely important role in

shaping what these four brief years mean to me.

When I think back to this time years down the road, your names will be the ones I remember, your friendships will be the ones I cherish and our experiences together will be the stories that define my college career. Thank you for everything.

Now, at long last, it's time for us to part ways, at least as coworkers. But before we go, I have one more thing to wrap up:

52,486.

Seth Culp-Ressler is a senior journalism major and can be reached at sculpressler@gmail.com.

Keep up the good work, DU



PHOTO BY LEAH DEVORAK

Kaye Burnet was editor-in-chief for one year. She is a triple major in math, economics and journalism.

KAYE BURNET
editor-in-chief

When I started at *The Duke*, there was a generally accepted notion ever-present in the newsroom: Duquesne students don't care about anything. School sports? They don't care. Politics? They don't care. While students at the University of Pittsburgh were blocking traffic to protest for a higher minimum wage, Duquesne students were...watching Netflix in bed? While students at Carnegie Mellon University were staging a "die-in" to support Black Lives Matter, Duquesne students were...going home to their parents' house for the weekend? We knew there were some students at Duquesne with drive and passion, but such campus leaders were few and

far between.

Yet over the four years I have spent with *The Duke*, I have been honored and impressed to watch more and more students become active participants in their campus community. I witnessed the return of Duquesne's gay-straight alliance, Lambda, and the creation of the Gender Forum, which just hosted a pop-up museum on femininity in the student union. Just recently, I watched as more than 40 students lined the hallways of College Hall outside a faculty meeting to show support for the liberal arts college and the DU Press. The Students for Liberty Libertarian group hosted free speech walls, students rallied to support the adjunct professors union, and this weekend, a bus from Duquesne

see FAREWELL—page 12

letter to the editor

Dear President Gormley,

We, the undersigned members of the Faculty and Staff Social Justice Association, wish to express our strong support for Duquesne University students who are questioning the administration's decision to bring the Chick-fil-A franchise to our campus. In keeping with our traditional roles, faculty are charged with guiding students' intellectual development and with supporting their growth as citizens who share a commitment to social justice and universal human dignity. We are also charged with encouraging them to think critically, because critical thinking is a vital prerequisite to good citizenship.

That being so, we are relieved that many students questioned an administrative decision which may be detrimental to Duquesne's campus culture (and the wellbeing of their fellow students.) *The Duquesne Duke* quotes Niko Martini, a senator at large in the Student Government Association and a member of the Lambda executive board, as saying "Chick-fil-A has a questionable history on civil rights and human rights ... I think it's imperative the university chooses to do business with organizations that coincide with the [university's] mission and expectations they give students regarding diversity and inclusion."

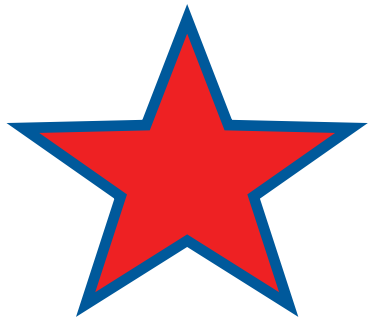
Even as they write final papers and prepare for exam period, Martini and his colleagues have made time to meet with various administrative bodies, write up their concerns and move through the bureaucratic channels necessary to state their case to the administration. While we have yet to discover how the administration will respond

to them, these same students have become the target of a public insult by a well-known political figure, Donald Trump Jr., who trivialized their concern as a fear of chicken sandwiches and demeaned them as "triggered." Other less well-known internet commenters, on the university's own site and beyond, have similarly mocked their commitment to this important issue. Drawing such a volume of criticism, as hostile and inappropriate as it has been, suggests that our students' protest was important and timely and, in this indirect sense, was gratifying.

We applaud students for putting themselves on the line and hope that we, as educators, empowered them to stand for their values.

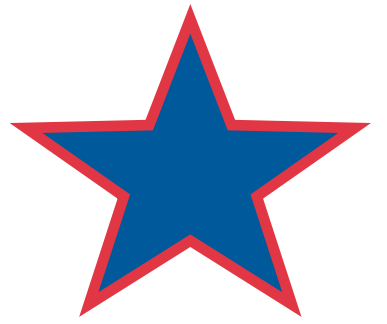
Sincerely,

Dr. Elaine Parsons, Dr. Fred Evans, Dr. Jaime Munoz, Dr. Julia Sienkewicz, Dr. Matt Schneirov, Dr. Emad Mirmotahari, Dr. James P. Bailey, Dr. Linda Kinnahan, Dr. Anna Floerke Scheid, Dr. Patrick Cooper, Dr. Robert Bellamy, Dr. Daniel Selcer, Dr. Daniel Lieberfeld, Dr. Susan G. Goldberg, Dr. James Weber, Dr. Lisa Lopez Levers, Dr. Danielle A. St. Hilaire, Dr. Michael Irwin, Dr. Lanei Rodemeyer, Dr. Erik Garrett, Dr. Jay Lampert, Dr. Tom Eyers, Dr. Norman Conti, Ms. Christie Klierer, Dr. Elisabeth Vasko, Dr. Moni McIntyre, Dr. Dan Burston, Dr. Faith Bjalobok, Dr. Maureen Gallagher, Prof. John Fried, Dr. Faith Barrett, Dr. Daniel P. Scheid, Dr. Stuart M. Kurland, Dr. Mark Frisch, Dr. Debra Hyatt-Burkhart, Dr. Sarah Miller, Dr. Edith H. Krause, Dr. Eva Simms, Dr. Marco Gemignani, Dr. Judy Suh



2016-17 *Duke Awards*

The Duke recognizes remarkable players, coaches and teams for their successes over the past year.



Best Men's Team: *Football*

Slightly edging out Cross Country to earn this year's title of "Best Men's Team," Duquesne's Football team followed up last season's strong 8-4 campaign with another impressive trophy year. The Dukes went 8-3 this season and won a share of the NEC title with Saint Francis. Since the Red & Blue fell to SFU in the regular season, the Red Flash were awarded the tiebreaker over Duquesne and represented the NEC in the FCS playoffs. Nonetheless, seniors Dillon Buechel and Christian Kuntz led the Dukes to a second consecutive NEC title, and freshman running back A.J. Hines was outstanding.

Best Male Athlete: *Christian Kuntz – Football*

The star linebacker ends his illustrious Duquesne career as the NEC's all-time sack leader. This year, he led the NEC in sacks (11.5) as well as tackles for loss (24.0). The NFL Draft hopeful also forced three fumbles and was named the NEC Defensive Player of the Week twice. Kuntz leaves the Bluff as one of the most renowned football players in program history.

Coach of the Year: *Dave Sheets – Swimming*

In his 15th year at the helm of Duquesne's swimming program, Sheets led the Dukes to the program's best finish all-time with a second-place finish in the A10. In 2015, the Dukes finished third in the A10 for just the third time. The other two times came in 2008 and 2009. During his tenure, Sheets has managed to transform the Duquesne swimming program from a perennial cellar-dweller into a consistent contender. The implementation of a diving component to the already successful swimming program further boosts the championship profile of Sheets' swimming program.

Best Seniors: *Dillon Buechel and Amadea Szamosi*

Buechel shined in his last year on the Bluff, throwing for 2,865 yards and 23 touchdowns. Buechel ranked in the Top 20 nationally in several passing categories, including passing yards (17th), passing TDs (16th), and yards per completion (13.77, 17th). In addition, he tied the school record for touchdown passes in a game with six in a 54-35 win at Jacksonville. Buechel was named to the All-NEC First Team and ends his career as a Duke as a three-time NEC champion.

In Szamosi's final season, she averaged 13.0 points per game for the Dukes, the second most on the team, while shooting .457 from the field. She also led the team with 8.3 rebounds per game.



IMAGES COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Best Play: *Mike Lewis II's half-court buzzer beater*

Seven seconds before halftime in Duquesne's game vs. UMass on February 15, Lewis hit a floater to extend the Dukes' lead to 14. On the ensuing inbounds pass, Lewis stole the ball from UMass guard Luwane Pipkins and hit an incredible on-the-run, across-the-body heave from half-court. Lewis would finish with 31 points in Duquesne's 96-66 victory.

Newcomer of the Year: *A. J. Hines – Football*

The freshman tailback from Wilson, North Carolina had unprecedented success in his freshman season with the Dukes. On 242 carries, Hines rushed for 1,291 yards, 13 touchdowns and a phenomenal 117.4 yards per game. Hines was named the NEC's Player of the Week six times and was awarded the STAT FCS Jerry Rice Award, presented to the most outstanding freshman at the FCS level. Hines is the first NEC player to ever receive the award.

Best Women's Team: *Swimming*

Improving upon last season's third-place finish, Duquesne's Swim team finished second in the A10. Throughout the course of this season, the Dukes demonstrated extremely consistent success. A victory at the Richmond Duels, that hosted the likes of conference foes Richmond, Davidson and George Mason, and a second-place finish at Cleveland State's Magnus Cup that included 13 other schools highlighted the year for the Dukes. The addition of a Diving team next season will augment Duquesne's status as a perennial contender within the A10.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Members of the swimming team cheer on their teammates at Towers Pool during an October 14 match.

Best Female Athlete: *Jenny DelSignore – Cross Country*

A Track & Field athlete for Duquesne as well, DelSignore performed impressively enough during the Cross Country campaign to garner Female Athlete of the Year honors. The junior had a pair of first-place finishes, with wins coming in the Duquesne Duals and in the UB Stampede Invitational at the University of Buffalo. At the A10 Cross Country Championships, she finished seventh with a time of 17:30.3 (5k). DelSignore was twice named the A10 Cross Country Women's Performer of the Week.



IMAGES COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne's two best newcomers: Mike Lewis II, left, heaves a half-court shot vs. UMass on February 15, and A.J. Hines, right, fights for yardage against Sacred Heart University on November 12.

Another journey down, on to the next chapter

ANDREW HOLMAN
sports editor

One day you are unpacking your life into a dorm room hoping to find your home away from home, and before you know it, you are picking up your cap and gown from the campus bookstore and staring down the last two weeks of your college life.

Life comes at you fast. Real fast. That's why I challenge all of you reading this to embrace the journey. It's not always going to be easy. It might not always live up to your expectations. But when that journey comes to an end, you are inevitably going to be wishing that you had made the most of it.

Now it's time for me to embark on my next journey. Many graduates leave college fearing the next stage of their lives. I can't wait.

For the better part of the past 20 years, I have been working toward the same dream, which has been to pursue a career in the world of sports. Being from Cleveland, the "nothing is given, everything is earned," motto has been instilled in me since day one, and bringing that mindset and work ethic to campus was crucial to developing my skills over the past three years.

My time at Duquesne University provided me with so many valuable opportunities which have helped me to become an experienced up-and-comer in the very competitive sports communications industry.

I was able to find my voice as the play-by-play commentator for Duquesne Athletics alongside my good friend Matt Vogel for a variety of sports on campus. I was able to serve as the Vice President of Duquesne's PRSSA chapter. Additionally, with my educational background, I was able to secure opportunities in my field with Lifebanc, Trib-Live Sports Radio, the Akron Racers, Notre Dame College Athletics and, most recently, the Pittsburgh Steelers.

And, of course, I had the privilege of holding the sports editor position for the 2016-17 school year, as well as being a sports writer for the past three years with *The Duquesne Duke*.

Thank you to all of you who have read and supported my

work. Thank you to former editor-in-chief Julian Routh and our advisor Bobby Kerlik for challenging me and developing me as a sports writer. Thank you to all of the coaches and athletes who I have bothered over the years, but who have treated me with the utmost respect. Thank you to Dave Saba and Ryan Gavatora for all of your assistance when working with Athletics.

Thank you to my professors, especially Professor Healy, for opening doors for me and providing me with a strong educational foundation.

Thank you to all the people who told me my dream was out of reach, impossible or too ambitious. Without your motivation, I might have just given up like so many others have. I will prove you wrong.

Thank you to Nick. You certainly proved the grumpy old man stereotype wrong, and our five minute conversations were always a pleasure while I perfected your personalized grande caramel frappuccino with extra caramel drizzle. Every time you came into my Starbucks, you always made it a point to ask how my dream was coming along and you told me that I was going to "make it" more times than anyone else ever has. For that I thank you, and I hope somehow this message finds you.

Thank you to my parents for all of their support over the last 20 years, and for encouraging me to pursue my dream instead of chasing me away from it like so many others tried to do. Thank you to my siblings for lifting my spirits every time I came home for break and for serving as my biggest fans. Thank you to my best friends for all the laughs, the phone calls and the memories that I won't soon forget. Thank you to my girlfriend for all of her endless love and support.

Each of you have helped me to reach this point in my life in your own unique way.

Lastly, don't be afraid to go out there and chase your dreams. Don't be afraid to stand out.

"The longer you have to wait for something, the more you will appreciate it when it finally arrives. The harder you have to fight for something, the more priceless it will become once you achieve it. And the more pain you have to endure on your journey, the sweeter the arrival at your des-

tinuation. All good things are worth waiting for and worth fighting for."



COURTESY OF ANDREW HOLMAN

Just a few members of my support system including my little sister Caelyn (far left), girlfriend Callie (middle left), myself (center), and my younger brothers Garrett (middle right) and Ian (far right).

Athletics continues to alter identity, reaches deal with Nike

DAVID BORNE
staff writer

Duquesne Athletic programs will sport a bit of a new look next season. Last week, athletic director Dave Harper announced the university's new seven-year partnership with Nike.

While there had been plenty of specu-

lation about a change, nothing was made official until the announcement.

The university was previously sponsored by adidas. The partnership with the European manufacturer began in 2007.

Harper broke the news of the switch at the A.J. Palumbo Center in front of every athletic team, as well as students and faculty members.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

A showcase of the type of apparel Duquesne's athletic teams will be sporting next year. While the sample jerseys aren't exactly what the Dukes will be sporting next year, it generated excitement for fans.

"It's a testament to the institution, it's a testament to our coaches, and it's a testament especially to our student-athletes," Harper said. "Because Nike thinks so much of you to associate their brand with your excellence, it's truly a blessing."

A short video was then played on the jumbotron, displaying images of cookie cutter uniforms to show athletes something like what their uniforms will be next season. Athletes Millie Micho, Rico Galassi, Linnea Faccenda, Andy Struttman, Conor Richardson, and Mike Lewis II then took the stage, each showing off what the uniforms for their respective teams will look something like.

President Ken Gormley even joined in on the fun and ran onto the stage wearing one of the Nike football jerseys. Harper jokingly referred to the first-year university president as the new starting quarterback for the football team.

Nike comes with plenty of perks, including the primetime athletes that it sponsors. The most notable, of course, is LeBron James. New men's basketball head coach Keith Dambrot, who coached James in high school, confirmed in an interview with Sports Illustrated that Duquesne will join the exclusive list of programs that will sport LeBron-brand gear on the court.

Something like a special brand of gear is just one of many little things that could potentially benefit Duquesne when a recruit is trying to decide which school to attend.

Many student-athletes, fans and coaches are thrilled with the switch from adidas to Nike. Most displayed their excitement by yelling and cheering at the announcement, and some even took to social media to express their excitement.

Everybody in attendance was able to leave with a new piece of Nike apparel: Red and blue shirts, that read, "We Are Duquesne" with the university's logo below, were handed out following the announcement.

Football head coach Jerry Schmitt is looking forward to the transition to Nike and believes it will lead to many positive things for not only his program, but all of the others on campus as well.

"The Nike swoosh is one of the iconic logos in all of sports. To have Duquesne associated with the industry leader in athletics apparel will benefit our program in many ways. I know our student-athletes and staff are excited to begin this new relationship."

Switching to Nike is just another step in Gormley and Harper's process in reshaping the image of Duquesne Athletics. The new look will hopefully come with plenty of success for the Dukes on and off the playing fields.

Fans looking to purchase some of the new Nike gear can do so through the Duquesne University flash sale on the website for BSN Sports, another of Duquesne's new business partners.

A&E Editor says final farewell to Duquesne

SEAN RAY
a&e editor

It hurts to write this. Growing up, I never liked change and still don't really. Anytime we moved houses, I complained loudly. Heck, I got annoyed when furniture got mixed around. Eventually I learned to cope, but it didn't make things any less difficult.

My time with *The Duke* has been some of the happiest moments of my life. I would do this forever if I could. Becoming the A&E editor was the most amount of responsibility I've ever been given, and I enjoyed doing every moment of it.

For once, I had a voice. For once, my love of movies was going toward something productive. For once, I had friends who shared my love of writing as much as I did. And to have that all go away, even if only temporarily until I find a job, is hard.

But I take solace in the fact that I made my mark. The sidebar on page nine became a lot more interesting under me (it used to just be one long week-end events column). *The Duke* has a larger staff now than it has had in probably a decade or two, and a large part of that is made up of my writers. I created the "Best of the Year" special edition, something I hope my successor keeps up with.

More than that, I will always treasure the friends I've made down in our newsroom. Spending an entire Wednesday locked up in one area is never easy, but they made it more than tolerable. They made it fun. Plus, I appreciate the fact my colleagues put up with my antics and horrible jokes.

You surprised me so many times, Duquesne. One



LEAH DEVORAK/ PHOTO EDITOR

moment, you're the quietest campus around, the next, you're raining down hellfire because somebody called you a libertine or bought a ring statue. I've seen album reviews of major artists barely get any attention, but then an article about some niche-interest cartoon get thousands of clicks online.

So, with an eye for the future, I'll leave you this piece of advice: You cannot afford to not get involved around campus. Without *The Duke*, I barely would have done anything outside of the

dorm room. With it, I've learned more about my future career than any classroom could ever teach (not that I don't appreciate the wonderful teachers in the JMA department). It is important to keep up on your grades, but it is just as important to get experience for your future outside the lecture hall, and it breaks my heart when I talk to journalism students who don't contribute to

see *FAREWELL* — page 12

The plight of a disabled gamer against time

GRANT STONER
staff writer

I hate being sick. Unfortunately, my disability has the capability to turn minor colds into full-blown pandemics, only curable through a proverbial cocktail of antibiotics and steroids. Very rarely does this method fail, but if and when it does, I am forced to leave the comforts of my home, trading my poster-filled walls for the dull orange paint of a hospital room. Each hospitalization means that I am to be at the mercy of strangers, but more importantly, it forces me to temporarily give up gaming.

At a younger age, my strength levels allowed me to hold my Game Boy Advance, letting me escape into virtual worlds. In fact, my hospital admissions are the cause for my 37 completions on "Pokemon: Silver Version." Yet, as I grew older, my disease resulted in a weakening of my muscles, preventing me from effectively holding my gaming devices. This fact became even more evident during my most recent visit to my least favorite institution.

One month ago, I took the all-too-familiar ambulance trip to the emergency room. The cold proved too much for my immune system, and I had no choice but to rely on the assistance of others. What I thought would be a quick "visit" turned into a 13-day ordeal, filled with needles, a plethora of medicines and a constant rotation of doctors and nurses. The only constant during my time in the ICU was watching the bleached tips of a very obnoxious Food Network host.

With nothing to pass the time, I longed to return to the region of "Johto," but my muscles had other ideas. Without the ability to game, every pain, every cramp and every ri-



COURTESY OF SQUARE ENIX

The "Kingdom Hearts" series features a blend of Disney, "Final Fantasy" and original characters.

diculous food adjective on the television became excruciatingly noticeable. If I hear the phrase "Winner winner, chicken dinner" one more time, I cannot be held responsible for my actions.

As my time in the hospital drew to a close, I became noticeably irritable. I wanted to go home. I wanted to resume a life of normalcy. But more importantly, I wanted to return to gaming. I was a proverbial addict who needed his fix. Thirteen days without a single video game was far too long.

Am I being overdramatic? Possibly. But imagine losing one of the few mediums which allow you to escape the daily pains of a very physically exhausting disease. For me, gaming is not merely a way to entertain myself. Gaming is crucial for the survival of my mental state.

In the virtual world, I need to focus on pressing the appropriate buttons, completing the right tasks and formulating the necessary strategies. I can become so engrossed in each title, that I temporarily ignore the aches in my shoulder, or the spasms in my back. These brief periods of relief grant me the capability to finish each day. Whether it be a 15-minute match on "Pokémon Trading Card Game Online," or a several-hour excursion into the Disney-filled worlds of the "Kingdom Hearts" series, gaming is the equivalent to my Vicodin.

This hospitalization truly opened my eyes. It made me realize that a simple cold can completely incapacitate me. It also showed me how essential gaming is in my life. Despite my weakening physical state, I refuse to give up gaming. I refuse to let my disability win.

WEEK'S EVENTS

Market Street Block Party
April 27, 6-10 p.m.

Part of an ongoing series of events hosted by the Market St. Grocery and Cody Baker, this event will feature music from Juan-Augusto Lafontaine & Jwan Allen as well as treet food and cocktails by Market St. Grocery and Chef Chad Rapp.

Lovers Not Fighters Gala
April 29, 7-10 p.m.

Hosted by Hello Bully, this event is a celebration of the animals and people that the pit bull rescue has helped in the past year. Tickets cost \$60 and the event will take place in The Wintergarden at PPG Place.

UPCOMING RELEASES

"Dawn of War 3"
April 27

The latest entry in the venerable RTS series set in the Warhammer 40,000 universe, "Dawn of War 3" sees the return of base building mechanics and the main characters of the original game. Choose between three races, whether they are the noble Space Marines, the tricky Eldar or the barbaric Orks. The game will be PC exclusive and will cost \$59.99.

"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2"
May 5

The sequel to the popular 2014 Marvel superhero movie, this film explores the origins of main character Star-Lord (Chris Pratt). Kurt Russell makes his debut in the cinematic universe, playing a powerful cosmic being known as Ego.

MICRO REVIEW

"Hard Times" by Paramore

"Paramore's newest single, 'Hard Times,' has an uplifting, head-bobbing, pop-styled melody accompanied with Hayley Williams', poetic, thought provoking lyrics. Frankly, it's a spectacular song."

-Nicolas Jozefczyk

What does “Gamer” mean in a more mainstream world

CRAIG TAYLOR
staff writer

Gamer. It’s a word that is so common among video game enthusiasts and gaming media that few people even think about. Most would simply define the word as “someone who plays video games.” But in 2017, what does that mean?

Is the mom who plays “Candy Crush” on her iPhone every night after work just as much of a “gamer” as the twenty-something who kicks back and shoots the breeze with his friends on “Call of Duty?” Or, is the moniker “gamer” reserved for the hardest of hardcore, who live and breathe gaming and pre-order every \$150 special edition at their local GameStop?

Truthfully, each of these is an example of people participating in the same entertainment to differing degrees. They are all enjoying games in their own way, yet the idea that video games can only be enjoyed by a certain type of reclusive, antisocial person continues to perpetuate.

Now, are there more pressing issues within the video game industry? Absolutely, but in order for video games to permeate into mainstream culture the way many in the gaming industry hope it one day will, the g-word needs to be eliminated, as it reinforces a social divide between “gamers” and “normal people” that does not exist.

One of the chief uses of the word is in care-

less writing, and some members of the gaming press have taken a stand against it. On his former editorial web series, “The Final Bosman,” video game journalist Kyle Bosman had a list of words he didn’t allow himself to say, one of them being “gamer.” His reason was that when writers use the word “gamer,” they could just replace it with the word “person,” and it would mean the exact same thing in almost every context.

For example, in an article about the midnight launch of a new title, one might see the headline, “Gamers Wait for Midnight Release,” instead of just, “People Wait for Midnight Release.”

Comparing games to other media, there’s no equivalent label for fans of music, movies or television shows, at least to the degree that the word “gamer” is used. Someone who loves cinema and studies the craft isn’t labeled as a “filmer,” nor is there a popularized word in music reserved for people who study the intricacies of music theory. So why is there a distinction for video games?

Because it points to a deep-seated belief that people who love video games are fundamentally different. If there’s a scandal or controversy, it’s always commented that “gamers” were upset, presuming that whatever the news was, is way too complicated, nerdy or otherwise unrelatable for “normal” people to understand. But that’s such an antiquated idea, and it’s one that mainstream news and games media unknowingly allow to continue.



LEAH DEVORAK/ PHOTO EDITOR

According to the Entertainment Software Association “65 percent of American households are home to at least one person who plays video games regularly, or at least three hours per week.”

The majority of people who play games don’t exist in a vacuum, so consumed with their hobby they have no semblance of the outside world. Admittedly, those people do exist, however there’s plenty of sports, car and music enthusiasts who also exhibit that type of behavior without stigma. “Nerds” (for lack of a better term) exist in every hobby, but somehow it’s gaming whose posterboy is the pasty teen that

lives in their mom’s basement eating Doritos and drinking Mountain Dew.

And while the term ought to be eliminated to improve the perception of people who play video games, more importantly, the g-word stunts the growth of the industry by creating a barrier that newcomers are intimidated to cross over.

see GAMER — page 11

Duquesne student’s poetry book covers love and pick-up lines

SEAN ARMSTRONG
staff writer

Often times poets and the poetry they write are seen as overly serious and dramatic. Makeem White, a freshman at Duquesne University, lacks that overly dramatic aspect to his work and favors a lighter and more jovial approach to his poetry. His work ranges from short stories to poems to memoirs to fiction. Makeem recently released his first poetry book, titled “Let Your Emotions Explode,” where he explores bad pick up lines, the Christmas Ball and free hugs among many other ideas.

Q: What made you decide to create this book?

A: So, eight months ago I wrote a poem at the talent show for orientation. It was very last minute, wrote it in about ten, twenty minutes. I read to them at the audition, they liked it. Then I received an email saying that I wouldn’t be in the talent show. But the next morning I showed up to the Union Ballroom and I met up with the leaders again and they told me, Hey, we liked your poems so much, we’re going to have you in the talent show. Which I thought, That’s great! Then the actual performance I did at the talent show... it was very well-received, to my surprise. They thought I did a really great job; they liked what I wrote. Then the next night there was a party at the Marriot Hotel I think, it’s close to here. I was bored at the party, so I just started to write poems. A young lady, by the name of Meghan Dunbar, noticed me writing and I showed her what I wrote. She liked it and we became friends from there, and then she told me that one day I could become a famous writer. Which gave me a lot of motivation, and from there I just became a lot more consistent



SEAN ARMSTRONG/ STAFF WRITER

White doesn’t look to many sources for inspiration, instead writing about “what’s on the top of [his] head.”

with writing, nearly everyday or when I can... Here [at Duquesne University] I have a lot more flexibility with writing, and so I can just write what I want and have any context. I really decided that yeah, I could compile this into a book and make this my own. So I did think about that for a few months and just wasn’t sure when I would be ready to do it till February where I handpicked 30 pieces I wrote over the last several months to put in the book.

Q: What is your favorite poem in the book and why?

A: One of my personal favorite poems in the book is “The Genesis of Picking Up Lines.” It was a poem I wrote way back in August and it’s a poem about really bad pick up lines. I thought it would be really funny, and I read it to some of my friends back then. They thought it was great, they coined this really bizarre term called ‘fertilize the garden.’ It can mean so many things and I incorporated that line into a play that my group and I are working on for a theater class. So it’s called the “Avid of Romance,” and I’m also making that into a short story as well. The whole “fertilize the garden” thing is in there. The whole group thought that line was hilarious, they couldn’t help but crack up when hearing it, or reading it, so it’s definitely the “Genesis of Picking Up Lines.”

Q: How long have you been writing poetry, and how did you get started?

A: Okay, so it goes back to even farther than high school, more like middle school. So seventh grade there was a poetry project that the class had to work on and then we submit our poems for a book called “The Gold Edition,” and that was way back in 2010. I can’t even really remember what was in that book, but I did receive something in the mail months after I finished up seventh grade, and I found out that the poem I wrote for that made it into the “Gold Edition.” It [the poem I wrote] was called “Untitled,” and I unfortunately lost that poem so it kinda sucks.

Q: I understand you drew the artwork on the cover as well, do you think that drawing and poetry work well together?

A: I think that poetry and drawing can go hand-in-hand. I think they can work pretty well, though the cover work doesn’t really

have much to do with the material within the poems. Some people did mistake it for a comic book. I can understand that, the cover work does look like it can be on a comic book, but in the future I’ll probably make artwork that is a lot more contextual to the actual material in the books and having the artwork and the poems within it make something really good.

Q: Any plans in the future for other work or current work?

A: So earlier I did say that I would work on a short story called the “Avid of Romance,” and I finished the second chapter to that. It’s a big work in progress, so still making lots of changes from the manuscript my group and I wrote. It’s an adaptation of an adaptation. I wrote a short story called “Love Hurts” right before Valentine’s Day, and it had a pretty dark ending to it. The main character was nearly heartbroken, and I showed it to my group and we decided to make a play based around that. We all decided to change the ending to a more optimistic one. Yeah, the heartbreak is still there, but something better comes along the way. So I’m taking elements from both the manuscript as well as the original short story that I wrote to create the final version. Much later down the line there will be a sequel to “Let Your Emotions Explode,” and it’s going to be titled “The Semester Strikes Back.” People have asked me to incorporate more art based around the people I drew around the cover, well, that is going to happen for “The Semester Strikes Back.” I’ll also incorporate another short story or two within it. It’ll kinda be more than just a poetry book. People actually liked the comics I drew to my surprise, so I’ll include a new comic hand drawn by myself.

To see the full interview, please go to duqsm.com.

‘Gamer’ title losing common meaning

GAMER — from page 10

I’ve heard sentiments like, “I think games are interesting, but they’re just too complicated to get into,” or, “I respect the hobby, but it just seems like too much to get into.” While it’s true these people might not enjoy games even if they tried them, it doesn’t help that they feel like their legitimacy as a “gamer” will be questioned if they’re not on the same knowledge level as someone who has been studying the industry for ten or more years. It speaks to this idea that being a “gamer” is a common experience with a linear path of

expertise, when in reality, it’s an incredibly multifaceted, diverse network of communities interested in the artistic, tech or cultural side of gaming.

Now realistically, there are far more insidious words that Americans need to eliminate from their vocabulary, so I can understand how complaining about something as innocuous as this seems silly. But if you’re talking about games and wondering what to call those who devote their free time to one of the fastest-growing entertainment industries in the world, why not try the word “people?”



Local vendors at DU

FOOD — from page 6

evenly split between the two philanthropies.

As a final note, Rice would like to add: “I just want to say thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible, without them it wouldn’t have been a success! Also, a huge thank you to everyone who came to eat and support the event, I hope the long lines were worth it!”

Thanks to the participating food trucks like PGH Crepes, and the hard work of many Greek Life members, the Food Truck Frenzy was a raging success, with lines clear up Mellon Hall’s back lawn all day. Hopefully students can expect similar events in the semesters to come. Until then, we can just enjoy the fine cuisine that Hogan has to offer.



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March for Science attracts crowd

SCIENCE — from page 2

for more than just their careers, but for their lives.

Retired nurse Susan Cox, for example, was 41 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer and accredits her survival, and the continued health of her family, to science. She also said her time spent in the practice of medicine inspired her to participate in the march.

"Being a nurse, I participated in a lot of regulations and stud-

ies for patients in my work, and I helped do research for the surgeon I worked for. I'm here today because of my husband... He's here because of science. He has congestive heart failure, and he has a defibrillator/pacemaker."

Cox continued to work in the medical field fighting cancer as a nurse for breast surgeons and radiographers, as well as helped form the Y-ME hotline for women to talk to other breast cancer survivors.

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Art of saying a final goodbye

FAREWELL — from page 9

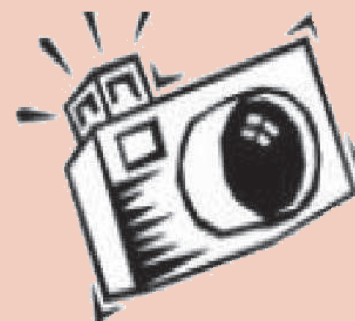
The Duke, DS-TV, WDSR or one of the other student organizations on campus.

And with that, I bid you adieu Duquesne. From your cozy atmosphere, to your terrific professors, to the wonderful group of friends I've made here; I'm going to miss it all.

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Email Photo

Editor Leah Devorak at
devorakl@duq.edu to become
a photographer for *The Duke*.

Duke editor-in-chief says goodbye

FAREWELL — from page 5

will attend the climate march in Washington, D.C. You might not necessarily support all these actions and events (after all, Duquesne is a very conservative-leaning college campus), but that's beside the point. What matters is that instead of being passive people who allow others to make decisions that affect the world around them, Duquesne students are taking action. They are speaking up, and that is inspiring and humbling.

During my time at *The Duke*, I have learned what a huge influence speaking up can have. It has been such a privilege to lead a team of talented and dedicated writers who helped bring attention to issues ranging from mold in the Honors Dorms (which are now nicely renovated!) to the hazards of walking down the icy City steps in winter (still a problem). Duke writers have honored deceased students and faculty with beautiful obituaries, and celebrated when students received national grants or when professors win prestigious awards.

Of course, speaking up comes with risks. I've stood by, enraged, as strang-

ers online have verbally attacked and insulted my writers just for doing their jobs. I've seen my writers be shunned by their friends for completing an assignment I've given them. Just this month, I've watched students at Duquesne be subjected to ridicule on a national scale for daring to oppose a company whose values don't align with their own. I've fielded phone calls and emails from readers who just want to spew vitriol, and I've had to develop a very thick skin as a result.

So, members of my Duquesne family: It might be hard to get involved, to become engaged and to put your voice out there. People can and will mock you. You will face opposition. But by doing so, you can make Duquesne a better place for future generations of students. I hope that as News Editor and then Editor-in-Chief of *The Duke*, I've been able to contribute to that goal in a small way, but there's still so much to do.

Kaye Burnet is a senior economics, math and journalism major and can be reached at kayeburnet@gmail.com.

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