



Catholic Center receives big grant

SAIRAH ASLAM
staff writer

The Center for Catholic Faith and Culture, headed by Darlene Weaver, has won a \$400,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation that will fund a three-year-long series of projects.

The Center was established as a department of Duquesne University 5 1/2 years ago, at which time Weaver, an ethicist, was appointed director.

Weaver said, "[It] exists in order to help build faculty competence around Duquesne's mission and identity ... [It] supports research grants, sponsors a teaching series, completes book manuscripts and helps direct the core curriculum."

The New York-based Henry Luce Foundation, which awarded the grant, supports projects in

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Donut forget about breakfast



OLIVIA HIGGINS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

President Ken Gormley hands out free donuts for breakfast and talks with students on Jan. 18 in the Hogan Dining Hall

Students attend March for Life

GABRIELLA DiPIETRO
staff writer

Jan. 19 marked the 45th annual March for Life, where thousands of people gathered on the National Mall to speak out against abortion. Duquesne students and staff joined countless others, wishing to make their voices heard.

March for Life is the world's largest annual pro-life rally, with people from near and far speaking out against abortion, including speeches from Pam Tebow, the mother of former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow, House Speaker Paul Ryan and President Trump via video satellite.

Duquesne hosts a bus trip to Washington, D.C. every year to attend the March, led by campus minister, Linda Donovan.

"The March is a lobby for

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Panel teaches ways to fight back against tide of fake news

RAYMOND ARKE
news editor

Fake news. Alternative facts. Crooked media. Over the past year, these phrases have fixated themselves into everyday life.

The dangers these labels present and what they really mean took center stage at "Media Literacy and Battling Fake News," a panel discussion sponsored by the Duquesne chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and the McAnulty College of Liberal Arts.

Moderated by Duquesne alum and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reporter, Julian Routh, the Jan. 23 panel featured Joshua Gillin, a staff writer for the Tampa Bay Times and former reporter for PolitiFact Florida, and Mila Sanina, executive editor for PublicSourcePA, an independent Pittsburgh media outlet. Gillin and Sanina sought to explain fake news and suggest ways an average person can fight against it.



KAILEY LOVE/PHOTO EDITOR

Journalists Joshua Gillin, left, and Mila Sanina participated in a panel on media literacy, sponsored by Duquesne SPJ club.

Gillin had spent his time at PolitiFact directly combatting trending stories.

"My job was to disprove false stories ... [and show] why they

were false," he said.

He also contested the Trump administration and its supporters' use of the phrase "fake news" against mainstream media sources,

calling it "a deliberate attempt to delegitimize media outlets ... That is not the definition of fake news."

Sanina agreed and explained that the retooling of the label is

"Orwellian in its nature."

"It is an attempt to undermine the institution of the free press ... to put doubt in your mind," she said.

Gillin said that the working definition of "fake news" at PolitiFact was "a deliberate attempt by a media outlet to deceive a consumer."

These attempts to weaponize the term against legitimate media outlets could be very dangerous, Sanina said.

"The threat is real and it undermines reason and the value of truth," she warned.

Sanina said she knows from experience what it is like in a country with no freedom of the press.

"As someone born in the USSR, I can appreciate how difficult it is to live somewhere with no protections of the press," she said. "There are places in this world where people die for truth."

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POLICE BRIEFS

Well, hello again, yinz. Grandpa PB has been baffled at how the weather has been acting up, just as much as you kids are! But don't worry. I'm still here to catch it all.

On Jan. 16, Duquesne Police responded to a Residence Life call at St. Ann for a marijuana violation. The offender was referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Somebody was getting wacky with the tabacky.

On Jan. 19, a university employee reported being harassed from a current relationship. It was referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Title IX Office.

Talk about waking up on the weekend with a headache. On Jan. 20, Tah Ngijoi Yogo of Washington, PA was found semi-responsive and heavily intoxicated in his Vickroy dorm room. When Duquesne Police were assisting medical personnel in moving him to the medical vehicle, Yogo became combative and hit a Duquesne Police officer above the eye with his head. Yogo was taken to Mercy Hospital and treated for high alcohol levels. The officer was treated for a minor abrasion above the right eye. Yogo will be charged with simple assault and disorderly conduct. He will also be referred to the Office of Student Life.

Also on Jan. 20, a Duquesne student's vehicle was damaged while it was parked on Bluff Street.

BLUFF BRIEFS

Coffee House Reading Series returns to campus

The spring session of the series will begin with the appearance of two recognized authors, Cameron Barnett and Chris Girman.

Barnett has had his poetry appear in a variety of publications such as the Tipton Poetry Journal. He also has received the O'Donnel Award for Excellence in Poetry.

Girman is an assistant professor at Point Park and a creative non-fiction writer. Some of his work has been in publications like American Book Review.

The event is Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. in Genesis Theater's Rehearsal Hall

EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

The Duke's news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn't make sense? You can send your tips and story ideas to News Editor Raymond Arke at arker@duq.edu.

March for Life draws more than 30 students

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change," Donovan said. "The hope is for legislation that honors human dignity of the person including all issues that surround life and the quality of life issues."

The trip included 29 students and three campus ministers from Duquesne, as well as some students from Robert Morris University and The Art Institute.

Annamarie Lovre, a second-year physician assistant student who attended the march, was taken aback by the mass of people supporting similar values to her own.

"It was inspirational to march on Constitution Avenue to the Capitol and Supreme Court and see the thousands of people ahead and behind me with the same goal of 'Love Saves Life,' which was the theme of the March," said Lovre. "The Declaration of Independence guarantees the right to life, so I choose to defend this right for those who cannot defend themselves."

This was the eighth time that Duquesne sophomore and comic artist for *The Duke*, Jordan Callahan, has attended the march to support his pro-life views.

"I march because I think of all the different people who have touched my life in some way and how they've enriched it and that I



COURTESY OF LINDA DONOVAN

A bus of Duquesne, Robert Morris and Art Institute students went to Washington D.C. to protest the Roe v. Wade court decision.

would miss them if they were not there," Callahan said. "I march to stand up for all life that I believe is an inherently great gift from God and I hope to see a culture of life upheld within our country."

Ryan Crawford, a junior theology major at Duquesne, found the occasion of seeing people from all walks of life stand up for their beliefs to be unforgettable.

"It was an uplifting experience, as a lot of young people were present," said Crawford. "I do see positive strides being made in the fight for life, which encourages me. I am proud to be part of the movement."

Linda Donovan also explained how the March for Life directly correlates to Duquesne's mission and values.

"It is important for Duquesne

to support this cause because we are a Catholic university with values grounded in the Spiritan tradition of care for the human dignity of each person, especially the poor and concern for those on the margins of society," Donovan said. "Many of the life issues that are at the forefront of the March for Life are intricately connected to those values."

Journalists warn of staying power of fake news

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Both journalists said that the problem of fake news has existed for a long time. Gillin cited the 1804 presidential election where Thomas Jefferson supporters charged that John Adams was a "hermaphrodite," and Adams' supporters tried to spread a rumor that Jefferson had actually died.

Sanina agreed, saying that fake news is "not a new phenomenon," but has only escalated as the media landscape has changed.

"Less and less are going to the New York Times, the Washington Post. [People are] enabled by channels and platforms that ... have made us more prone to confirmation bias," she said.

The consequences of a population confused and misled are grave, Gillin warned.

"The big danger is that you end up with an uninformed electorate," he said, and the problem is more acute than ever because, "You guys get hit with more media crap than any generation before you."

Sanina explained that PublicSource has held a workshop to help educate more people titled "How Not to Be Bamboozled by Fake News."

"We have to be talking broader about media literacy. Media literacy has become very, very needed," she said. "It is unfortunate that media literacy in Pennsylvania, like civics, is not a required course."

Sanina suggested visiting sites like snopes.com and politifact.com, along with "being pru-



KAILEY LOVE/PHOTO EDITOR

Free buttons were handed out to attendees of the "Media Literacy and Battling Fake News" panel. Moderated by Julian Routh, a Duquesne alum and reporter at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, students learned how to spot fake news and how to avoid it.

dent in what you share."

Gillin also suggested not to get caught in the "media echo chamber" of outrage over nearly every story because people in that bubble are "not normal people."

"I think normal people care about the riblet special at Applebee's," he joked.

Sanina added that a balance has to be found to get the general public to care about real, quality journalistic pieces. She noted that the most read sections of local news sites is sports, which means lots of important stories get missed.

"It is quite discouraging to see evidence-based journalism that has not resulted in accountability," she said. "The truth gets drowned."

As fake news has continued to

prosper in the social media environment, it has evolved, Gillin warned.

"Fake news stories have gotten trickier. [Fake outlets] will take real events and skew things about them," he said. "It is very insidious."

He mentioned the case of Christopher Blair, a man Gillin described as "a big, fat, middle-aged white guy who lives in Maine." Gillin interviewed Blair who is responsible for creating numerous fake news websites, yet calls his work political parody.

Articles from sites like Blair's, when paired with the Trump administration's weaponization of the phrase "fake news," can inspire real life violence. For instance, the panelists brought up the Pizzagate conspiracy which inspired a man to fire shots into a Washington D.C.

pizza shop and the recent arrest of a man who placed calls to CNN threatening to kill journalists.

"It is tragic we have come to this," Sanina said. "It is a dangerous time to be a journalist."

After answering numerous questions from the audience, both panelists were happy with how the evening went.

"People had to come for class ... but if they leave thinking about something they did not think a lot about before, then it was worth it," Gillin said.

Sanina agreed, saying she hoped the night had been informative.

"I hope that people learned a lot and gave them a lot of food for thought," she said. "[Be] much more skeptical about how they are spending their time online."

New wheelchair lift not operational

RAYMOND ARKE
news editor

A new stair lift installed during Christmas break in College Hall will help disabled students more easily access the building — if the university makes it operational.

The \$40,000 lift has remained dormant since crews installed it to the dismay of some students who are eagerly awaiting its assistance.

“It would cut my commute by 10 to 15 minutes, especially during inclement weather,” said graduate student Grant Stoner, who uses a wheelchair due to spinal muscular atrophy Type 2. “I’m not upset at the university, but it is disappointing that it is here but I can’t use it.”

It was unclear when the lift would be working but University officials did say that the lift was added after campus survey results indicated its need.

Rod Dobish, assistant vice president and chief facilities officer for Duquesne, said the lift was added after “a survey of College Hall indicated that there was a need to access the building’s upper floors internally from the Locust Street level without having to exit the building.”

“College Hall has always been



OLIVIA HIGGINS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The operating panel for the new wheelchair lift in College Hall has yet to be used.

accessible from Locust Street into the first floor for access to all of the rooms on that level and from Academic Walk onto the second floor, which leads directly to the elevator lobby and the building’s four elevator cars,” Dobish said.

Stoner, who is an A&E writer for *The Duke*, said Duquesne has always been mindful of his needs, but traversing College Hall has been challenging.

“Duquesne is very accommodating with moving classrooms. They have always moved classrooms if I needed it ... made

events accessible,” Stoner said.

Normally, if Stoner has class in College Hall, he has to take a convoluted route from Locust Garage through the Student Union and onto Academic Walk. The path between College Hall and the Student Union can sometimes be traversed, but during bad weather it can be “troubling,” Stoner said.

“Freshman year I had one class [on the first floor of College Hall] and one upstairs, and I was always 15 minutes late,” he said.

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Trump open to being questioned by Mueller

AP — President Donald Trump declared late Wednesday he’s “looking forward” to being questioned — under oath — in the special counsel’s probe of Russian election interference and possible Trump obstruction in the firing of the FBI director.

Trump said he would be willing to answer questions under oath in the interview, which special counsel Robert Mueller has been seeking but which White House officials had not previously confirmed the president would grant.

“I’m looking forward to it, actually,” Trump said when asked by reporters at the White House. As for timing, he said, “I guess they’re talking about two or three weeks, but I’d love to do it.”

He said, as he has repeatedly, that “there’s no collusion whatsoever” with the Russians, and he added, “There’s no obstruction whatsoever.”

The full scope of Mueller’s investigation, which involves hundreds of thousands of documents and dozens of witness interviews, is unknown. And there have been no signs that agents aren’t continuing to work on ties between Trump’s campaign and a Russian effort to tip the 2016 election.

But now that Mueller’s team has all but concluded its interviews with

current and former Trump officials, and expressed interest in speaking with the president himself, the focus seems to be on the post-inauguration White House. That includes the firing of FBI Director James Comey and discussions preceding the ouster of White House National Security Adviser Michael Flynn.

The timing and circumstances of a Trump interview are still being ironed out. But soon it will probably be the president himself who will have to explain to Mueller how his actions don’t add up to obstruction of justice. And that conversation will be dominated by questions tied to whether he took steps to thwart an FBI investigation.

Asked if he thinks Mueller will be fair, Trump replied: “We’re going to find out.” He then reiterated that there is “no collusion.”

In a potential signal of his defense, Trump suggested that he didn’t obstruct — he simply fought back against a false accusation.

So far, witness interviews and the special counsel’s document requests make clear Mueller has a keen interest in Comey’s May 9 firing and the contents of Comey’s private conversations with the president, as well as the ouster months earlier of Flynn.

Sports doc sentenced up to 175 years

AP — The former sports doctor who admitted molesting some of the nation’s top gymnasts for years under the guise of medical treatment was sentenced Wednesday to 40 to 175 years in prison by a judge who proudly told him, “I just signed your death warrant.”

The sentence capped a remarkable seven-day hearing in which more than 150 women and girls offered statements about being abused by Larry Nassar, a physician who was renowned for treating athletes at the sport’s highest levels. Many confronted him face to face in the Michigan courtroom.

“It is my honor and privilege to sentence you. You do not deserve to walk outside a prison ever again. You have done nothing to control those urges and anywhere you walk, destruction will occur to those most vulnerable,” Judge Rosemarie Aquilina said.

Nassar’s actions were “precise, calculated, manipulative, devious, despicable,” she said.

When the hearing ended, the courtroom broke into applause. Victims and prosecutors embraced at the conclusion of the grueling 16-month case.

But the anguish of the past week will have little, if any, practical effect on Nassar’s fate. Before serving the Michigan sentence, the 54-year-old must first serve a 60-year federal sentence for child pornography crimes. With credit for good behavior, he could complete that sentence in about 55 years. By then, he would be more than 100 years old if still alive.

He is also scheduled to be sen-



AP PHOTO

Larry Nassar, a former doctor for top US gymnasts, faced over 150 female accusers.

tenced next week on more assault convictions in Eaton County, Michigan.

A prosecutor called Nassar “possibly the most prolific serial child sex abuser in history” and said competitive gymnastics provided the “perfect place” for his crimes because victims saw him as a “god.” Prosecutor Angela Povilaitis also said Nassar “perfected a built-in excuse and defense” as a doctor, even though he was “performing hocus-pocus medicine.”

“It takes some kind of sick perversion to not only assault a child but to do so with her parent in the room, to do so while a lineup of eager young gymnasts waited,” Povilaitis said.

She urged people to believe young victims of sexual abuse no matter who they accuse and praised journalists, including those at the Indianapolis Star. The newspaper’s 2016 investigation of how the sport’s governing body handled sexual abuse allegations against coaches prompted a former gymnast to alert the paper to Nassar.

Although Nassar’s work with gymnasts received the most attention, the allegations against him spanned more than a dozen sports over 25 years.

At one point, Nassar turned to the courtroom gallery to make a brief statement, saying that the victims’ accounts had “shaken me to my core.”

Center of Catholic Faith plans project to create a network for scholars

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various fields: STEM, the arts, religion, international affairs and public policy, to name a few. In this case, it will fund numerous, ambitious initiatives led by Weaver and the Center of Catholic Faith and Culture.

According to Weaver, “The grant will be used to accomplish a number of goals: to develop a network of scholars and policy leaders to research religions and develop practices, strategies and methods for implementation in Catholic higher education.”

Additionally, Weaver said, “The grant money will support faculty work [nationally] on [issues like] migration, the environment, racism ... especially with a focus on interfaith dialogue.”

“Catholicism & the Common Good,” the name of the project, intends to shine light on the difficulty of translating religious traditions across cultures and formulate strategies through which such an effort may be undertaken.

It will also address a plethora of other social issues that will be tackled specifically at Duquesne, like trauma, community organi-

zation operations and racial inequality. If the spectrum of these projects seems broad, that’s because it is meant to be.

“Catholicism & the Common Good” is a long-term series of projects meant to span several years. A network of organizations and academics from around the country will contribute, with the theme of Catholic innovation and activism at its core.

Weaver recognizes the increasingly widespread disinterest in religion throughout society. Religion could be viewed as either too stagnant or too ideological on social, economic and political issues.

Weaver said that these projects, however, are, “predicated on the idea that Catholicism has a lot to offer in resources to combat problems,” and part of the efforts of the Center of Catholic Faith and Culture are to make these resources “accessible to different audiences and to the Public.”

The project’s website offers a chance to donate a monetary gift to help “fulfill our mission,” the site said.

To learn more about the project, visit <https://www.duquesnecomongood.org>.

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“Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.”

LEO TOLSTOY

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

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Corrections/clarifications

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

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OPINIONS

Women's March on Washington: Saturdays are for the boys polls

SHIVANI GOSAI

opinions editor

Last year, I was not able to attend the first Women's March — the groundbreaking event that sparked an international movement — so I made it a point to attend this year.

When I arrived in D.C. the morning of the March, the sun was shining high and the air was warm with positivity.

The streets were brimming with the color pink. People with signs and posters filled the streets leading up to the White House. There, more than 10,000 protesters gathered.

In front of the White House, we were packed like sardines and there was hardly room to move. Some people had climbed the statues in front of the lawn and proudly held up their signs. Although there were fewer people than last year, there was no way Trump would have been able to ignore this crowd.

The signs people had created were absolutely incredible. They ranged from hilarious Trump puns to inspirational feminist quotes. Two of the best ones I saw said “Kamala 2020” and “I've been personally victimized by Kellyanne Conway.” Even some dogs could be seen toting signs along with their owners.

A few pro-life supporters had set up in front of the White House with megaphones. Their rhetoric was not welcomed, but no fights or arguments broke out. Instead, protesters held their signs of peace in front of them and chanted, “My body, my choice,” to drown out their speeches.

Protest, a term with a more negative connotation, became the complete opposite of what you would traditionally expect. Women were not screaming and burning bras, and they were not destroying cars or government property.

The atmosphere wasn't filled with anger and frustration, but rather hope and optimism. Strangers danced and laughed together. They sang along to “You're So Vain” by Carly Simon and “Run the World” by Beyoncé. Women held hands and chanted.

It was surreal.

There was no negativity. Just strangers uplifting others.

It was here when I realized how strong all of these strangers are and how much of an impact they make together. The same people who feel abused by our government are standing here resolute and proud, to show that we



SHIVANI GOSAI/OPINIONS EDITOR

Less people attended the march in D.C. than last year. However, the number of people attending sister marches all over the country grew significantly. Los Angeles was the largest with an estimated 500,000 people.

are not going to be silenced. It was a prominent message that even though they feel demoralized, they will not let it affect them.

Everyone was here for the same purpose, to show solidarity and support for what they believe in. People were there to advocate for varying goals such as healthcare reform, immigration reform, reproductive rights, LGBT rights, environmental protection, racial equality and freedom of religion. The main goal for this year's march was to encourage women (and everyone else) to vote. A major theme was women running for office and combating sexual harassment and unequal treatment in the workplace.

I was so impressed and emotional that I had to take a few minutes to just spectate.

The March was more than I had hoped for. It was bursting with passion and genuine happiness. Not only did I feel empowered while participating, but it was also a ton of fun.

One man, who looked incredibly alike to Mike Pence, dubbed himself as “Mike Hot-Pence” and marched while wearing a suit with no pants. While as hilarious as the situation was, he was doing it to raise awareness for the organization “She Should Run,” which is a non-

profit that supports women trying to run for office. He was instantly famous among the crowd.

It was incredible to see the diversity of who attended. Not only were women present, but men, children, transgender people, the disabled and army veterans.

The people who attended are all citizens defending the prosperity of our country and working towards brighter future for the generations to come. These citizens are Muslims, Catholics and Jews. They are immigrants. They are gay, straight and queer.

This march was about bringing people together instead of dividing them. It was amazing to see that all the people who had surrounded me were here to show love and acceptance. These strangers had become sisters.

As the March died down, people left their signs at the fence in front of the White House as a symbol of their impactful resistance there to stay.

I am truly grateful to be able to have this experience and be apart of a significant moment in history. To create change we have to commit to it; starting here. This march is the beginning of positive change. It is the beginning of a revolution.



SHIVANI GOSAI/OPINIONS EDITOR

OPINIONS

New York Times gives voice to opposing views

KAILEY LOVE
photo editor

According to the New York Times editorial page, all we need to achieve progress in our country is the “vision, chutzpah and some testosterone” provided to us by the current administration.

In a compiled editorial series, the New York Times once again caught flack from many on the left for publishing a series of letters to the editor from Trump supporters across the country.

In the small paragraph preceding the string of letters, the Times stated that even though their editorial board “has been sharply critical of the Trump presidency,” they don’t believe these pieces are resonating with all readers. So, “in the spirit of open debate,” they published the editorial in hopes that liberal readers would better understand the reasoning of Trump voters and maybe find common ground.

However, as we saw with their “Nazis next door” piece, it did not go as well as they may have hoped.

James Warren of Poynter wrote, “The New York Times is in bed with Donald Trump! Or in the guest house out back,” in response to the letters piece. Jon Allsop of the Columbia Journalism Review called the editorial page “patronizing” and further went on to say that publishing the letters was an

“unnecessary stunt — more likely to remind Americans why they hate each other than to advance mutual understanding.” This isn’t even delving into the thousands of angry Tweets that clogged the Twittersphere upon the publication of the editorial.

Despite my own reservations about how the New York Times has conducted itself in its human interest stories (dubbed “media safaris into Trump country” by Huffington Post reporter Ashley Feinberg in December) as well as my disagreement with the opinions expressed in the letters, I have to say it.

I understand what the New York Times is trying to do, and as a journalist, I agree with their decision.

Upon reading the letters, I came to several conclusions. Many of these letters were very focused on praising Trump’s policies and “victories” in the past year (“real pressure” on North Korea and Iran, the “defeat of ISIS,” the tax bill and immigration policies among them), and all of the letter writers seem perfectly pleased with his presidency.

Several said they’d definitely vote for him again, but there were a few that cited his tweets and overall character as unsettling or a bit unsatisfactory. One of the letters even referred to him as a “crude, rude and clueless dude,” but still said they believe he is effective in his presidency.

One of the letters that particu-

larly struck me came from Ellen Mackler of New Haven, Connecticut. She said, “I thank my dear New York Times for asking to hear from Trump voters. It has been difficult to read the paper this year,” in reference to their “anti-Trump” coverage. She then went on to describe the alienation she felt as an avid New York Times reader and Trump supporter, but closed with “New York Times, I will always love you, despite our disagreement.”

We cannot deny that the media is under attack from those on the right who are trying to discredit them, and that those attacks have been successful. The Trump administration has singled out the press as an enemy of the public on multiple occasions, and a large amount of his base believe the same thing.

We criticize people on the right for turning to conservative outlets such as Fox News, but in reality, that is where they feel their voice is represented. Many of the op-eds or analysis pieces in the New York Times and the Washington Post are often left leaning, because many in the media are often left leaning. And who could blame us when the Republican president is verbally attacking us on a daily basis and labeling us as an enemy?

But also, how can we combat the battle of “fake news” if half of our country views us as a mouthpiece for the left only? How can we show



COURTESY OF MAX WHITTAKER /THE NEW YORK TIMES

Pictured above is Steven Sanabria of Oakdale, California. He wrote to NYT that Trump is “learning, adapting, and getting savvier everyday.”

them the facts if they refuse to believe them because of that?

You may not agree with how the New York Times is going about winning the affection of Trump voters, but I can’t blame them for trying.

For anyone who has chosen to go into journalism, it means putting aside biases and exploring all sides of an issue. First and foremost, we are journalists, and we are a voice for the people. And that doesn’t mean just the people that agree with us, that means everyone. From a senator on the Hill to a farmer in Oklahoma, we represent everyone equally. It is time we remind people of that.

This means allowing someone who voted for Trump to praise his “vision and chutzpah” even if we personally may not see it that way. I decided to pursue journalism because I wanted to tell other’s stories, and give a voice to the voiceless. No matter my own opinion, I am a journalist first. If somebody who voted for Trump wants to tell me what they think of his policies, it is my job as a journalist to listen to them. And I’m proud to do so.

Fighting this war on alternative facts is going to be arduous, but I believe that it’s just going to have to start with the simplest thing we as journalists do: listening.

Racially insensitive editorial from Post-Gazette receives backlash



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

The editorial, that happened to appear on Martin Luther King Day, has been condemned by 28 former employees claiming it to be racist, saying, “This is not the Post-Gazette we knew.”

RACHEL PIERCE
staff columnist

Imagine an editorial so offensive, the editor’s own family, friends and coworkers publicly criticize their work. This editorial was published right here in Pittsburgh.

On Jan. 15, The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Editorial Board published an article titled “Reason as racism.” It opens by explaining that today’s McCarthyism is calling someone a racist. In other words, we are quick to accuse people of racism without

evidence. Additionally, accusers are protected from an accusation themselves. It is argued that “calling the president a racist helps no one.” True, nobody will instantly and personally benefit from calling the president a racist.

The editorial goes on to say, “So what?” if the president referred to Haiti and African nations as “s***hole” countries.

Our standards are weakening; we are, in a sense, brainwashed by the news. We are numbed and losing touch with what is presidential. Journalists cannot reduce their work to the, “So what.” Journalism is to investigate

the questionable and never settle.

The article closes with the conclusion that “We have to stop calling each other names.” Wouldn’t calling other nations a “s***hole” be name calling?

In response, The Incline wrote an extensive piece detailing the ripple effects of the editorial. Two letters to the editor were sent to the Post-Gazette, but neither will be published. One was written by over 150 Post Gazette newsroom employees, and the second one was sent from two dozen previous employees of the Post Gazette. Editor-In-Chief John R. Block decided not to publish the letters, which only infuriated tensions. According to The Incline, the Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh cited the editorial as a “blight on the 231 years of service the Post-Gazette has provided its readers,” including its long fight against racism and for civil rights.

As for the ties to civil rights, the timing of the article adds an additional dimension. Its publication on Martin Luther King Jr. Day was seen as deliberate, although the Post Gazette denies this accusation.

The Post-Gazette made a few mistakes surrounding this editorial. First, the piece was racially insensitive. The editors also seemingly forgot the goal of journalism; to expose the questionable and always investigate the truth. Lastly, the decision to not publish letters to the editor fueled the growing frustration of ignorance.

It is intimidating to critique a highly re-

spected newspaper. As a college journalist, it doesn’t feel like my place. At the same time, it doesn’t take an established journalist to see racism and ignorance. Journalists are simply the voice of the people.

Apart from the obvious ignorance and racism, the Post-Gazette has lost touch of the purpose of journalism. This editorial does not reflect the purpose of American journalism. Within the government, we have the three branches that check the power of one another so one branch does not overpower the others. But who checks government as a whole? Journalists check the power of the government and keep them in line.

Yes, journalists are entitled to their own opinion, whatever that may be. But to say, “So what?” to blatant racism in our government is to lose touch with the essence of journalism. The article encourages readers to look the other way, to disregard the president’s racist comments. To dismiss and ignore criticism is to lose touch with free speech and drive one opinion. The Professional Journalist Code of Ethics says that journalist should expose “questionable behavior,” even if it means within journalism. Journalism is finding the truth, and the truth cannot be found by forcing one view.

The damage is done, as for now the Post-Gazette can only hope that the community moves on from this piece as easily as our nation seems to move on from other “questionable behavior.”

Women's March awakens PGH feminism, calls for unity

OLLIE GRATZINGER
features editor

On an unseasonably warm Sunday morning, the streets of downtown Pittsburgh began to fill with a united and diverse crowd. The City that Always Sleeps had seemingly woken up.

The 2018 Pittsburgh Women's March began at 11 a.m. on Jan. 21 on the steps of the City County Building. Looking out upon a sea of pink hats and picket signs, speakers called for an increased presence of women in public office with a battle cry of "Power to the polls!"

Suzi Neft, who graduated from Duquesne University in 2016 with her master's in corporate communications, served as the public relations director for the March. As rewarding as organizing an event this size is, it was no easy task.

"The most challenging part was that there are some groups that are not in favor of women's rights," Neft said. "There are districts not in favor of the type of things we're interested in pursuing. Making sure everyone can vote was really the main thrust of the event."

Making sure everyone can vote, of course, and also insisting that they have the chance to vote for a woman.

"We need new blood," Neft said. "We need more women in office. There are so few."

One hope was that those who contest women's rights would be moved by the demonstrations of solidarity at the March in Pittsburgh and others around the world. Neft, however, was unsure that they were even watching. Still, she remained adamant that the best way to open the eyes of feminism's opponents is through discussion and, ultimately, partnership.

"People often don't want to [discuss women's rights] in a peaceful way, but I don't want to fight," she said. "I want to be part of a peaceful discussion. Sometimes you don't want to argue — you want to partner."



OLLIE GRATZINGER/FEATURES EDITOR
Many March participants were critical of Donald Trump and his controversial policies, including his stance on the border wall and Dreamers.



OLLIE GRATZINGER/FEATURES EDITOR
Central themes of the March included the stronger presence of women in political office, as well as protection for Dreamers and active resistance.

The idea that cooperation is key — a theme echoed throughout the event — became especially apparent in the discussion of disability and accommodation.

In 2017, a woman protesting Medicaid cuts outside of Ohio Senator Rob Portman's office was pushed out of her wheelchair by a Columbus police officer. That woman was Pittsburgh native Alisa Grishman, who addressed the Women's March crowd in Market Square.

Grishman was nearly moved to tears as she told her story about voting accessibility at the polls — or rather, the lack thereof. Six states, Grishman recalled, do not have standards in place to protect and accommodate disabled voters. That's more than 10 percent of the country, she reminded the crowd.

At her polling station, the ramp leading from the door collapsed shortly after Grishman used it. She'd also been met with ramps too steep for her chair, or voting stations too high for her to reach.

Listeners were urged to "report it," if they should happen to come across anything at polling stations — or anywhere else — that violates the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Act prohibits discrimination against disabled individuals and requires public accommodations to be made.

"How can you guarantee that you won't be disabled, come [Election Day]?" Grishman asked the crowd, and a poignant silence followed. She maintained that the adjustments allowing disabled individuals to vote in midterm elections this November are a question of human rights that can affect anyone, anywhere.

As an eight-year veteran of poll worker training, Neft said that there's no excuse for polling stations to lack the proper accommodations for disabled voters such as Grishman.

"Take those voting machines out of the stands and put them in people's lap[s] so they can vote," she said. "As a poll worker trainer, I have access to those keys. I teach every last poll worker how to use an audio ballot. [Accommodation] can happen, and it can happen easily."

Ray Linsenmayer, a Duquesne graduate and Democratic candidate in the running to become the US Representative for Pennsylvania's 12th District, stressed that "all the diverse parts of society" contribute to a collective strength.

"I think that it's important that people recognize that they are not alone in what they want," Linsenmayer said, speaking on the topic of the March's significance. "I think that there's so much divisive rhetoric, and people can feel like they're by themselves. But when they come to events like this and see people being friendly with each other and carrying signs, they feel like they're part of a movement."

For as "inspiring and heartwarming" as the March was, Linsenmayer found it upsetting that it was still, unfortunately, a necessity.

"It is still astounding to me that in 2018, we are still out there fighting for women's rights," he said. "I have a two-and-a-half year old daughter. If we're still fighting for women's rights when she's older, when she comes of age, I'll feel like we failed, somehow."

Linsenmayer believed strongly in the themes of the March, and he called for an increased presence of female voices in positions of power, both in political office and in the world beyond.

"I just think that the more different views you have, the better. It helps everyone challenge their underlying assumptions, and it helps people challenge the way they think about things," he said. "Even in the business realm, when companies are smart enough to incorporate more diverse voices into the board, the company becomes stronger."

The march's themes of political involvement were accompanied by a hunger for change and a thirst for justice.

Mer Boone, freshman occupational therapy major at Duquesne, has attended marches in the past, but Sunday's was her first that addressed the topics of feminism and women in politics.

"I've seen a lot of injustice around me, and I know that even more exists," she said. "I want to be a part of letting society know that this is not okay, and

that there has to be reform. Feminism is important, but it has to be intersectional. If it doesn't include marginalized people, it doesn't mean enough."

As united as the crowd was, several signs towering high above heads were critical of certain motifs and symbols of the modern feminist movement, concerned that such intersectionality was far too scarce.



OLLIE GRATZINGER/FEATURES EDITOR
The inclusivity of the pussyhat has come under question, largely by marginalized communities.

The Pussyhat Project, for example, was a contentious inclusion. Launched on Nov. 23, 2016, as not only a response to the Access Hollywood recording of Donald Trump's derogatory "Grab 'em by the pussy," remark, but also as a means of unifying feminists nationwide, the project has come under fire because of the widespread worry that pussyhats are too direct a representation of vaginal anatomy, and they therefore fail to include transgender women or other women who lack certain reproductive organs.

The Pussyhat Project's website responded to similar critiques with a statement posted on Jan 14, 2018.

"Some feel that the pink color of the hat excludes people of color from the project. Some feel that the hat is a literal symbol of female anatomy, promoting Trans-Exclusionary Radical

Men’s basketball team falls in OT to Richmond

DAVID BORNE
staff writer

With just under 14 minutes to play in Duquesne and Richmond’s Jan. 24 matchup, the Dukes found themselves in a position that they haven’t been in all season. The Dukes were down, significantly, in the second half of a game at the Palumbo Center.

Things went from bad to worse when a Duquesne turnover at mid-court resulted in a Richmond 2-on-1 fast break that resulted in an emphatic Grant Golden put-back jam, which increased the Spiders’ lead to 16.

Golden apparently wasn’t satisfied with the highlight reel dunk, and for whatever reason, decided to shove Duquesne freshman Eric Williams Jr. following the play, resulting in a technical foul. Williams Jr. remained calm after the play, but the shove sent the Duquesne crowd into a frenzy.

In a game where the Dukes came out of the gate a bit sluggish, Duquesne built off of the play and the crowd’s reaction. It was pretty evident that the play pumped up Keith Dambrot’s squad, and even

junior guard Tarin Smith admitted that Golden’s shove inspired the entire team.

“Think it just kind of woke us up a little bit. We were lacking energy a little bit, so I think when that happened it woke the crowd up, woke the whole arena up, and woke us up as a team offensively and defensively,” Smith said.

“I don’t know what the score was at the time, but I think we definitely went on a run after that. It shouldn’t take a play like that to wake us up, we have to be better than that, but I definitely think it jump-started us up a little bit,” he added.

Duquesne sent Mike Lewis II to the line to take the two awarded free throws, and the sophomore knocked both down. The Dukes managed to get a stop on the following Richmond possession, and a Williams Jr. bucket cut Duquesne’s deficit to 12.

Eric Williams Jr. wasn’t done yet. The freshman followed up with the Red & Blue’s next seven points, and Duquesne’s comeback effort was in full force. Finally, with some scoring help from Tarin Smith and Chas Brown, a Williams Jr. layup knotted the score at 52-

52 with 7:44 on the clock.

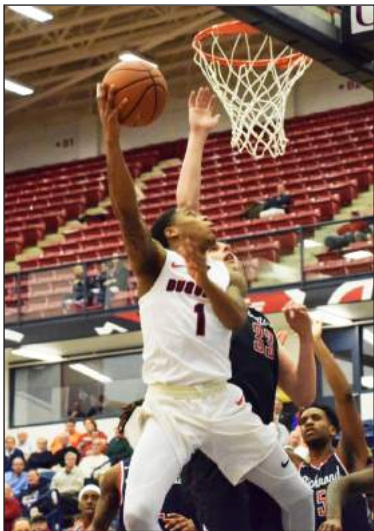
The teams went back and forth for the next handful of minutes, with a career-scoring performance from Richmond sophomore Nick Sherod keeping the Spiders in the game. The comeback was capitalized with a Mike Lewis II three-pointer with just over 30 seconds left to play that put the Dukes up 66-65 with just 32 seconds on the clock, but the Spiders were not done yet.

With the game on the line, Richmond decided to not put the ball in the hot hands of Sherod, but instead for the man of the hour, Grant Golden.

Battling a thundering cloud of boo’s from the Duquesne supporters, Golden knocked down a shot from inside the paint, drawing a foul in the process. His free throw put Richmond back up by two, and Duquesne had 15 seconds to tie the game.

The play drawn up was for Tarin Smith, and a layup from the junior knotted the score at 68-68 sending the Dukes to a third-consecutive overtime game at the A.J. Palumbo Center.

Unfortunately for Duquesne, the



EDWARD MAJOR II / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Mike Lewis II attempts a layup on Jan. 24 versus Richmond. Lewis II scored 13 points in a 77-73 Duquesne loss.

earlier momentum seemed to run out, and a tired Duquesne team struggled in the additional period. The Spiders held Duquesne scoreless for the final 2:39 of overtime, and behind five more points from

see OT LOSS — page 11

Swim team concludes dual meet slate

MATT DOUGHERTY
staff writer

On Jan. 19, the Duquesne swimming & diving team traveled to Akron, Ohio, for its last dual meet and suffered its first loss of the season at Oliver J. Ocasek Natatorium by a score of 197-101. This marks the close of a very successful 8-1 dual meet record for the Dukes, while the Zips improved to 5-1 on their season.

The lone first-place individual finish for the Dukes was posted by junior Abigail Stauffer in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:04.48 as she beat out the Zips’ Anne Lochridge, who finished with a time of 1:05.61.

Senior Lexi Santer chipped in for two of the Dukes’ seven second-place finishes in the 400-yard IM along with the 100-yard freestyle with times of 4:34.55 and :52.99, respectively.

Adding to Duquesne’s list of top-two finishes was sophomore Summer Svitavasky in the 1000-

yard freestyle (10:30.46), junior Kristen McKnight, who posted a time of :58.81 in the 100-yard butterfly, sophomore Carson Gross, who touched in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:54.65, and senior Michelle Heim, who captured second place in her last



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
A Duquesne swimmer competes versus Youngstown State on Nov. 4 at Towers Pool. Duquesne won, 168-125.

dual meet with a speedy :23.95 in the 50-yard freestyle.

Duquesne head coach Dave Sheets explained in a press release that “our main goal today was to get up and race and focus on what we were able to control. The ladies did a great job of competing throughout the meet and swimming with blinders on.”

In the relay portion of the meet, the 200-yard freestyle relay team consisting of McKnight, senior Kayla Owens, Gross and Heim were able to capture a second-place finish with a time of 1:36.76, just behind the first place Zips time of 1:35.02.

On the diving board for the Dukes, freshman diver Peyton Joiner was able to secure a second-place finish in the 3-meter dive with a score of 200.10, while fellow freshman Colleen Rodrigues competed in the 1-meter dive and secured a third-place podium appearance with a score of 215.70. Paige Aley, another freshman diver, also competed in

the 1- and 3-meter dives, posting scores of 163.10 and 146.10, respectively.

Head diving coach Charlie Hauser cited the meet in a release as “an excellent day on the boards” in which “all three divers debuted some new dives and did them well.” With improvement in consistency and confidence, the ladies hope to perform their best yet as “all of this is just where we want to be as we approach Conferences,” Hauser said.

The 2018 Atlantic 10 Championship will be hosted in Geneva, Ohio, from Feb. 14-17.

The addition of the diving team for the 2017-18 season has aided the Dukes in securing more points in their meets, which will help the team’s efforts as they compete in upcoming A-10 Championships early next month.

The team will return to action in its upcoming Western PA Invite at Trees Pool on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at its next meet on Jan. 26-27.

Duquesne Briefs

— On Jan. 24, both Duquesne basketball programs competed in A-10 matchups: the men fell in overtime at home to Richmond, 77-73, and the women bested Saint Joseph’s in Philadelphia, 61-42.

— Following the Richmond game, Keith Dambrot’s team (14-7, 5-3) prepares to face No. 24 Rhode Island (16-3, 8-0) on Jan. 27 at 12 p.m. in Kingston, Rhode Island. In Duquesne’s last meeting with the Rams, a Jim Ferry-coached squad fell 90-69 on Jan. 21, 2017, at A.J. Palumbo Center.

— After the Duquesne women’s team beat Saint Joseph’s for the first time ever on the Hawks’ home floor on Jan. 24, the Dukes (17-3, 7-0) are off to their best-ever start in the Atlantic 10. In the win, Julijana Vojinovic scored 16 points and pulled down 10 rebounds, and 6-foot-3 junior Kadri-Ann Lass recorded four blocks to become the program’s all-time block leader. Up next, Duquesne will host St. Bonaventure (7-13, 2-5) on Jan. 28 at 4 p.m. at A.J. Palumbo Center.

— On Jan. 24, the Northeast Conference announced that Duquesne freshman bowler Olivia Farwell is both the NEC Bowler of the Week and NEC Rookie of the Week. Farwell, the first athlete to receive both honors in the same week this season, posted the highest overall frame average of all NEC competitors at the 28-team Kutztown Invitational, which included 17 ranked teams in the field.

— The weekend’s competition was highlighted by Farwell’s perfect game versus Medaille. The freshman’s 300 game was the first-ever perfect game in Duquesne bowling history, which began competition last season

This Week in Sports History

— On Jan. 25, 1924, the first Winter Olympic games began in Chamonix, France.

— On Jan. 30, 1980, the Pittsburgh Penguins wore black and gold for the first time, hoping to gain fan support by aligning their colors with those of the Steelers and Pirates. The Boston Bruins protested the move to the NHL, claiming the black and gold had always been exclusively associated with the Bruins, but the Penguins prevailed, thanks to the Pittsburgh Pirates hockey club of the late 1920’s, which sported black and gold then.

A-10 MBB Standings — Top 10

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	No. 24 URI	8-0	16-3	W11	Jan. 27 vs. Duquesne
2.	Davidson	5-2	10-8	L1	Jan. 28 vs. Richmond
3.	Richmond	5-3	7-13	W4	Jan. 28 at Davidson
4.	VCU	5-3	13-8	W2	Jan. 27 at George Mason
5.	Duquesne	5-3	14-7	L1	Jan. 27 at Rhode Island
6.	Saint Joseph’s	4-4	9-10	L1	Jan. 27 at Penn
7.	Dayton	4-4	10-10	W1	Jan. 27 at Saint Louis
8.	George Mason	3-4	9-11	L2	Jan. 27 vs. VCU
9.	St. Bonaventure	3-4	13-6	W1	Jan. 28 vs. George Wash.
10.	La Salle	3-5	9-12	W1	Jan. 31 at Davidson

A-10 WBB Standings — Top 10

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Dayton	8-0	15-4	W9	Jan. 27 at Davidson
2.	Duquesne	7-0	17-3	W7	Jan. 28 vs. St. Bonaventure
3.	Fordham	6-1	15-5	W1	Jan. 25 vs. St. Bonaventure
4.	George Mason	5-2	16-5	W1	Jan. 28 vs. Fordham
5.	Saint Louis	4-3	10-10	L1	Jan. 27 at George Wash.
6.	Saint Joseph’s	4-3	9-10	L2	Jan. 28 at La Salle
7.	George Wash.	4-3	9-10	W1	Jan. 27 vs. Saint Louis
8.	Davidson	4-4	9-12	W2	Jan. 27 vs. Dayton
9.	St. Bonaventure	2-5	7-13	L1	Jan. 25 at Fordham
10.	Richmond	2-6	7-14	L5	Jan. 28 at VCU

Football program honored with Sportsmanship Award

ANDREW WHITE
staff writer

On Jan. 16, the Northeast Conference announced that the Duquesne Dukes football team won the 2017 NEC Sportsmanship Team Award. It marked the fourth time the Dukes have won the award since 2011 and the first time winning the award



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
NEC Offensive Player of the Year Tommy Stuart (left) attempts a pass against CCSU on Nov. 11.

since 2014.

The Northeast Conference created the Sportsmanship Awards in 2008, the same year the Dukes joined the NEC as a football-only member. According to the NEC website, "The awards are designed to acknowledge the team in each conference sport that, in the opinion of its peers, most closely demonstrates good sportsmanship based on the NEC Principles of Sportsmanship and Standards of Conduct."

Voting is conducted at the conclusion of each season by each team and head coach, who rank teams within the conference based on a set of criteria.

"When I think of the traits common to Northeast Conference student-athletes, fair play and winning with integrity always come to mind first," NEC Commissioner Noreen Morris said in a recent press release.

"I couldn't be prouder of all the NEC student-athletes and coaches who continue to prioritize these values year after year and congratulate those teams that have been recognized by their peers with this prestigious honor."

The Dukes were joined in the fall awards class by Central Connecticut State and Sacred Heart. The Blue Devils led the league in awards as they brought home

the Sportsmanship Team Award for men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball and women's cross country. The Pioneers brought home the award for men's cross country.

Prior to 2014, the last time the Dukes won the award, they had also taken home the honor in 2011 and 2012.

The award was just the latest of accolades that the Dukes brought home in the 2017 season. The Dukes had a league-high 12 players on All-NEC teams, including eight on the first team. Among those was graduate transfer quarterback Tommy Stuart, who was also named the 2017 NEC Offensive Player of the Year.

Senior Ben Huss has also racked up numerous awards, including being named to the Football Championship Subdivision All-American Team, as well as the HERO Sports All-American Team and the Associated Press' FCS All-American squad.

Huss played this past Saturday in the NFLPA Collegiate Bowl at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, as well.

The Dukes, who started off the year hot, dropped their last two games of the season, including a heartbreaking 28-27 loss to Central Connecticut State on Nov. 11 which eliminated them from postseason contention. They finished the season 7-4



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

From left to right, Duquesne football captains Carter Henderson, Andy Struttman, Nathan Stone and Ben Huss approach midfield prior to a home game at Arthur J. Rooney Athletic Field. Each player pictured is scheduled to graduate this spring.

with a 4-2 record in NEC play.

The Dukes are scheduled to open the 2018 campaign against UMass on Aug. 25 at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts.

NFL prospect Huss leaves lasting legacy on program

JACOB HEBDA
staff writer

Over the past few seasons, the Duquesne football team has had one of the best offenses in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS). While star players A.J. Hines and Nehari Crawford often steal the show, the team's success could not have been possible without the contributions of a strong offensive line, led by senior Ben Huss.

Huss, a senior from the Pittsburgh suburb of Upper St. Clair, has been a star offensive lineman for the Dukes during the past four years. After a college career that was defined by lofty achievements, Huss is looking to take his talents to the National Football League.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Coach Jerry Schmitt, pictured during a Nov. 11 contest versus Central Connecticut State, led the Dukes to a 7-4 record during Huss' final season.

As part of his training for the NFL, Huss played in the NFL Players Association Collegiate Bowl in Pasadena, California, on Jan. 20. The annual game gives draft-eligible seniors the opportunity to prepare for their potential NFL careers on a national stage.

Huss found the game to be "a great experience." He said that it made him "better as a player and a person."

Huss represented the National team, which was led by Super Bowl-winning coach Mike Martz. Representing Duquesne well, he helped propel the National team to a 23-0 victory over their opposition, the American team.

The game was perhaps a high point in what Huss described as a lifelong passion for football.

"I started playing football at five," he said detailed. "I realized I could play in college when I was little."

Head Coach Jerry Schmitt, who has led the Dukes for the past 13 seasons, certainly recognizes the passion Huss has for football. Schmitt spoke extremely highly of the lineman, citing him as a key part of the Duquesne football program.

"He was a four-year starter, three-time All-American, a stalwart on the offensive line," Schmitt said. He added that Huss is "very intelligent" and "helped manage players, including younger ones."

It's not just Huss' coach who recognizes his talent. Football pundits have continually regarded Huss as one of the best offensive linemen in the FCS. He was chosen as a member of the 2017 STATS FCS All-America Third Team and has been selected to the All-Northeast Conference First Team three times.

After plenty of success in college, Huss is prepared to take on the challenge of play-

ing professionally should he be given the opportunity.

When asked what sets him apart from other players, Huss explained that "It's not my height, not my weight, but my athletic ability. God gifted me with athleticism."

Coach Schmitt also praised the athletic abilities of the lineman. According to Schmitt, Huss has plenty of physical qualities that make him capable of playing in the NFL.

"For a guy of his size, he has an extraordinary amount of athleticism," Schmitt explained. "He's a scratch golfer, an all-around athlete."

However, Huss made clear that attention to detail is also essential. He repeatedly emphasized the importance of "paying attention to everything."

He also described how his time at

Duquesne has improved him as a person.

"It's the little things," Huss explained. "Showing up to class, showing up a few minutes early to practice, taking good notes ... It's made me better as a human."

Schmitt discussed how it feels to have watch one of his players mature as a player and a person saying, "He's accomplished what we try to do here ... He's a good role model."

As someone with plenty of experience both on the field and in the classroom, Huss had some advice for younger student-athletes.

"Manage your time well," he said. "There's a lot of stuff going ... use your time well."

Huss' wise words could apply to more than just student-athletes.



COURTESY OF BEN HUSS

Huss (No. 66, right center) celebrates a 23-0 victory at the NFLPA Collegiate Bowl with teammates on Jan. 20 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. The annual game showcases draft-eligible seniors in an All-Star game-like format.

Nintendo Labo resurrects old-fashioned play

ZACH LANDAU
editor-in-chief

Nintendo has proposed some weird stuff before. Once upon a time, for example, the company announced a sensor that would measure gamers' heartbeats and their level of relaxation (this was never released). More recently, the Nintendo 3DS was shipped with cards that the system would read and produce 3D, augmented-reality photos.

And who could forget the never-seen knitting machine that would have linked with your Nintendo Entertainment System?

Strange, to be sure, but Nintendo's latest concoction of the absurd has gotten yours truly very excited — more excited for any gaming peripheral in a long time.

Nintendo Labo, packs of cardboard punch outs that can be folded into toys, has delighted me to my core. The toys (or "Toy-Cons," as Nintendo is calling these creations) incorporate the Nintendo Switch and all the gadgets and gizmos embedded in the console. For example, the right controller can be slotted into the



COURTESY OF NINTENDO
Nintendo is bringing back playing with toys with its Nintendo Labo project. The current kits for preorder are the Variety Kit at \$69.99 and the Robot Kit at \$79.99.

back of a mini piano and, using an infrared (IR) sensor, can read strips of reflective tape on the keys to make the console play corresponding notes.

If this all sounds bizarre, that's because it is. And that is why I am so in love with this thing.

Everything about Nintendo Labo — from its premise, to its ease-of-use, to its aesthetics — excites me to no end. The idea of making smart toys out of cardboard and video game consoles is genius, simply put. The price point is also great, just being \$10 or \$20 more than the normal amount for most games.

Not only that, the creative aspect is fantastic as well. The comparison to LEGO sets has been made across the internet, and that feels incredibly apt. The construction of each Toy-Con is its own 2-6 hour endeavor, depending on the project. But the making of these things is only half the joy in them; playing with toys is fun as well, right?

But two things about the conception of Nintendo Labo really speak to me, the first being its educational value. "Discover" is part of the marketing for this project, and the ability to watch how the mechanisms in the

Switch work is a major selling point. I cannot wait to hear, 20 years from now, about a kid who was inspired to go into computer science or engineering because their parents or whoever bought them a Nintendo Labo kit.

Second, I am personally fascinated by the technology in the Switch and how Nintendo is taking that tech to its limits. Whenever I first got my Switch, I held the controllers for two hours straight, feeling them and tossing them over and over again in my hands. They are fascinating little devices, being three-and-a-half inch long powerhouses of technology. Packed with gyroscopes, IR sensors, HD rumble and other gadgets and gizmos, the Switch is brimming with opportunities for developers to explore for new ways to play.

Nintendo Labo is the ultimate expression of that curiosity I first felt when I got my console. Even though I know the kits are marketed for kids, I might pick up my own when Labo releases on April 20. I just don't care; I am thoroughly impressed and delighted that there will exist a product that checks every box for me. Hopefully, most people will feel the same.

Phantom Thread weaves exquisite cinematography

SALENA MORAN &
EVAN PENROD
staff writers

From the mind behind *Boogie Nights* and *Punch-Drunk Love* comes Paul Thomas Anderson's all-around exquisite period piece, *Phantom Thread*.

Phantom Thread revolves around designer and bachelor Reynolds Woodcock (Daniel Day-Lewis) who attracts a variety of women that serve as both short-term companions — and inspirations. His very structured and scheduled life takes a turn upon meeting the headstrong beauty Alma (Vicky Krieps) who soon becomes a fixture in his life. Throughout their time together, Alma and Reynolds' toxic give-and-take relationship alters the fabric of a traditional love story.

In terms of plot structure, the film possesses no major conflict and instead shows the relationship between the characters over time in more of a continuous experience. While prolonged movies like *Manchester by the Sea* tend to drag, this movie presents new conflicts and drama as the characters' relationship progresses. Our sympathy seemed to alternate between Alma and Reynolds, making both characters paradoxically liked and loathed simultaneously. These conflicting feelings reveal something truthful about the nature of romantic relationships with the satisfaction of being wanted/needed and the grief of rejection.

This film also features brilliant camera work that beautifully paints scenes according to the mood. The camera enhances the atmosphere and scenery of this piece, pre-



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Phantom Thread, though Oscar-nominated, only grossed \$3.8 million since its full release on Jan. 19.

sending fluid and smooth scenes when the seamstresses sew, for example, and contrasting it with choppy and rough scenes during heightened drama. The camera angles also show the background and characters from a more interesting perspective, and the addition of dim lighting cast haunting shadows on the characters' faces.

Since this film revolves around the fashion industry, it would be an injustice not to comment on the excellent costume work of this piece. When words fail, the imagery of the fabric speaks, expressing a kind of passion and uniqueness. During fashion show scenes, each woman dresses in vastly different ways that suit her body type. This provides a visual representation of the costume designer's va-

riety of skills and abilities. *Phantom Thread* has been nominated for an Oscar in Costume Design, and rightfully so.

Another fantastic, well-executed component of this film shines through in the musical score, whether it be basic piano pieces or swelling orchestral movements with violin solos. Every musical selection sounds to fit the mood and create another layer of enjoyment. Great music within a film can develop a heightened sense of believability and immersion into the experience. This is a film where the craftsmanship surpasses the craft itself.

Possibly the only criticism to be had is in the artistic execution of this movie. If you are

WEEK'S EVENTS

Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic
Jan. 28 7:30 p.m.

Join the Carnegie Mellon University Philharmonic at the Carnegie Music Hall directed by Andrés Cárdenes and guest conductor Ian Hobson. The repertoire for the night includes pieces from Beethoven and Rachmaninoff.

The Music of Bob Dylan
Jan. 25 - Jan. 28

Mr. Smalls Theatre hosts the world premiere of Steve Hackman's "The Times They Are A-Changin'." Join Hackman and the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh in Hackman's rendition world premiere of Bob Dylan's works.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Maze Runner: The Death Cure
Jan. 26

In the finale to the *Maze Runner* saga, Thomas and escaped Gladers go on their final mission. Everyone who survives will finally get the answers to the questions they have been asking since being put in the maze.

Culture II
Jan. 26

Described by Offset as having "the original Migos sound," *Culture II* is setup to be light, fun and have a hint of funk. The trio comprised of Quavo, Offset and Takeoff release their third studio album hoping to please their growing fanbase.

MICRO REVIEW

"Ignore Me"

Betty Who's latest single has simplistic instrumentation and a obvious bass line that gives focus to her wispy voice and lyricism. The song is very straightforward, and it shows a side of pop music not truly explored since the early 2000s.

— Nicolas Jozefczyk

Electric Dreams sparks reflection on humanity

OLLIE GRATZINGER
features editor

Well, it turns out Amazon Prime is good for more than ordering those pricey textbooks.

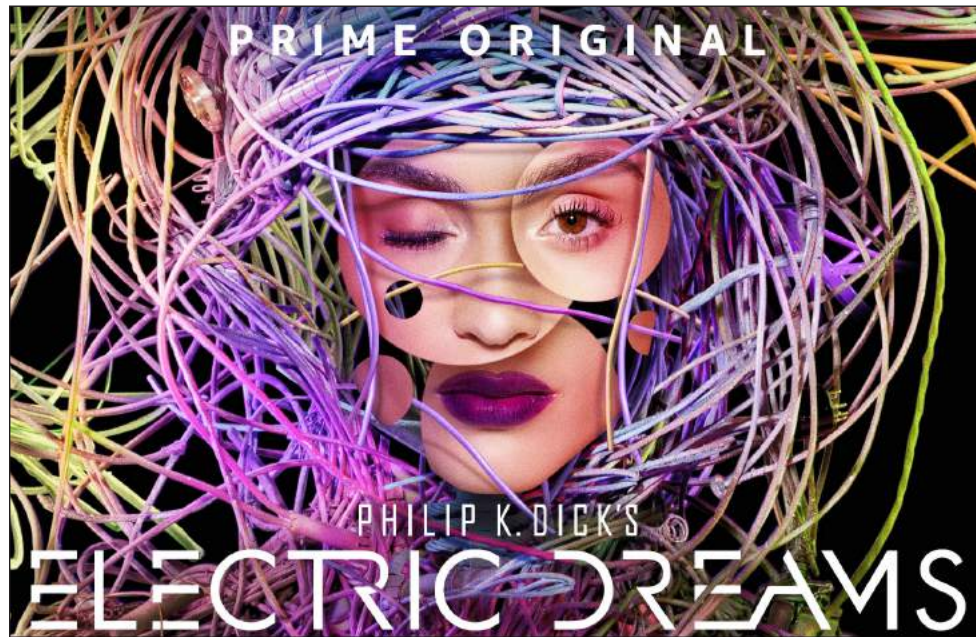
Joining the line-up of successful, thought-provoking Amazon Prime Original shows comes *Philip K. Dick's Electric Dreams*, a science fiction anthology series based on the acclaimed author's short stories. The episodes are all stand-alone installments, each chapter boasting new, innovative characters and plotlines straight out of the mind of Dick himself.

Before starting off, I was apprehensive. With only 50 minutes to develop compelling charisma and eloquent, articulate narratives, I had my doubts that *Electric Dreams* could display the same poignancy and pathos as its long-form counterpart, *The Man in the High Castle*, Amazon Studio's premiere Dick adaptation. Because *High Castle* has long since won my heart, though, I figured I'd keep an open mind.

Fortunately, Amazon delivered once again.

With an all-star cast of household names like Janelle Monáe, Steve Buscemi and Timothy Spall, *Electric Dreams* was already off to a promising start. What really made the series a cinematic power-hitter, though, was the way that episodes took the ideas existing at the core of Dick's stories and expanded them, taking the viewer out of the Cold War and changing pace, commenting instead on contemporary society and current politics.

Episode One, "Real Life," is based upon Dick's 1954 Exhibit Piece, which follows the dystopian life of a self-delighted 20th-century historian, George Miller. In the original, George wakes up one day to find himself transported back in time



Electric Dreams originally premiered in the UK on Sept. 17, 2017, but it was not until Jan. 12, 2018 that it was brought to the U.S. via Amazon Video. The first season runs 10 episodes long.

to an existence he doesn't recognize, but the longer he stays there, the more eerily familiar it becomes.

In *Electric Dreams*, George's counterpart is Sarah (Anna Paquin), a futuristic super-cop struggling with survivor's guilt after witnessing the murder of her colleagues in a failed police operation. Her wife, Katie (Rachelle Lefevre), offers her a virtual holiday to escape the PTSD-like effects of the whole ordeal, and in this so-called vacation, she wakes up as the billionaire CEO George (Terrance Howard).

With so much of science fiction dominated by the narratives of straight white men, Sarah

and Katie were a welcomed change — and a great way to start the series. Take note, sci-fi writers: If aliens can exist in your stories, gay people can, too.

While some Dick purists might (wrongly) take issue with their favorite male protagonist being adapted into an emotionally damaged lesbian, the fact remains that no matter how vast the differences are between the original short stories and Amazon Studio's *Electric Dreams* vignettes, critical themes remain untouched. Along with paying homage to Dick's characteristic androids and epistemological meditations, the series aims to answer one overarching ques-

tion: What does it mean to be human?

Each episode offers its own provocative supposition: To be human is to feel. To be human is to love. To be human is to destroy. Ultimately, though, the viewer is left with the impression that to be human is to be markedly complex — a leitmotif echoed throughout Dick's work.

For as much as *Electric Dreams* says about the diametric nature of humanity and personhood, it speaks just as loudly on the topic of the political climate in which we find ourselves today. Don't be fooled by the androids and aliens — *Electric Dreams* takes the far away concepts of science fiction and reels them into modernity with depictions of nuclear war, factory pollution, climate change, conformity, bigotry, totalitarianism and the dangers of unchecked power.

For example, the second episode, "Autofac," follows a colony of rebellious settlers seeking autonomy from the self-governing factory that pollutes their air years after nuclear fallout. "Safe and Sound" shows the vices of a society so consumed by security that they scapegoat foreigners and label them as terrorists at the first chance they get. Sound familiar?

The series is steeped in allegories and metaphors, serving not only to entertain, but also to forewarn. It provokes a sense of unease, leading viewers to question whether or not our society could slip down the same rabbit hole. The future we see portrayed, while clearly science fiction, is not necessarily too far removed from a future that could actually happen. With fascism, rapid technological growth and nuclear war as underlying catalysts, it's difficult not to draw hypothetical comparisons, and I believe that the show's creators aimed to do exactly that.

As far as genuine critiques go, my concerns

see *DREAMS* — page 11

Den of Thieves's plot keeps watchers enticed

NICOLE PRIETO
staff writer

Den of Thieves is a power fantasy that blends the trappings of a smart crime-thriller and operatic drama. The film pits convicts against cops in a deadly cat-and-mouse game involving one of the least "caseable" banks in the nation: the Federal Reserve.

Ray Merrimen (Pablo Schreiber) is a released convict determined never to be put behind bars again, who leads one of the most professionally organized group of thieves in the bank-robbery hotbed of Hawthorne, Los Angeles. But when the botched theft of an armored car at a donut shop leaves a body count, the stakes suddenly change. With an unimaginable sum of money on the horizon, and the rest of their lives on the line, Merrimen's group prepares to face off against Los Angeles' best to pull off one last historic heist.

"Big Nick" O'Brien (Gerard Butler) heads the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's efforts in putting together the mystery behind several unsolved crimes. Foul-mouthed, unkempt and unabashed at eating donuts dropped by a dead guard at a crime scene, Nick is the embodiment of the "bad cop" trope. This character is certainly Butler at his most performatively masculine, perhaps trumped only by his role as Leonidas in *300*. Nick leads a similarly-minded ragtag team of officers who skirt the rules of décor and professionalism. His group is the first on the scene to deal with

the latest bizarre heist that leaves some guards and responding officers dead.

Viewers looking for a fun, mindless ride may have to temper their expectations. The film has its fair share of shootouts and tense robbery scenes to satisfy any action fan, but it takes its time with character building — at least, for the handful of the cast afforded adequate attention. At the outset, the latter is perhaps its most glaring and unnecessary weakness. The all-male main cast is big. It is so big, in fact, that audience members should be thankful for the onscreen superimposed text indicating who some of the major characters are. For everyone else, either memorize the IMDb cast list before you go in, or be prepared to list off "Henchman 1" or "Officer 3" in your head through the end.

Aside from major names like Butler, 50 Cent (Levi Enson) or *Straight Outta Compton*'s O'Shea Jackson Jr. (Donnie Wilson), observant *Walking Dead* fans will also find Cooper Andrews. In *TWD*, Andrews plays King Ezekiel's right-hand man, Jerry. For this longtime viewer, Andrews regrettably does not have as obvious a role in Merrimen's crew — much like 90 percent of the cast. The film does a good job of convincing us that everyone has some important role to play; it just skirts around giving us time to absorb who everyone is or what they are doing. The confusion drags the pace of an otherwise engaging film.

One thing this reviewer certainly was not expecting was the thoughtfulness given to the heist details itself. Without spoiling too much, Merrimen's crew puts together an impressive plan that leaves viewers, and Nick, just enough



COURTESY OF STX ENTERTAINMENT

Aided by its star-studded cast, *Den of Thieves* performed above its projected gross range of \$7-\$10 million by grossing \$15.3 million in its first week. The action film placed third in the box office.

in the dark to keep things interesting. Amidst Merrimen's detailed planning, however, he becomes a strange, omniscient presence in Nick's life to the point of being unrealistic. The lack of a strong "chemistry" in their rivalry does not help, though that is hardly a fatal flaw.

One item to appreciate is that, even though Nick is the hero we have to side with, the movie does not indulge in making everything in his life right again as he gets closer to figuring out

Merrimen's plans. Nick is, naturally, a jerk. We bear witness to his marital problems, inappropriate work conduct and racism — and it is difficult to tell whether he is sincere about the latter or putting on an act. While audience members will believe in his soft spot for his daughters, the film karmically treats his mess-ups with realistic severity. A scene with

see *THIEVES* — page 12

Pgh March encourages activism

MARCH — from page 6

Stoner has gotten used to the Bluff's hills in attending classes.

"Pittsburgh is inaccessible because of the hills," he said. "It's not anybody's fault. I'm so used to it ... I'm not going to die angry about it."

He uses a wheelchair because condition affects his muscular system.

"My mother and father were carriers of a gene for muscular atrophy. There was a 1-in-4 chance I would get it, and I won the ... lottery," Stoner said. "[Muscular atrophy] weakens all the muscles in the body progressively throughout life. No one knows the rate for how fast it progresses," he said.

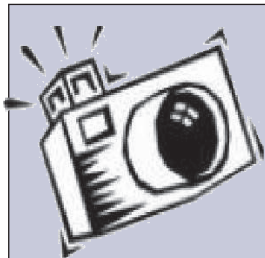
Dobish said that the lift was installed and manufactured by Garaventa USA, a "world-class manufacturer" for specialized lifts and elevators, according to their website.

"Duquesne University maintenance staff installed the electrical power to this lift and also patched and painted the walls afterwards," he said. "The Facilities Management team is always looking to maintain or improve the campus in all ways, including accessibility when the conditions are warranted."

University Public Affairs did not immediately respond by press time to a question about when the lift will be operational.



CARTOON BY JORDAN CALLAHAN



Like taking photos?

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Editor Kailey Love at

lovek@duq.edu to find out how to become a photographer for *The Duke*



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:lexicon, Duquesne's Literary and Arts journal, is looking for an Editor-in-Chief starting in the Fall of 2018. Some responsibilities include editing, budgeting, and managing editorial staff. Layout experience is a plus. Please send a cover letter and resume to friedj@duq.edu.



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No glitz and glam left behind

PHANTOM — from page 9

one that wants to be spoon fed every single detail about a film, then save your money. This film bears the most weight in the impact it leaves on the viewer than any actual message.

For those wanting to experience something aside from a superhero movie or sequels, *Phantom Thread* excels in all aspects of direction, score, cinematography, acting and set/costume design.

see something?

say something!

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MBB faces quick turnaround in No. 24 URI

OT LOSS — from page 8

Sherod, Richmond came out on top by a score of 77-73.

Sherod finished the night with a game-high 28 points, six more than his previous career best.

It was a valiant comeback effort and one that everyone in attendance certainly enjoyed, but the seemingly burned-out Dukes couldn't pull out a win and suffered their first loss at the Palumbo Center since a 78-71 loss to Cornell on Nov. 27.

Mike Lewis II finished the night with 13 points, but shot just 3-17 from the field. Rene Castro-Caneddy had a tough shooting night as well, wrapping up with only two points, shooting 1-11

from the field.

Next up for Duquesne comes the undeniably best team in the Atlantic 10 this season with a trip to Kingston, Rhode Island, to take on the Rhode Island Rams on Jan. 27. Ranked No. 24 in the latest AP Poll, the Rams sit comfortably at the top of the of the Atlantic 10 standings with a perfect 8-0 record.

Shaking off a tough loss like Wednesday night's is a task in and of itself, but Duquesne will need to take advantage of the next few days to get some much-needed rest and clear their minds. If they don't, it will be quite the challenge to pull off an upset; let alone, even keep Saturday's contest close.

YOUR AD
HERE



Series electrocutes doubts

DREAMS — from page 10

are few and far between. I wasn't particularly thrilled about the intimate scenes in the first three installments, just because it felt almost like they interrupted the episodes' otherwise seamless flow.

But aside from that, *Electric Dreams* has breathed new life into Dick's surreal short stories, offering viewers distinctively human characters with relatable wants and conflicts, compelling plotlines, gorgeous camerawork, fitting soundtracks and a political edge right when the entertainment industry needs it most.

If you've got some time before the new season of your favorite show returns from the throes of post-production, give *Electric Dreams* a shot. Whether you like psychological thrillers, romance or pure science fiction at its finest, there's bound to be an episode that captures your imagination.

In search of a ...

COMIC ARTIST

Those interested can contact Opinions Editor Shivani Gosai at shivanig96@gmail.com with a sample of their work by Jan. 31.

Student waits for wheelchair lift

LIFT — from page 3

Stoner has gotten used to the Bluff's hills in attending classes.

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Mediocre story, great action

THIEVES — from page 10

his soon-to-be ex-wife cements him as a protagonist with serious issues, making him more an unlikeable antihero and less like Dwayne Johnson in 2015's *San Andreas*. That is, Nick is not a sympathetic divorcee with a heart of gold; he is a mess who needs to straighten out his priorities.

For all its incredibly brazen hypermasculinity, *Den of Thieves* is a self-aware, melancholic experience that cannot help but trouble viewers about what is really on the line. Lives literally come at a cost in the movie, and we are not really left feeling triumphant once the end credits roll. Perhaps this is for the best. No matter what you think of the middle, the ending carries some interesting surprises that should leave audiences satisfied, even if there is arguably some tone whiplash involved. While maybe not slated for the Oscars, it is a worthy flick to spend an afternoon in a theater for.

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