



Slain former student honored



COURTESY OF ANDREA SAVATT
Police found the body of Ryan Ramirez, 21, of McKees Rocks, last Thursday

BRANDON ADDEO
news editor

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 in his death.

Ramirez attended Duquesne between the fall 2013 and fall 2014 semesters, according to Duquesne spokeswoman 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.

"With his competitive and playful ways, he always had to find 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

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A chance to try something new



KAILEY LOVE/PHOTO EDITOR

Duquesne students visit tables of campus student groups on A-Walk Wednesday, Aug. 31, for the annual Duquesne Expo.

Nursing moms need space

CAROLYN CONTE
staff writer

Nestled near the hidden women's restroom on the third floor of the union, mothers from all over Duquesne's campus — students, teachers and staff — are offered a space to nurse their babies.

This lactation room, unknown and unnoticed by most of the Duquesne community, was created in late 2013 and includes a comfortable chair, a table to pump breastmilk, an electric outlet, a supply table and a door that automatically locks to ensure privacy.

The room, which cost approximately \$5,000, is designed for women in need of balance between work and parenting responsibilities, according to Ryan Dawson, associate director of human resource management.

"We want to provide a safe, friendly environment where our

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Center for Wellbeing to offer new services

RAYMOND ARKE
staff writer

Students seeking help with physical and mental illnesses can get a wider range of care with the creation of the Student Center for Wellbeing.

Comprised of parts of Duquesne's recreation department, Health Services, and the Counseling and Wellbeing Center, the new department seeks to give students a one-stop shop for care.

Dr. Ian Thomas, assistant vice president for student wellbeing and the director of the student counseling center, said the Health Services department will begin offering comprehensive care, which includes the hiring of family practice physicians and nurse practitioners, as well as a physician assistant.

These new employees will be able to focus on ailments common to a college campus, as well as treat medical emergencies, he said.

Health Services will now have the ability to prescribe psychiatric medications. This will cut down on the need for students to be referred to off-campus providers, according to Thomas.

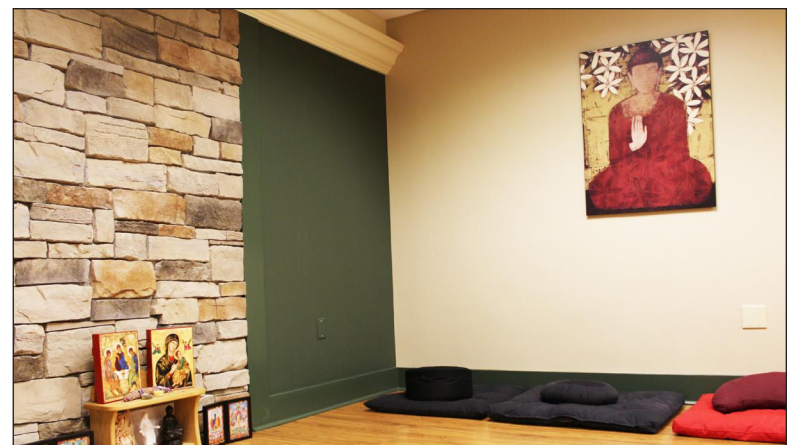
Other departments are adding more programs as well. The recreation department will be offering new yoga classes which incorporate philosophy. Thomas said they will be focusing on "[encouraging] a more robust image of femininity."

He said the new Student Center will help promote a person's "wholeness."

"The collaboration was needed so as to emphasize first and foremost the fundamental unity of the human person in his or her identity as mind, body and spirit," he said.

The center hopes to keep students both healthy and happy, according to Thomas.

He added Duquesne is committed to creating people that will "mean-



KAILEY LOVE/PHOTO EDITOR

A meditation room in Fisher Hall. The newly formed Student Center for Wellbeing offers new benefits for students seeking assistance for mental health problems.

ingfully contribute" to societal evolution through "expansion" of their awareness.

There will be new features as part of this merge.

Another new addition will be the

hire of a full-time wellbeing coach, whose role has yet to be defined, Thomas said. Also, a future goal is to create a central location for the new center — at the time, each de-

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BLUFF BRIEFS

Italian film festival to benefit quake victims

Duquesne's Model European Union Club is hosting an Italian film festival to benefit victims of last week's deadly earthquake in Italy.

In collaboration with the Honorary Consulate of Italy in Pittsburgh, the EU Club will sell tickets for \$5 for the screenings, which are open to the public.

The money raised from the event will be donated to the Italian Red Cross, according to EU Club advisor Carla Lucente.

The decision to start the fundraiser stemmed from the "long tradition" of disaster relief between Italy and the United States, Lucente said.

"The Italian 'Protezione Civile' was among the first ... foreign agencies to aid in the relief efforts post-Hurricane Katrina," she said.

The screening date has yet to be announced.

POLICE BRIEFS

Howdy, partners! Cousin PB's got a lot of crime to tell you about today.

Last Tuesday, a student reported their unattended wallet and cell phone 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.

Last Friday around 4 a.m., a man stole bagged ice from an ice vending bin on Bluff Street near Rooney Field. Charges of theft and receiving stolen property were filed against John M. Macellaro Jr. of 78 Ruth St. in Pittsburgh. Also last Friday, a student said someone hit their parked car in the Locust Garage.

On Saturday morning, an underage student was found drunk in front of Towers and was referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Not long afterward, another intoxicated underage student was found on Seitz Street and was also referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Sunday, two students were found with pot in St. Martin's and will be sent to chat with the Office of Student Conduct. Also that day, an intoxicated underage student was caught outside St. Ann's, and will also make a trip to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Monday, a student said their wallet was stolen while they were working out on the second floor of the Power Center.

DU bike club ranks in top 30 nationwide

BRANDON ADDEO
news editor

It might not be basketball, but Duquesne finally beat Pitt in a sporting competition.

In the National Bike Challenge 2016, 12 Duquesne cyclists pedaled their way to rank 29 out of 201 universities nationwide. Pitt cyclists brought the Panthers to the no. 43 spot, and their neighbor, Carnegie Mellon, ranked 4th in the country.

The National Bike Challenge, a yearly event sponsored by the charitable organization PeopleForBikes, runs from May 1 to Sept. 30 each year. Competitors use the National Bike Challenge's website to track how far they've biked each day. Those who rank highly have a chance at winning bicycle equipment in monthly drawings.

This year, 12 Duquesne students and faculty biked about 4,700 miles over the five month challenge period.

David Lampe, advisor for the Duquesne Bike Club, led the charge for the Dukes.

"[The challenge] is aimed at getting people to bike more," Lampe said. "Over the past few years I've tried to get as many people at Duquesne to do this as



KAILEY LOVE/PHOTO EDITOR

Twelve Duquesne faculty and students biked about 4,700 miles in the National Bike Challenge 2016. Duquesne ranked 29 of 201 colleges across the nation.

possible."

For second year doctorate chemistry student Cassandra Hanley, one of the 12 Duquesne cyclists, joining the National Bike Challenge was a way to analyze her daily routine.

"Since I ride my bike [to Duquesne] every day, it's nice to see a visual representation of the data [on the website]," Hanley said.

Lampe, an associate profes-

sor of biological sciences in the Bayer school, said this year's performance from Duquesne has been below average — last year Duquesne riders logged around 11,000 total miles.

Hanley said she traveled over 1,000 miles — 8 miles each school day from her home in north Oakland — during the 2016 challenge. She said riding that far was a good workout.

"Exercise has never been easier because I think riding my bike is really fun," she said.

Anna Tang, an international admissions assistant for Duquesne and one of the cyclists in the challenge, also sees biking as a way to work out.

"I hate going to the gym and I like to exercise, and I like to be outdoors," Tang said. "If you're going to the gym every day for an hour, you can definitely just build in biking to your commute."

Lampe also works as an organizer for BikeDUQ, a campus advocacy group which promotes bicycle transportation. He said he bikes to work "nine to 10" months out of the year, commuting 24 miles round-trip to Shaler Township, which is a 50 minute ride each way.

"Unless it's going to snow or ice, I'll ride in," Lampe said.

The reasons to bike far outweigh the reasons to drive, he said.

"[Biking is] good for my health, it's good for my mood ... it's comparatively inexpensive, there's no downside to it," Lampe said. "It's nice to just ride home, not plugged into anything, just me fighting the cars back home."

Hanley also prefers to ride rather than drive around Pittsburgh.

"I love getting out to see the city

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Mothers nurse children in Union

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nursing moms can feel comfortable," Dawson said.

The room was created in response to the federally mandated Affordable Care Act, which requires that employers must offer "reasonable time" for mothers to nurse in a private space, "other than a bathroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion of others" according to text of the Affordable Care Act.

In Pennsylvania, mothers may breastfeed "in any location, public or private," according to the Freedom to Breastfeed Act. There is no policy at Duquesne on breastfeeding in public, according to Dawson.

Parsons acknowledged breastfeeding can be a sensitive topic.

"I think public breastfeeding is very natural and women should feel comfortable with it. Women should have the right to, or have a private space if they are not — there are a lot of women who would want a private space," Parsons said. "Some people feel uncomfortable because they have different ideas of who to share their bodies with."

Dawson said mothers may reserve 30-minute time slots in the room by contacting the Office of Human Resources through Brigitte Szivos, associate director of operations in the Union.

Mothers sometimes find the time slots are filled up already. It can be



KAILEY LOVE/PHOTO EDITOR

The lactation room is on the third floor of the Student Union. Nursing mothers can contact Duquesne's human resources department to gain card swipe access to the room, which they can reserve for time slots of 30 minutes each to nurse babies.

difficult for them to find a time that their bodies are lactating when they are on a break, and when they have enough time to pick up their babies from the campus daycare, according to Mary Parish, graduate assistant for the Center for Women's and Gender Studies.

There is no current standard set by state or federal law which dictates the amount of space required for nursing mothers. However, associate history professor Elaine Parsons worried a single lactation room might not be enough for mothers spread out across campus.

"It seems like it's not reasonable to make just one lactation room in a campus this huge," Parsons said. "You also have to think about where are their babies?" she said, "There is the oversubscribed daycare on campus that is a 10 minute walk [from the union]... so I am wondering if it is in reality a [sufficient amount of time]."

Lori Koelsch, director of undergraduate psychology and a nursing mother, said she is grateful to have the option of using the private lactation room, calling it a "good first step" from Duquesne.

Family, friends recall Ryan

RYAN — from page 1

immense support his family has received throughout the past week," she said. "[He] was an incredibly passionate person who was forever focused on making people smile."

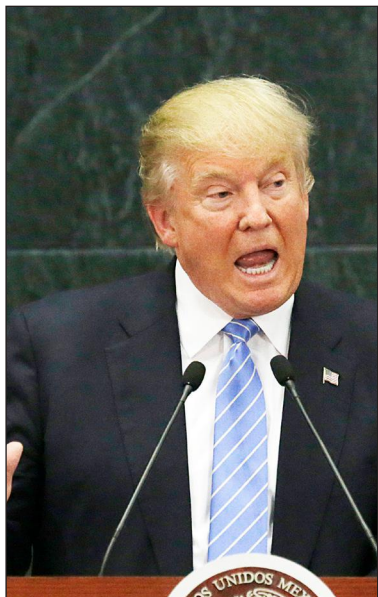
Ryan's aunt, Lori Pintar, said people can learn from Ryan's example.

"He lived his life everyday with kindness and [by] helping others and trying to make our world a better place by sharing a smile, a hug, a kind word or just joking around to make us laugh," Pintar said. "I suggest you honor him by not saying goodbye, but by continuing his life's journey in [a] way he would be proud."

Pintar said the family is working with the Charlie Batch Foundation to set up a memorial fund in Ryan's name to support the Foundation's Project C.H.U.C.K. youth basketball league, to "strengthen ... the community through Ryan's love of basketball."

Family and friends remembered Ryan Ramirez in a Mass of Christian Burial Tuesday at St. Malachy Church in Kennedy Township.

Trump visits Mexico for chat with President Nieto



AP PHOTO
Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks during a joint statement with Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto in Mexico City Aug. 31.

AP — On Mexican soil for the first time as the Republican 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 that wall.

When answering questions from adjacent lecterns before a Mexican flag after his meeting at the official residence of the country's president, Enrique Peña 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, Peña Nieto later tweeted, "At the start of 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 Peña Nieto recalled 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 rapists and criminals, and piled on in the months to come as he attacked Mexico over free trade, illegal immigration and border security. Peña Nieto responded by condemning Trump's language, saying those were the sort of words

that gave rise to Adolf Hitler.

Peña 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, Peña Nieto said the subject was among the first things the men discussed. He has for months said "there is no scenario" under which Mexico would pay for the wall.

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

Those issues included the North American Free Trade

Agreement, which Trump has called the worst trade deal in history. Peña 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 city. Former Mexican President Vicente Fox bluntly told the celebrity businessman that, despite Peña 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."

Peña 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." He and Trump shook hands as the session ended.

Peña Nieto's performance came in for immediate condemnation from his many critics in Mexico.

"Peña ended up forgiving Trump when he didn't even ask

for an apology," said Esteban Illades, the editor of Nexos magazine. "The lowest point of the most painful day in the history of the Mexican presidency."

After saying during his Republican primary campaign he would use a "deportation force" to expel all of the estimated 11 million people living in the United States illegally, Trump suggested last week he could soften that stance.

But he still says he plans to build a huge wall — paid for by Mexico — along the two nations' border. He is under pressure to clarify just where he stands in the Wednesday night speech, which had been rescheduled several times.

Trump's running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, told CBS earlier in Wednesday that Trump would make clear "that there will be no path to legalization, no path to citizenship. People will need to leave the country to be able to obtain legal status or obtain citizenship."

Campaigning in Ohio, Democrat Hillary Clinton jabbed at Trump's Mexican appearance as she promoted her own experience working with foreign leaders as the nation's chief diplomat.

"People have to get to know that they can count on you, that you won't say one thing one day and something totally different the next," she said.

'Madeline' downgraded to tropical storm

AP — Forecasters on Wednesday downgraded Hurricane Madeline to a tropical storm as it veered past Hawaii's Big Island, but officials reiterated warnings to prepare for heavy rain and strong winds.

The National Weather Service downgraded the storm as its winds decreased to 70 mph. Its center wasn't expected to make landfall on any Hawaiian island.

Still, the Big Island and Maui County were under tropical storm warnings.

"It doesn't matter if it's a strong tropical storm or a category 1 hurricane," said Eric Lau, a meteorologist with the weather service. "If you have 70 mph winds verses 75 mph winds, it's still a strong storm, so residents still need to be prepared."

Meanwhile, Hurricane Lester was about 1,000 miles from Hawaii and expected to drop to a tropical storm by Sunday.

The developments came as merchants boarded up shop windows along Hilo Bay and shoppers snatched supplies of food and water from grocery store shelves after initially being told the island could be hit by its first hurricane in a quarter-century.

"Hopefully our roofs stay on, and our houses don't float way or get blown away," Big Island resident Mitzi Bettencourt said as she covered walls of glass windows

while the island was under the hurricane warning. "It's like, 'Oh my God, are we going to get flattened or what?'"

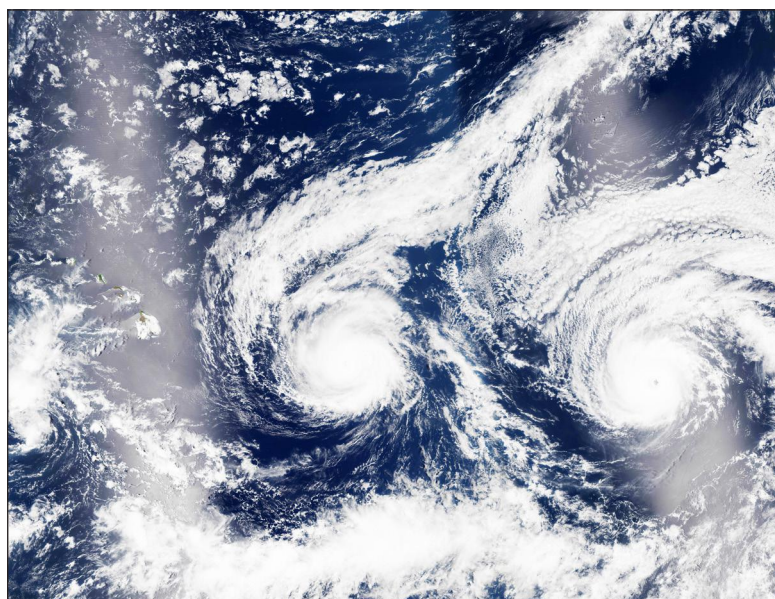
Elsewhere, the National Hurricane Center said Tropical Storm Hermine had formed in the Gulf of Mexico and was centered about 350 miles from Tampa, Florida. It was expected to pick up speed and approach the northwest Florida coast Thursday night. A warning was dropped about a tropical depression that had been moving toward North Carolina.

In Hawaii, Peggy Beckett, a retiree and beekeeper, stopped at a Hilo supermarket to pick up onion bagels, cheese, cold cuts and salad to add to her canned food at home. She also has a cooler with ice plus a portable burner and batteries to get her through the storm.

Noting the lines of people at the market, Beckett said people were getting prepared but weren't panicking.

"There's always a lot of disbelief on the island that the storms will really be as big and bad as forecast," she said, noting that she and her partner had taken precautions to protect their beehives.

Bettencourt manages several vacation rental properties, and her own home sits a few blocks from the ocean. She and her neighbors were stocking their



AP PHOTO
This satellite image taken Monday, Aug. 29, 2016 and released by NASA shows Hurricane Madeline, left, and Hurricane Lester over the Pacific Ocean.

pantries, stowing lawn furniture and preparing for power outages.

Employees boarded up windows at Hulakai Store, a surf shop in Hilo. "We'll probably keep it up till Sunday, waiting for the second one to come through," said supervisor Renee Balanga.

Gov. David Ige has issued an emergency proclamation for both storms, allowing the state to quickly spend money. Big Island schools were closed and about a dozen facilities were outfitted as

emergency shelters.

President Barack Obama is scheduled to visit Oahu this week. The White House was tracking the weather but didn't anticipate changing Obama's schedule.

The Hawaiian islands of Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Kahoolawe were under a tropical storm watch, but there were no alerts for Oahu or Kauai.

On the Big Island, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park was closed.

Duquesne merges health centers

WELLBEING — from page 1

partment is still housed at its current location.

Dessa Mrvos, director of Duquesne's Health Services, believes the merger will lead to better contact between the departments.

"Our office has 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 sources.

"Students seen by counselors in Counseling and Wellbeing can also have their care needs continued with providers in Health Service, and vice-versa," she said.

The Student Center for Wellbeing also offers students the ability to "have exercise 'prescribed' for them by our clinicians," which would allow for them to be enrolled in Power Center programs, according to Mrvos.

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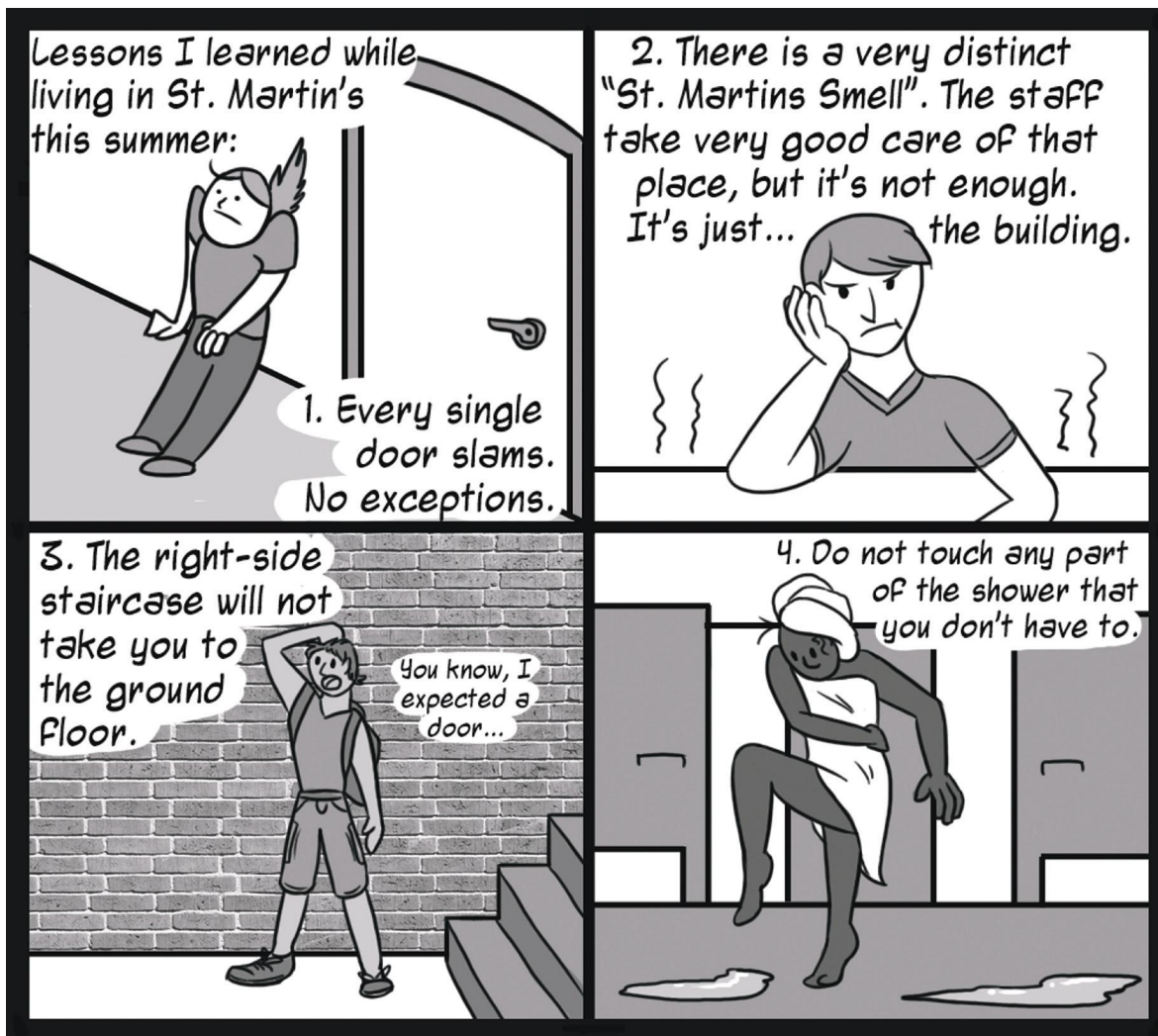
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CARTOON BY SHELBY WASIL

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 0.55 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."

Not only does this new study damage our pride, but it points to a sizable weakness in the city's makeup. 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 business taxes. According to the Tax Foundation, Pennsylvania has the second highest corporate income

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 start-up 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 \$989 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 92 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 of proud Yinzers, 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@duq.edu.

STAFF EDITORIAL

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 dubiously 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 can 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 30-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.

"Well," you might console yourself, "all college bookstores are pricey." There's just no avoiding it, right? Wrong. You don't even have to go far; just take a short trip out to Oakland. Somehow, 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 monopoly on school supplies 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.

Pitt offers coverage for transgender students

SHIVANI GOSAI

student columnist

The University of Pittsburgh recently announced it will offer health care services for transgender individuals in its faculty and staff, effective August 15.

John Kozar, 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 bathroom in compliance with their birth sex. Later that same year, Seamus Johnston, a Pitt-Johnstown student and transgender man, was expelled. The uni-

versity 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 unisex bathrooms."

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 how difficult it is to be 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



AP PHOTO

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 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 the LGBTQ+ community at any of the Health & Wellness centers on campus. The students and staff at Duquesne will feel more wel-

come 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 junior journalism major and can be reached at gosais@duq.edu.

Oakland roof jumper demonstrates dating downfalls



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH POLICE

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

MCALL BEHRINGER

student columnist

Dating in college sometimes requires a leap of faith.

Just ask 22-year-old Grant Birdsong, whom the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette has identified as the man who tried to jump between buildings in Oakland last week in an attempt to impress a girl.

Unfortunately for Birdsong, he didn't quite make it.

Birdsong was trying to woo a girl when he took her to the roof of Bruegger's Bagels and decided he would try to jump across the building to the Qdoba next door when he got stuck, according to the

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. It took rescue crews six hours to free him and required the wall inside Qdoba to be completely deconstructed. Fortunately, reports say Birdsong only suffered an ankle injury from which he is recovering.

I have a few questions for Birdsong. What were you doing at 2 a.m. on a Monday that made any of this seem like a good idea? Did the girl ever speak to you again? Why didn't you just buy her a burrito to impress her?

Considering his grand gesture failed in the end, he may also be recovering from a broken heart and a bruised ego.

But if this proves anything, it's that dating as a college student is just weird.

Maybe I'm old school, but whatever hap-

pened to flowers, dinner and a movie for a first date? Today, if you spend enough time swiping right on Tinder, you can make some generic Friday night plans with a random guy across town. If you're lucky, you might make a Snapchat friend on Carson Street and spend the rest of the semester deciphering their selfies, asking any friend who will listen, "He sent me the puppy filter. What does that mean?"

It doesn't help that college makes spending money on dates nearly impossible. Ordering pizza is a stretch for some college budgets, so flowers for a date are reasonably non-existent. But are we even trying to make first dates work?

If I think about the 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 reasons college students go on first dates, the top first date goal is to reduce 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 and Tinder profile, of course the first date 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 in mind. I think 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 that 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.

McCall Behringer is a senior journalism and public relations major and can be reached at behringerm@duq.edu.

French connections: The Lourdes Grotto

SYDNEY McCABE
contributor

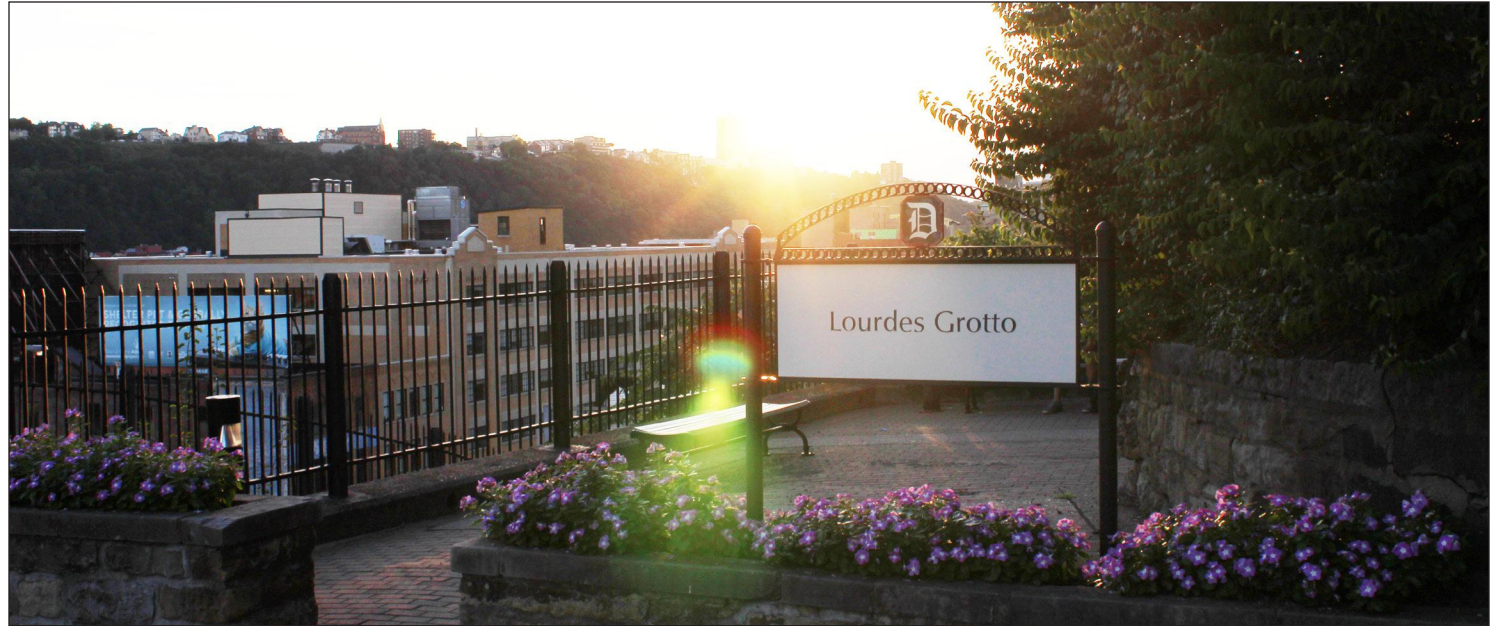
Clad in moss and nestled in a far corner of campus away from the hustle and bustle of A-Walk, the Grotto provides the perfect spot for prayerful meditators, day-dreamers, stress-relief seekers and sunset watchers alike. But despite the frequent visits it receives, many Duquesne students have little to no idea when, why or how the Grotto came to our little Bluff.

The Grotto, also known as Lourdes Grotto, is located behind Old Main, overlooking the Monongahela River and the North Hills. The strategic location was hand-picked by then university president Rev. Vernon Gallagher, explained Thomas White, the university's archivist. At the time, he said, Duquesne more closely resembled a friendly neighborhood than a college campus.

This was partially the motivation behind bringing the Grotto to Duquesne. Rev. Gallagher had a vision of expanding and beautifying the university property and is credited with designing the campus layout we recognize today.

"Before his work began, the Bluff consisted of Old Main, Canevin Hall, the old Rangos building and several neighborhood homes that had been converted into department offices," White said. "We owe most of what we know as 'the Bluff' to him."

The Grotto serves as a replica of the original "Our Lady of Lourdes" statue in Lourdes, France. According to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes official website, the original grotto was inspired by



KAILEY LOVE/PHOTO EDITOR

The Lourdes Grotto, located on the southwestern most tip of campus, was built in the late 1950s as a replica of the "Our Lady of Lourdes" statue in Lourdes, France. The Grotto is a favorite spot for many students on campus to pray, relax, meditate and watch the evening sun dip below the horizon.

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 represent-

ed 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 Spiritan brothers and fathers, as well as various student organizations and faculty members. The members of Kappa Sigma Phi, a then-service society which no lon-

ger has a presence in Pittsburgh, were notable participants in the construction of the stone arc 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,

see GROTTO — page 12

Carie Cunningham on journalism and the move to academia

SETH CULP-RESSLER
features editor

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 doing weather, and I was going to be a meteorologist. I doubled in meteorology and journalism, and I still really like that science background, which I think is unique to a lot of our social science friends. But I got into producing and started with behind-the-scenes camera work and stacking shows. So in Reno, Nevada, where I started, I was doing two shows a day. Every two-and-a-half hours, you'd turn over another half-hour show. And it was intense, even for a slow market, just with the amount of work. And there wasn't a lot of staff around.



After just one year I said, "I think I got this." So I applied and got a promotion to market 11 in Detroit. [Editor's note: broadcast news stations are ranked numerically by audience size throughout the U.S.] That was by far one of the hardest jobs, a lot of overnights, a lot of weekends. It really taught me to dig deep and work hard at all of those things.

I think, specifically, what was great about those jobs is that it taught me not to just be [in] broadcast as a TV producer, but you also had to write for the web, there's social media,

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: There are lots of rules in journalism: "You start with this way, and that's how we do it." Specifically, my interest is with visuals. So if you ever watch your five o'clock newscast, all the graphics are constantly moving back and forth and all this motion. And I was like, "But why?" My questions and need to fulfill that "why" comes into my research.

I wanted to go back to school, and I got my masters in communication because I was like, "Let's look at it from a different way." Is there a better way to communicate journalism? My biggest question is, "How do we keep people's attention?" I think some of these rules don't really have a rhyme or reason, so I wanted to know that. That's why I went back to school.

Q: It's a tricky time to teach journalism with all the changes in the industry. What are you hoping to impart to your students to prepare them for the industry?

A: I think it's more of an exciting time, personally. A newsroom is going to look so different in just a couple of years versus now. I think the biggest thing I want to impart is being good storytellers. That's going to hold true no matter what. Whether the platform changes — let's say broadcast doesn't even exist, maybe, right? Maybe it's all online. The formats may change, but you need to be a good storyteller and really get to the meat of a story.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add?

A: Something else I really am passionate about, and unique

see CARIE — page 11

Cultural district updates security rules

ZACHARY LANDAU
staff writer

Visitors to theaters in the Cultural District will start to see tighter security starting Oct. 1. Even before then, revelers will be meeting off-duty officers stationed in their venue keeping watch.

These measures are being implemented in response to guests expressing concern over 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 Cabaret 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



KAILEY LOVE / PHOTO EDITOR

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

90-minute safety course about how to handle emergency situations, including severe weather, fires and active gunmen.

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.

see **SECURITY** — page 11

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 to "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 said. I mean, the guy is a little ridiculous at times, but he's still a music auter. Of all people, shouldn't he at least know if an album will be legendary?

So I decided to give it a whirl. Here's the catch, though: I never listen to rap and thus know absolutely nothing about the genre.



COURTESY OF BOYS DON'T CRY

"Blonde," stylized as blond, has become a huge success for musician Frank Ocean, making \$1 million in profits after one week, according to Forbes.

So what to actually expect from "Blonde," I had no clue.

Well, one scan through the album, and I was already intrigued — mostly because it had 17 songs but also because the song times varied between one and 10 minutes. Seeing the huge differences, I instantly wanted to press play.

The first song, "Nikes," was soft and slow, a nice intro to what would end up being a very whimsical, vibe-y album. And while it was slightly inappropriate at times, I honestly expected nothing less from it based on the few other rap songs I've heard in my life.

Ocean's album, however, is definitely not fully rap — you know, the kind where the bass is bumpin' and the rapper's going so fast you can barely comprehend.

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 serenaded into.

Don't get me wrong, though: It was a good lull, 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 have 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.

WEEK'S EVENTS

Mac Sabbath
Sept. 1, 7 p.m.

The fast-food centered parody metal band will be performing at the Rex Theater on the South Side. Tickets start at \$17. For more information to this event, please visit druskyentertainment.com.

MERAUDER
Sept. 2, 5 p.m.

The metal band will be making their last ever tour appearance at the Cattivo bar in Lawrenceville. After this show, the band will be breaking up. Tickets are \$15. For more information to this event, please visit druskyentertainment.com.

UPCOMING RELEASES

"For the Love of Spock"
Sept. 9

Directed by Adam Nimoy, this documentary examines the life and career of Leonard Nimoy, famous for playing Spock on the hit science-fiction show "Star Trek." Zachary Quinto narrates the feature, which saw a limited release earlier in the year. The film is also available for pre-purchase on iTunes.

"Axiom Verge"
Sept. 1

This independent Metroidvania game is being re-released for the Nintendo WiiU. Featuring more than 60 power-ups and items, "Axiom Verge" presents players with a large, sprawling map to explore and retro-inspired graphics. The game is also available on PlayStation 4 and for PC. It will cost \$19.99.

MICRO REVIEW

"Stranger Things"

"If you haven't watched this Netflix exclusive yet, spend the Labor Day weekend doing so. It's the story of a 1980s town plagued by a supernatural monster that starts to kidnap residents. It's got a vibe that feels like a combination of 'E.T.', 'X-Files' and 'Pretty in Pink.' If you love '80s nostalgia and a captivating — although slightly creepy — storyline, you will love this."

— Rebekah Devorak

‘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 Minette), 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 make these days. An over-emphasis is placed on jump scares rather than real suspense or terror. While only a



COURTESY OF GHOST HOUSE PICTURES

“Don’t Breathe” is directed by Fede Alvarez, who also directed the 2013 remake of “Evil Dead.” Sam Raimi produced both films.

few of these scares come out of nowhere, they are frequent enough to be annoying. That’s not to say there aren’t better terrifying moments, but they do not come until later on in

the movie, when the action really gets under way.

The abilities of the blind man seem to vary greatly from scene to scene. In one moment, he is able to hear someone breathing in another room, while in another he can’t tell someone is right next to him. While the film tries to explain this away as him “focusing” on finding his quarry, it does come off as a little inconsistent.

Even his weaknesses aren’t portrayed the same way. Toward the end of the film, one of the characters manages to activate the man’s house alarm, the blaring sirens harming his sensitive ears. This might have made sense had he not been shooting a gun the entire movie, something which is certainly a lot louder and a lot closer to his ears than the alarms.

The film’s biggest misstep comes towards the climax. As it turns out, the blind man has a dark secret he wishes to keep—well, a secret and this is the primary reason he is trying to kill the gang rather than just incapacitate them or call the cops. While I won’t elaborate, the movie makes a somewhat silly concession to the bad thing the man did, which turns his action from scary to kind of laughably stupid, killing the suspense.

It’s hard to explain, but once you see it, you’ll know what I’m talking about. Imagine someone utterly destroying your car, but then telling you that it’s ok, because they didn’t slash your tires.

Seemingly in tune with the film’s opening sequence, “Don’t Breathe” holds few surprises for the viewer. This might just be the horror movie fan in me talking, but I predicted most of the entire plot from the get-go and foresaw every jump scare coming.

However, while it may not be revolutionary, the film works well with what it does have. There are plenty of good horror moments to be had, they’ve just been done before but not with the same level of polish. Sometimes, formulas just work.

‘Kubo’ delivers epic story in flawless stop-motion

NICOLE PRIETO
staff writer

Acclaimed 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 charm 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, scen-



COURTESY OF LAIKA

“Kubo and the Two Strings” is the fourth movie by Laika. The production company has specialized in stop-motion features, with such past films as “Coraline,” “ParaNorman” and “The Boxtrolls.”

ery, 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. Painstaking 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 “Spir-

ited 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 Achilles heel: its convoluted 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

DU volleyball looks to return to former dominance

ANDREW HOLMAN
sports editor

From 2010 through the 2013, the Duquesne women's volleyball program recorded at least 19 wins in each of those four seasons.

That four-year stretch also included the best year in the history of the program, 2013, when the Dukes won both the Atlantic 10 regular season and tournament championships. In the two years since, the Red & Blue have made the A-10 postseason in both years but have failed to win a single tournament match.

"Throughout spring season and summer workouts, our team put in a ton of hard work," junior outside hitter Molly Davet said. "Since we weren't very successful last season, all of us knew that something had to change. Lifts became a lot more difficult, and our mentality in the gym became much more competitive."

The Dukes are looking to bounce back from a disappointing 14-16 season, which concluded with a 3-2 loss to Rhode Island in the A-10 quarterfinals. Talking to Davet, it seems evident the team has a new identity this season and is focused on intensity.

"The team this year is much more competitive and willing to do anything to win," Davet said. "Also, our bench is much deeper this year, which allows practices to be very intense. A lot of new faces in the gym helped us to achieve a new and determined mindset."

Head coach Steve Opperman shared a similar thought process on how to stop this trend of mediocrity and turn the pro-

gram back into a powerhouse.

"It's about taking that next step to really wanting to crush your opponents," Opperman said. "I think it's about the mental aspect and getting everyone to buy in."

When the A-10 preseason polls were released, Duquesne was spotted at No. 5. However, he expressed that they "don't really care" about their preseason rank, saying it is solely based on last year's performance and the players each team lost.

For Duquesne, their biggest loss was graduating four-year starting setter Mary Henry. Henry held the top spot in the Duquesne record books as the school's all-time leader in assists — a mark she set just a season ago.

On the flip side in 2016, the Dukes now bring a lot of experience poised to propel Duquesne back to an elite member in the conference. The Red & Blue have four starters returning, and 11 of the 15 players on the Duquesne roster are returnees from the 2015-16 season.

Opperman expects sophomore Maddie Bazalak to really grab people's attention this year with her abilities as an outside hitter.

Currently, Bazalak is doing just that, with 62 kills, 22 more than her closest teammate. He is also looking at his veterans Lacey Levers, Molly Davet, Maddie Burnham and Sammy Kline to keep the team focused on their goals.

Those goals include winning the A-10 and clinching a berth in the NCAA tournament, but right now Opperman is more focused on just getting better with every match and not looking too far ahead of schedule.

The team has qualified for six straight Atlantic 10 Championship tournaments but has managed only one A-10 title in

that time. A big reason Opperman and his players believe that this year could be special is because of their depth. Along with their returnees, Opperman brought in a talented freshman class. He expects setter Dani Suiter and middle hitter Liz Wayne to make instant impacts as they begin their collegiate careers.

So far, the team is off to a 2-2 start after going 1-2 in the IUPUI Hampton Inn Invitational and recording a 3-2 win (25-22, 25-21, 24-26, 23-25, 16-14) at Youngstown State on Tuesday night.

Opperman was happy overall with his team's performance versus the Penguins of YSU, but added that they need to avoid letting their opponents get on big runs.

"I felt we had a good tempo with our offense in the first two sets and then starting

making some unforced errors in set three that we normally don't make," Opperman said. "It was nice that our players stayed aggressive to finish the match."

Afterward, Opperman praised the efforts of Bazalak as well as junior middle hitter Abbey Trzeciak and sophomore setter Sydney McGinn.

McGinn and Suiter give the Dukes some depth at the setter position and they will be the ones faced with filling the vacancy left by Henry.

Beginning Friday Duquesne and Robert Morris University are co-hosting an invitational tournament in which the Dukes will play four games beginning on Friday with a match against Coppin State, as they look to build on their current 2-2 start.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Sammy Kline, Molly Davet, Lacey Levers and Abbey Trzeciak lead their teammates onto the court for a match. The Dukes will host Coppin State in their first home match of 2016 on Friday at 11 a.m.

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 Dillon 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 you 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-Conference 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 has 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.

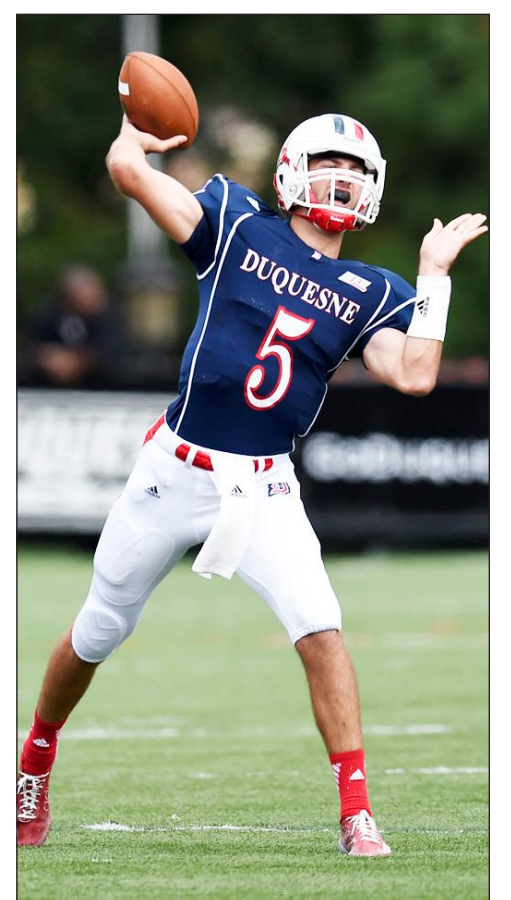
"I try to be a calming influence, try to always be under control, kind of be the halfway midpoint between the coaching staff and the team," Buechel said. "Because you're kind of in a coaching role playing quarterback, but also guys look to you for leadership and to make plays."

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.

As they enter their fifth season together, 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 proper moments to lead his team to victory — 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."



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Redshirt senior quarterback Dillon Buechel will look to help the Dukes repeat as NEC Conference champions with a solid performance in 2016.

Dukes, Schmitt prepare to defend title



COURTESY OF JORDAN MCNALLY

Sideline view of the Dukes' practice on Arthur J. Rooney Field in preparation for the 2016 season and for their season opener versus the Youngstown State Penguins on Sept. 1. The home opener is on Sept. 10.

BRYANNA MCDERMOTT

asst. 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 get set for their Sept. 1 season opener on the road against the Youngstown State Penguins, and will do so as the defending Northeast Con-

ference 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 Champion-

ship 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 52-49.

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.

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 14

see SCHMITT — page 12



Kaepernick takes a stand

ANDREW HOLMAN

sports editor

"O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave. O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

When Colin Kaepernick sat through the national anthem it seemed, to me at least, he was actually being more American than un-American. This is the land of the free, correct? Doesn't he have the right to protest?

His refusal to stand during the anthem was a sign of bravery. It was proof that we still have people in this country who are willing to stand up against hatred and wrongdoing. It showed there are still people fighting for the equality that Americans brag about.

However, the media spent hours berating Kaepernick for his actions and suggesting that he was not honoring the flag or the men and women who have served in the armed forces.

But then, veterans took to Twitter and spoke for themselves instead of having the media speak on their behalf. What was their message? #VeteransforKaepernick.

A Twitter user named Cindy Henderson with the bio tagline "Proud Retired U.S. Army Soldier" tweeted out on her personal account, "I didn't serve this country for my son to be afraid to walk down the street at night. #VeteransForKaepernick."

A person identifying themselves as a current soldier, who goes by @JoeOnDemand on Twitter, tweeted, "I serve for his right to protest.. [sic] I don't serve for Police Brutality.. [sic] #VeteransforKaepernick."

His tweet received over 20,400 retweets and 30,400 likes, so clearly thousands of Americans hold a similar sentiment.

Scroll through the tweets pertaining to this hashtag and you will find an endless number of tweets sharing this same message. Men and women, white and black, who have served or are serving all came together in support of Kaepernick and the message he wanted to convey.

Here in America, we all need to wake up. We may very well live in one of the best countries in the world, but that doesn't mean our country is perfect. In fact, our country is far from perfect.

Kaepernick started a conversation that needed to be started. Whether or not sitting through the national anthem was the right time to start this conversation is up to personal interpretation. Either way, Kaepernick used his platform of being a professional athlete for good.

Kaepernick exercised his American right by sitting down during the anthem. And I'll sit with him, as well, until racism and police brutality are no longer realities in this country.

Sophomore in the Spotlight: Casey Aunkst

NATALIE FIORILLI

asst. sports editor

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 290 minutes total.

Leading the Red & Blue early on this season with one goal and one assist, Aunkst looks to continue 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."

Even as a freshman, the defender started and played in 22 of the 23 games last year. Already surpassing her point total of 2015, 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.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

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."

The Dukes, who graduated six seniors last season and will graduate nine more at the end of 2016, will need student-athletes like Aunkst 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 score like Aunkst is just a bonus when you look at her leadership qualities on the field.

"I'm expecting her to hold our defense together, to be a leader, and I'm expecting her to be one of the best, if not the best defenders in the A-10 this year," Alvine said. "She has absolutely the ability to do all of those things."

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 “[w]e 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.”

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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 reinflating 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.

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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.

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How the Grotto came to be

GROTTO — from page 6

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 Pathol-



KAILEY LOVE/PHOTO EDITOR

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

ogy, 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.

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Cunningham joins journalism faculty

CARIE — from page 6

to journalism, is that I do a lot of cognitive science studies. So a lot of times I'll take newspaper websites, or I'll take a newscast and have people watch it with an eye tracker. And that's my research, seeing where people focus. Because then I really can answer that motion question: Why do we have the moving graphics in the background, and is that really driving attention to one area versus another?

This interview has been edited and condensed.

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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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