Twenty one-year-old former Duquesne student Ryan Ramirez, who was found dead of a gunshot wound Thursday in Washington County, was a caring, generous and playful person who loved sports and working with children, according to his family and friends.

Police discovered the body of Ramirez, of McKees Rocks, in a wooded area in Hanover Township. Police have arrested and charged Kristopher Lott with criminal homicide.

Ramirez attended Duquesne between the fall 2013 and fall 2014 semesters, according to Duquesne spokesperson Rose Ravasio.

He majored in education before prematurely leaving the program at Duquesne and went on to work full-time at his father’s woodworking shop. Ramirez also worked part-time at a daycare, Precious People Childcare, in Mars, according to Ramirez’s friend Andrea Savatt. An avid fan of the Los Angeles Lakers, Ramirez loved to play pickup basketball with friends and his brothers, Savatt said.

“He was competitive and playful, ways, he always had a way to win, whether it was in a game of backyard basketball, video games, or simply playful banter with friends and family,” she said.

Savatt added that Ramirez will be remembered for his “contagious smile” and “goofy personality.”

“Ryan brought people together and that has become so apparent by the outpouring of love and support for family and friends,” Savatt said.

With friends and family, she said.

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On Monday, a student said he was shot outside St. Ann’s, and brought to the Office of Student Conduct. Also that day, an intoxicated student was found with pot in St. Patrick’s, and cell phone stolen from McGorry. Later that day, two Towers residents were referred to the Office of Student Conduct after being caught outside St. Ann’s, and bringing a beer to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Saturday morning, an ice vending bin was burglarized in front of Towers. A man stole bagged ice from an ice vending bin on Seitz Street and was also referred for pot possession.

On Monday, a student reported their unattended wallet and cellphone stolen from McClosky Field. On Wednesday, a student said their car was scratched while in the Forbes Garage. Later that day, two Towers residents were referred to the Office of Student Conduct after Residence Life discovered marijuana and paraphernalia in their room.

On Friday, a student said their car was scratched while in the Forbes Garage. On Monday, a student reported their unattended wallet and cellphone stolen from McClosky Field. On Wednesday, a student said their car was scratched while in the Forbes Garage. Later that day, two Towers residents were referred to the Office of Student Conduct after Residence Life discovered marijuana and paraphernalia in their room.

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Trump visits Mexico for chat with President Nieto

AP — On Mexican soil for the first time as the Republic presidential nominee, a firm but measured Donald Trump defended the right of the United States to build a massive border wall along its southern flank, standing up for the centerpiece of his immigration plan in a country where he is widely despised. But within hours of Trump’s visit, a dispute arose over the most contentious part of the billionaire’s plans to secure the U.S. southern border — his insistence that Mexico must pay to build the wall.

When answering questions from adjacent lecterns before a Mexican flag after his meeting at the official residence of the country’s president, Enrique Pena Nieto, Trump said Wednesday the two men didn’t discuss who would pay for a cost of construction pegged in the billions.

Silent at that moment, Pena Nieto, who had reiterated warnings to prepare for a Category 4 hurricane named Madeline, seemed a bit taken aback by the conversation with Donald Trump I made it clear that Mexico will not pay for the wall.

With the meeting held behind closed doors, it was impossible to know who was telling the truth. But the difference in how Trump and Pena Nieto talked their talk was an example of the political risk taken on by two unpopular politicians who arrived at the meeting having spent months quarreling from afar.

Trump began his campaign by deriding Mexico as a source of crime, drugs and violence. He warned he would build a wall on the Mexican border to keep out illegals, who he said threatened security, jobs and wages. Pena Nieto responded by condemning Trump’s language, saying those were the sort of words that gave rise to Adolf Hitler.

Pena Nieto did not repeat such criticism Wednesday, but acknowledged Trump’s comments had “hurt and affected Mexicans.”

“The Mexicans deserve everyone’s respect,” he said.

The trip and the later dispute, arriving 10 weeks before America’s presidential Election Day, came just hours before Trump was to deliver a highly anticipated speech in Arizona about illegal immigration. That has been a defining issue of his presidential campaign, but also one on which he’s appeared to waver in recent days.

Trump stayed on script after the meeting, reading a statement from notes and politely answering shouted questions from reporters about his promise to force Mexico to pay for a wall along the border between the two countries.

“We did discuss the wall. We didn’t discuss payment of the wall,” Trump said.

Writing later on Twitter, Pena Nieto said the subject was among the first things the men discussed. He has for months said “there is no second chance when it comes to Mexico which Mexico would pay for the wall.

“From there, the conversation addressed other issues, and developed a respectful manner,” he added.

Those issues included the North American Free Trade Agreement, which Trump has called the worst trade deal in history. Pena Nieto suggested there was room to improve the trade deal, while the New York businessman promised to promote trade deals that would keep jobs in the Western Hemisphere — a departure from his standard “America First” rhetoric.

Trump’s presence Wednesday, his first meeting with a head of state abroad as a presidential candidate, sparked anger and protests across Mexico’s capital. For Mexican President Vicente Fox bluntly told the celebrity businessman that, despite Pena Nieto’s hospitality, he was not welcome.

“We don’t like him. We don’t want him. We reject his visit,” Fox said on CNN, calling the trip a “political stunt.”

Pena Nieto was less combative as he addressed reporters alongside Trump. He acknowledged the two men had differences and defended the contribution of Mexicans working in the United States, but he described the conversation as “open and constructive.”

“Mr. President, Trump has a knack for the wall,” the Mexican leader said on Mexican radio.

Trump ended up forgiving Trump when he didn’t even ask for an apology,” said Esteban Iñáquez, director of Duquesne’s Health Services, who believes the merger will lead to better collaboration between the departments.

“We have always collaborated with our colleagues in the Counseling and Wellbeing office (now that collaboration will be more intentional).”

Under the new setup, Mrvos is optimistic that much more can be accomplished to benefit students’ health. She said it is now more convenient for a student to receive care from multiple on-campus resources.

“Students seen by counselors in Counseling and Wellbeing can also receive their care from multiple on-campus resources,” she said. “In addition, students now have access to resources Health Services, and vice-versa,” she said.

The Student Center for Wellness also offers students the ability to consult with a registered dietitian, sharing meals with other students, and a more convenient for a student to receive care from multiple on-campus resources.

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Lessons I learned while living in St. Martin’s this summer:

1. Every single door slams.
2. There is a very distinct “St. Martin’s Smell”. The staff take very good care of that place, but it’s not enough. It’s just... the building.
3. The right-side staircase will not take you to the ground floor.
4. Do not touch any part of the shower that you don’t have to.

if i do say so myself...

Pittsburgh dead last in US startup index

Cleveland finally has one single piece of evidence to use when trying to convince others why it’s a better city than Pittsburgh.

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, a Kansas City-based private business foundation, recently released its 2016 Index of Startup Activity. According to its website, this index ranks major metropolitan areas in “new business creation activity and people engaging in business startup activity.”

Out of the 40 cities listed within the study, Pittsburgh came in last for the second year in a row. According to the index, the city’s population of new entrepreneurs is just 0.12 percent (or 120 people for every 100,000), down from 0.15 percent in 2015. By comparison, the number—one ranked city Austin, Texas, has a rate of 0.60 percent, up from just 0.35 percent in 2015.

Cleveland, in case you’re wondering, ranked number 37, a remarkable three spots ahead of Pittsburgh, with a rate of .15 percent.

Failure is quite the peculiar position for Pittsburgh to be in—twice now—because the city has gotten so used to being among the best at a number of things in recent years. For example, Travel + Leisure named Pittsburgh to its esteemed and globally-diverse “Best Places to Travel” list for 2016. In 2015, Zagat titled Pittsburgh the number one city for food. Just two weeks ago, Harper’s Bazaar christened Pittsburgh as “America’s Most Underrated City.”

But don’t worry, Pittsburgh will continue to do well, because it has a reading public that’s the real market leader. That’s why I keep my eye on the city’s startup scene. The city’s residents really love to start businesses.

Pittsburgh is home to headquarters for major corporations such as Google and Uber, and it will soon be hosting Facebook. But where are the burgeoning entrepreneurs? Why aren’t they taking the Steel City by storm like they are in Las Vegas, San Francisco and Miami?

That’s a difficult question without a clear answer. One reason may have to do with the fact that starting your own business isn’t a sure thing. Where there is reward, there is risk, and that risk could be driving these potential business moguls to pursue tamer, more stable avenues. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, only about half of all new establishments survive the first five years. After that, it dwindles down to a bleak 33 percent going the distance of a decade.

With the job market looking so uncertain in numerous fields, people young and old might not want to bet it all (whether that be whatever is left from student loans or a retirement fund) on a dream that is statistically destined for downfall.

Another major issue is related to tax rate in the United States at 9.99 percent. Only Iowa—at 12 percent—has a higher rate. Texas and Ohio do not have corporate income taxes at all, which could play into why they have more startup businesses.

This may be looking at it all through dark-colored glasses, but one thing is for certain. Small startup businesses have a huge impact on the local economy, and that’s something that any town and its residents can benefit from.

Entrepreneur Magazine estimated that in 2012, there were between 25 and 27 million small businesses within the United States that accounted for 60 to 80 percent of all jobs. A 2013 Forbes article cites that startup businesses are responsible for the generation of 65 percent of new jobs since 1995. The same article also says that these businesses raked in a total revenue of over $689 billion in 2011.

Cities that underperform in creating new businesses therefore underperform in creating new jobs. While Pittsburgh is home to small businesses—all one has to do is explore any of the 93 neighborhoods to see that—there is definite room for improvement that should be considered seriously. It’s alarming that the number of people creating their own businesses has actually backtracked since 2015, especially when the benefits are bountiful.

As a city proud Yankees, we haven’t made a habit of losing to Cleveland in anything recently. Let’s not start now.

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

You can cut all the flowers, but you cannot keep spring from coming.

Pablo Neruda

You just read | Now tweet our thoughts | us yours.

The Duke

The cost of college: Barnes & Noble supply prices too high for students

Don’t shop at the campus bookstore.

If you’re a student, you already know there are much better (and cheaper) places to buy your textbooks than the campus bookstore. Amazon, Ebay and even dubious legal digital download sites are all options for people who want to avoid dropping hundreds of dollars on books.

But, contrary to its name, the Barnes & Noble bookstore on Fifth Avenue sells more than just books—it should be a convenient place to buy school supplies for students living on campus.

Convenient? Yes. Affordable? No. A quick perusal of the school supplies available on the bottom floor of the bookstore reveals $8 three-ring binders and $6 notebooks. Everything from clothing hangers to batteries to notecards is more expensive than students might be used to paying at their local Office Max or Wal-Mart.

For students who are stuck on campus without a car, the Barnes & Noble store is one of very few options for purchasing school supplies. Students can walk to a CVS store downtown for pens and notebooks, but the selection is limited.

If the need is not urgent, students can wait until the weekend and take a 50-minute Loop Bus ride to Target for binders, batteries and highlighters. But if your professor demands that you have a three-ring binder by Friday’s class, you’ll probably be tempted to cough up the $8 at B&N.

“Why,” you might console yourself, “can’t they just … take a short trip out to Oakland—Somewhere, the University of Pittsburgh’s bookstore manages to sell the same size plastic binders for less than $4. A 10-pack of pens is less than $3.

The Duquesne bookstore has a soft name away from campus, but because there is no real competition close by, the only way to incentivize the store to lower its prices is to shop elsewhere until the store is forced to make supplies less expensive.

Take advantage of sites like Amazon.com and Walmart.com, where you can order supplies at affordable rates and have them shipped to campus. Take a few extra minutes and walk to the Market Square CVS. If your family lives close by, ask your parents to bring you supplies the next time they visit.

It might seem like an inconvenience, but it could save you money in the weeks and months ahead.
The University of Pittsburgh recently announced it will offer health care services for transgender individuals in its faculty and staff, effective August 15.

John Koza, assistant vice chancellor for human resources at Pitt, said the coverage for these services is the update of a 1965 order prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in employment practices by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The university’s Office of Human Resources sent a letter to faculty and staff last week announcing the health care, which consists of behavioral health support, medication and gender reassignment surgery.

Cosmetic surgery will not be covered by the university.

This change in healthcare for Pitt’s faculty and staff is a huge step for LGBTQ+ rights; however, this is not exactly new. There are 74 colleges and universities in the United States that cover hormones and gender-affirming surgeries for students under their student insurance, according to Genny Beemyn from Campus Pride.

The University of Pittsburgh has been inconsistent with its policies on transgender individuals.

In 2012, Pitt reported that students were required to use the restroom corresponding with their birth sex. Later that same year, Seamus Johnston, a Pitt-Johnstown student and transgender man, was expelled. The university reported that he had been using a bathroom that was not corresponding with the sex on his birth certificate. Johnston sued the university, and four years later, his case was settled out of court in March 2016.

In 2015, the university backtracked and advised faculty and students to use the restrooms corresponding with whatever genders they identify with.

Pitt has become more welcoming and supportive of transgender students and faculty. The university is currently offering primary, reproductive and sexual health care at its Student Health Services Center, as well as local referrals to specialty care and hormone treatments.

Duquesne University does not seem to be as amicable or supportive as Pitt to members of the LGBTQ+ community, be they students or faculty.

Duquesne does not report any specific services or help for transgender/LGBTQ+ students on its Student Wellbeing webpage. Any student is welcome to go to counseling or health services, but the LGBTQ+ community is never explicitly welcomed or acknowledged. Hormone treatments for transgender individuals are not available at health services.

There is more Duquesne can and should be doing for the LGBTQ+ community. How the university fails to acknowledge these groups should be no surprise, as it is a private, Catholic institution with conservative and traditional societal views.

When asked what Duquesne could do differently to show its support, Cris Wildman, a junior at Duquesne and non-binary individual, said, “I definitely think explicit welcoming of trans students, like explicitly saying, ‘We support transgender students and their ability to live authentically,’ and bringing in counselors or people for the medical center who are knowledgeable about trans-related care, and...”

Two groups on campus that welcome LGBTQ+ individuals are the Gender Forum club and Lambda (Gay, Straight Alliance).

The Gender Forum is a club founded by Elizabeth Harris, a senior at Duquesne, that seeks to create a safe space for individuals to be themselves and raise awareness on gender issues locally or globally.

“I want to make something that is a space for people to talk about gender issues, because I feel like it’s difficult to talk about things like that at Duquesne,” said Harris.

“I know a lot of people who have felt ostracized or alienated because they don’t have a space to talk about things it would be to a woman, or queer, or transgender. Gender, I think, affects everyone in so many ways that we don’t even realize.”

Duquesne has an explicit non-discrimination policy stating that the university “prohibits and does not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of a person’s race, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, marital status, genetic history, Veteran status, or disability,” and while there is no outright discrimination, there is nothing specifically offered for gay, straight or all, and the Health & Wellness centers on campus. The students and staff at Duquesne will feel more welcome if their medical and mental health concerns are acknowledged by the university.

Duquesne University has a wonderful mix of individuals of all races, religions and sexual orientations, and with continuous support and non-judgment, we will continue on the right track to creating a safe space for everyone.

Shivani Gosai is a senior journalism major and can be reached at gosai@duq.edu.

Oakland roof jumper demonstrates dating downsfalls

Pittsburgh police had to cut a hole into the Oakland Qdoba in an attempt to free Birdsong from being trapped.

The University of Pittsburgh’s classes started Monday after orientation. For the first time, the school will offer health care coverage for transgender staff and faculty.

The study might help us understand Birdsong’s first date stories I’ve heard Monday morning, there’s an expectation that it was going to be a bad date before the Uber even arrived. Girls are guilty of making plans to be out of dinner before 10 p.m., and that’s before they even know the guy’s last name.

According to a research study done at Arizona State University that looked at the relationship between first dates, the top first date goal is to find uncertainty and find out if the person is a match.

However, they also found that most partners disagree over whether an outing was an actual date.

The study makes plenty of sense. If we only know someone based on their selfies then it’s hard to see their features. Maybe the first date opportunity is the chance to find out if we are compatible. It’s a terrifying and usually awkward experience, but maybe you find out they have an equally nerdy Harry Potter obsession. It’s the chance to not hide behind a screen and learn if you could handle more activities together.

First dates seem difficult enough with getting to really know one another as the main goal. Besides, we are only further complicating the process if we can’t even agree on whether or not we are truly on a first date. Maybe that’s a conversation to have, and if it takes the pressure off, mention the goal of the date is to find out if there is anything you have in common.

If it helps make things less daunting, the study found that other expectations or goals for dates were insignificant. For example, having fun on the date was mentioned by only a third of the female respondents and only 12 percent of male respondents. That being said, your date probably doesn’t care so much about whether you’re getting ice cream or ice skating, as long as they get to talk and learn about you.

The study might help us understand Birdsong. Maybe the girl he was trying to impress didn’t think this was a date, and he was simply trying to show her he was taking things seriously. Then again, maybe they agreed it was a date, and Birdsong was showing her how good he was at roof jumping. Regardless of his motivations, I think we can all learn a valuable lesson here. Put yourself out there and take that leap of faith. Just please, don’t get stuck.

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

September 1, 2016
Carie Cunningham on journalism and the move to academia

Professor Carie Cunningham joined Duquesne this year as the newest member of the Journalism and Multimedia Arts faculty. Cunningham brings a wealth of broadcast experience to the department and will be teaching a number of classes to translate her work in the field into a practical education for her students. We sat down with her to talk journalism, the world of broadcast and what brought her to academia.

Q: To start off broadly, what drew you to journalism in the first place?
A: I guess it also is the way I approach teaching — I like taking really complicated ideas and breaking them down into their parts and then being able to explain it to lots of different people. I think journalism does that, and I think teaching does that.

Q: You spent a good portion of your time in the field of broadcast journalism before coming to Duquesne. Could you expand a bit on those experiences?
A: I initially, out of undergrad, thought I was going to be a meteorologist which I think is unique to a lot of people who bleed in meteorology and journalism, and I still really like doing weather, and I was going to be a meteorologist. I double-majored in broadcast journalism before coming to Duquesne.

Q: Anything else you’d like to add?
A: Something else I really am passionate about, and unique about those jobs is that you had to tweet. I think that’s what the future graduates are going to have to know too.

Q: What made you then decide to transition from the field to academia?
A: I think, specifically, what was great about those jobs is that the story of the Marian Apparitions in Lourdes, which began when a 14-year-old girl named Bernadette Soubirous spoke of a woman she met in a cave while gathering firewood.

The story of the Marian Apparitions in Lourdes, which began when a 14-year-old girl named Bernadette Soubirous spoke of a woman she met in a cave while gathering firewood.

Bernadette claimed to see the woman, who identified herself as “The Immaculate Conception,” a total of 18 times that year. During the visits, the woman instructed Bernadette to pray for the conversion of sinners. The site was later converted into a grotto, which was then replicated on our very own bluff.

For Rev. Gallagher, building the Lourdes Grotto was not only an opportunity to beautify the campus, but it also represented an opportunity for bringing students and the community together.

“President Gallagher was really the first one who knew how to go out into the community and get money from people for campus projects,” White said. “He also picked a project that would benefit and include the student body.”

Plans for the statue, as well as instructions and stones, were purchased from The Edward O’Toole Company, Inc. However, all of the work was completed by Spiral brothers and fathers, as well as various student organizations and faculty members. The members of Kappa Sigma Phi, a then-service society which no longer has a presence in Pittsburgh, were notable participants in the construction of the stone arch that shields the statues of Mary and Bernadette.

The statues themselves were imported from Italy. The figure of Mary arrived in 1956, but the Grotto was left unfinished, missing the sculpture of Bernadette for another year. Growing slightly impatient, Rev. Gallagher sent a letter to the company alluding to the statue’s delay. The president joked with the company that perhaps the statue was one of the 46 casualties of the sinking of the Andrea Doria.
Can one rap album change the world?

Leah Devorak layout editor

It all started on August 21 when Kanye West put that Frank Ocean album on repeat. Then he returned to Twitter two days later to further expound his feelings for “Blonde,” rapper Ocean’s newest album that dropped August 20.

In the tweets, West called every radio station in the nation “come together” by playing their favorite Ocean song “at least ten times a day,” claiming that doing so would “make the world a better place.”

As with most things Kanye West, these tweets went viral.

I actually found out about them while listening to the radio. The two hosts of the show were mocking his comments, pointing out that radio stations have playlists and can’t just randomly pick a song, even if West demands they do.

They also questioned his extreme conclusion that “Blonde” could change the world — as did I. But while the show hosts didn’t really look much further into it, dismissing the comment as typical, dramatic Kanye, I actually wondered if the album could, in fact, do what he was claiming.

According to Wilkes, however, the most common form of emergency is a medical one. Many of these security measures have been in effect for a while but have been enforced sporadically. The hope is for better enforcement to be practiced in time for the busiest season of the year.

I listen to rap and thus know about recent tragedies at public events across both the country and internationally. The entertainment venues affected by these changes include the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts, the Byham Theater, the Caberet at Theater Square and the August Wilson Center for African American Culture.

New policies include restrictions on everything from drugs to large bags. Prohibited items include illegal substances, weapons, alcoholic beverages, food, selfie sticks, drones and beach balls.

“The Cultural Trust” want[s] to make sure that our guests’ expectations of safety and security are always being met,” said Kevin Wilkes, the Cultural Trust’s new chief security officer.

Wilkes, who was hired in May after serving as a Pittsburgh Police detective, is spearheading these new measures, which include more instruction for staff and volunteers. As part of this training, ushers will be required to take a 90-minute safety course about how to handle emergency situations, including severe weather, fires and active gummers.

“The whole thing turned out to be a fantastic mix of slow guitar, soulful singing and stylistic auto tune, with the actual rapping being very minimal. Such was appropriate, though, for Ocean considers himself to be a singer and songwriter as well as a rapper.

Nonetheless, from the lead vocals to the mesmerizing harmonies, every single song was absolutely beautiful. The amount of time, passion, love and effort that went into making them could truly be felt every second, something quite rare for most music nowadays.

My favorite song on “Blonde” was definitely “Solo (Reprise).” (Yes, Ocean’s album is long enough to have its own reprise.) This remake of the fourth song on the album is fast and intense, featuring an amazing juxtaposition between slow, soft piano and quick, raw rap. It served as a refreshing reprieve from the rest of the smooth, mellow album, making it quite memorable.

Another of my favorites was “Pretty Sweet,” featuring somewhat of a faster, more pop-like beat than the rest of the album. This paired nicely with “Solo (Reprise)” in order to fend off the lull that I previously found myself serenading into.

Don’t get me wrong, though: It was a good ball, similar to the one kids feel as their mothers sing them to sleep — although Ocean’s album definitely is not intended for children. It simply relaxes people in a way not many things can do, quite an accomplishment for the genre.

“Blonde” did its strange points, though, such as the auto-tuned screaming that closed out “Ivy.” “Facebook Story” also felt bizarre, probably thanks to it just being a French dude talking about his breakup.

And to be entirely honest, even though every song was superbly composed, having 17 of them on the album was a bit much. It seemed like all but four sounded exactly the same, so after the first 45 minutes, I got bored.

But overall, “Blonde” is solid. Will it change the world if every radio station plays a song from it 10 times a day? No. Sorry, Kanye. But will it probably win a couple of awards this upcoming year? Yeah. I can see that, especially since it’s already number one on Billboard.

“Blonde” can be purchased for $9.99 on iTunes.

The Cultural Trust unveiled new security rules, which will begin on Oct. 1. Affected locations include the Benedum Center, Byham Theater, the Caberet at Theater Square and the August Wilson Center.

“Can one rap album change the world?” is excerpted from the Sept. 9 issue of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Used with permission.
‘Don’t Breathe’ is good but overloaded with issues

**SEAN RAY**

**a&e editor**

Before I begin this review, let me ultimately state that I enjoyed “Don’t Breathe.” It was a fun, suspenseful slasher-thriller that left me on the edge of my seat, and I recommend seeing it.

Got that? Good, because I’m about to complain a lot.

“Don’t Breathe” follows a trio of burglars trying to make ends meet in impoverished Detroit. There’s Rocky (Jane Levy), the sympathetic girl in an abusive family just trying to get enough money to escape to California; Alex (Dylan Minnette), who is the obvious love interest for Rocky; and finally, there is Money (Daniel Zovatto), the crude, tough-talking and crime enjoying-member who is obviously going to die first.

These three companions decide to make one last score: robbing the $300,000 a local blind Iraq veteran (Stephen Lang) got as a settlement from a car crash that killed his daughter—which he has not spent any of, for some reason. However, this former soldier isn’t as helpless as the gang thought he would be, and what was supposed to be an easy job turns into a fight for their lives.

“Don’t Breathe” makes an interesting stylistic choice by revealing pretty much everything that will happen in the first few minutes of its run time. As the group initially breaks into the house, the camera lingers on various objects that will play an important role in the coming plot, whether it’s some shards of glass or a hammer hanging on the wall. This opening was incredibly enjoyable and a very nice long-take that is so rarely seen in modern horror.

Unfortunately, as the plot goes on, “Don’t Breathe” falls into a lot of the traps and pitfalls so many horror films nowadays are guilty of. For instance, it attempts to build suspense around the fact that the blind man in the house can hear the sounds of the house, but this simply serves to show that the horror moments to be had, they’ve just been done before not with the same level of polish. Sometimes, formulas just work.

‘Kubo’ delivers epic story in flawless stop-motion

**NICOLE PIUFFO**

**staff writer**

CLAIMED STOP-MOTION studio Laika delivers another fantastic adventure with “Kubo and The Two Strings,” a modern-day epic set in ancient Japan whose narrative complexity underlies a story about a child’s search for his family.

The film opens with Kubo’s mother traversing a vast, stormy sea — carrying her infant son and slicing apart waves by channeling her magic through her shamisen, a Japanese three-stringed lute. Kubo’s father has just been lost to them, and they seek refuge from the wrath of his grandfather and aunts, who, for reasons truly unknown to Kubo, want to steal away his one remaining eye.

Years later, Kubo (Art Parkinson) takes care of his ailing parent as her magic weakens and she grows more forgetful with each passing day. Each night, she gives her son one mandate: Never be out after dark.

To support himself and his mother, Kubo leads a simple life as a beloved storyteller. With his own origami magic and shamisen, he weaves together elaborate tales to the entertainment of villagers. But all that changes when Kubo fails to return home before nightfall one day — and his evil aunts find him at last. Joined by Monkey (Charlize Theron), an enchanted charmer brought to life, and Beetle (Matthew McConaughey), a man cursed into the form of a bug, Kubo sets off on a journey to find his father’s magic armor to protect him from his relatives.

There is no doubt that “Kubo” is an artistic accomplishment worthy of accolades for its attention to detail, character designs, scenery, innovation and camera work. Where stop-motion and CGI begin and end are impossible lines to see. Kubo’s enchanted origami unfolds before the audience in elaborate patterns and gravity-defying displays. Paintstaining attention to everything from background villagers to individual hair strands make it easy to forget that the film is a stop-motion production. Audiences are left as enraptured by the story itself as they are by a nagging curiosity of how everything is put together.

The plot is as ambitious as its visuals, and world-building takes off from the first scene. Much like Studio Ghibli films “Spirited Away” or “Porco Rosso,” “Kubo” does not dwell on explaining why characters have magical abilities or why many normal people seem unfazed by impossible things happening around them.

One of Laika’s specialties is treading the line of small-child-appropriate and nightmare-inducing, with “Kubo” being no exception. Kubo’s villainous aunts are entities straight out of your childhood fears. They don white masks displaying perpetual, sinister grins. In their introduction, they emerge from the shadows and relentlessly pursue him into the village. They are only stopped by his mother’s intervention, and it takes the last of her magic just to get him out of danger.

These are not incompetent villains prone to delivering long-winded monologues. They are powerful threats who hold nothing back in their confrontations with Kubo and his companions, making his journey to find his father’s armor all the more desperate.

But the film’s beauty and world-building cannot hide its predictable narrative’s poor staying power. To be blunt, there is a lot going on in too short of a time. Unlike the simple messages of acceptance and forgiveness portrayed in Laika’s “ParaNorman,” “Kubo” leans on long, elaborate expositions by its characters to immerse the audience in the story.

The audience is not given much breathing room to take everything in. After a while, you only start to notice how long characters speak and how much of the narrative you are not being shown. A montage of Monkey and Beetle’s interactions, for instance, would have better illustrated their evolving relationship — rather than their campfire confessions about their concerns, on top of some awkward flirting.

It is an ironic weakness for a studio that spares no detail in visual presentation. Thankfully, it is not a fatal one. We are still given effective plot devices, such as the “play-within-a-play” motif creatively implemented with Kubo’s origami magic, which keep us connected to the characters’ primary motives. With all the danger around him, we never forget that Kubo really only has one goal: to be with his family.

While its visuals rank a 10 and its story see KUBO — page 12

September 1, 2016

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Buechel placed on FCS Player of the Year watch list

Andrew Holman sports editor

When the College Football Performance Awards (CFPA) FCS National Player of the Year Trophy watch list came out, there was a familiar name on that list.

It was the name that fans of Buechel. The redshirt senior was the first quarterback to lead the Duquesne Dukes football program to an outright NEC conference championship and the first quarterback to guide the Red & Blue to an appearance in the FCS Playoffs.

"It was definitely a cool experience to see your name up there with some of the other best players in the FCS," Buechel said. "It makes me feel like all the hard work, all the dedication that you put in, just to get recognized like that — it's a real cool thing."

Buechel was named to the All-NEC Second Team a season ago, propelling the Dukes to an 8-4 record, which included a perfect 5-0 record at Arthur J. Rooney Field and a 5-1 mark within conference play. Additionally, Buechel was selected to the preseason NEC All-Team.

On the biggest stage of his life, Buechel had a game to remember. His performance in the FCS Playoffs alone last season was likely enough to solidify himself as one of the 40 players to watch in the FCS this season.

"That’s probably the thing I am most proud about being here, playing for Duquesne," Buechel said. "When I got here, that was the whole team goal, you know, win the NEC Conference and get in the playoffs. And to be the first team that actually experienced that feeling, it was a cool thing."

On that afternoon, Buechel threw for 423 yards and tied a school record with six touchdown passes. Although the Dukes came up short against the William and Mary Tribe, falling by a final score of 52-49, it has inspired them to get back in 2016.

"Everybody has come back after working hard in the offseason," Buechel said. "If we are fortunate enough to get another chance to play in the playoffs, everybody is hungry to try to make some damage this year. We want to see how far we can take it."

This game capped off a brilliant junior season for Buechel in which he completed 228 passes for 2,871 yards and 24 touchdowns. All three of those statistics marked career highs for Buechel. His previous career high in touchdown passes was 14, which shows the significant strides that Buechel made in his three years under center.

The signal caller has a chance to put himself in elite company in 2016. Entering his final season, Buechel sits second in the Duquesne record books in completions (593), completion percentage (.583) and passing yards (7,465). He also currently ranks fourth in touchdown passes at 52.

Through the highs and lows of his collegiate career, one thing that cannot be questioned about Buechel is his leadership. This 2016 campaign marks his third season as a team captain and the unquestionable chief of the offense.

"I try to be a calming influence, try to always be under control, kind of be the halfway midpoint between the coaching staff and the team," Buechel said. "Because you're kind of in a coaching role playing quarterback, but also guys look to you for leadership and to make plays."

Combine that leadership, his arm strength and his decision-making and it's a real possibility that Buechel could be named FCS Player of the Year at season's end. But it's going to take a special senior season from him if he hopes to bring home the hardware.

Buechel and head coach Jerry Schmitt have developed a significant player-coach bond that is evident every game day. Schmitt trusts Buechel to make the right throws in the right situation — most times Buechel doesn't let him down.

Schmitt has a tremendous amount of faith in No. 5 and knows how important he is in fulfilling the team’s aspirations in 2016.

"It's awesome to have a four-year starter, a veteran, a leader, a team captain. In general it's just awesome to have that," Schmitt said. "But to have a young man like Dillon who is so competitive, studies the game, you know, and is a good old-fashioned football player and who loves the game — it's just icing on the cake for us."
Dukes, Schmitt prepare to defend title

Sophomore in the Spotlight: Casey Aunkst

Every minute on the field, even in 90-degree heat, is another opportunity to improve, at least in the mind of Casey Aunkst of the Duquesne women's soccer team.

The sophomore center back played through all 110 sweltering minutes in Duquesne's double overtime 1-1 draw against Youngstown State Sunday afternoon, tallying the lone goal for her team.

Head Coach Al Alvine was especially impressed with Aunkst's performance against Youngstown State, taking the weather into consideration.

"She is a warrior," Alvine said. "She really has the ability to push the boundaries of herself physically and mentally. It's really tough to play 110 minutes in that heat, but to be able to stay focused and to play on the level she's playing at, that's really special." Aunkst has played each game in its entirety for the Dukes so far this season, accounting for 390 minutes total.

Leading the Red & Blue early on this season for Alvine were the growing pains of a defender like Aunkst who is able to step up this year as the team looks to defend its title as Atlantic 10 Conference Champion.

For Alvine, having a defender with the ability to pressure opponents and make the correct plays and decisions in all areas of the field is crucial.

"Having Casey back there with me is great," Alvine said. "I'm expecting her to hold our defense to a can-do attitude in everything we take on as a team." Aunkst looks to improve her game.

"Although playing large amounts of minutes can take a toll on my body, it also helps in the experience department," Aunkst said. "Each rep or kick is another chance to perfect it and become more and more consistent, so every minute I'm out there playing is another chance to get better." Aunkst has played each game in its entirety for the Dukes so far this season, accounting for 390 minutes total.

Sophomore center back Casey Aunkst heads the ball away in the Dukes' home opener against the Central Michigan Chippewas. The Dukes lost the match 2-0. Aunkst has recorded one goal and one assist so far in 2016.

The upcoming season will consist of six home games and five contests on the road, which could serve the team well in 2016 if they can secure a perfect record at Arthur J. Rooney Field as they did in 2015.

The Red and Blue will be led by seniors Christian Kuntz and Dillon Buechel. Last season Kuntz led the nation in tackles for a loss, while Buechel enters 2016 second in Duquesne history in career completions (593), completion percentage (.583) and passing yards (7,465).

In his 12th season, Schmitt will return to
courtesy of JORDAN mcNALLY
BYWANNA macDERMOTT
ast, photo editor

One day before the start of the 2016 season, the Duquesne football team extended head coach Jerry Schmitt's contract, which will keep him on the Bluff through the 2020 season. Athletic Director Dave Harper and Schmitt agreed to terms on Wednesday as the Dukes gear up for their Sept. 1 season opener on the road against the Youngstown State Penguins, and will do so as the defending Northeast Conference champions.

Junior linebacker and captain Nate Stone, along with his teammates are quite happy with the decision to give Schmitt a contract extension.

"Coach Schmitt is a great guy, he always looks out for the team," Stone said. "He brings a lot to the team physically and mentally."

Last season Schmitt led the Dukes to a record of 8-4, going undefeated at home. Duquesne rallied to defeat St. Francis University 30-20 and claim the NEC Championship after trailing 14-0 early on in last November's contest.

The win notched Duquesne's third NEC title in just five years, with the team also victorious in 2011 and 2013. However, it was the first time that the Dukes won the conference outright and therefore qualified Duquesne for its first-ever FCS playoff game, in which they fell to William & Mary 55-20.

Junior defensive lineman James Coleman also acknowledged his appreciation for Schmitt.

"He always brings a winning mentality and a can-do attitude in everything we take on as a team," Coleman said. "With him always being a steadfast leader, it creates a culture of winning."

Coaches around the NEC showed respect to Duquesne in preseason voting as six of the league's seven first place votes were given to the Dukes, which makes them the conference's top team heading into 2016.

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see SCHMITT — page 12

Sophomore center back Casey Aunkst heads the ball away in the Dukes' home opener against the Central Michigan Chippewas. The Dukes lost the match 2-0. Aunkst has recorded one goal and one assist so far in 2016.

"I do the best I can to keep the other team off the scoreboard as a defender," Aunkst said. "When I get my chance to contribute offensively, whether it be a free kick, corner kick or my coach trusting me to take a penalty shot, I try to take advantage of it to my full ability."

On a team with 15 juniors and seniors, Aunkst finds herself to be a young leader in the group, but nonetheless is in a position that requires play-making.

Having a defender like Aunkst who is able to support the team both offensively and defensively is a vital asset, according to sophomore goalkeeper Kyra Murphy. The two have been teammates since their sophomore year of high school where they competed for the Beadling Soccer Club in Pittsburgh.

Murphy explained that she can always count on Aunkst to back her up in goal.

"Having Casey back there with me is great," Murphy said. "She works hard until the final whistle blows. She's a great defender, but with one ball can give us the offensive boost that we need." Aunkst has shown continued growth in the beginning of her sophomore campaign.

Despite her role as a central defender, Aunkst hopes to continue lighting up the board for the Dukes this year.

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Cultural District security changes

SECURITY— from page 9

Part of the reason as to why the Cultural District might want to improve security may have to do with the crowds it draws. According to the Pittsburgh Tribune Review, the Cultural District hosts more than 2000 events, including First Night Pittsburgh and the Three Rivers Arts Festival, bringing in 2 million visitors every year.

Wilkes elaborated on the Oct. 1 start date, explaining that “we wanted six weeks to educate people before the rush of the Christmas season,” as the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports.

In addition to new rules of permissible items, the Cultural Trust may occasionally elect to hire an outside security company to search bags coming into the venue. Wilkes assured that this will not become standard practice and will only be implemented if “there is a heightened credible threat … or unless it’s a specific request that is associated with that production or performance.”

Duq. bikers rank nationally

BIKES — from page 2

in a different light,” she said. “I also like how I am minimizing my carbon footprint and saving on parking and gas at school.”

She added she would like to see Pittsburgh further develop its “cycling infrastructure” of bike lanes and bike racks throughout the city.

Tang said more Duquesne students should ride bikes to school.

“I think so many [students] don’t think it’s an option and I don’t know why they think that,” she said.

Tang thinks the university can “encourage” more students to bike by adding bike parking at every building, adding that current bike parking areas are “not convenient.”

Duquesne has made an effort to better accommodate cyclists in recent years.

In the summer of 2015, Duquesne Facilities Management installed a “Fixit” station on the east side of College Hall near Locust Street, which can be used to perform basic repairs, like re inflating flat tires or adjusting brakes and gears, according to Building Services Director Bill Zilcosky.

“It’s important to support cyclists on campus,” Zilcosky said. “I believe their mission of advocating for a positive bike culture on campus has merit, especially when it comes to personal fitness and environmental sustainability.”

The efforts of Duquesne cyclists also had an effect on the environment.

According to the National Bike Challenge website, Duquesne’s roughly 4,700 miles worth of cycling saved around $1,400 in gas money and eliminated an estimated 2,200 pounds of CO2 pollution from the air.

Underrated “Kubo” amazes audiences

KUBO — from page 10

perhaps a generous 7, the voice work in “Kubo” hovers closer to a 6. Art Parkinson brings Kubo to life, giving him appropriate maturity beyond his 11 or so years, but Charlize Theron barely rises above a monotone mumble. Do not go in expecting a Furiosa-level performance. But at least Theron has an excuse: Monkey is supposed to be the straight man to Matthew McConaughey’s Beetle — who is woefully unfunny for being the bombastic comedy relief.

But even with its faults, “Kubo” is by no means a poor attempt for first-time director Travis Knight. This is a film where Laika’s signature excellence is on full display, and if you can forgive some unchecked info-dumping, it is definitely not a film to be missed.

Now entering its third weekend, catch “Kubo” while it is still in theaters — but bring friends. The house is unlikely to be packed, and this is an underrated film that should be enjoyed in good company.
How the Grotto came to be

GROTTO — from page 6

The statues in the Lourdes Grotto were imported from Italy in the late 1950s.

an Italian ocean liner that sank near Massachusetts in 1956.

The Bernadette statue did arrive, however, in late 1957, and The Grotto was completed to the form we know, love and escape to today. The completion of The Grotto also marked a new era whereby students and faculty alike were inspired by the message of Bernadette and Mary.

Fr. Dan Walsh, a Spiritan priest who just celebrated 25 years of service at Duquesne, said The Grotto is a physical manifestation of Duquesne’s mission to bring scholasticism, spiritualism and service together.

“Here at Duquesne we started a celebration on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, which is also the day for Prayer for the Sick,” he said. “We invited all the schools in the healing professions — pharmacy, nursing, PT, OT, Speech Language Pathology, Athletic Training — and the health services to recall that they participate in the healing mission of Jesus Christ and the Church.”

The Grotto has even inspired some students to travel to Lourdes, where they aided and prayed for the sick, said Fr. Walsh. The Grotto serves as not only a familiar escape but as a reminder of the Duquesne mission: to serve God by serving others.

Cunningham joins journalism faculty

CARIE — from page 6


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Schmitt receives extension

SCHMITT — from page 8

starters from the defending Northeast Conference Championship squad, including seven on offense, six on defense and his starting place kicker and punter.

“It brings a certain level of experience on both sides of the ball,” Stone said. “In recent years we’ve had to play some younger guys sooner than we wanted to. With the experienced guys we have back, we feel more comfortable on the field and have a sense of what it’s like playing with the guy next to you.”

For Stone, going into the season as the defending champions is a motivator.

“It’s definitely a good feeling. It gives the guys something to look forward to and a goal to aim for down the road,” Stone said. “Our coaches and captains emphasize taking it one game at a time.”

Duquesne also had a league-high six players named to the preseason All-NEC Team including Stone, Buechel, Kuntz, senior wideout Wayne Capers, junior lineman Ben Huss, senior defensive lineman Jake Radziukinas.

Right now, the team is focusing on its matchup against Youngstown State, and the players feel they are ready for anything the season may throw their way. While becoming NEC champions for a second year might be the overall goal, the players aren’t looking that far ahead quite yet.

“Dukes adapt to any situation,” Coleman said.

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