



## Aliens, Lovecraft, Pokémon and LGBT: Best games of 2016

Welcome to the *Duke's Best Entertainment of 2016 Special Edition*. Our crack team of writers and editors have picked out their favorite pieces of entertainment from the past year across five categories: video games, music, books, TV shows and movies. Don't forget to check online at [duqsm.com](http://duqsm.com) for our companion article, the *Worst Entertainment of 2016*.

### **XCOM 2 - Brandon Addeo**

The second installation of the "XCOM" series, "XCOM 2," adds another fantastic entry in the turn-based, third person tactical shooter series historically known for being harsh and unforgiving in its difficulty.

The game takes place in 2035, 20 years after the events of "XCOM: Enemy Unknown," the reboot of the 1990s "XCOM" series by developer MicroProse.

"XCOM's" greatest strengths are in its difficulty, and "XCOM 2" is every bit as challenging as "Enemy Unknown." The two games are similar in structure, but "XCOM 2" improves some of the functions of its predecessor. For example, upgrades to armor and weaponry are now automatically distributed to all XCOM soldiers, whereas they previously had to be made individually for each troop.

Additionally, "XCOM 2" introduces the ability to customize the names, physical appearances and personalities of your soldiers. For myself at least, this customization aspect made the (unceremonious) deaths of your troops that much more cruel, but adds to the intensity of the game.

If you're looking for a challenge, grab a plasma rifle and help liberate planet Earth in "XCOM 2."

### **Darkest Dungeon - Sean Ray**

"X-COM" is one of my favorite retro video games. H.P. Lovecraft is one of my favorite authors. So a game that combined the tough of nails, permadeath style gameplay of "X-COM" with the cosmic horror stories of Lovecraft was bound to be my favorite of the year.

"Darkest Dungeon" is a true sign of the strength indie studios have. No major publisher would be caught dead making a 2D game that doesn't show off intense graphical capabilities, nor would they make a game that's teeth grindingly hard. Luckily, Red Hook were able to fill that unique niche for people who love to bang their heads against a proverbial

brick wall over and over again until they succeed.

The game will make you yell in frustration and cheer in success within the same play session. You'll find yourself becoming attached to your characters and mourning their deaths. And for the cherry on top, you'll find yourself absolutely captivated by the game's enchanting narrator, even as he mocks your failures.

### **Pokémon Go - Zachary Landau**

Yeah, remember that? That was fun for two weeks. "Pokémon Go" may be a terrible game run by buffoons who have never heard of the word "retention," but it was also perhaps the biggest game to come out in a long time. Everywhere you went, people were flicking virtual balls at the titular monsters, and it was an amazing experience to just enjoy something with complete strangers. "Pokémon Go" was a great thing in a terrible year, and with the drip-feed of new content coming in December, there will be a reason to come back and relive those two weeks again. If anything, "Pokémon Go" is the closest I have ever been to experiencing the level of Pokémon fever when the series first debuted.

### **Overwatch - Grant Stoner**

"Heroes never die!" the angelic Mercy announces, as she instantly revives five of her fallen comrades. With the full team assembled, the payload successfully reaches its final destination, awarding the attackers with a victory. Developed by Blizzard Entertainment, "Overwatch" is an objective-based shooter, requiring players to synchronize battle strategies, as well as team composition, to win the game. With 23 eclectic heroes, each with their own powerful abilities, 14 diverse maps and six unique game modes, "Overwatch" provides an incredible opportunity for gamers to explore varying play-styles within a single package.

"Overwatch" delivers one of the most engaging first-person shooter experiences of 2016. Despite the lack of a story, each multiplayer match evolves into an intense, often climactic struggle, forcing both teams to quickly react in order to secure a win. Whether on consoles or PC, "Overwatch" is an excellent gift for gamers this holiday season.

### **Gone Home - Nicole Prieto**

An indie game originally released in 2013, Fullbright's

"Gone Home" was temporarily released for free over the weekend following the results of the presidential election. The game received critical acclaim after it first came out — and for good reason.

The year is 1995. You take the first-person perspective of Katie Greenbriar, a college student who just arrived home after studying abroad in Europe. The Greenbriars recently moved into a deceased relative's house. Katie arrives to find it dark and abandoned, with only a mysterious note left to start off the game. Players must unlock secret passageways and discover new areas to try to determine what happened to Katie's now-missing sister, Sam. The narrative unfolds before you as you pick up items and Sam narrates what happened in her life since you left.

Though it received some flak for being a "walking simulator," "Gone Home" is a solid narrative whose unseen characters and thoughtful voice acting easily make up for its weaknesses. The game inverts horror genre tropes to good effect. Instead of monsters in the attic, what we receive is a hopeful, relatable story with high emotional payoff. This is definitely one LGBT-friendly game you will either want to pick back up again or try out for the first time.

### **Gears of War 4 - Craig Taylor**

"Gears of War 4" is a big-budget, hammy video game that is completely self-aware. It accomplishes exactly what it sets out to do, and is just a well-rounded package for old fans and new fans alike.

Taking place 25 years after the end of "Gears of War 3," "Gears 4" follows Marcus Fenix's son JD and his outfit of Outsider allies in a post-Locust world. But a new threat emerges, and it's up to JD and company to save the planet Sera as his father did before him.

"Gears of War 4" is a near-perfect soft-reboot. The story brings back some old favorites but is largely fresh, the co-op Horde mode is the best it's ever been, and the multiplayer, although a little tired, sticks to the series' roots to ensure that veteran players feel at-home.

There are other games that are more provocative or innovative, but in terms of big-budget AAA games, "Gears 4" is so complete, that it'd be difficult to find a fuller game for \$60.



## Racism, horror and Bowie: Best songs of 2016

### *What it Means - Raymond Arke*

The Drive-By Truckers, an alternative country rock band, tackle tough issues like racism in their politically-fueled album "American Band," and their tone is highlighted in the song "What it Means."

The song details the police shootings that have captured America's attention, specifically mentioning the killings of Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin. The lyrics question the purpose of shooting unarmed black young people. They wonder how, even though we have a black president and we have made so much progress, such systemic racism exists in America. They confront the hypocrisy of some people who attempt to explain away the deaths. One of the most potent lines addresses how there still is a racial gap, saying: "I mean Barack Obama won and you can choose where to eat/ but you don't see too many white kids laying in the street." They challenge the idea that America has become a post-racial society.

It's unusual to hear an all-white band singing in a country twang about the evils of racism. The song is fueled by a powerful, driving drum beat adding a serious tone to the music. In an unsettled and hostile political climate, The Drive-By Truckers call on people and think about "what it means" when "the outer edges move and dazzle us, but the core is something rotten." This powerful and moving song from an unlikely source perfectly captures the mood of an uncertain and confused country.

### *A New Beginning - Sean Ray*

I'll be frank: The only reason I listened to this song in the first place is because of the "Friday the 13th" reference in it. Nonetheless, this tune by Wolfie's Just Fine, headed by Canadian comedy musician Jon Lajoie, is a hauntingly beautiful part of the band's debut album.

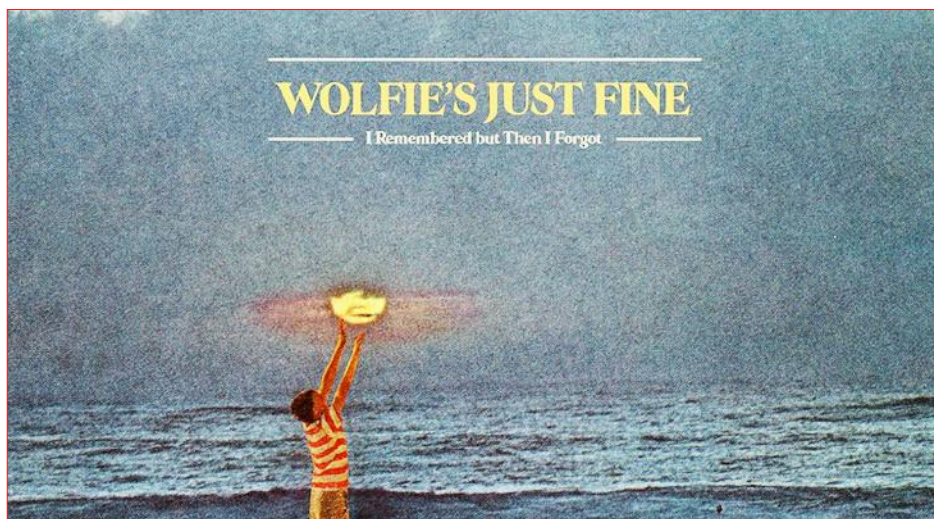
The song brings the listener back to childhood, as the narrator's friend pops in a horror movie they're not supposed to watch. He finds himself oddly captivated by the graphic sex scene occurring on screen... that is, until infamous movie murderer Jason Voorhees shows up to do what he does best.

Despite the scary connotation of the song, its smooth melody is very relaxing and holds a tinge of nostalgia to it. We've all had that moment in our childhood when we did something our parents told us not to do, and "The New Beginning" speaks to that memory. Its smooth flowing style and killer hook (pardon the pun) certainly help, transitioning from calming to suspenseful in a seamless and natural manner.

Even if you don't like horror movies, give "The New Beginning" a listen and bring out your inner child harmoniously.

### *Blackstar - Zachary Landau*

My love of Bowie is probably clouding my judgement on this one, but I don't care. "Blackstar" is consistently good from start to finish, and it is a near perfect amalgamation of Bowie's entire career wrapped up in a slick and stylish package. It is pretty close to being a perfect album, held down by its short length and over-reliance on certain instrumentation, but I heartedly suggest it to any-



COURTESY OF NORMAL GUY RECORDS

one looking for new music or who want to get into Bowie.

### *Just Like Fire - Nicolas Jozefczyk*

P!nk is finally back to making music after a four year long hiatus. With her release of "Just Like Fire" for the movie "Alice Through the Looking Glass," P!nk's no-hold-back vocals and songwriting prowess shine through. Using inspiration from Alice's character in the feature film, she wrote an anthem about being a strong fighter who stands up for what he/she believes in and does not take no for an answer. This track has a catchy hook, a gnarly bass line, a slight rap break and beautiful falsetto notes that culminate to create another stunning P!nk song. The music video itself is also a work of art. The video featuring her husband, Carey Hart, her daughter, Willow Hart, and herself takes the viewer through the magical and crazy world of Wonderland. "Just Like Fire" is an amazing melody and holds its own, even if it was not tied to "Alice Through the Looking Glass." This track is easily one of the best to come out of 2016.

### *Other People - Nicole Prieto*

On the heels of her latest EP's release, musician LP came to Pittsburgh's Rex Theater in July. Her breakup song "Other People" perhaps lives in the shadow of her more well-known piece "Lost on You," but it carries its own unique bite. "Other People" opens with LP's signature whistling before vacillating from a somber reflection on days gone by to bitterness about being left in the dust for "something else."

Lyrics like "No more song, no more dance, no dance floor / We left it all to chance, no encore," a handful of F-bombs and accusations of being unfaithful round out the song's essence. "Other People" is an anthem for anyone coping with the recent sting of a breakup gone bad. LP's melodic cynicism ("Thank you baby, thank you babe, darling / Don't explain, don't explain") might inspire you to sing along, but do not feel bad if you cannot quite replicate her whistling. The only thing better than listening to this satisfyingly harsh piece on repeat is getting to hear it live.

### *These Words - Josiah Martin*

"These Words" by The Lemon Twigs was one of the strongest and most interesting songs of 2016, and it somehow fell under most people's radars. The Lemon

Twigs are a group comprised of brothers Brian and Michael D'Addario and their backing band, who perform a late-'60s infused baroque pop-rock. Their style of music is equal parts familiar and indescribable. Casual listeners may draw connections between songs, like "These Words" and the Beatles' later songs such as "Sun King" and "Don't Let Me Down," but closer listening will show more connections to the punchy and intricate instrumentation of "Yes" with the vocal harmonies and songwriting of groups like Big Star. Whatever their influences may be, the Lemon Twigs truly delivered an unforgettable song with "These Words," pairing beautiful lyricism and vocals with a dynamic and, a rarity in modern pop-rock, competent, interesting instrumental. This was the Lemon Twigs' first single, from "Do Hollywood," their technically second album being marketed as their debut. If this is just the start for the Lemon Twigs, they have a bright future ahead of them and, given that they're only 19 and 17 years old, a long one at that.

### *i hate u, i love u - Leah Devorak*

What makes a great song is great emotion, and that's exactly what "i hate u, i love u" by gnash has. This sultry rap-pop ballad features a soothing piano melody juxtaposed by desperate, flowing words exploring the painful feelings of unrequited love.

The lyrics are probably the best part of this irresistible, heart-wrenching song. What makes them so great is that they don't just rhyme well or have perfect rhythm, but they also make some incredibly profound conclusions that delve into losing love without being tacky or off-putting. This is due to the wonderful writing behind them that makes the details of what happened so specific and general enough that anyone can find a way to relate to them, thus making them listen over and over again.

The voices of the two singers — rapper gnash and featured artist Olivia O'Brien — help drive the song home, along, with their unique rawness emphasizing their anger and sadness. This gives the lyrics even more meaning than they normally would have, but only in the original version of the song. The radio edit is much less powerful, probably due to the removal of the intense explicatives. So if swearing doesn't bother you, be sure to catch the original.

## Best books of 2016

### *The Midnight Assassin - Sean Ray*

It's 1885 and the Texan town of Austin is on the verge of reinventing itself, turning into a diamond in the West. But then, the unthinkable happens. A serial killer has begun breaking into homes and murdering servant girls. And not just any serial killer: America's first serial killer.

This non-fiction book by Texan journalist Skip Hollandsworth is a positively spellbinding tale, mixing narrative style with a factual history, presenting a compelling true story. Fans of the book "The Devil in the White City" will feel right at home with "The Midnight Assassin."

Perhaps the most admirable aspect of the book is Hollandsworth's courage in facing the ugly side of American history. The serial killer, popularly known as the Servant Girl Annihilator, targeted only African-Americans at first, leading to minimal police response. Hollandsworth analyzes this racist past in detail, rather than sweeping it under the rug. In a section that will definitely resonate with modern-day readers, he examines the replacement of serial killers with mass shooters in public consciousness of fear.

I read "The Midnight Assassin" over the course of a beach vacation. Anything that can rip me away from the water and boardwalk that long is certainly an accomplishment in literature.

### *Bitch Planet - Zachary Landau*

I only just read this a few weeks ago, but I was floored by just how good the first volume of this series is. Unapologetic in its message, "Bitch Planet" is the perfect release valve for the frustrated feminist who is too tired of the discourse and just want to watch women be unquestionably amazing. The characters are immediately likable in their campiness (the hologram that watches over the prisoners on the titular planet being a particular favorite of mine in how she dramatically changes in appearance and tone). The premise, as ridiculous as it is, demonstrates an understanding of the social complexities surrounding our hyper-masculine and patriarch-worshipping society in a wholly compelling way.

### *Something is Rotten in Fettig - Nicole Prieto*

This Swiftian satire by Duquesne alumnus Jere Krakoff features an outrageous cast of characters confronting the fallacies of the criminal justice system. Leopold Plotkin is an unassuming kosher butcher just trying to live according to his family's bleak expectations. But he is soon embroiled in a bizarre national controversy involving mud, a window and excellent butchery skills. With only a few friends and allies at his back, and both the system and court of public opinion strongly against him, Plotkin's only hope is to obtain an unlikely acquittal from a crime designed for him to be accused of breaking.

Krakoff's writing and drawings are precise, humorous jabs at every conceivable facet and absurdity in the legal world. From poorly funded public defenders to bureaucratic Big Law firms, Krakoff leaves no stone unturned or unmocked. The work is split into several digestible chapters, each featuring an exaggerated drawing of relevant characters. It is a quick, enjoyable read that anyone contemplating a legal career may want to pick up. But future readers beware: The only major drawback to the work is how uncomfortable it is guaranteed to make you feel — both at how often Plotkin is unjustly abused and how effortlessly Krakoff's satire mirrors our own world.





## DU student reports assault

BRANDON ADDEO  
news editor

A female Duquesne student told Duquesne police Tuesday she was sexually assaulted in her room in Duquesne Towers residence hall Nov. 28.

The suspect, who was not named, is a 22-year-old white male with brown hair, green eyes and reddish beard, who is possibly a student at another Pittsburgh university, according to Duquesne Public Safety Director Thomas Hart.

The victim first met the suspect on the social media app Yik Yak over the recent Thanksgiving break. They also communicated over Snapchat, and arranged a first date for Nov. 28.

When the suspect and the victim were inside the victim's room, the suspect forced the victim to have sex with him, Hart said.

Duquesne Public Safety has handed the investigation of the case over to Pittsburgh Police.

## It's Christmastime in the city



KAILEY LOVE/PHOTO EDITOR

A manger sits in front of the fountain outside the Student Union. The Christmas break begins on Dec. 15 after finals end.

## DU grad creates hair gel product

HALLIE LAUER  
staff writer

If you have ever flown on a plane, you probably know that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) limits passengers to 3.4 ounces of liquid inside bottles.

A product created by a recent Duquesne graduate is designed to help travelers who want to take hair gel on their travels.

Nathan Failla, who graduated in 2016 with dual majors in entrepreneurial studies and legal studies, came up with the idea for Pocket-Gel, hair gel that comes in small containers — small enough to be taken onto planes. He decided to start his own business to produce and sell the portable hair gel.

During the first semester of his senior year, Failla came up with the idea during a marketing class, and in his second semester, he continued to develop it in another business school class.

Failla's idea for the portable hair gel was inspired by a rainy walk to meet his family for dinner in September 2015.

"I told my roommate, 'What's the point of me doing my hair? By the time I get there it will be a mess anyway. I wish I could take some hair gel with me in, like, a packet,'" Failla said.

Failla first sought to market it as a men's product, but when considering how convenient it could make travel, he saw the potential for PocketGel to be a unisex product.

According to The Bureau of Labor Statistics, 14 percent of Americans have, like Failla, started their own businesses.

Failla said he was a good fit for entrepreneurship, because he did not want to enter a conventional line of work.

"I have always had the mindset [of] being a risk taker, and I never wanted a 9-to-5 job," Failla said.

## Pittsburgh ioby hears Uptown neighbors' concerns

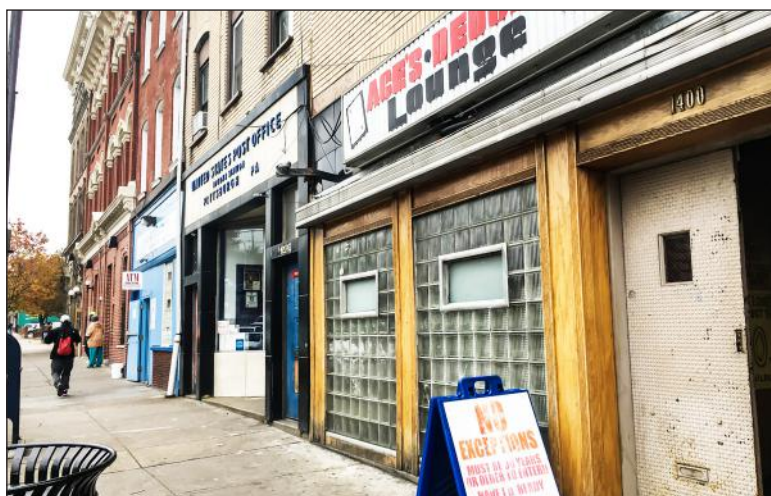
RAYMOND ARKE  
asst. news editor

Change might be coming to Uptown, the Pittsburgh neighborhood where Duquesne and many university students reside. Ioby: In Our Backyards (stylized as ioby), now has an office in Pittsburgh, which opened Nov. 15.

The Brooklyn-based nonprofit works to encourage and fund neighborhood improvements.

Ioby will be based out of the NeighborWorks office on Fifth Avenue. One of the neighborhoods the group is looking at sparking revitalization in is Uptown.

Matt Sherman, a junior pharmacy major at Duquesne, lives in a house in Uptown. One of the perks Sherman enjoys is how close the neighborhood is to everything.



SYDNEY BAUER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Businesses sit on Fifth Avenue in Pittsburgh's Uptown, where ioby will begin operating.

"I like the convenience of Uptown. It's close to PPG [Paints Arena], school, Downtown and South Side," he added.

The relative peace and quiet is also a plus, according to Sherman. "It is kind of like a big residential area without all the noise of

the city," he said.

However, there are some drawbacks to the neighborhood that Sherman would like changed in the near future.

"I dislike how [the neighborhood] is kept ... The Uptown area could use a good cleaning. I also think incorporating a few nice restaurants or places to enjoy would increase interest," he said.

Miriam Parson became the Action Strategist of the Pittsburgh ioby office in early November. She described ioby's purpose as "neighbor-driven projects that build the future that residents want for their neighborhood."

According to Parson, her job is to be a guide for city residents with good ideas.

"We believe that neighbors know what's best for their neigh-

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## BLUFF BRIEFS

**Gumberg to combat table hoarding for finals**

Gumberg Library announced new policies regarding table space just in time for finals. The rules are to combat the problem of “table hoarding.”

Now, library staff will leave a note with a deadline for the people to return on a table with unattended objects. If the students do not return within the timeframe, staff will take the items and hold them at the Circulation Desk.

A receipt will be left at the table, and students can take that to the Circulation Desk to receive their collected items. The new rules will take effect from Dec. 7 to Dec. 15.

**DU foreign language program wins award**

“Reading to Play and Playing to Read,” a program by Duquesne’s Center for Engaged Teaching and Research, was awarded the title of Globally Engaged Program 2017 by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

The program is an afterschool program with Beechwood Elementary School and the Pittsburgh nonprofit Casa San Jose. Duquesne students who take Spanish Conversation and Composition II or Spanish for Healthcare Professionals help the elementary students work on their language skills.

## POLICE BRIEFS

As finals approach, Cousin PB want to remind ya’ll to be respectful to other students in campus study spaces. Don’t leave your stuff everywhere so people can’t use tables — don’t be *that* guy.

Last Wednesday, a vehicle drove onto Academic Walk and knocked over a Bollard light fixture.

On Monday, Duquesne Public Safety issued defiant trespass warnings to two men not affiliated with Duquesne at the request of a student who did not want further contact with them.

On Tuesday, a student struck an unoccupied vehicle with their car in the Locust Garage.

## 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](mailto:addeo@duq.edu).

## Annual Fair Trade Week returns to DU

MEGAN GARRETT  
staff writer

Duquesne’s Spiritan Campus Ministry began its ninth annual Fair Trade Awareness Week on Nov. 28.

Events at this year’s Fair Trade Awareness Week included Cookie Wars, a baking competition in which students used only fair trade ingredients, along with a Fair Trade Marketplace in the Student Union.

Kate Lecci, a Spiritan minister at Duquesne, said fair trade is a business practice emphasizing fair wages for workers, environmental sustainability and a way to prevent child labor.

“[Fair trade is] not charity, it’s justice,” Lecci said.

Fair trade also cuts out the middleman making the relationship between producer and consumer much closer because people are able to know the back-story behind their purchases, according to Lecci.

Wendy Farmerie, of the New Wilmington, Pennsylvania-based Silk Road Fair Trade Market, said she has travelled to places like Kyrgyzstan to represent the women artisans struggling to make ends meet.

Farmerie said these women need a stable source of income — some-



TAYLOR CARR/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students bake cookies as a part of the Fair Trade Awareness Week Cookie Wars on Nov. 28 in the Power Center Ballroom.

thing fair trade can provide — so they can send their daughters to college and be somewhere safe.

“Every 40 minutes, a girl is kidnapped for marriage,” Farmerie said. *The Duke* was not able to find that exact statistic, but an article in Newsweek did report that around 40 percent of Kyrgyz women are kidnapped brides.

Most of the women Farmerie sells for are in shelters because of the high rate of alcoholism and domestic abuse in Kyrgyzstan. According to Farmerie, 24 percent of the women there report abuse by their husbands,

but more may have never been reported.

Lecci believes that as a Catholic institution, Duquesne is called to help and support these developing businesses by making sure the producers receive consistent income.

Rachel McNorton works with the nonprofit Building New Hope, which specializes in Nicaraguan coffee. It is a worker-owned co-op, with all proceeds returned to the farms for equipment repairs and anything else that they need.

People should buy fair trade goods because seasonal workers are

“treated like crap,” McNorton said.

She said seasonal farmers worldwide are given very little pay because they are expected to be inexpensive being that most of them are immigrants. They get a small wage and no benefits, she added.

Along with the Cookie War competition on Nov. 28, Fair Trade Awareness Week featured a screening of the documentary “Food Chains” on Nov. 29 and a “Lunch-and-Learn” lecture on fair trade by Jairo Tenorio, a Nicaraguan artisan coordinator for the Pittsburgh-based nonprofit Women of the Cloud Forest.

## SBDC gets AARP grant to teach adults over 50

LIZA ZULICK  
staff writer

Those in Pittsburgh nearing retirement age will now have an opportunity to learn how to start a second career working for themselves, thanks to Duquesne’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

The AARP Foundation, a charitable affiliate of the AARP, awarded the SBDC almost \$19,000 to host three Work for Yourself@50+ workshops for those over the age of 50 between November and March.

The workshops, which are hosted across the country through the AARP Foundation, will teach those over 50 how to start and run their own businesses. The workshop will focus on key resources, characteristics and money advice needed to be a successful business owner.

“AARP Foundation is proud to work with organizations committed to helping older adults successfully run their own business,” AARP Foundation President Lisa Marsh Ryerson said in a press release. “Our Work for Yourself@50+ program is designed to enable older adults to pursue self-employment by connecting them with trustworthy resources in their own communities.”

According to Tara Dunion, an



KAILEY LOVE/PHOTO EDITOR

The Small Business Development Center is housed in Duquesne’s Rockwell Hall.

AARP spokesperson, the aim of the program is to teach older citizens how to be their own bosses in contracting, freelancing, micro businesses and social enterprise.

Each workshop is designed to teach 15 participants how to first start their own businesses later in their lives. Although it may not seem important for older people

to start their own businesses, the SBDC believes people over the age of 50 have the perfect opportunities to begin new careers for themselves.

“Many people over 50 have changed their job situations for whatever reason,” said SBDC director Mary McKinney. “Also, people are healthier now often-

times when they retire, and they really want to go to the next step in their careers.”

The Work for Yourself@50+ workshops allow people over the age of 50 to “continue to contribute positively to society,” McKinney added.

The first workshop was held on Nov. 30 at the Homewood Carnegie Library. The last two upcoming workshops will be held on Jan. 23 at the Riverside Center for Innovation on the North Side and March 22 at the Energy Innovation Center.

Dunion said the program can help poorer adults.

“The program helps low- and moderate-income older adults explore opportunities to work for themselves and take the right steps toward successful self-employment,” Dunion said.

Another focus of the workshop is its financial advice, which work for participants of all income ranges, McKinney said.

McKinney said she hopes participants will leave the workshops with the knowledge of how to start their business with little money, and how to grow their future income.

“The most important part about running a business is to be committed and to love what you’re doing because it’s a lot of hard work,” McKinney said.



# Plane carrying Brazilian soccer team crashes in Columbia

AP — The pilot of the chartered plane carrying a Brazilian soccer team told air traffic controllers he had run out of fuel and desperately pleaded for permission to land before crashing into the Andes, according to a leaked recording of the final minutes of the doomed flight.

In the sometimes chaotic exchange with the air traffic tower, the pilot of the British-built jet requests permission to land because of “fuel problems” without making a formal distress call. A female controller explained another plane that had been diverted with mechanical problems was already approaching the runway and had priority, instructing the pilot to wait seven minutes.

As the jetliner circled in a holding pattern, the pilot grew more desperate. “Complete electrical failure, without fuel,” he said in the tense final moments before the plane set off on a four-minute death spiral that ended with it slamming into a mountainside Monday night.

By then the controller had gauged the seriousness of the situation and told the other plane to abandon its approach to make way for the charter jet. It was too late. Just before going silent, the pilot said he was flying at an altitude of 9,000 feet and made a final plea to land: “Vectors, senorita. Landing vectors.”

The recording, obtained Wednesday by Colombian media, appeared to confirm the accounts of a surviv-



AP PHOTO

A police officer works at the wreckage site of a chartered airplane that crashed in La Union, a mountainous area outside Medellin, Colombia on Nov. 29. The plane was carrying 77 passengers, including Brazilian first division soccer club Chapecoense that was on its way for a Copa Sudamericana final match against Colombia's Atletico Nacional.

ing flight attendant and a pilot flying nearby who overheard the frantic exchange. These, along with the lack of an explosion upon impact, point to a rare case of fuel running out as a cause of the crash of the jetliner, which experts said was flying at its maximum range.

For now, authorities are avoiding singling out any one cause of the crash, which killed all but six of the 77 people on board, including members of Brazil's Chapecoense soccer team traveling to Medellin for the Copa Sudamericana finals — the culmination of a fairy tale season that had electrified soccer-crazed Brazil.

A full investigation is expected to take months and will review every-

thing from the 17-year-old aircraft's flight and maintenance history to the voice and instruments data in the black boxes recovered Tuesday at the crash site on a muddy hillside. The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board was taking part in the investigation because the plane's engines were made by an American manufacturer.

As the probe continued, mourning soccer fans in Medellin and the southern Brazilian town of Chapeco, where the team is from, held simultaneous stadium tributes to the victims. The six survivors were recovering in hospitals, with three in critical but stable condition, while forensic specialists worked to

identify the victims so they could be transferred to a waiting cargo plane sent by the Brazilian air force to repatriate the bodies.

Alfredo Bocanegra, head of Colombia's aviation agency, said that while evidence initially pointed to an electrical problem, the possibility the crash was caused by lack of fuel has not been ruled out. Planes need to have enough extra fuel on board to fly at least 30 to 45 minutes to another airport in the case of an emergency, and rarely fly in a straight line because of turbulence or other reasons.

Before being taken offline, the website of LaMia, the Bolivian-based charter company, said the British Aerospace 146 Avro RJ85 jetliner's maximum range was 2,965 kilometers (1,600 nautical miles) — just under the distance between Medellin and Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where the flight originated carrying close to its full passenger capacity.

“If this is confirmed by the investigators it would be very painful because it stems from negligence,” Bocanegra told Caracol Radio on Wednesday when asked whether the plane should not have attempted such a long haul.

One key piece to unlocking the mystery could come from Ximena Sanchez, a Bolivian flight attendant who survived the crash and told rescuers the plane had run out of fuel moments before the crash. Inves-

tigators were expected to interview her Wednesday at the clinic near Medellin where she is recovering.

“We ran out of fuel. The airplane turned off,” rescuer Arquimedes Mejia quoted Sanchez as saying as he pulled her from the wreckage. “That was the only thing she told me,” he told The Associated Press.

Investigators also want to speak to Juan Sebastian Upegui, the co-pilot of an Avianca commercial flight who was in contact with air traffic controllers near Medellin's Jose Maria Cordova airport at the time the chartered plane went down.

In a four-minute recording circulated on social media, Upegui described how he heard the flight's pilot request priority to land because he was out of fuel. Growing ever more desperate, the pilot eventually declared a “total electrical failure,” Upegui said, before the plane quickly began to lose speed and altitude.

“I remember I was pulling really hard for them, saying ‘Make it, make it, make it,’” Upegui says in the recording. “Then it stopped. ... The controller's voice starts to break up and she sounds really sad. We're in the plane and start to cry.”

No traces of fuel have been found at the crash site and the plane did not explode on impact, one of the reasons there were six survivors.

## DU grad starts hair gel business



COURTESY OF NATHAN FAILLA

PocketGel fits into pouches small enough to be taken on airplanes. Failla said he is considering launching other products.

### GEL — from page 1

Failla said he did not have to take this risk alone. While some of his fellow students were skeptical, he said his professors were very supportive, and a few even offered their expertise.

One of those professors is Timothy Lightholder, an adjunct professor in Duquesne's business school. Lightholder is also the vice president of technology and development at Amcom, a subsidiary of the Xerox Corporation.

“When Nathan contacted me a few months ago he was already

in production. I made a few suggestions for his brochure and we discussed any changes that he would make in package design for the next production run,” Lightholder said.

He added that he put Failla in touch with someone who can advise him on shipping costs, adding it was “important” for Failla to minimize shipping cost to maximize profits.

Both Failla and Lightholder are hopeful for the future of PocketGel.

“2017 is shaping up to be a huge year for PocketGel,” Failla said. Failla expects next year to be

“huge” for PocketGel. He said that there are some meetings planned with large retailers in 2017.

Also coming in 2017, Failla plans to expand the products to other personal care products like suntan lotions and shampoos.

“[I] can't talk about the other products, but I can tell you they will come in packets,” Failla said.

PocketGel is currently for sale at pocketgelworld.com, rangeme.com and on Ebay. Failla is looking to expand even further to Amazon and Sears to sell his product. The prices range from \$12.99 to \$38.97, depending on the size of the order.

## Ioby to work with Uptown community

### IOBY — from page 1

neighborhood,” Parson said. “My role is to listen to residents' ideas, connect them with resources to solve questions, and then support them through ioby's one-on-one coaching to crowdsource funding and materials to make the project a reality.”

Before launching the office this year, ioby had worked with Pittsburgh city officials and nonprofits on almost twenty projects.

Ideas so far for the Uptown neighborhood have been environmentally-oriented. Parson said suggestions like community gardens, more trees and better sidewalks have been brought up in neighborhood meetings.

The City of Pittsburgh has also been focused on improving Uptown. Grant Ervin, chief resilience officer for the City of Pittsburgh, said the city is “working alongside a host of partners including Duquesne University,” on the EcoInnovation District plan. This project is looking at redeveloping Uptown and parts of West Oakland into a more environmentally sustainable area with a focus on creating better economic opportunities in the

neighborhood.

Ervin said ioby will help them with projects throughout the city.

“Ioby is a partner of ours ... We recently announced the creation of our Love Your Resilient Block funding program and are actively encouraging communities and students too to develop collaborative funding opportunities to foster community change,” he said.

Nationally, ioby has had a large presence. Its website touted that it has funded 756 different projects across the U.S. and had fundraised and given over \$2.5 million to the neighborhood ideas.

Parson explained that ioby has done better than similar groups.

“Ioby's projects have an 87 percent funding success rate, compared to a 33 percent peak in the crowdfunding industry, and ioby projects still get the funds that they do raise even if below their original goal,” she said.

Parson wanted to encourage Duquesne campus groups to join in their volunteer efforts.

“Ioby is of course interested in offering our coaching to students who want to do projects for public benefit,” she said.

Ideas can also be submitted through their website at ioby.org/idea.



## THE DUKESNE DUKE

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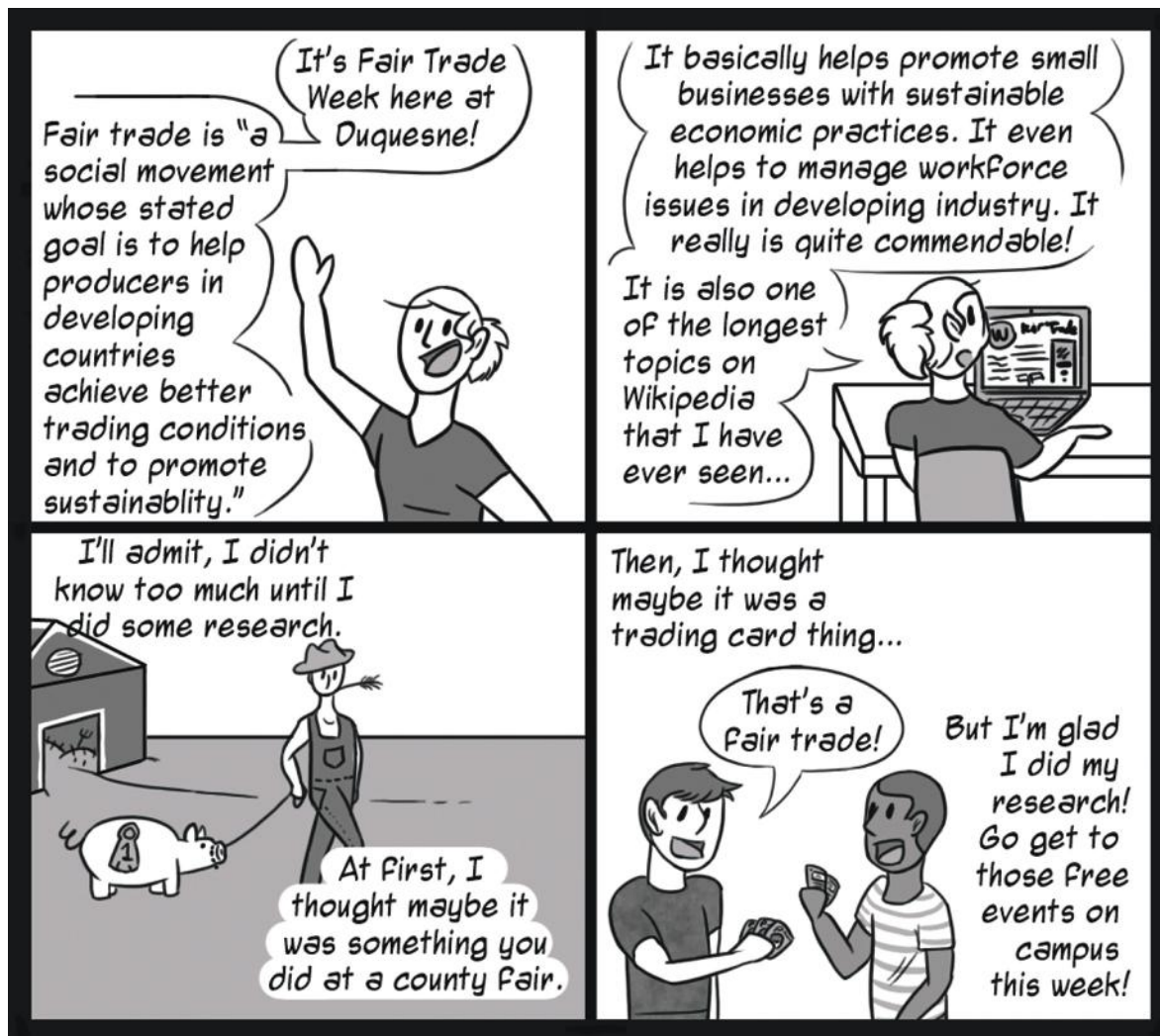
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CARTOON BY SHELBY WASIL

if i do say so myself...

## Not missing out on experiencing 'FOMO'

If you've ever sat at home alone wondering why everyone else seems to be having so much more fun than you are, you aren't alone.

According to a 2014 study by Eventbrite, nearly 70 percent of millennials aged 18 to 34 experience "FOMO," or the fear of missing out. It's that nagging thought in the back of your head that says maybe you should be out with your friends at the concert in town or trying the trendy restaurant that just opened in another neighborhood instead of working or studying for an upcoming test. It's the same voice that says you are a lesser person, magically knocked down a few pegs on the "coolness" scale, because you are not out where everyone else seems to be.

That's even if your better judgment tells you that you are not, in fact, a loser.

Social media doesn't help much with this, either. In actuality, it makes it nearly impossible to not feel some sort of anxiety about being holed up for hours in the library on a Friday night or waiting tables on the weekends while the rest of campus is seemingly stumbling through the South Side.

It's easy to forget as we're scrolling through Instagram in bed that the feeds we see are perfectly polished versions of our lives. Each picture is deliberately and meticu-

lously chosen to represent our best angles. Of course we're going to show off pictures of the parties we go to and the people we hang out with, instead of snapshots of us lying in bed, bingeing the "Gilmore Girls" series for the third time. Who wants to see those?

While this might seem harmless, these choices paint quite a different picture of our lives than the ones we actually lead on a daily basis. They're out there in permanence on the internet, forever documented for whoever comes across them, and that's dangerous. After all, when you stumble upon that girl from your management class' account and all she has on there are fabulous pictures of her weekly

adventures, won't you wonder why she's having a better time than you are? Won't you wonder, if even for a second, what you are doing wrong?

There is some actual reasoning behind the feeling of FOMO and why it affects so many of us, myself included. According to the same study, nearly 70 percent of millennials believe that attending live events make them feel "more connected to other people, the community and the world." Almost 80 percent say that participating in activities with other people also helps deepen their relationships.

Humans are social creatures. We crave interaction and accep-

tance from those around us. That feeling is what makes us happy, more often than not. So when we see or hear about others in our social circles going out and experiencing the more lighthearted parts of life while we are alone, the thought pops up again that maybe we are missing out.

But the difficult part about vanquishing FOMO as a college student is finding that sweet spot between doing what you are supposed to and doing what you actually want to. It's hard not to feel left out when you are working multiple jobs or internships and are constantly studying to maintain a decent GPA. All of those hours dedicated in one area means that they aren't being allocated to another.

Of course, we *should* be doing those things — the power internship that will help us get a job after graduation, the exam preparation that will boost us to the coveted 4.0 — because they will help us in the long run, the iconically-vague future. But how do you figure all of that stuff out while still maintaining some semblance of a satisfying social life?

Unfortunately, I don't know the answer. And I'm not sure if I ever will. But if you've somehow figured out the secret formula over the years, please share.

I know that a hefty portion of millennials and I are just dying to find out.

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

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Gumberg grievances: study with courtesy

Students of Duquesne, where have our manners gone?

Gumberg Library recently announced a new policy for finals week: Students who leave their unattended belongings on tables in the library for too long will have their items confiscated and held at the front counter for pick-up. This is the library staff's latest effort in its battle against students who use their backpacks, coats and laptops to reserve library tables for hours at a time, while they go to classes or get food. The problem was so severe last spring that students wandered up and down library floors, looking for empty tables, only to find every table filled with students or stuff.

The fact that the library staff will now have to use their time policing the library's aisles, timing students' absences and hauling away belongings is ludicrous. How did we let things get this bad? It seems common courtesy is absent from our student body.

Finals week is difficult for everyone. Every student is desperately trying to complete a mountain of projects and papers, while studying furiously and remembering to eat and sleep. It can be challenging to find the perfect place to get work done, and the library's large tables and easily-accessible printers certainly make it a desirable studying destination. Why would you seek to deny your fellow students the opportunity to work there? They are having a week just as bad as yours, if not worse.

We would be remiss not to point out the irony of this problem in the midst of the Christmas season. Regardless of your faith, Christmas is a time to show kindness to your fellow man, not to commandeer people's study areas.

If you are working in the library and need to leave — for food or class or a nap — take your things with you and return later. If every table is taken, find another place to study! Try the Barnes & Noble cafe on Forbes Avenue or go off campus. The Beehive Cafe or the Starbucks on East Carson Street are both great alternatives to the library.

We are a community here at Duquesne, and just like other communities, ours has unwritten rules that make things nicer for everyone. Just like you don't litter all over your neighborhood or cut in line at Wal-Mart, don't hog library tables for hours at a time. If we all use the library for a couple hours, then leave so someone else can have a chance to study, things will run more efficiently for everyone. And your librarians will thank you.

Sharing is caring, after all.



# Cellphone conundrum: devices destroying lives

LEAH DEVORAK  
layout editor

You know what I hate? Cellphones. Here's why:

1. They shatter and break. They make you lose two years' worth of memories in about three seconds when they fall five inches to the floor as you're trying to put the Christmas presents you bought for your family on the coffee table without anyone noticing. Unfair.

2. They also cost anywhere from \$500 to \$700 to replace if you want one that isn't an indestructible flip phone from 2005. And it'll be about \$60 to \$200 on top of that if it breaks before the contract with your phone carrier is up, and you try to trade it in to get one that actually works. (I know 'cause I just went through this.) Dumb.

3. If you try getting it repaired, good luck, because most repair guys aren't actually successful. That will suck when the parts fail just days after you finally thought they were fixed. And then you're back to No. 2: You have to shell out hundreds of dollars extra to get a phone that will actually work. Stupid.

4. And once you get the new phone, you have to buy a new phone case, new screen protectors, extended insurance — 'cause you're sure as heck not gonna go without that again. And who

knows? Maybe there's a deal on virtual reality headgear or iPads that you just can't resist, so you buy one of those, too. I mean, you're already burning \$1000, so what's \$50 more? And say goodbye to the \$15 you just spent on the "Merry Christmoose" phone case with the picture of a moose adorned in Christmas lights on it, 'cause that sure as heck won't fit the new gadget. Uncool.

They're money pits. I hate cell phones because they are nothing but money pits, even though they're essentially just twisted metal encased in plastic and topped with glass, like some sort of technology cake. And while cakes are definitely more expensive than bread, it seems a little ridiculous that cell phones are \$500 more than toasters. They're no longer some fancy technological revolution. Why hasn't the price adjusted?

But the immense horror of the devices doesn't stop there.

5. Cellphones are too big. I miss the days where my tiny Blackberry Pearl could fit into any pocket or any purse on planet Earth without falling out, just because it was that small. Heck, I could even shove it in my shoe or bra and still be completely comfortable. Try shoving an iPhone 7 Plus in one of those places, and you'll regret it real fast. So now we have to hold our touch screen bricks because they don't fit any-

where except in our hands.

6. This takes us back to the money pit conundrum, because cell phones' mammoth sizes now make them even more vulnerable than ever to being dropped and broken. (Not going to lie here: I'm pretty sure this was done on purpose so that all the big phone companies can make a little extra money.)

7. Phone size also leads to social problems. People with tiny phones are picked on by everyone else even though that quality is no grounds for discrimination. All phones are created equal, and in order to finally eliminate the judging looks and "2004 wants its phone back" comments, we need to reconsider the emphasis society now puts on the largeness of cellular devices. All phone sizes are beautiful. Because of that, accept them all, and don't say mean or spiteful things against anyone with one that isn't common.

8. Phones are distracting. Sure, they're fun for a few minutes when you first start stalking bae's Twitter, but how much fun will you have when that attention causes you to walk into a fire hydrant or off of a bridge? Not much. It's about time we call phones out for the health hazards they are.

9. On that last point, phones are consistently lowering the health of individuals everywhere by interrupting natural sleep



AP PHOTO

Cellphones, such as the iPhone pictured above, are nothing but a nuisance and should be dealt with immediately. Well, sort of.

patterns. You have a long day at work, so you go on your phone to relax. But before you know it, it's 3 a.m., and you are just going to bed. And then just as you're entering your REM sleep: Ring, ring, it's 5 a.m. and some dude in Mumbai wants you to buy his company's computer software. This is unhealthy — dangerous, even. Why the government hasn't cracked down yet, I don't know.

10. And the final blow to the worth of cellphones: hand cancer. You know it's just a matter

of time until we all get it.

So that's why I hate cellphones, and I shouldn't be alone. Screw all the convenience, ingenuity, creativity, helpfulness, speed and fun that comes from the devices, and forget the fact that I wrote this entire article using one. Cellphones are stupid and need to be dealt with immediately.

Leah Devorak is a junior journalism major and can be reached at [devorakl@duq.edu](mailto:devorakl@duq.edu).

## Gumberg should extend late-night hours to help students



THE DUQUESNE DUKE ARCHIVES

Gumberg Library could assist students who are studying for finals even further by extending late-night hours to the week before exams actually begin.

ALISON CARACCILO  
staff columnist

It's that time of year again. The week of seemingly-endless sleep deprivation and countless anxiety-ridden finals. With each passing year, these nightmarish exams seem to creep upon us faster than we are ready for them.

But nevertheless, it is time to hit the grind once again.

Now is the time for students to actually look through all the notes they most likely forgot about from the beginning of the semester (or for others, now is the time to look frantically through your notebook for the

notes you should have taken from the beginning of the semester).

It's the one time — besides midterms — the Gumberg Library becomes a hideout for most students on campus. With one year under my belt, I have learned it is a constant scavenger hunt to surround yourself with as many of the electrical outlets as possible to secure you and your study buddies an optimum position for the innumerable tedious hours of studying to come.

Gumberg does a great job at accommodating all of the stressed-out college students on campus, but it could do an even better job at meeting more students' needs by staying open later in the week prior to finals. For many students, myself

included, we try to get a jump-start on preparing for our papers or studying for our final exams the week before the mad rush to Gumberg.

Gumberg Library will be open 24 hours during finals week. On Dec. 7 at 7 a.m., the library will open and then will not close until Dec. 15 at 9 p.m. Instead of being open for 24 hours in the middle of week, it will be the most beneficial for many students if the library was open Dec. 4 as well, which will provide a full week of maximizing all the studying preparation needed for finals.

"It's nice that the library is open all night during finals week, but it would be nice to have it open all night the week before as well," said Abby Zadrozny, a sophomore international relations major. "I know that I have a lot of final projects and papers due before finals, which is stressful because I find myself doing those instead of getting a head start on studying for my exams."

It's natural to assume that the majority of students tend to begin their studying process, papers or projects early because it is nearly impossible to cram all five to seven course loads of work, and finish each with confidence, in a week's time. On the contrary, though, many professors assign for their papers to be due *before* the actual cumulative final takes place during exam week.

I definitely feel for the workers at Gumberg Library, as these times each semester must be grueling for them, as well. But if the library was open a few hours later during the week prior to finals, we

as students can achieve a better path to academic success.

While later hours during that week would be beneficial, it also doesn't help that many students are coming off of a week-long break for Thanksgiving. It's safe to assume many of us didn't move far from our couches during that entire week, let alone buckle down and actually get some work done.

The break before finals is a tease. As we unwind from the constant course work and start our shopping lists for the holidays, our minds tend to be more focused on the mountains of Christmas cookies we can eat rather than endless studying we must do before the semester ends.

Personally, I try to bring coursework home to get a head start because I know I will be cramming, but catching up with old friends and family inevitably consume a lot of my time. Before long, it's the night before something is due. I'm cramming to finish my assignments or trying to get ahead on classwork, but I seem to always be fighting a losing battle.

Essentially, all this stress, anxiety and time management will help us in the long run. Especially if Gumberg would stay open later the week before finals. If we can make it through finals week, we can make it through any real-life challenges that come our way.

Happy finals to week to all, and may the odds be ever in your favor.

Alison Caracciolo is a sophomore public relations major and can be reached at [alisonmcaraciolo@gmail.com](mailto:alisonmcaraciolo@gmail.com).



## HEALTHY HABITS: STAYING WELL WITHOUT MOM'S MAGIC

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 Four: The Health

I'm not sure if there's anything quite as miserable as trudging up the South Side Steps with a full-blown cold. You think those things are bad enough on a normal day? Man, I've got some news for you.

Such are the joys of commuting while sick, all part of that ever-difficult proposition of staying in good health. When you move off-campus for the first time, that task becomes a decidedly harder habit to keep up with.

Some of the reasons for that are readily apparent. Life off-campus is, most of all, a life devoid of easy and quick access to Duquesne's Health Services. Sure, you can still schedule an appointment for when you are on-campus for classes, but should you need some immediate help at an inopportune time, you're out of luck.

Unfortunately, you aren't living with mom anymore, either, so the road to recovery from any malady is one constructed solely from your own abilities. In my case, let's just say those skills aren't as honed as



SETH CULP-RESSLER/FEATURES EDITOR

they could be.

As with every fall semester, I've gotten a few colds — one of which is still kicking around. The change in weather never fails to send my body into haywire. Apparently, I hadn't learned from past experiences, because the first time my throat turned to sandpaper and my nose to a fountain, my medicine stock was dry as a bone.

Well, aside from some old and mildly-effective cough drops.

For some reason, however, the South Side is not rife with CVS locations like downtown is. It's practically impossible to find a spot in the center of the city from

which you *can't* see those three big red letters staring back at you. Inexplicably, that wealth of drugstores has not spread down to my neck of the woods, where, you know, people *actually* live.

So, with my medicine cabinet dry and my head feeling like it was about to burst, I was left with the realization that the nearest place to stock up on DayQuil and some non-expired cough drops was half a mile away. As pathetic as it sounds, I wasn't exactly feeling up to that trek.

Instead, I just kind of... sucked it up.

That's the strategy you quickly come to use for most illnesses, unless they're some

oddly serious condition. Wallow in your self-pity for a while, and things will pass.

Now, it should be said, living off-campus does provide some opportunities to be healthier than on-campus life allows. Dorms are notorious for being gigantic petri dishes, good for nothing other than fostering the growth and spread of infectious diseases. I, on the other hand, have a room all to my own germs, and I only need to worry about sharing a space with a single roommate.

Additionally, being somebody not exactly prone to exercise, the need to get myself across the river to school is certainly going to be good for me in the long run, even if it is unpleasant right now.

That said, any additional exercise you get from commuting can just as easily be canceled out in the kitchen. For as much as Duquesne students like to rag on Towers food, you can't deny that it is a huge convenience to have constant access to healthy food if you want it.

When you're cooking for yourself, it's far too easy to fall into a spiral of boxed mac n' cheese and pizza, and not even the South Side Steps can balance out that damage. It takes effort to actually make healthy food — not to mention money for those groceries — and sometimes, I wish I could just go to a dining hall and have all the work done for me.

Overall, though, I've been lucky. Apart from a few scattered colds, I've been able to stay in good health. That's a privilege that I think is easy to take for granted. Still, it would probably be a good idea to buy some cold medicine, wouldn't it?

Eh. Maybe tomorrow.

## How a 19th century bluff-side incline met its firey demise

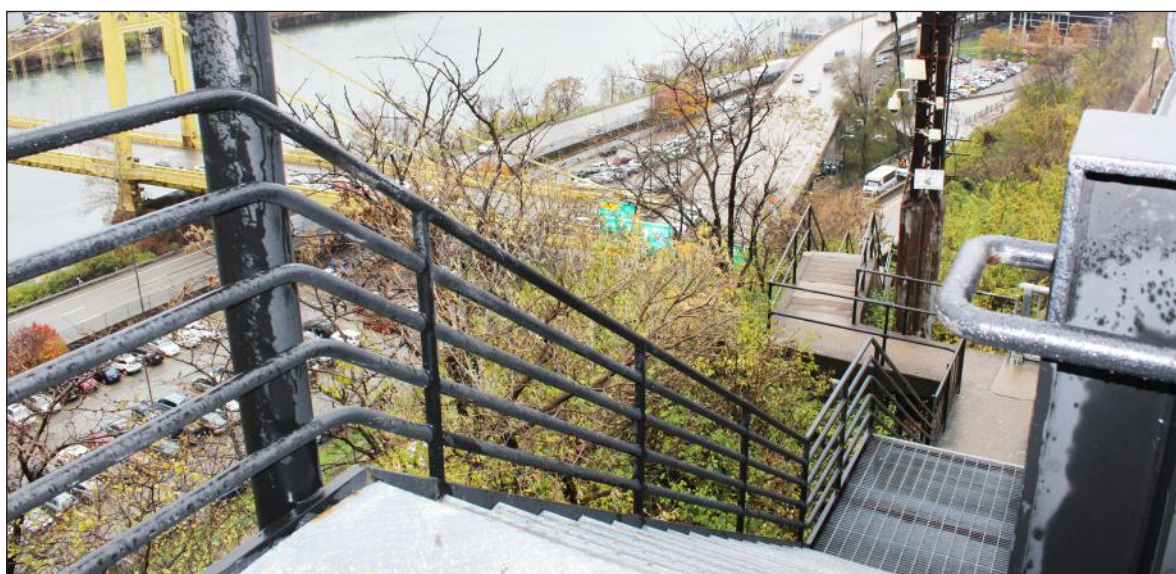
ELSA BUEHLER  
staff writer

Most Duquesne students are very familiar with the South Side Steps, officially called the City Steps, that lead to the 10th Street Bridge. What many may be surprised to know is that the steps used to be an incline, which probably would be preferable to the steps that many students use on a weekly or daily basis.

The Duquesne and Monongahela Inclines are the only two remaining inclines of more than 20 that once lined Pittsburgh's hills. Many other Pittsburgh inclines closed due to lack of demand, but this one was destined to go out with a bang.

The Fort Pitt Incline was built in 1882 and destroyed in a violent fire about three years after it had gone out of service, according to the July 29, 1903, issue of The Pittsburgh Gazette. "Car's Last Trip at Terrific Speed Down the Plane," read the briefing's title, a now humorous and vivid description of the event.

Joe Thompson, an expert on Pennsylvania cable car lines, wrote that the Fort Pitt Incline was 350 feet long, had an elevation change



MAGGIE GATES/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Fort Pitt Incline operated in the space now occupied by the City Steps, also known as the South Side Steps.

of 135 feet and cost \$97,936 to build. Thompson estimated this to be greater than the cost of construction alone.

On Oct. 23, 1882, the Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette reported on the incline's opening, announcing the fixed fare to be 3 cents per passenger, with different pricing for boarding vehicles, such as horse-drawn carriages.

Just eight short years later, the same publication declared the

Fort Pitt Incline to be "ostensibly ... out of business," after even dedicated patrons admitted the trip to be a safety risk. Ownership of the property had been acquired recently at a sheriff's sale for much less than its value at just \$24. The new owner then leased the property to the two engineers who had been running the incline.

Even further, the incline had recently lost control, striking the bumpers and causing the engi-

neer on the scene to jump out of his cab and a horse and buggy to be bumped off, although no damage was done. Just two years before, the incline had "played the same trick"; as a result, a young woman's arm was broken, and the then-engineer simply walked off the premises, never to return.

Seeing the laughably disastrous state of the property — as well as the numerous claims against the company and the \$6,000 in inter-

est it had accumulated — a representative of the bondholders came to take possession of the incline but could not even find an authorized representative of the owners. The incline was still wrecked from the latest incident and "[had] not been attractive for passengers for some time." It was decided that no actions would be taken to either destroy or rebuild it.

According to the aforementioned 1903 Pittsburgh Gazette article, the vacant area became a hangout spot for "loafers," who vandalized the cab car and stole brass from the machines. Several were convicted on minor charges earlier in the year, along with a man who was greatly annoyed by their shenanigans and set fire to the old waiting room in a fit of rage.

Finally, one day in late July 1903, the Fort Pitt Incline burned down once and for all. The cars, still stopped on the steel cables midway between the stations despite years of disuse, came hurtling down the tracks when the fire caused the cables to snap.

The boiler room was believed to be the source of the fire, which then spread rapidly due to the abandoned, oil-soaked floors. The

see *INCLINE*— page 11



# Retrievers rout Dukes 81-72 at Palumbo Center



KAILEY LOVE / PHOTO EDITOR

Duquesne point guard Rene Castro dribbles past a defender in the Dukes' loss on Nov. 30. Castro provided a spark as he led all Duquesne scorers with 15 points off of the bench on Wednesday.

**DAVID BORNE**  
staff writer

The Duquesne Dukes were unable to slow down the quick, run-and-gun offense of the University of Maryland Baltimore County Retrievers on Wednesday night at the Palumbo Center, falling by an 81-72 score.

Wednesday's contest was just the fifth ever meeting between the two teams, and

Duquesne came in undefeated (4-0) against UMBC. Wednesday's game was the first win over Duquesne in program history for the Retrievers. The win improved UMBC's record on the season to 5-1.

"Our urgency to get back in conversion, we were so slow, they moved it, they broke us down quickly and we really struggled," head coach Jim Ferry said. "Then in the second half, you hold them to 29 points, but

again you turn the ball over 17 times and our margin of error is very, very small, and if we continue to turn the ball over like we do, it makes it even more difficult."

Duquesne started off strong as they lead 21-16 halfway through the opening period but the Retrievers refused to lay down for the Dukes. UMBC hit a handful of threes, and found themselves ahead of Duquesne in the final minutes of the first half. Rene Castro hit a three-point shot for the Dukes at the buzzer, to bring the Dukes within nine, down 52-43 headed to the break. The Retrievers ended the first half shooting 8-15 from beyond the arc.

The Dukes initially came out of the locker room hot, and a pair of baskets from freshman Mike Lewis II brought the Red and Blue within 3 with just under 17 minutes remaining in the game. However, the Retrievers three-point barrage carried over into the second half, and a three from Rodney Elliott put the Dukes down 13 with 14:39 on the clock. UMBC finished the game 12-23 from downtown.

Down 73-63 with 7:13 remaining, Duquesne managed to hold the Retrievers scoreless and put five consecutive points on the board, and trailed by 5 with 3:34 left in the contest. Duquesne struggled to get anything going offensively in the final two minutes, and was forced foul and send UMBC to the free-throw line in a final effort to make a comeback. Again struggling to get points on the board, Duquesne's last-minute comeback effort was unsuccessful, and UMBC took the win by a score of 81-72.

Turnovers plagued the Dukes throughout the entire game, and they ended the night turning the ball over an absurd 17 times. Both graduate transfer Emile Blackman and junior Rene Castro acknowledged that the team must do a better job keeping posses-

sion in order to win ball games in the future.

Blackman mentioned that the opposing teams aren't forcing a good number of the turnovers, but a lack of on-court chemistry on roster that has played very few minutes together is creating some issues.

Blackman finished the game with 12 points, shooting 5-9 from the field, and 2-3 from three-point range.

Castro, who came off the bench and led the Dukes in scoring with 15 points, also spoke on the the impact the turnovers have on the team's performance.

"We've been working on that every day," Castro said. "Little turnovers that we don't need, it's really affecting us."

Mike Lewis II ended the game with 11 points, while sophomore Tarin Smith added 10 points and three assists. Junior Jordan Robinson scored eight points in just 9 minutes of action.

Ferry was impressed by Robinson's performance against the Retrievers and even spoke on the possibility of increasing his minutes.

"Jordan's done a good job for us," Ferry said. "Again, it was a little funky when they went with those four and fives that can shoot threes, so it's hard to play Jordan and it was hard to play Darius [Lewis] in that game." Ferry said.

The loss dropped Duquesne's record to 3-5 on the season. The Red & Blue must now shift their focus to their crosstown rival, the Pittsburgh Panthers, and the annual City Game at PPG Paints Arena on Friday. The Dukes have lost 15 straight games, and 18 of the last 20, against the Panthers and hope to break their losing streak and re-claim city bragging rights. Ferry and his team will have to put forth a better effort in order to accomplish that.

## Defense surrenders 52 first half points, Dukes fall to UMBC

**ANDREW HOLMAN**  
sports editor

Last year when the Duquesne Dukes hosted the UMBC Retrievers and defeated them 89-70, it gave Duquesne its best start since 1979-80 at 7-2. After an 81-72 loss to the Retrievers (5-1), things feel much differently as Duquesne sits at just 3-5 with the annual City Game versus the University of Pittsburgh looming on Friday at PPG Paints Arena.

A big reason for Duquesne's slow start to the year has been due to their lack of chemistry on both sides of the ball, but on Wednesday night, it was a lack of effort and disciplined defense that cost them the game.

Early on, Duquesne led 21-14 with 10:31 to play in the first half, and it seemed Duquesne would once again rout the Retrievers as it did a season ago. But, then the Dukes allowed UMBC to go on a 20-5 run in the first half, during which the Dukes were held without a single point for a 2.5-minute period.

"Well, you got to limit your turnovers, you know, to extend that lead," head coach Jim Ferry said. "This game was all about defensive conversion. Once we missed, they started getting us in conversion, spreading us out and they shredded us."

Over the course of the first 20 minutes of the game, the Dukes racked up a grand total of one steal and forced just three turnovers. Meanwhile, they allowed the Retrievers to shoot 59 percent from the

field in the first half and a 53 percent (8-15) from behind the 3-point arc.

"I thought we got shredded in the first half on defense," Ferry said. "They just moved the ball so quickly, and we couldn't get out to the 3-point shooting. If you look at the statistics, we shot 64 percent from the field, 45 percent from 3 and 100 percent from the free-throw line, and we were down 9 — so that's defense."

In the paint against an undersized UMBC squad, the Red & Blue still surrendered 22 points in the paint and registered just three blocks in the opening half.

Disciplined defense is nearly the exact opposite of how Duquesne's defense would be described. The Dukes fall for nearly every shot fake, they don't obstruct passing lanes and they are lackadaisical in the rebound department.

Not only did Duquesne lose the turnover battle 17-10, it also scored just nine fast break points. Ferry's team could desperately use those easy baskets, seeing that their big men are unreliable on the inside and the team shoots just 31 percent from behind the arc. But instead, Duquesne is forced to play all of its offense in a half-court set because it has limited opportunities on the break.

Entering last night's contest, Duquesne had been allowing opponents to score 75 points per game — a high rate considering the only noteworthy team on Duquesne's schedule so far was No. 1 Kentucky.

Duquesne's inability to force turnovers,

its lack of discipline on defense and its failure to guard the perimeter led to a beat-down by a team from the America East Conference and will certainly lead to many more losses in the future if Ferry and his team can't turn things around defensively.

The bright spot is that in the second half, the Dukes held UMBC to just 29 points and 36.4 percent from the field. But the lack of defensive intensity in the first half made it tough for Duquesne to fight back

in the latter half even with an improved defensive effort.

Duquesne proved that it is not ready to face an ACC school like Pittsburgh on Friday and the Dukes are certainly not ready for the grueling Atlantic 10 conference season. But whether the Dukes are ready or not, the season will go on, and the Dukes will be forced to adapt quickly if they have any hope of salvaging this season once A-10 play rolls around.



KAILEY LOVE / PHOTO EDITOR

Nakye Sanders, left, Darius Lewis, middle, and Eric James, right, watch on as the Dukes fall to UMBC.



# College Football Playoff taking form

ANDREW HOLMAN  
sports editor

Who's in? Who's out? The college football world has been waiting to find that out since the season kicked off on Aug. 26 and that time is rapidly approaching.

The penultimate CFP Rankings have been released and they feature No. 1 Alabama Crimson Tide, No. 2 the Ohio State Buckeyes, No. 3 Clemson Tigers and No. 4 Washington Huskies.

## Who's In?

Barring a stunning loss at the hands of the Florida Gators, the Alabama Crimson Tide seems to be the only sure lock in the CFP field. Even if the Tide lost to the Gators, it would still be tough for the selection committee to keep it out. The Crimson Tide has spent every week at No. 1 since the CFP Rankings were first released in Week 10.

True freshman quarterback Jalen Hurts is having about as good of a rookie campaign as head coach Nick Saban could have asked for. Hurts has accounted for 33 total touchdowns and has been quite the dual-threat for the Tide. Hurts has accumulated 2,454 yards through the air and has rushed for another 840 yards on the ground heading into the SEC title game.

Quarterback was the big question mark for Saban's team heading into the year, but now that Hurts is a proven winner, Alabama is solid at just about every position on the field. Its closest margin of victory was a 48-43 win over Ole Miss.

That's the big concern, however, for the Tide. The SEC had a down year this season, and it's tough to tell how much Alabama was really tested this season. What happens when it faces a team like Ohio State? Will it still look like far and away the best team in the country? Doubtful.

Unfortunately for Alabama, there is a pretty good chance it will have to take on the Buckeyes of Ohio State after it defeated Michigan 30-27 in double overtime to win *The Rivalry* for the fifth consecutive year. Although they won't be playing in the conference title game, the win over the Wolverines solidified the Buckeyes as the best team in a Big 10 Conference that is looked at as the best in college football in 2016.

Ohio State has relied on a young, but formidable secondary that includes Malik Hooker, Gareon Conley and Marshon Lattimore just to name a few. And the Buckeyes have depended on their overall stout defense to keep themselves in playoff contention.

The only thing holding them back at this point is the tendency for the offense to become stagnant at times. They have all kinds of weapons at their disposal but tend to rely too much on J.T. Barrett's legs rather than taking advantage of the talents of guys like Curtis Samuel. Ohio State's résumé consists of a pair of im-

pressive road wins over No. 9 Oklahoma and No. 6 Wisconsin as well as a come from behind win in The Horseshoe over No. 5 Michigan. Their lone blemish is a 24-21 loss in State College to No. 7 Penn State, which most likely won't be enough to keep them out of the CFP.

Yes folks, this means a long awaited knock-down, championship fight between the Tide and the Buckeyes may be on the horizon.

## Who's Probably In?

The Clemson Tigers will enter the ACC Championship game versus Virginia Tech at 11-1 and with wins over No. 12 Florida State, No. 13 Louisville and No. 14 Auburn.

Therefore, Clemson is a virtual lock to make the CFP if they win the ACC Championship. It's hard to envision head coach Dabo Swinney and his Tigers would slip up against the Hokies like they did to Pittsburgh, but it could happen.

However, with this likely being DeShaun Watson's final season before he darts for the NFL, the Tigers will likely be a focused bunch heading into the battle with Virginia Tech. And if they win, they are certainly in.

## The Contenders

Leading the list of contenders is Washington, who currently holds that coveted final spot in the CFP Rankings.

But the Huskies will have to defeat the No. 8 Colorado Buffaloes in the Pac-12 conference championship in order to hang onto that spot. That will not be an easy task considering the Buffaloes boast the Pac-12's top defense, which allows just 323 yards per game. If the defense can frustrate Heisman candidate Jake Browning enough, Colorado could very well knock Washington out of the CFP.

In fact, in a battle between two tough defenses, I believe Washington will become a bit shaky under the pressure of CFP implications and will suffer a tight loss to the upset-minded Buffaloes.

With Washington out of the mix, the door is wide open as to which team claims that final spot. The three teams worthy of taking the No. 4 spot would be the Michigan Wolverines, Wisconsin Badgers and the Penn State Nittany Lions. After the Big 10 Championship Game, only Michigan and the winner of Wisconsin versus Penn State will remain in contention.

Being that Michigan beat both of these teams head-to-head though during the season and none of the three have a résumé that compares to the Buckeyes, I believe the committee would rightfully give Michigan the nod.

Michigan versus Ohio State in back-to-back games with a berth in the CFP Championship on the line sounds pretty good to me. It would instantly become the most important match-up in the two teams' bitter, historic rivalry.

Moral of the story — stay tuned. It's going to be an entertaining finish to the end of the 2016-17 college football season.



AP PHOTO

Alabama true freshman quarterback Jalen Hurts rushes for a touchdown in the Tide's Iron Bowl victory over Auburn. Hurts has accounted for 33 total touchdowns so far in his career in Tuscaloosa.

ANDREW WHITE  
staff writer

Rivalry week certainly did not disappoint. With a weekend full of games, highlighted by Ohio State and Michigan's overtime thriller, the college football playoff madness became even crazier.

With the conference championships this weekend here is an outlook on what may transpire in the upcoming weeks.

## Making the Case

**Alabama** - Win or lose, Alabama should have no problem getting into the four team playoffs. It is one of two undefeated teams remaining, and has been the most consistent team in the country. Additionally, the Tide has been ranked No. 1 all season long, and holds the most dominant defense in the NCAA. The defense is first in the nation in total defense and has not allowed a touchdown since October 23.

**Ohio State** - The one-loss Buckeyes are perhaps the most interesting team in the country. They have a balanced attack led by J.T. Barrett and a good defense. They also have quality wins against Oklahoma, Wisconsin and Michigan.

**Clemson** - Led by first-round prospect Deshaun Watson the Clemson Tigers are a one-loss team who dominated the ACC for most of the year. With a win, they will be in no problem.

**Washington** - The Huskies have one loss to a very good USC team. Take out the game against the Trojans, and they dominated the rest of their schedule, winning by no less than a touchdown in every single contest.

**Michigan** - Led by their defense which is highlighted by utility man Jabrill Peppers the Michigan Wolverines were a dominant force up until the last few injury plagued weeks.

**Wisconsin** - The Badgers won the Big 10 West and earned their spot into the championship game. Their only two losses came back-to-back against Michigan and Ohio State, both by only a touchdown. If they win, they are conference champs in a very strong Big 10.

**Penn State** - The Nittany Lions look like a totally different team after their close loss to Pitt and their blowout loss to Michigan. PSU has rattled off eight straight wins and are lead by RB Saquon Barkley, who some consider to be the best back in the game. If they win they, too, are conference champs in the Big 10.

**Oklahoma** - The Sooners lost two early games to Houston, who rose as high as No. 6 in the AP poll this season and Ohio State. They ran through the rest of the Big 12 and play Oklahoma State this weekend in their regular season finale.

## Why They Should Be Out

**Alabama** - Just kidding, there is no chance they are kept out.

**Ohio State** - As previously mentioned, they are the most interesting team. The Buckeyes lone loss came to Penn State and it cost them a chance at a Big 10 Championship. It will be interesting to see if the CFP committee punishes them for not playing in a championship game even though they have one loss.

**Clemson** - Again, the Tigers are in with a win. With a loss to the 9-3 Hokies, however, they would need a lot to fall their way to get in.

**Washington** - The Huskies probably play in the weakest conference, and with a loss to Colorado, they would have no shot at making it due to a weak schedule and two losses.

**Michigan** - They have two losses and aren't playing for a championship. Unless Jim Harbaugh can produce a miracle, we can say goodbye to the Wolverines.

**Wisconsin** - They have two losses. They would have to win, have to have Clemson or Washington lose, or have the committee punish Ohio State for not playing in a conference championship game to have shot at making it in.

**Penn State** - Same scenario as Wisconsin.

**Oklahoma** - They too have two losses. The thing that hurts them most is the lack of a conference championship game. They would have to win this weekend, have both Clemson and Washington lose, or have one lose and the committee punish the Buckeyes.

**A. Holman Predictions:**  
No. 1 Alabama 23 | No. 4 Michigan 21  
No. 2 Clemson 17 | No. 3 Ohio State 34  
FINAL  
No. 1 Alabama 23 | No. 3 Ohio State 24

**A. White Predictions:**  
No. 1 Alabama 38 | No. 4 Washington 10  
No. 2 Clemson 28 | No. 3 Ohio State 31  
FINAL  
No. 1 Alabama 24 | No. 3 Ohio State 17



AP PHOTO

Buckeyes H-back Curtis Samuel celebrates after scoring the game-winning touchdown over Michigan.



# Nintendo snubs fan works at video game awards

ZACHARY LANDAU  
staff writer

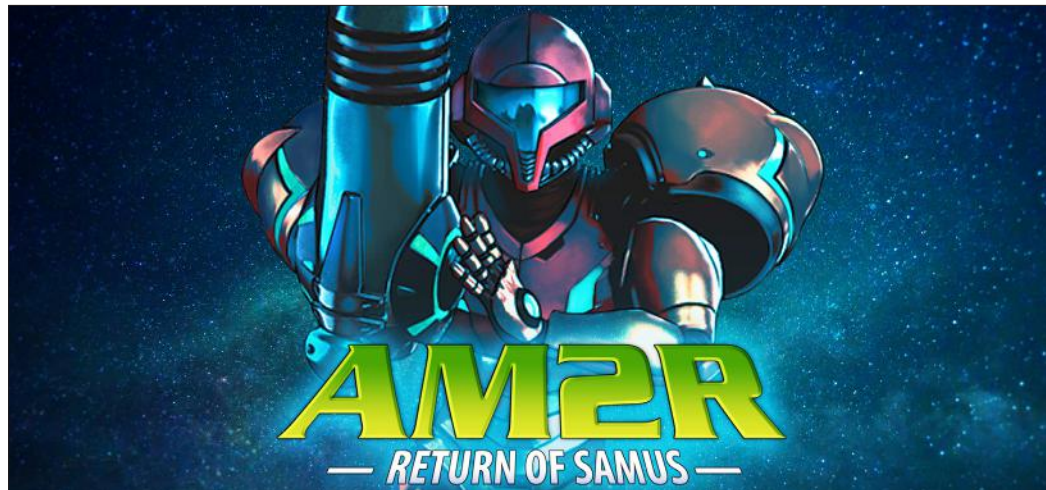
Last week, The Video Game Awards released their nominations, and two games that caught people's attention were Nintendo-based. These games, "Another Metroid 2 Remake (AM2R)" and "Pokémon Uranium," were nominated for the Best Fan Creation category alongside "Brutal Doom 64" and "Enderal: The Shards of Order." "AM2R" and "Pokémon Uranium" were immensely popular with fans of the franchises and received universal acclaim from the press. "Pokémon Uranium" itself garnered 1.5 million downloads in the week after its release, according to its development team.

Someone did not share this sentiment, however, and soon after the nomination list went up, the two projects were stricken from the ballot.

The immediate speculation was that Nintendo of America President Reggie Fils-Aimé's presence as a chair for the VGAs' board may have strongly discouraged games that used his employer's intellectual property without their permission from being nominated.

However, it was later revealed by the founder and host of the VGAs, Geoff Keighly, that the real reason why the games were removed was because of how games receive nominations.

During a Twitch stream this past week, Keighly explained that the VGAs "couldn't obtain the clearance" for "AM2R" and "Pokémon Uranium" to appear on the show. This is because the show seeks permission from publishers to give awards to games. Since Nintendo has a strict



COURTESY OF DOCTORM64

"AM2R," an anagram for "Another Metroid 2 Remake" was a fan project developed over many years. The game was issued a takedown notice from Nintendo under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).

policy against fan-made games and mods, there was no way it would permit them to appear in the show.

"Those games had been, I think, issued takedowns," Keighly said in the same stream, "and if [The VGAs] include those in the show, then the show is potentially at risk for takedown as well."

Both games were, in fact, issued takedown notices from Nintendo.

This nomination process stands in contrast to the ones used for other major awards. To be nominated for the Oscars, for example, producers or distributors must submit forms in order to have their works considered for nomination. Then, the Academy chooses which submitted

films should deserve nomination.

The VGA process, however, involves the press voting in both the nomination and winner rounds. Selected outlets, like Edge, IGN and USA Today, decide which games deserve to be voted for, and then the same outlets vote for the winners in each of the categories. (There is a separate panel created to vote for esports categories, though the overall process remains the same.)

If publishers control which games can appear at the show, however, then the nomination process is entirely pointless. What this means is that The Video Game Awards are, in essence, an

see FAN GAME — page 11

## WEEK'S EVENTS

Straight No Chaser  
Dec. 6, 8 p.m.

This all-male a capella group, famous for their Christmas medleys, will perform at the Benedum Center in the Cultural District. Tickets start at \$158, and it looks like the concert will sell out soon.

Andy Grammer  
Dec. 4, 4 p.m.

The pop artist, whose single "Fresh Eyes" is performing at No. 3 on Billboard's Top Forty list, will perform Christmas music with We the Kings and Chris Jamison at Carnegie Music Hall. Tickets start at \$22.50. For more information to this all-ages event, please visit [druskyentertainment.com](http://druskyentertainment.com).

## UPCOMING RELEASES

"Office Christmas Party"  
Dec. 8

With a cast that includes "SNL" and "Ghostbusters" star Kate McKinnon, Olivia Munn and Vanessa Bayer, this R-rated holiday comedy tells the story of employees that host an office Christmas party to save their jobs, only to run out of control.

"Dead Rising 4"  
Dec. 6

This next installment in the "Dead Rising" franchise is set in a zombie-infested, Christmas-themed Willamette, Colorado. The story again follows photojournalist Frank West from the first game, but players will note the absence of a timer system and story co-op options. The game will be released for Microsoft Windows and Xbox One for \$59.99.

## MICRO REVIEW

"Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life"

"Netflix's 'Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life' was a satisfying look at what happened to the town of Stars Hollow a decade after we last saw it. The show was charming and quirky, like Lorelai and Rory themselves, even though it ventured on being cheesy at times. Beware, though, as the infamous last four words will definitely leave you fuming."

— Rebekah Devorak

# Winter fun in Pittsburgh: events not to miss

MADISON PASTRICK  
staff writer

December is one of the busiest times of the year, and with less than three weeks until break and finals to think about, the holiday season can seem to come and go too quickly to enjoy. That's why it's important to put some time aside from cramming to take advantage of the many activities happening all around the city. Here are just a few easy and cheap ways of getting into the holiday spirit that you won't want to miss.

### People's Gas Holiday Market

From now until Dec. 23, Market Square will be the home of a European shopping village, filled with artisan booths representing countries from all around the world. This holiday tradition was brought to Pittsburgh five years ago, adding cultural diversity to local art and, along with it, daily live performances by a variety of local musicians as. Santa Claus himself will also be in his village workshop and open for visitors of all ages. Shops open at 11 a.m., so make sure to stop and check out these unique crafts, guaranteed to please anyone on your Christmas list.

### PPG Place

PPG Place is an iconic spot during the holidays, home to the newly-enlarged ice skating rink that surrounds a traditional 60-foot

Christmas tree. But even if ice skating isn't for you, inside the PPG Wintergarden are three free exhibits: a display of Santas around the world, an overwhelming variety of gingerbread houses and a classic train model that surrounds yet another beautifully-decorated Christmas tree. The rink will be open until Feb. 26. However the displays within the Wintergarden will be taken down Jan. 7. PPG Place is a close location for anyone looking to celebrate the season or explore some of the many cultures that enjoy this holiday.

### Duquesne's 36th Annual Christmas Ball

The Duquesne Program Council is hosting its annual holiday dance at the Sheraton in Station Square on Dec. 6. This event is semi-formal and has been a part of the Duquesne holiday tradition for 36 years. Ticket prices are \$25 for individuals or \$200 for a table of 10. This cost includes transportation, entry for the ball and dinner. Join your fellow students for this holiday event sure to start the season off right.

### Phipps Winter Flower Show and Light Garden: Days of Snow and Nights Aglow

Though December may bring chilly air and bare trees, there are still ways of enjoying nature's most colorful features all year round. Phipps Conservatory not only provides this service but also debuts a special exhibit this time



JORDAN MILLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
The MassMutual Pittsburgh Ice Rink is a popular winter season destination.

of year. The Winter Flower Show and Light Garden are beautiful exhibits, featuring holiday-decorated trees, colorful poinsettias, an interactive, outdoor light exhibit and more. Admission for students is \$16.95, and the exhibits are available until Jan. 8.

### Pittsburgh's Holly Trolley & Horse-drawn Carriage Rides

Exploring downtown's many seasonal decorations is a must; however, it can be difficult to get around the city this time of year. But now, thanks to the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, you can still go sightseeing about the city, and in style. Every weekend until Dec.

17, free horse-drawn carriages and trolley rides will be provided for the public all across the city — Take this season by the reigns and enjoy this wonderful opportunity to go sightseeing. For times and pickup locations, visit [downtownpittsburgh.com](http://downtownpittsburgh.com) and make sure to arrive early, as rides fill up quickly.

### Pittsburgh Crèche

Pittsburgh is the proud owner of the only approved replica of the Vatican's Nativity Scene as in St. Peter's Square. The Crèche was dedicated in 1999 and stands every holiday season outside of the U.S. Steel Tower. This exhibit is visited by thousands of visitors every year who come to enjoy this realistic depiction of this famous manger.

### Pittsburgh Cultural District Shows

Pittsburgh's Cultural District is always busy this time of year, providing the public with a variety of shows filled with holiday spirit. This season's highlights include the Pittsburgh Ballet Theater's "The Nutcracker," at the Benedum Theater from Dec. 9 to 18, Pittsburgh CLO's "A Musical Christmas Carol," at the Byham Theater from Dec. 9 to 23 and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, which will be performing at the PPG Paints Arena Dec. 27. For more shows or information, visit [www.culturaldistrict.org](http://www.culturaldistrict.org).

### Highmark First Night

There's no better way to spend

see WINTER — page 12



# ‘Fantastic Beasts’ brings magic back to Harry Potter series

LOREN SMITH  
staff writer

The magic of “Harry Potter” was reignited on the big screen when “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” hit theaters on Nov. 18. A prequel to the immensely popular franchise, the movie became an instant classic for both new and old generations of fans. The film gives a first look at the wizarding world in America long before the days of Harry Potter.

Set in New York City around 1926, “Fantastic Beasts” follows the story of the quirky British wizard Newt Scamander, portrayed by Eddie Redmayne. Scamander is an easily lovable character that cares for many misunderstood magical creatures and is planning to write a book detailing where to find them, as well as how to properly care for them.

Though the story follows several connected storylines, the main focus is on Scamander attempting to find his creatures that were accidentally set free from his suitcase by Jacob Kowalski, a “No-Maj” (the American version of a “muggle,” or non-magical person) played by Dan Folger. This leads to them encountering various ordeals throughout the city in order to find them, often acquainted by former Auror Tina Goldstein, (Katherine Waterston,) and her sister Queenie, (Alison Sudol.)

Also playing a major role in the film is the interference of the Magical Congress of the United States of America, similar to England’s Ministry of Magic. The Congress is strictly against both the keeping of magical creatures, which it views as being extremely dangerous, as well as letting non-magical people have any knowledge of magic. Throughout the movie, it also attempts to discover what is behind the destruction of various buildings in the city and the murder of a senator, eventually being led to believe that Scamander’s escaped creatures are behind it.



Based on the 2001 book of the same name, “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” is the first film in the series set in the U.S. COURTESY OF DOCTORM64

The New Salem Society, based off of the persecution of witches in 1690s Massachusetts, is a group of “No-Majes”

convinced that witches are behind these attacks. Scamander reveals to the Magical Congress that the mysterious attacks are actually being caused by a highly powerful Obscurus, a dangerous entity developed from a child containing their powers for too long, and that they need to find the child in order to stop the attacks from occurring again.

The over-the-top special effects in “Fantastic Beasts” juxtapose those in the “Harry Potter” movies nicely, with a multitude of adorable creatures and other magical effects, from wand fights to magically-expanded suitcases, that greatly enhance viewers’ enjoyment. The inclusion of multiple environments, such as the Arizona desert and arctic tundra for the creatures that live in Scamander’s suitcase, also makes for an interesting scene. These environments show the extent of the filmmakers’ special effects abilities.

Adding to the movie’s lasting impression on the audience, the wide camera angles coupled with numerous impressive shots of iconic locations in New York City — including Central Park and the Macy’s department store — play humorously on the bustling environment of the city during the 1920s. The major battle scene also takes place at a subway station, where we finally learn more about the whereabouts of wanted wizard criminal Gellert Grindelwald, who is mentioned briefly in the beginning of the movie and is played by Johnny Depp. The film’s surprise ending excites the audience and ties up loose ends with the movie’s multiple conflicts.

“Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” is a captivating addition to the world of “Harry Potter” while still distinguishing itself as its own individual series. With an abundance of interesting plot lines that leave the audience wanting more, the four additional planned installments of the film look promising. This action-filled yet charming movie will have you immediately hooked on all of the new magical adventures from the mind of J.K. Rowling.

## Duquesne-born band Uptown Woods releases new album

SEAN ARMSTRONG  
staff writer

The Uptown Woods, a Jazz-Hip Hop fusion band that formed here at Duquesne University released an album called “Close Quarters” on Nov. 18. The band consists of Supplant, Garrett Shafer and Kassam Zaghab.

When asked about how the trio came together, Shafer explained that it largely stemmed from where the three were living at the time, “[T]he Uptown part of Pittsburgh.”

Shafer elaborated on how the individual band members actually met.

“Kind of how our group came about was all of us meeting up through different ways. Whether it was in class or extracurricular activities; we didn’t all live in the uptown,” Shafer said. “But there was actually a pretty heavy population of kids from the music school at Duquesne, Mary Papert School, who lived in Uptown of Pittsburgh, and there were constantly ... gatherings any night of the week. ... [T]here were constant jam parties and gatherings where you could have anybody.”

According to Shafer, this would become crucial in the band’s name.

“Before we actually became the Uptown Woods — probably a year, a year or two back now figuring out our name, figuring out our voice — we were called just The Woods. We ended up just deciding to call it Uptown just because of where our vibes come from.”

The name has taken on a more personal meaning to the group since then, however. They explained that being in The Uptown part of Pittsburgh allowed them to meet various musicians at these larger venues.

“The woods has really meant two things for us specifically. Not just the obvious — being in nature and just being away from civilization, being away from the woods, not around people, not around society. But also, being in the Uptown of Pittsburgh, we were constantly finding ourselves jamming outside, jamming on the rooftop at the house we were at, at Van Bram. The woods kind of became this other meaning,



“Close Quarters” is Uptown Woods’ second album. The first one, “Kick Back Session 9-1,” is a live recording of the band’s jam session. COURTESY OF DOCTORM64

other than the nature of being in this concrete — type jungle. Finding ourselves in tough situations where you might find yourself in the woods without resources, without money, just basic living essentials.”

The Uptown Woods still wouldn’t start to make music for awhile after that, Shafer said.

“We all started hanging on Van Bram at this one house. We were just hangin’ just playing music, jammin’ every night and it went from myself, Garrett, making instrumentals for Jim Supplant and ... we just started getting all the musicians together, and we just started playing music and having the hip-hop and the rap on top of it.”

On their brand new album “Close Quarters,” Supplant talked about the specific meaning behind it and how it relates

to the identity of The Uptown Woods: “The main inspiration behind that was when we all met up in Uptown, it was definitely a difficult time and everyone just knew the struggle. Uptown wasn’t the prettiest area, so it was kind of this sense of confinement, being locked into a spot and trying to break out of that conformist view. ... [T]he one song, ‘If I May,’ one of the lyrics I wrote, it says, ‘Sometimes the tightest spaces make you find true greatness,’ and, like, that for me really [sets] the tone of the album.”

When asked about the group’s biggest inspiration, Shaffer said, “There’s definitely a lot of people. It’s tough to really tie down one because regardless of what people say, and [with]

see UPTOWN — page 11



## Robots, Kings, Prisoners and Presidents: Best shows of 2016

### **Westworld - Sean Armstrong**

"Westworld" is something different. While it is your classic science fiction robot uprising TV show, there's a bit of nuance to it.

For once, it is not about robots taking over the planet because they are the superior race. They still are in many facets the superior lifeform, but the reason for their uprising is more realistic. Just like in every war or uprising, the initial spark is oppression.

The robots are part of a western theme park that aims to serve humans. The humans murder, rape and enslave the robots. The only thing that keeps the robots from revolting sooner, is that their memories are erased every time they are killed, so they forget the atrocities committed to them almost daily. However, their memories start to come back in the first few episodes.

This leads to the inevitable rebellion in the theme park that was obvious from episode one. That is not to say that's the entire plot line, that is just the tip of the iceberg in this show.

Many viewers would agree "Westworld" is a thought provoking series with questions about our own humanity. Do humans have free will?

### **Good Girls Revolt - Raymond Arke**

Amazon Prime has been trying to develop original content that can compete with the extremely popular Netflix originals. With "Good Girls Revolt," Amazon has found a winning formula in their partly realistic, 1969-set drama.

Set at the end of the hippie era and the beginning of the women's liberation movement, "Good Girls Revolt" follows the lives of three women who work for the fictional News of the Week magazine. At that time, women were only allowed to work as researchers, meaning that while they did much of the hard work of researching stories, the all-male staff of writers got to put their name on the women's work.

After one of the women quits, the main three characters, with the encouragement of an ACLU attorney, begin to wrestle with the idea of suing News of the Week for gender discrimination.

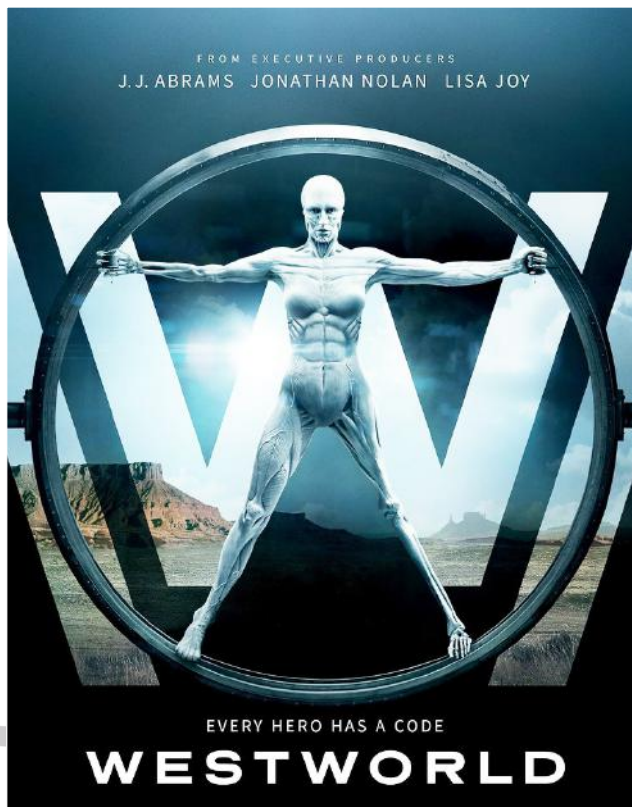
The captivating and inspiring series alternates between the brewing struggle at work and the clashes the newly empowered women begin to feel at home. The show acts as a reverse-"Mad Men," where women aren't just pretty faces used for sex but are represented as real humans who demand to be treated fairly and equally.

### **Scream: Season 2 - Sean Ray**

"Scream" had a mediocre first season. It had an absolutely spectacular, captivating and suspense filled season 2. I don't know what changed, but MTV has a show stealer here.

Dropping the overly boring teenage drama for a much better murder mystery, increasingly creative kills and genuine scares, "Scream" has metamorphosed into one of my

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COURTESY OF BAD ROBOT PRODUCTIONS

favorite shows.

Want proof? I didn't watch season 2 online like I did season 1. I dutifully sat down in front of a TV every week, on time, so I could avoid spoilers. I haven't done that since 2013!

MTV puts out a lot of crap. Hell, regular TV in general puts out a lot of crap. But "Scream" is the rare exception.

It may not have a big budget. It may not have major name actors. It may never be as beloved as "House of Cards" or "Game of Thrones." But the show's loveable characters, surprisingly good directing and great script completely stole my attention this year.

### **BoJack Horseman - Zachary Landau**

I was hugely skeptical when I went into "BoJack Horseman." With everybody praising it to be the best TV show ever, I assumed it was more likely a good, but only good, show that maybe dealt with some issue pretty well. And I was dead wrong. "BoJack Horseman" is the best show out there, worth a Netflix subscription, and should be mandatory viewing material if you want to live in the U.S. Watching this show has been one of the most enlightening experiences in my life, and if you haven't watched it yet, then you are living a stunted existence, my friend.

### **Orange is the New Black: Season 4 - Madison Pastrick**

Going on its fourth year, "Orange is the New Black" has somehow produced yet another successful season, leaving fans heartbroken and vengeful. Not only is this show entertaining, but because of its raw approaches on a variety of modern and controversial matters, it's spreading social-awareness as well. Season 4 in particular brought forth more of these themes than ever, covering issues such as Black Lives Matter, poverty, mental health, LGBT+ struggles and feminism.

The show picked up with the introduction of several new cast members, due to an unexpected load of prisoners and officers entering the Litchfield Prison, adding new backstories and relationships throughout the season. Additional highlights include the ongoing task of hiding a dead body, the scandalous celebrity prisoner and an accidental and traumatic murder.

This was by far the heaviest season yet with many tear-jerking storylines that accurately reflected issues occurring in and out of prison. Thanks to the extensive diversity of prisoners, the show gives its viewers a unique sense of empathy, allowing them to connect with the characters and their stories.

You'll never get through a season as quickly as this one, because once you start watching, you won't want to stop. If you haven't indulged yourself already, I highly suggest OITNB for your next holiday binge.

### **Game of Thrones Season 6 - Loren Smith**

Season 6 of "Game of Thrones" premiered on Apr. 24, full of surprising twists, deaths and resurrections. The never-ending drama and action of this season made it arguably the most

fascinating one yet.

Jon Snow is brought back to life and reunited with Sansa Stark after she escapes from Winterfell. He meets Ramsey Bolton on the battlefield in order to take back Winterfell, and succeeds after Sansa returns with the Knights of the Vale. Arya Stark takes revenge on Walder Frey and his sons for murdering her family, while Brandon Stark discovers Jon's true identity after narrowly escaping a group of White Walkers. Cersei Lannister destroys the Sept of Baelor with wildfire in a thrilling scene, driving her son Tommen to commit suicide. Daenerys Targaryen, now teamed up with Tyrion Lannister, Varys and Yara and Theon Greyjoy, finally sets sail for Westeros with her army and dragons.

The season won a total of 12 out of its 23 Emmy nominations, including the award for Outstanding Drama Series. The combination of sensational action sequences and intriguing character developments sets this season apart and easily makes it the best TV show of 2016.

### **House of Cards Season 4 - Kailey Love**

Blackmail from Russia, assassination attempts and a terrorist hostage crisis — just another day in the life of Frank Underwood. Netflix original series "House of Cards" launched its stirring fourth season in March of this year, which opens in the aftermath of the dramatic split between main character President Francis Underwood and First Lady Claire that occurred at the tail end of season three. While it is difficult to see this former dynamic duo at odds with each other, watching these two powerhouses spar with one another throughout the season is nothing short of amusing. Their fierce tension coupled with one shocking plot twist after another made season four nothing short of a (fictional) political masterpiece.

Also, one of the best parts about this season was the parallel between current events and the show's plotline. Netflix released the new season in the same week as Super Tuesday, and the show picks up in the midst of Underwood's primary campaign. Not only did this make HOC extremely relevant at the time, but the drama surrounding Frank's campaign mirrored the drama going on in the actual 2016 primary with controversial candidates such as (now President-elect) Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. Not to mention the continuation of the Underwood's ongoing political conflicts with President Petrov of Russia, who bears an uncanny and slightly hilarious resemblance to the actual President of Russia, Vladimir Putin.

### **The Flash Season 3 - Grant Stoner**

Season 3 of "The Flash" continues to impress, especially with the inclusion of "Flashpoint," an incredibly entertaining and complex story arc from DC Comics. With each season, lead actor Grant Gustin brings to life the quirks, charms and mannerisms of DC Comics' favorite speedster. As Barry is forced to confront a god, this season of "The Flash" will be a thrilling and entertaining experience.

### **Fear the Walking Dead Season 2 - Nicole Prieto**

"Fear the Walking Dead" is hardly free from the same fallacies of its sister series, but its superb acting and original character development have so far outshined "The Walking Dead." Season 2's story, predominantly set in Mexico, is a refreshing deviation from the semi-militaristic, intercommunity warfare currently embroiling TWD, perhaps making it a bit worthier of the label "zombie drama."

Siblings Alicia and Nick Clark are expertly portrayed by Alycia Debnam-Carey and Frank Dillane. Recovering drug addict Nick convincingly becomes a respected figure in La Colonia, using his once questionable skillset for the benefit of others. Alicia shoulders the burden of her mother's emotional absence — borne from Nick and Travis' unknown whereabouts — while continuing to grow into her own character. She maintains an understated, levelheaded amount of hope in the face of overwhelming despair and uncertainty. Perhaps the most compelling character transformation is that of Victor Strand, played by Colman Domingo. Since the end of Season 1, Victor has grown from cold con artist to one of Madison's most trusted confidantes. His deal-making skills help get them through shaky negotiations with the residents of the Rosarito Beach Hotel, and his assistance with Madison, Travis and Alicia's later escape is entirely believable.

Season 2 is an impressive amalgamation of original settings and characters that does not feel burdened by source material the same way that TWD does. As long as neither Madison nor Travis becomes the new Rick Grimes in Season 3, FTWD looks to have a bright future ahead of it.



# Beasts, superheroes and amnesiac fish: Best movies of 2016

## **Fantastic Beasts - Brandon Addeo**

I have to start by (shamefully) admitting that I did not grow up reading the “Harry Potter” series or watching the movie adaptations. I only watched the movie series within the past three years — although, I think this gives me a unique lens to look at “Fantastic Beasts.”

“Fantastic Beasts” takes place in the 1920s and follows the story of Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), a collector and caretaker of magical creatures who travels to New York City to search for magical creatures.

The film calls back the fun and whimsical nature of the early “Harry Potter” movies, though “Fantastic Beasts” does have some serious, darker undertones. Scamander’s sidekick-by-chance, a No-Maj, an American term for Muggle, named Jacob Kowalski (Dan Fogler), adds a great deal of humor to the film.

I highly recommend seeing “Fantastic Beasts,” whether you’re a die-hard “Harry Potter” fan or not.

## **Shin Godzilla - Sean Ray**

Sixty-one years after the original movie, and the “Godzilla” franchise is still finding ways to totally reinvent itself in fresh and interesting ways. Amazingly, it does this by going back to the original masterpiece. Once more the giant atomic-fire-breathing lizard is treated as terrifying, with a new design that looks like something out of a nightmare.

Director Hideaki Anno’s unique vision elevates the giant monster genre into something of beauty, mixing political satire with epic scenes of grand spectacle. And for a guy mostly known for his animation work, Anno sure has an eye for how to work a camera. Several shots look like beautiful paintings, full of subtle imagery and symbolism.

It’s very rare that a movie feels absolutely perfect for me. Being a critic, I can usually nitpick even the smallest thing from an otherwise great movie. “Shin Godzilla” is one of the few films that can stump me. Even the usually boring human scenes manage to be entertaining, using fast-paced editing to ensure nothing drags out too long.

I could go on forever about how great “Shin Godzilla” turned out. The music is legendary, the special effects are breathtaking and for the 31st entry in the series, it easily jumped up as one of my top three of the franchise.

## **Finding Dory - Zachary Landau**

I feel an almost moral obligation to include this in a “Best of” list if only because the original is such an integral part of my childhood. While the animation was occasionally bizarre (particularly with characters looking almost like plastic at times) and the plot is a bit contrived, I have to give the movie props for making people burst into veritable tears within minutes. Funny and emotional, “Finding Dory” is worth a watch if only for its nostalgic value.

## **Bad Moms - Nicolas Jozefczyk**

“Bad Moms” is a fantastic movie highlighting the struggles of three completely different mothers all learning how to parent their children. Starring Mila Kunis, Kathryn Hahn and Kristen Bell, this film uses comedy to feature the trials and tribulations of being a mother. Kunis’ character, Amy, is a married mother who struggles with juggling her home life, work and involvement in the PTSA. Through a series of horrible events like having hot coffee spilled on her, to being fired from her job, she comes home to find her husband cheating on her with a woman over the internet. This leaves Amy, a now jobless, divorced mother to figure out her life. Throughout this motion picture, Amy becomes friends with Hahn’s character, Carla, and Bell’s character, Kiki. The three women go through motherhood struggles together and learn that being a “bad” mom is okay sometimes. The main demographic for this movie is mothers, but it is funny enough for any teenager or adult to appreciate.

## **Moana - Madison Pastrick**

Disney has finally mastered the perfect genre with its newest movie “Moana,” emphasizing values of bravery, family and individualism. The movie follows a young Polynesian girl whose greatest desire is to sail beyond the reef of her small island, Motunui, even though her father, the chief, forbids such exploration. However, when the island begins to die due to an ancient curse, Moana, voiced by Auli’i Cravalho, decides to set sail on a mission to save her people.

Throughout this journey, Moana displays characteristics unique to the average Disney heroine, refusing the term ‘princess,’ and instead discovering her purpose as a leader and voy-

ager for her people.

Complementing this empowering storyline is the cheerful soundtrack, courtesy of Lin-Manuel Miranda, allowing this to be the most satisfying movie of the year, and perhaps Disney history.

## **Deadpool - Grant Stoner**

“Where’s Francis?” a foul-mouthed, red-suited mercenary asks, as he mercilessly pummels a henchman. With no answer,



COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

he sighs, looking at the camera before delivering a sarcastic remark. At long last, Marvel Comics’ “Merc with a Mouth” Deadpool, comes to the big screen through 20th Century Fox, bringing with him gratuitous amounts of violence, humor and more 4th-wall breaks than ever before. After contracting multiple forms of cancer, Wade Wilson admits himself into a secret government program, which promises to cure his ailments. Yet, when he is tortured and subjected to varying forms of experiments, Wade becomes the disfigured, immortal and outrageously hilarious Deadpool.

Directed by Tim Miller, “Deadpool” is the culmination of fan service, determination and comic book accuracy. Ryan Reynolds’ sense of humor is the perfect complement to the colorful cast of characters, as well as the intense sequences of action. This movie will make an excellent gift for any fan of either the character or comic books in general.

## **Arrival - Nicole Prieto**

“Arrival,” based off the short story by acclaimed writer Ted Chiang, easily ranks as one of the best science fiction movies of the last decade. Linguist Louise Banks (Amy Adams) is in a race against time as she tries to learn the language of an advanced species that has come to Earth for unknown reasons. The conflict in “Arrival” is not resolved through warfare or with bigger guns, but through genuine attempts at understanding one another’s differences — whether those of other humans or of beings beyond our understanding.

In this last respect, the film differs from its short-story counterpart. As with many science fiction greats, this speculative work is a reflection of our own times, and it clearly warns against the dangers of xenophobia and isolationism. The depiction of the heptapod species as immense beings shrouded in an opaque mist perhaps reflects this. Unlike the more sympathetic impressions left by aliens such as the mammalian humanoids of 2008’s “Avatar,” the heptapods are not designed to be immediately relatable. The audience, along with Louise, must learn to understand them as peaceful beings with a unique perception of space and time. “Arrival” succeeds as a

thoughtful adaptation of Chiang’s story, pulling off a remarkable twist that ties the narrative together by the film’s end.

## **Doctor Strange - Josiah Martin**

“Doctor Strange” was a welcome and fresh addition to Marvel’s movie universe, offering a fresh and different take on the traditional superhero backstory movies. As usual, Marvel delivered a film that had heart, with Dr. Stephen Strange, a cold arrogant character who somehow manages to gain your sympathy. This is undoubtedly due to the casting of Benedict Cumberbatch, who, despite an oft-criticized American accent, nailed the role perfectly. As with most recent Marvel pictures, the film also has its share of humor, with Dr. Strange often noting the ludicrousness of his own situation. Thanks to this film’s personality, its mind bending plot involving time travel, teleportation and astral forms of being don’t become boring or confusing. “Doctor Strange” certainly met the bar of quality Marvel has set in their recent years, and excels past its Marvel Universe counterparts in many aspects. The film has a more spiritual and intriguing driving force than the “Iron Man” or “Captain America” films. While those films are also entertaining in their own right, “Doctor Strange’s” themes of supernatural forces of good and evil give the film an overwhelming sense that something bigger is at stake than the main conflict of the film. For these reasons, “Doctor Strange” was my favorite film of 2016.

## **Green Room - Craig Taylor**

One of the most disturbing, gut-wrenching movies of the “escape” subgenre, “Green Room” is an engrossing crime thriller/horror hybrid.

A no-name punk rock band straggling along their cross-country tour, desperate for money, is forced to play a last-resort show at a skinhead biker bar. On their way out, they witness a murder, and are locked inside a green room until the skinheads determine their fate. The group is forced to concoct an escape plan to outwit the owner of the bar, played by Patrick Stewart, before he can eliminate them.

The band members make some smart (and pretty stupid) decisions as their situation gets increasingly desperate. Their missteps are promptly punished by some genuinely disgusting gore, and the solid acting supplied by Stewart and the rest of the cast adds to the movie’s unsettling tone.

Rather than a dumb, popcorn movie, “Green Room” engages the audience on a level most blockbusters fail to. It pulls the audience into its sick story, kneads their feelings and expectations, and slams them back to reality.

COURTESY OF DISNEY

