GOP tax plan raises taxes on graduate students

Kaley Love
photo editor

For anyone that relies on a teaching assistant or research position for graduate level tuition, you may soon pay taxes on money that you never see.

On Nov. 16, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to overhaul the tax code with a vote of 227-205. Though a version of the $1.5 trillion bill still needs to pass in the Senate before it goes any further, the first step toward this GOP victory has implications for millions of Americans, including students.

According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, the tax bill will affect 13 million lower and middle class families. It also attempts to eliminate the individual healthcare mandate (a victory for conservatives), as well as the alternative minimum tax and estate tax.

Money is often a concern for every college student, but most anyone would be distressed to see their hard-earned money taken by an ATM and never deposited. Yet, that’s what one Duquesne student said happened at an ATM on the campus.

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DU Facilities Management works to beautify Forbes Avenue

Kaye Burnett
staff writer

Before Duquesne began renovating the sidewalks and streetlamps on Forbes Avenue, lights hung haphazardly from old trolley poles, powered by overhead wiring that crisscrossed the sky and created an eyesore, according to Duquesne University’s Director of Design and Construction Mark Minoski.

Now, after 15 years of making gradual improvements along the arterial thoroughway that borders the university, Duquesne’s facilities management team is moving on to the final phase of the Forbes Avenue Streetscape Project.

Duquesne first began beautifying Forbes Avenue in 2008 with the street lamps and sidewalks in front of the Power Center, according to Minoski. For the next seven years, the university funded improvements to the street out of its own coffers, but in July 2015, Duquesne applied for a multimodal transportation grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

“In [2015], we said, doing this without a grant — we just can’t afford it this year,” Minoski explained. “The hard part is, there’s more than just us going after this money.”

Duquesne succeeded in winning the $350,000 grant and began work on the Streetscape Project last spring. The project is divided into three phases, Minoski explained.

“Phase one consisted of replacing the sidewalk, curbs, light poles between Shingiss Street and the Armstrong Tunnels along the south side of Forbes Avenue,” Minoski said. “Phase two consisted of replacing the sidewalk, curbs, light poles from the Armstrong Tunnel to McAnulty Drive along the South Side of Forbes Avenue.”

Phase one and two were completed over the summer, and phase three will begin in May of 2018. The final part of the project consists of replacing a portion of the lower sidewalk and curbs on the east side of Shingiss Street and the replacement of sidewalk, curbs and light poles on the west side of Boyd Street, Minoski said.

Shingiss and Boyd are the streets surrounding Rockwell Hall that intersect Forbes.

One issue on Forbes Avenue that will not be addressed by the grant is the street lamps between the Power Center and the Palumbo Center that sometimes flicker or flash like a strobe light at night. Minoski explained that once Duquesne installs new lamp posts, they become the responsibility of the City of Pittsburgh to maintain and repair.

“Even though those LED lights last a long time and they’re energy efficient, you’d be surprised how quickly the machine asked for my card, my PIN, my account number. Everything was normal. But it never gave me any money back. I see ATMs — page 2...

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Student struggles with the Union ATMs

Raymond Arke
news editor

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MALFUNCTIONING ATM CAUSES STUDENT PROBLEMS

While using one of the ATMs in the Student Union, Brianna Hollick had $450 taken by the machine. Trying to get her money returned back became a lengthy process.

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pin and where I wanted to deposit it,” she said. “It asked for my cash, I put it in the machine and before it counted the bills the screen read out of service. It spit my card out but not my money and then went back to the home screen.”

Concerned that she didn’t receive a receipt of the transaction, Hollick checked her State Farm account and saw that it didn’t show any deposit. She wasn’t sure what to do next since there was no number to call on the ATMs.

“I started to panic because it was $450 and that is a lot of money to me,” Hollick said.

She first decided to go into the Duquesne Card Services office which is located next to the ATMs.

“There were three girls sitting behind the desk. They told me that this happens all the time,” Hollick said.

The women at the help desk directed Hollick to call the PNC branch on Fifth Avenue, which is housed in a university building.

She had to wait until the PNC branch opened and in the meantime contacted State Farm, which assisted her in starting a process called a dispute. She also advised them to contact PNC about getting her cash back.

“I called [the PNC on Fifth Avenue] at 9 a.m. and a man answered the phone ... He asked for my social security number, but I told him I do not have a PNC bank account. When I said that he told me there is nothing he can do to help me,” Hollick recounted.

When the PNC representative was asked if someone would be sent to fix it, he replied that the machines are serviced every two weeks, according to Hollick.

She also asked the representative if she could speak to anyone else, to which he said he was the only person.

Hollick said that when asked for a first and last name, the PNC employee only gave “John Smith.”

The Duke called the PNC branch on Fifth Avenue on Nov. 29, and the representative who answered the phone confirmed there was no one who works at the branch named “John Smith.”

Hollick contacted Douglas Frizzell, the vice president for student life.

Frizzell told The Duke that he received Hollick’s email on Nov. 14.

“My office immediately shared this issue with Scott Richards, assistant vice president of Auxiliary Services, which is the appropriate office for such concerns. Mr. Richards has been working with Brianna to resolve the issue since that day,” he said.

Auxiliary Services oversees contracted and in-house services, including banking, Hollick said she reached out to Richards.

She said that Richards told her that the PNC branch is notified when a malfunction occurs at the ATMs and that someone is sent to fix it.

Richards told The Duke that he hadn’t heard of any problems like this happening before. He also explained that PNC is responsible for managing the ATMs.

“Our ATMs are continuously monitored and also have routine scheduled service onsite ... PNC manages the vendors and routine schedules of the service operations for the ATMs on campus,” he said.

If a similar situation arises, Richards suggested that students contact the Duquesne PNC branch at 412-644-7509 or Auxiliary Services at 412-396-5140.

State Farm credited Hollick the money two days after the incident.

She said that PNC has not followed up with her.

STUDENT DESIGNS NEW MAYMESTER TRIP TO TRINIDAD

GABRIELLA D'PIETRO

Duquesne University offers a plethora of opportunities for students interested in studying abroad, with programs lasting as short as 10 days or as long as five months in locations all around the world. One of these study abroad options is known as a Maymester, where students take classes for four weeks at the end of the spring semester in various locations around the world like Rome, Tanzania, Ghana and, now, Trinidad.

The idea for the Trinidad Maymester came from Isabella Boland, a senior elementary education major, after being inspired by her experience during a Tanzania Maymester at the end of her freshman year. At that time, the School of Education had very limited options regarding studying abroad, prompting Boland to work to create a new opportunity for Education students.

Through talking with numerous professors and conducting some research, Boland decided on Trinidad as the location for her proposed Maymester.

“I chose Trinidad because of its spiritual ties and our pre-existing relationship to educators in the nation,” Boland said. “Once I chose Trinidad, I created a syllabus, suggested site visits, excursions and a budget, and I took it to my now-mentor, and native Trinidadian, Laurençel Brown.”

After receiving approval from Brown, Boland collaborated with Brown and Anne Marie Fitzgerald, an assistant professor in the School of Education that will be teaching one of the planned courses in May. The three of them also worked closely with the Honors College, the Office of International Programs, the School of Education, the University of Trinidad and Tobago and Brown’s contacts in Trinidad.

Together, Boland, Brown and Fitzgerald traveled to Trinidad and developed the Maymester this past June, where the first group of 25 Education students will take courses this coming May 2018.

Students who are going on the trip will take two courses, earning them 6 credits. All participating students will take an African Studies course called The Musics of Africa and the African Diaspora.

Students will then have the option to take one of two other offered courses, which are Social Justice in Educational Settings and Global Societies and Education.

Most of the Maymester will take place in Port-of-Spain, the capital of Trinidad, where students will be taking classes at the University of Trinidad and Tobago and working with Trinidadian students in local schools. However, students will also be able to travel throughout Trinidad and Tobago, offering a chance that Boland considers to be invaluable.

“This is an opportunity unparalleled for Education students. In this day and age, exposure to global perspectives is crucial for an educator,” Boland said. “This is a chance for students to better equip themselves for their futures and to continue their education, while getting to travel to a beautiful country.”
GOP tax plan, opposed by DU, could harm students

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piece of the Affordable Care Act that requires citizens to have some kind of health insurance or face a fine. In an attempt to somehow alter the ACA after the GOP failed to repeal it in July 2017.

In addition to the harm the bill would inflict on working class families, graduate students and those working toward a PhD will also feel the effects of the House bill.

According to the American Council on Education (ACE), 145,000 students at the graduate level rely on qualified tuition reduction in exchange for research or teaching (outlined in the IRS Code, Section 117d). The language in the House tax bill dictates that these tuition waivers would be taxable, counting the assistance as income. In basic terms, this means that students will pay taxes for money that is never actually in their physical possession.

Many lower and middle class students rely on this aid to pay for their tuition, and may not be able to afford to continue their post baccalaureate education without it. This could also cause a decrease in graduate and PhD-level research, or prevent students from furthering their education all together due to the expense. In a letter to the House Ways and Means Committee, the ACE stated that this bill is “not in America’s interest.”

A press release from the Council of Graduate Schools stated that the number of first time graduate program students leading to a master’s degree or graduate certificate was 9.4 percent in the fall of 2016. According to Duquesne’s website for graduate admissions, about 3,500 graduate students are enrolled at Duquesne.

In its letter, the ACE stated that the bill “taken in its entirety, would discourage participation in postsecondary education, make college more expensive for those who do enroll and undermine the financial stability of public and private, two-year and four-year colleges and universities.”

The potential passage of this bill would also affect endowments, college tax credits and consolidation, the forgiveness of student loan debt due to death or disability and more. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, three million U.S. students will have enrolled in a postsecondary education program as of this fall, all of whom may be at risk if this measure would make the final version of the tax plan.

The Senate version of the bill, passed 12-11 in the Senate Budget Committee on Nov. 28, is now advancing to the floor for a vote. If it passes in the Senate, it will have to undergo a reconciliation phase with the House passed legislation before any implementation. Though the measures affecting higher education are not included in the Senate bill, there is no promise that they will not be added during the reconciliation phase with the House bill.

Both the House and Senate bills have received wide criticism from Democrats, as well as a few Republicans, after the Congressional Budget Office released its analysis that the substantial cuts and benefits for the upper class would negatively affect the lower and middle classes, as well as add $1.5 trillion to the deficit over the next decade.

Many colleges have already spoken out against the revoking of the tax credits, including the American Council on Education and the House Education and the Workforce Committee, the ACE stated that this bill is “not in America’s interest.”

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Mock trial finds success

Two students attend STEM event

Tiffany Ricketts, a senior biochemistry major, presented at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. Ricketts enjoyed the event.

The theme of this year’s conference was Promoting Change and Transformation, according to the ABRCSMS website.

The students also had mentors to help them along the way. “I [also] got assistance from the Auron lab to revise and redress my poster presentation,” Ricketts said.

The conference not only offers an opportunity for presenters to observe others’ research, but also to network. “There were lots of opportunities for me to learn about the research that others were doing at the undergraduate, post-baccalaureate and graduate level as well as being able to speak with professionals in specific fields in academia, industry or government,” Ricketts said. “I made connections with a lot of institutions regarding their summer research programs and got to learn about a lot of professional societies that offer membership to undergraduate students.”

Two students who attended, this was not just a platform for them to present their research on.

“This conference also has the added incentive of being recruited by graduate institutions and to learn what each school has to offer if one is interested in pursuing a professional or graduate

see STEM — page 12
You have most likely heard of the phrase "body positivity," but what does it actually mean? Body positivity is acceptance. It's taking the idea of what a "perfect" body should look like and replacing it with the idea that all bodies are worthy of being loved and embraced. Body positivity includes deciding what is good or healthy for yourself instead of jumping onto the latest health food diet. Ultimately, body positivity is a movement created by women to promote the idea that no one deserves prejudice against their size or shape.

Recently, fitness guru Louise Thompson announced her new book titled "Body Positivity." However, the book title angered many female bloggers who claim it is simply filled with diets and workout routines.

Everyone should exercise to stay healthy; that is not the issue here. The book is problematic because Thompson is twisting words of empowerment for her own profit. Today, we can see an influx of celebrities jumping onto the body positivity trend; however they are missing, and the movement therefore spreading misinformation that can be harmful to others. Body positivity was not created to promote diet culture.

What Thompson is essentially doing to this message is distorting and twisting it. I am sure that Thompson did not purposefully make this mistake. She was probably unaware of the true meaning behind these words. Reaching your body positive is not about changing your body to look like a Victoria’s Secret fashion show, I believed it would be important to spread this message. You do not have to look like a model to be loved or supported. The people who are portrayed in media are selected to purposely make you believe what conventional beauty should look like. Internalizing those ideas of what you "should look" like is only natural, since we have been fed these ideas in magazines and movies our whole lives. Truthfully, it does not and should not matter what you look like.

Living a body positive life means embracing your true self and principles. Find acceptance within yourself. It’s important to note that loving your own body does not make you selfish. Body positivity is about working toward a society where everyone can receive the same respect and representation, no matter their size or shape.

Shivani Gosai
opinion editor

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
Trump reverses ban on trophy hunting, endangering elephants

In Zimbabwe, the elephant population has decreased by 74 percent. In 2014, the Obama Administration placed a ban on importing trophy elephants from Zimbabwe and Zambia. In place of German propaganda posters and men in uniforms storming Jewish storefronts, anti-Semitism has taken a more familiar form: Nazism. President Trump has reversed a ban that denied hunters from importing elephant trophies they killed in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The ban would be lifted from Jan. 1, 2018, the article says, to allow hunters to bring elephant trophies to the United States. The reality is, we cannot be the Right rally held this past August. white supremacists rather than make their deeds seem standard. We mustn’t allow the criminal bigots of yesterday to be accepted as the new normal today, lest they become the horrors of tomorrow.

Trump reversed the ban on importing elephant trophies they killed in Zimbabwe and Zambia.
Local designer finds success, battles mental health

When many people hear the phrase fashion designer, they think of someone in high society who has his or her line of clothing unveiled at fashion shows in Milan, New York City or Paris. Stew Frick, a Pittsburgh native, is giving the term a new definition.

Frick is a newbie on the fashion scene, both worldwide and in the rather barren designer landscape here in Pittsburgh. However, his approach to fashion would be unusual in any city, as it stems from plenty of personal trauma, as well as multiple art forms.

Frick decided to try his hand at fashion after missing out on a performance by one of his favorite musicians, Julian Baker. He couldn’t buy any of the merchandise or even see Baker perform, so he decided to make his own shirt in lieu of the missed opportunity to buy anything at the show.

This led Frick to realize that he not only was capable of making his own clothes, but that he enjoyed it, too.

“...On one night I just realized I could do it,” said Frick, “I spent a long time trying to find myself, but I guess with customized clothing I always enjoyed looking at it and wishing for...” 

After realizing that he can create fashionable clothes, he decided to ask local bands if they would let him design their merchandise. That led him to make clothes for artists like Elizabeth Harris, Distant Futures and eventually The Uptown Woods.

“The first time I sold anything for money was at a benefit show put on by Rchrd Prkr and my good friend Miles [Campbell], the singer for Rchrd Prkr,” said Frick. “They linked up with an organization called Punk Talks which is like a mental health advocacy group for people in the music industry."

Frick explained how he donated all the proceeds from his merchandise to Punk Talks. It wasn’t so much about making money, as it was about selling something.

“It was about getting his brand out there and supporting a cause he felt drawn to. In this case, that cause was a mental health advocacy group that, according to their website, “aims to provide free mental health assistance to bands, industry professionals and fans while also educating and raising mental health and self-care.”

A cause that also presents itself in his line of work. Frick’s main inspiration behind his painting, poetry and fashion is a jaw, a jaw that appears to him in hallucinations during his more intense episodes of psychotic depression. In his bedroom, he has a painting of it, and every time he has a creative block, whether that be writing, designing or painting one, he just looks at it. Suddenly, the block is gone.

Still, that doesn’t mean the painting of the jaw solves all his creative problems. There is still a need to balance his various art forms as well as his other psychological condition: synesthesia.

“Synesthesia is a condition where information processing is automatically and consistently blended between two senses (e.g. seeing sounds’) or between senses and some other cognitive domain (e.g. seeing colors associated with particular letters). In other words, synesthesia occurs when some physically present stimulus (e.g. the letter ‘A’) invokes the experience of another sensation (e.g. ‘blue’) that is not physically present,” said Duquesne University Professor Alex Kranjec.

While Frick has plenty of inspiration from various art forms and events in his life, it wasn’t until a local band approached him about creating a product for them that he truly entered the fashion scene. Before that, his main claim to fame as a designer was that charity event for Punk Talks.

The Uptown Woods, a local band based at Duquesne University, searched for anyone in the customized clothing scene that would be able to create a fashion line for their band. Nick Seyler, a high school friend of Frick, recommended The Uptown Woods seek out the niche designer.

“Frick would later lead to a fashion release between Frick and The Uptown Woods at an event called Speak Freely Collection Drop, which was hosted at Threads on Carson in the South Side on July 15. The collection drop featured a series of hats with a painted patch of one Pittsburgh and put it on it. “Every hat is handmade by local artist Stew Frick. Stew paints each patch before sewing it to the hat,” the Speak Freely Collection Drop Facebook event page explains.

The manufacturing of each handmade product would fall to Frick alone. Some of the clothing orders from the store would be up to 60 hats that he would have to hand make without any help and without the resources of a traditional fashion designer.

“Pieces can vary incredibly widely in how long they take. I have a lot of hat orders still just in terms of my resources. Because I’m making everything in my bedroom, I don’t have any kind of industrial work tables or mannequins or even anything like that,” Frick said. “Pieces, I would say, generally take me anywhere from 30 minutes to like 5 hours, sometimes, on really intricate ones.”

This event would later lead to an opportunity for Frick to make his own fashion line. This line would be called “The Sweetooth Collection” and would be released at the same store in conjunction with the same band.

However, this new fashion line would require Frick to delve more into his personal inspirations, mainly the jaw he sees during extreme episodes of his psychotic depression.

“The way I always think about it is — I’m entirely untrained in everything, I’ve never taken an art class, I didn’t study art, I didn’t study painting or sewing or anything like that,” said Frick. “But I can, like, take a little bit of love I have for everything and just...like thread it all together into one good cohesive piece.”

It isn’t any one aspect of how Frick produces his fashion that makes it unique, but a sum of them. Frick would not consider himself

Holiday dessert recipes sure to delight

At this point in the semester, we’re all a little stressed. While finals loom over our heads, something much more exciting is coming up quickly: the holiday season. Holiday desserts are one of my favorite parts of the season, and I love that they bring people together. In that light, I’m sharing some of my top holiday recipes for you to savor over the upcoming break.

Peanut Butter Blossoms

These classics that I’m sure everybody has had at least once. Peanut butter blossoms are something that my family and I make every year for Christmas. Once you try them, they become your favorite of mine. There are a lot of different recipes out there, but this one is the one my family has used for years.

Mix together 1 ¼ cups of flour, 1 tsp. of baking soda, and ½ tsp. of kosher salt. Set aside.

Peanut Butter Blossoms

Add one egg, 2 tbsp. milk and one tsp. of vanilla to the mixture. Once that’s mixed well, blend in the dry ingredients. Shape the dough into balls and roll in granulated sugar. Bake on an ungreased sheet for eight minutes at 350 degrees. Remove from oven and place Hershey kisses on the tops of the cookies, pressing down until the cookie is completely covered. Bake for two and a half minutes longer.

Red Velvet Goofey Butter Cookies

This recipe is Paula Deen’s, but I’ve tweaked it a bit for the holiday season. Her recipe calls for chocolate cake mix, but I’ve substituted that with red velvet cake mix. You can use any kind of cake mix you want, though, which makes for a fun and versatile baking experience, and the recipe is super easy, too.

In a large bowl, or with an electric mixer, cream together one eight-ounce brick of cream cheese and one stick of room temperature butter. beat in one egg, then one tsp. of vanilla extract. Mix in one box of moist red velvet cake mix. Once everything is mixed together, cover the mixture and refrigerate it for two hours.

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Roll the mixture into balls, and then roll them in powdered sugar. Place on an ungreased baking sheet and bake for 12 minutes. Once the cookies are cooled, you can dust them with more powdered sugar if you’d like.

Pepermint Chocolate Puppy Chow

Also known as muddy buddies, puppy chow is a favorite in my house. This recipe combines two favorite flavors of the holiday season: chocolate
City superiority up for grabs with City Game nearing

For the first time in years, it’s not definitively clear who is Pittsburgh’s top men’s basketball program. The young 2017-18 season hasn’t been kind to either the Duquesne Dukes or the Pitt Panthers, and both teams are trying to effectively formulate an identity.

Duquesne stands with a record of 2-2, and is coming off of consecutive losses to teams that it should have beaten in Robert Morris and Cornell. As for Pitt, Tuesday’s 71-63 win over High Point improved its record to 3-4, but the Panthers have suffered embarrassing losses this season, as well — including large quantities of fans, as attendance figures at the Petersen Events Center are as low as they’ve ever been since the building was constructed.

Attendance for Pitt’s game versus High Point on Tuesday was 2,399, which breaks the tally for the smallest crowd at a regular-season game ever at the Petersen Events Center.

The previous mark was set 13 days ago, when 2,685 were on hand to see Pitt’s 70-62 win over UC-Santa Barbara.

With the annual City Game taking place this Friday night, Duquesne has the chance to make a statement. If the Dukes pull out a second-consecutive win this year against the rival Panthers, Duquesne will hold all of the momentum between the two schools. I won’t go so far as to say that a win on Friday will be enough to declare Duquesne as the city’s premier program, but it would prove that Duquesne basketball is on the way to challenging Pitt for that title.

A win would put Duquesne in the driver’s seat until at least next season, and act as another major step in the program’s quest for sustained relevance.

Optimistically, this may be just a monumental rebuilding year for Pitt. The Panthers lost Jamel Hughes for sustained relevance. The Panthers lost Jamel for that title.

What it could do, though, is help Dambrot to continue to build positive momentum around the program. Since the non-conference schedule was revealed, Dambrot has stressed the importance of building a winning culture on the Bluff, and taking down Pitt would help to accelerate that process.

Duquesne hasn’t beaten Pitt twice in a row since 1980. By no means is it an easy task for a small school like Duquesne to take down what has consistently been a top basketball program like Pitt. However, if it wins this year, considering the amount of talent that will suit up for Duquesne next season, the Dukes could be on the verge of setting up a City Game winning streak of their own.

It won’t be an easy game to win, but the Dukes have a shot. It’s more than fair to assume that they can win next year, as well, and even beyond that. Rattling off a number of wins against Pitt could put Duquesne on the map for local recruits. Success, however, and city domination, may eventually sway Pittsburgh area talent toward the Bluff instead of the direction of Oakland.

With all of that being said, by no means is this a “must-win” game for Duquesne. Regardless of the outcome, Duquesne is still on the right track. A loss would be disappointing, but excused. A win, though, would be just another building block to lay on top of the foundation that Dambrot already has in place.

It’s impossible to define an entire season by one non-conference rivalry game, but the game could be a fun turning point to remember from this season.

A glimpse of what could just be the reality in the future.

“Duquesne. The best team in the city.” Wouldn’t that be fun to say?

Duquesne students always come out in droves for the annual City Game versus Pitt, but those within the program hope that sustained success will result in heightened campus interest and involvement.

CFB Playoff Rankings — Week 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
<th>Next</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Clemson</td>
<td>11-1</td>
<td>W at SC</td>
<td>12/02 vs. Miami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>10-2</td>
<td>W vs. AL</td>
<td>12/02 vs. 6 UGA</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>11-1</td>
<td>W vs. WVU</td>
<td>12/02 vs. 11 TCU</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>12-0</td>
<td>W at Mino</td>
<td>12/02 vs. 8 Ohio St</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Alabama</td>
<td>11-1</td>
<td>L at AL</td>
<td>12/02 vs. 12 Florida</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
<td>11-1</td>
<td>W at GT</td>
<td>12/02 vs. 2 Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>L at Pitt</td>
<td>12/02 vs. at Clemson</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ohio State</td>
<td>10-2</td>
<td>W at Michig</td>
<td>12/02 vs. 4 Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Penn State</td>
<td>10-2</td>
<td>W at Maryland</td>
<td>12/02 vs. Idaho</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>USC</td>
<td>10-2</td>
<td>L at SC</td>
<td>12/02 vs. 12 Stanford</td>
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CBB AP Rankings — Week 4

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Rank</th>
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<th>Prev. Rank</th>
<th>Next Game</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Duke</td>
<td>8-0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12/02 vs. South Dakota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Kansas</td>
<td>5-0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12/02 vs. 3 Texas Tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Michigan State</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12/02 vs. 5 Notre Dame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Villanova</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12/02 at Saint Joseph’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12/02 vs. 3 Michigan State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12/02 vs. Florida State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12/02 vs. 4 Harvard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Wichita State</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12/02 vs. 16 Baylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Texas AM</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12/02 vs. UT Rio Grande Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>5-0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12/02 vs. Princeton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Team records are accurate as of Nov 27. AP rankings are released each Monday for basketball.
Hello, and welcome to this year’s edition of The Duke’s Best of 2017. Whether you are a media junkie like most of us or a casual purveyor of the entertainment landscape, audiences of all stripes were able to find some truly spectacular (and not-so-spectacular) pieces of art in 2017. With so many great films, movies, TV shows, books and games to choose from, we here at The Duke were overwhelmed with the plethora of options. Please enjoy our selection of our favorites from this past year, starting with our favorite music:

**Best Music of 2017**

**“Feel It Still” by Portugal. The Man** - Raymond Arke

The best charting song of the band’s career, this poppy, dancey protest anthem was the perfect song for 2017. The music video even attracted the ire of Alex Jones since it featured a band member burning a paper copy of InfoWars. The song itself is just a ton of fun to listen to, with lyrics like, “I’m a rebel just for kicks, now / I’ve been feeling it since 1966, now,” acting as a call for attention. It’s political without being heavy-handed. I’ve yet to meet someone that can’t help but sing along.

**Beautiful Trauma by P!nk** - Nicolas Jozefczyk

With 17 years since her first album, P!nk let it be known, once again, why she is truly still relevant and influential in the music world. Not surprisingly, Beautiful Trauma has remarkable vocals that are from P!nk’s undoubtedly powerful and honest voice. The album mainly takes a look at the trials and tribulations of love, going from the fun of “Revenge” to the tear-jerking heartbreak of “But We Lost It.” Beautiful Trauma hosts a variety of emotions and is honestly one of P!nk’s best albums in her entire discography.

**Cigarettes After Sex (self-titled)** - Zach Landau

Very rarely am I so surprised and delighted by an artist that I discovered completely by accident, and Cigarettes After Sex continues to be one of my go-to artists for those asking for new music recommendations. Their sound borders on the indescribable, finding a perfect balance between the sultry and haunting that just makes the simple act of listening to their music a wholly unique experience. Definitely check out their work (personal favorites: “Apocalypse” and “K.”), and hopefully you’ll come to appreciate their work as much as I have since that fateful encounter five months ago.

**Everybody by Logic** - Sean Armstrong

I would consider Everybody a good album, but in a year with a such fantastic music offerings, determining a best album is of close contention. However, what makes this album stand above the rest is its powerful and much-needed social message. In a time when hate rears its ugly head, this album is a call to action, a call for equality. Everybody asks everyone to care for each other. It is not geared toward one group of people or toward one social issue, but many people and many issues. It’s easy to just be apathetic nowadays, but Everybody offers countless reasons to care again.

**Honorable Mentions:**

Best Films of 2017

**Blade Runner 2049** - Sean Armstrong

Rarely does a film use the power of the lens so directly as to ask such direct questions of the viewer as Blade Runner 2049 does. Despite the movie offering broad ques- tions that it certainly can't answer in 2 hours and 44 minutes (and that's assuming it even has a definitive answer at all), Blade Runner expertly guides audiences to ideas and concepts that ordi- narily are not within the purview of people's minds.

**Resident Evil: Vendetta** - Nicole Prieto

What do you get when you cross the fun of 2004’s _Shaun of the Dead_ with the action-packed excellence of 2012’s _Dredd_? Perhaps unexpectedly, the answer is the thrilling third entry of the _Resident Evil_ CG movies. Chris Redfield and Rebecca Chambers are on a mission to stop the spread of a zombifying virus strain, and they need the help of the very ornery Leon S. Ken- nedy to prevent a national catastrophe. _Vendetta_ may have been overshadowed by its final live-action counterpart _hitizing_ US theaters in January, but this summer's sleeper-hit should not be ig- nored. Grade-A fight scenes, clean writing and just the right touch of melodrama make _Vendetta_ a go-to flick to strain during break.

**Atomic Blonde** - Isaac Davies

Do you love Cold War era spsy thrillers? Do you love it when the main lead com- mits to months learning actual hand-to-hand com- bat so their fight scenes aren't all shaky-cam and quick cuts? Then watching Charlize Theron mess up a bunch of dudes while looking debonair AF is for you. _Atomic Blonde_ was hyped up to be the female version of _James Bond_, but frankly even the master of spy thrillers wishes his movies were this good.

**It Comes at Night** - Zach Landau

I’m not sure what shocks me more about It Comes at Night: the fact I think it’s a best-of contender or that I was so conflicted about the film after I first watched it. A budget horror film released in the middle of the summer should not be as good as this movie is. But when I look back at It Comes at Night and realize its trite and directness, I can forgive its trite and directness because it was just that darn good. Definitely worth the watch, and it will become a staple of my Halloween movie diet for years to come.

**Honorable Mention:**
Loving Vincent

Best Games of 2017

**Night in the Woods** - Nicole Prieto

The year has featured strong entries for story-heavy episodic games, with such luminaries as _Hivecrafter_ and _Life is Strange_. Before the Storm topping the year’s best, but it is hard to compete with a polished, com- plete entry like _Night in the Woods_. It is a post-coming-of-age story that does not pretend to have answers to life’s tough- est questions. Weird, fun, al- legorical and relevant, _NITW_ is a beautiful game paired with heartfelt writing.

**Hollow Knight** - Isaac Davies

In this metroidvania, you play as a bug warrior who ac- cidentally releases an ancient plague and must stop it. I can- not stress how amazing this game is. The incredible soundtrack follows you as you learn the story of the city, the plague and your relationship to it all. Or you can simply ignore the story entirely and just focus on the dynamic gameplay with tight controls. I honestly feel guilty for how little time I spent in _Cherry_’s house. _NITW_ is asking for this mat- ter piece. Oh did I mention that there are five different endings and two free DLC? Go get this game already.

**Breath of the Wild** - Zach Landau

I didn’t expect to be reviewing this year’s _Zelda_ entry again, but here we are. _Breath of the Wild_ is still somewhat disap- pointing seven months down the line. Much of what makes _Zelda_ so special and unique is absent from this entry. How- ever, I’ve beaten it thrice al- ready, something I almost com- binedly hate and love. I plan on working through its DLC over the upcoming winter break. Any game that I can keep coming back to, spe- cially so soon after its release, is at least somewhat good, right?

**Destiny 2** - Grant Stoner

I felt betrayed by the first _Des- tiny_. A severe lack of content, coupled with a pathetic excuse for a story, made me feel as if I threw away $60. Thank- fully, the sequel rectified its predecessors mistakes, eas- ily making this game one of my favorites. While the campaign is admittedly short, the overall plot, characters and post-game content continue to excite me easily into my 30th hour. _Destiny 2_ is a perfectly polished first-person-shooter, one that I cannot recommend enough.

**Honorable Mentions:**
Life is Strange: Before the Storm

Best Books of 2017

**Luna: Wolf Moon** - Nicole Prieto

The second entry in Ian McDonald’s space opera is as compelling as the first. Complex family politics, speculative fiction and unapolo- getic entertainment collide on the harsh, un- forgiving environment of the colonized moon. The once-prestigious Corta family is left to pick up the pieces of its shattered Helsum-3 empire. Undeterred, the ever-alive Lucas Corta sets a plan in motion to return his family to the reigns and get revenge. _Wolf Moon_ is a heartstopper grafted onto an imaginative uni- verse; McDonald’s third and final entry, _Moon Rising_, is slated for a 2018 release.

**Theft by Finding** - Zach Landau

Despite being a diary without much in the way of direction or purpose, _Theft by Finding_ still intrigues with its anecdotes and tales. I greatly enjoy picking up David Sedaris’ newest release every once in awhile to read a handful of entries to pass the time. _Theft by Finding_ is almost re- freshingly pragmatic in how streamlined-yet-ac- cessible it remains six months since publishing.

**note to self** - Nicolas Jozefczyk

Depictions of everything — from elation to ab- solute despair — feature in work by Connor Franta. _note to self_ is a compilation of short essays, poetry and pictures that, being more diary-like, expertly portrays Franta’s vivid and complex feelings. I would highly recommend _note to self_; it truly captured my attention throughout the entire book and enthralled me as a young adult to read about someone else’s struggle growing up in this current age.

**Honorable Mentions:**
_The Walking Dead_ Season 3

BoJack Horseman Season 4 - Zach Landau

BoJack Horseman is excellence dis- tilled into its purest form: Excellent dialogue, excellent acting, excellent comedy, tragedy, characters, set- tings, themes, you name it. _BoJack_ is quintessential Netflix viewing ma- terial and positions itself as the pre- miere TV show about a washed-up celebrity horse out there.

A Series of Unfortunate Events - Nicole Prieto

Perhaps the most faithful adaptation possible of Lemony Snicket’s mor- bidly memorable books, January’s _ASOUE_ Season 1 release is a binge- worthy hit that pushes all the right buttons. Patrick Warburton (Snick- et) as narrator and meta-participant in the story’s events is a creative twist that keeps true to the tongue-in- cheek tone of the books. Neil Patrick Harris is an entertaining, sinister Count Olaf who countersbalances the dorky, money charming Baudel- laires played by Malina Weissman (Violet), Louis Hynes (Klaus) and Presley Smith (Sunny).

Veep Season 6 - Kailey Love

After her devastating election loss in Season 5, we pick up with new former President Selina Meyer (Ju- lia Louis-Dreyfus) struggling to adjust to ex-presidential life a year after leaving the White House. At- tempting to create a legacy that will overshadow her disappointing eight-month presidency, this season follows Selina and her former staff- ers through a whole new round of political mishaps and hijinks. Louis- Dreyfus shines in her role as always, but perhaps the star of this season is recently-elected Congressman Jo- nah Ryan (Timothy Simmons). His blundering attempts to navigate the world of politics as an elected official are downright hysterical. I laughed practically the whole way through the final episode mainly due to his antics. By my standards, this was the show’s best season by far.

**Honorable Mentions:**
_Rick and Morty_ Season 3, _Fear the Walking Dead_ Season 3

November 30, 2017 — BEST OF

9
the worst of 2017

Let’s be real. As much as there was to love in 2017, there was also a lot to hate. A lot. They can’t all be winners, as they say. So here are our picks for the worst that 2017 had to offer:

**TV:**

*Any show you only watched the pilot for* - Isaac Davies

Let’s be honest, you will never remember the worst TV shows of the year because you watched the pilot and got bored. The pilot is supposed to be the best way for a TV series to rope you in, and if you get bored in the quintessential episode, you’ll never remember it. So I rate all those pilots I watched and never bothered to remember as the worst.

**MOVIES:**

*The Hitman’s Bodyguard* - Grant Stoner

If I were stuck in a room with a continuous showing of *The Hitman’s Bodyguard* and a stairwell leading to a satanic cult operated by Steve Bannon, I would hurl myself, wheelchair and all, into the fiery abyss. The plot is so generic that not even Ryan Reynolds’ sarcastic quips can save this film. Plus, did you know that Samuel L Jackson likes to swear? Because he does. A lot. I don’t understand how millions of dollars and countless hours could be spent producing a film which adds nothing to the action genre.

*The Emoji Movie* - Salena Moran & Evan Penrod

What can be said that hasn’t been said about this annoying cash grab of corporate propaganda? This film possesses no skill or brain power, and watching it unfold feels as though Hollywood threw in the towel in creating original and entertaining children’s films. If you do not want to see this kind of movie ever again, don’t fund it, not even as a joke. This bumbling excuse for a movie grossed over $210,000,000, which is about $209,999,999 more than it should have made. This “film” seems like one long advertisement for several apps with no shame. Also, Sir Patrick Stewart voices Poop, and oh, how the mighty have fallen.

**MUSIC:**

*“Sushi King”* - Zach Landau

Just what happened to Niki and the Dove? After a mediocre showing last year with *Everybody’s Heart is Broken Now* (which, admittedly, I grew fond of over time), I didn’t think that the duo would do an about face and create something that is just absolute trash. That is not me being hyperbolic; I literally cannot describe this song in any other way than just trash. Trashy vocals, trashy lyrics, trashy music, everything about “Sushi King” reminds me of projects done only for the sake of throwing them away later. Avoid.

*“Despacito”* - Raymond Arke

Last year, I picked “Panda” for this ignoble title, and this year, I take on another Billboard #1 hit. Where do I begin with my disgust for this song? Everything about it is annoying, from Justin Bieber’s attempts at being Latino to the generic, repetitive lyrics. Latin music can be very good, but this absolutely was not. It didn’t help that you couldn’t go anywhere in the summer without hearing it. In fact, it may be getting stuck in my head again as I write this.

*“Look What You Made Me Do”* - Salena Moran & Evan Penrod

Taylor Swift’s newest single is just as cringeworthy as her attempts to reinvent herself in the music industry. This tune simply serves as a continuation of her childish digs at the Kardashians and other celebrities as opposed to a thoughtful attempt at creating music and surmounting those who try to bring her down. It ultimately feels as though Taylor opened up her middle school diary and sang right off the page, leaving no creativity or depth within the lyrics.

*“Bodak Yellow”* - Nicolas Jozefczyk

I’ll be honest, usually, if a song is filled with feeling, good lyricism and has a decent beat, I’ll be able to listen to it, or even like it. I have listened to many songs this year, and I can truly say that “Bodak Yellow” is garbage. As far as I am concerned, this song is only good for party music where people scream a couple lyrics of the chorus and then fake the verses until the end. Turn your “bloody shoes” around because this track is a disrespectful attempt at being a pop hit. It is truly a disaster.

**GAMES:**

*Mass Effect: Andromeda* - Sean Armstrong

The highly-anticipated sequel to *Mass Effect 3* follows eerily in its predecessor’s footsteps, and by that, I mean it was vastly underwhelming. I was so amped for this installment in the franchise. I loved the characters in the previous trilogy, and the storyline was very engrossing. However, that’s not the case with this iteration. Sure, the original Mass Effect was not the most thrilling of games, but for its time, it was good. The series really made its mark with its second installment, but, thanks to various setbacks, trialed off a bit with its third installment. Overall, I thought Mass Effect: *Andromeda* could revitalize my love for the series, but it just didn’t live up to my expectations.

*Fire Emblem Heroes* - Zach Landau

Do you remember *Fire Emblem Heroes*? Neither do I. After reviewing the game, I put Heroes down, promising to finish the last chapter when I had more time. Well, 10 months later, I still haven’t beaten it. Yeah.
Delightful desserts for the holiday season

FOOD—from page 6

and peppermint. The best part about puppy chow is that there’s no baking required; just heat a few ingredients on the stove, mix them together, and you have a delicious treat. This recipe comes from Katy’s Kitchen on mydishisbomb.com.

Pour one box of Crispix or Rice Chex cereal into a large bowl. In a double boiler, melt one cup of semi-sweet chocolate chips with ½ cup of butter. Pour the chocolate over the cereal, stirring while mixing. Fold 12 crushed candy canes into the mixture. Pour the cereal mixture into a Ziploc bag and add one cup of powdered sugar. Seal the bag and shake it until the powdered sugar is evenly distributed over the cereal mixture.

Snickerdoodle Mug Cake

If you just can’t wait for the break to get in your holiday indulgences, this mug cake is perfect for any college student who has access to a microwave and a couple of basic baking ingredients. Snickerdoodles are all about the cinnamon, which is a classic holiday flavor. This recipe is from a website called FIVEheartHOME.

In a small bowl, whisk together ¼ of a cup plus two tablespoons of flour, two tablespoons of sugar, ¼ of a teaspoon of baking powder and ¼ of a teaspoon of cinnamon until completely combined. Blend in ⅛ of a cup of room temperature milk, two tablespoons of melted salted butter and ½ of a teaspoon of pure vanilla extract. Pour a scoop of batter into a microwave safe bowl, then add a layer of cinnamon sugar. Alternate layers until the mug is full; the top layer should be cinnamon sugar. Microwave the cake mixture on high for one minute to one and a half minutes, or until the cake is done.
**DU works to improve Forbes Ave.**

*FORBES — from page 1*

[Image of a page of a document with text]

**Internet freedom in danger**

*STAFF ED — from page 4*

[Image of a page of a document with text]

**On this day in history . . .**

- 1630 - 16,000 inhabitants in Venice died of the plague
- 1678 - Roman Catholics banned from English parliament
- 1731 - Beijing hit by an earthquake that killed about 100,000 people
- 1838 - Mexico declares war on France
- 1866 - Work begins on the first U.S. underwater highway tunnel in Chicago
- 1874 - Winston Churchill was born
- 1922 - Hitler speaks to 50,000 national-socialists in Munich
- 1938 - Germany bans Jews from being lawyers
- 1950 - President Harry Truman threatens China with atom bomb
- 1952 - Jackie Robinson charges the New York Yankees with racism
- 1993 - *Schindler’s List* film directed by Steven Spielberg premieres in Washington, D.C.
- 2015 - Kobe Bryant of the LA Lakers announces his intent to retire at the end of the season