House education bill may cause big changes for college students

KAILEY LOVE
photo editor

Shortly before Christmas on Capitol Hill, several House Republicans compiled a 542-page bill that would significantly change how Duquesne students, and students nationwide, fund their education.

On Dec. 1, 2017, House Republicans proposed an overhaul of the Higher Education Act of 1965 — a law that determines the entire federal aid system — in an attempt to minimize the role of government in education. As dictated in this act, reauthorization should occur every five years.

This proposal, coined Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform Act (or, the PROSPER Act) is the first significant legislative move toward reauthorization in the past 10 years, having already moved through committee on Dec. 12 and advancing to the House floor for a full vote.

In her opening statements when introducing the bill, Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), chairwoman of the House Education and Workforce Committee, stated, “Lifelong learning is the root of all innovation, which, in this country, has always been the foundation for real prosperity. “No bill is perfect when it begins its course through the legislative process, and we can all agree that no bill is perfect when it reaches the end of the legislative process,” she said. “But we are here today because we cannot allow the status quo to continue.”

The speed in which this bill is advancing through Congress has drawn criticism and concern from Democrats and the American Council on Education (ACE).

The organization feels that the markup process in which the bill underwent a 14-hour debate period in the House Education and Workforce Committee (moving forward after a vote of 23-17 along party lines) was too fast to assess the full impact that the bill would have on students and their families.

In a letter to Chairwoman Rep. Foxx, Chairman Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) and ranking members Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA), ACE, along with 36 other organizations voiced their concerns about the bill’s momentum.

“Despite the fact that reauthorization is already several years behind schedule, this bill is suddenly being rushed through committee,” they said.

“This expedited time frame limits the ability to analyze the bill and consult with affected parties, leaving the committee in the position of asking its members and the public to support legislation before knowing its full impact. We urge you to delay marking up the bill to allow for more input.”

Amongst the proposed changes in the bill, there are a few amendments that have received bipartisan praise. The elimination of student loan fees, raising the Pell Grant award for students taking more than 15 credits per semester, simplification of the application process for financial assistance, incentivising four-year graduation
**Doctoral candidate explores learning disabilities**

**Amanda Perry** is headed into the Navy JAG Corps after she graduates from the University of Denver's law school. The JAG Corps handles all legal matters for Navy sailors.

Amanda Perry was named as a lead member of the Veterans Court mechanics. She has demonstrated leadership skills that the students have found invaluable.

**Kunz explained that the Veterans Clinic gives the pre-law students the opportunity to represent veterans in court and join JAG Corps.**

Based on her interaction with Ms. Perry, Ms. Kunz has demonstrated leadership and the ability to grasp both substantive and procedural aspects of the Veterans Court mechanics, he said. "In particular, Ms. Perry has been able to interact with the veteran clients on a very personal level, which seemed to put many of the veterans at ease during a very stressful time."

He also said that he hopes other law schools will follow the example of Perry that has set and "choose to emulate [her] activity."

Perry hopes that other law schools will follow the example of the Veterans Clinic and develop a strong relationship with the military. "It's not only you get to combine your professional skill of being a lawyer with serving your country," she said.
LOANS— from page 1

periods and an addition of work study opportunities have been cited as positive potential changes for federal aid law.

The proposed legislation would also raise the borrowing cap for undergraduates from $31,000 to $39,000, however it would cap the previously unlimited borrowing for graduate students (which would be capped at $150,000) and parents (capped at $562,500).

Despite these measures, there is still much concern surrounding the amendments in the bill that would limit loan forgiveness and reduce the number of loan repayment plans from eight to two (one standard ten-year plan, and an income based plan).

This bill would also end the Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG), which is a $722 million dollar grant reserved for students with the greatest financial need. According to the Department of Education, 1.6 million students received aid from this program in the 2014-2015 academic year. In their analysis, ACE estimated that at least six million students would be affected by this bill in its current state. Without the subsidized loans, their analysis found that for a standard four year program in which an undergraduate would borrow $19,000, the cost of the loan would increase by 44 percent, even with all the payments made on time.

“The primary goal of any reauthorization should be improving federal programs that support students. However, by any metric, this bill is worse for students. If enacted, students would need to borrow more, pay more to borrow and pay still more to repay their loans,” ACE stated in their letter.

John Falleroni, senior associate director of financial aid at Duquesne, weighed in on the impacts of the PROSPER Act, saying he believes it “may be three steps back and only a step forward.”

“I have been very fortunate to sit on government relations committees and a financial aid policy team,” he said. “I have gone to Washington to discuss financial aid issues with legislators and staff for the past six years. My sources from those committees seem to think that reauthorization will probably not occur until late 2018 at best.”

Falleroni cited the elimination of origination fees, increase of the Stafford loan and the introduction of the “Super Pell” as changes in the bill, stating that “these are things that have been brought up by the financial aid community, and I think we’ve put them in the bill.”

However, he listed the end of subsidized loans for undergraduates, the introduction of caps on borrowing for parents and the elimination of the SEOG, public service loan forgiveness and PLUS loans for graduate students as concerns.

“One on hand, it is very early in the process. However, I am still very concerned,” he said. “The PROSPER has been pushed through with very little bipartisan support. It is extremely bold ... if this version did pass the House and Senate, the impact would be huge.”

Due to the partisan attitude that has prevailed on the bill as of late, Falleroni said that “the [political] climate may not allow it to go forward” and “bipartisanship just generally doesn’t exist.”

Additionally, last minute provisions added late in the markup process invoked widespread criticism as well, such as preventing schools from taking part in positive actions against members of fraternities, sororities and other “single-gender” organizations.

The Capitol Building will be the scene of a partisan fight over the PROSPER Act. Right, which hosts workshops to help empower young women. “I am really invested in empowering others. The way I do this is ... is by exploring the way identities play roles in power systems,” she said. “If you’re able to understand what privileges and problems help define your identity, if people understand their individual roles within systems, fruitful change could really happen ... I really try to break down walls and bring the world into the classroom.”

English Department Chair Greg Barnes said that Reznik is “one of the most outstanding students we’ve had in my 15 years at Duquesne. Al- lece excels as a student, teacher, colleague and community activist, and her accomplishments attest to her extraordinary character, leadership and integrity.”

He suggested that Reznik be nominated, and dissertation director Kathy Glass did so. The two, as well as Center for Teaching Excellence Program Manager and former winner of the K. Patricia Cross Award Erin Rentschler, also assisted Reznik with application materials.

From Jan. 22 to 24, Reznik and the other six winners will travel to a special conference in Washington, D.C., and talk as a panel entitled “Faculty of the Future: Voices from the Next Generation.”

Reznik appreciates that all expenses will be covered by the AACLE.

“I can really just focus on net- working with university presidents, professors and administrators focused on making innovative improvements and doing meaningful work,” she said.

The project the Duquesne University team will be working on is developing a small system that will allow the cutting and storage of zip ties in microgravity. Their design will be tested in May at the Neutral Buoyancy lab at NASA’s Johnson Space Center.

The program states the importance of these tools on its website by saying, “Zip ties are commonly used on pay- loads and hardware outside of the International Space Station (ISS). Often times they need to be removed during the ISS and Extravehicular Activity (EVA), to complete a maintenance task or another EVA objective.”

The zip ties could be located in several places, such as the payload, including in small spaces that can be challenging to access. Since this occurs in microgravity, the zip tie must be captured once removed and not float off, making it difficult to work around and damaging the space sta- tion or any other type of hardware.

One project includes developing systems to explore ice-covered surfaces on “Ocean Worlds” and making handrails on the exterior of the station more durable.

The K. Patricia Cross Future Leader Award is open to doctoral candidates in Duquesne University, then acquired her master’s degree from Harvard.

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**Time's Up powerful first step for sexual assault victims**

The 75th Golden Globes was this past Sunday, and perhaps more stunning than the glitz and glam of the event was the undoubt- edly powerful display of solidarity among much of the entertainment elite. Between the pointed interviews, brazen accusations and passionate speeches, the effects of the massive wave of allegations of sexual mis conduct in Hollywood were self-evident. The platforming of survivors — particularly people of color — capped off the night of wonderful pageantry. This impressive display of unity was due in no small part to the Time's Up movement, a politically-motivated call to action to fight against rampant sexual harassment in all industries. In the letter outlining their mission, hundreds of women announced their commit ment to take active, impactful steps in order to create positive change for those previously relegated to silence.

Without a doubt, we at The Duke agree wholeheartedly with the mission of Time's Up. Many of us can attest to instances in our personal lives where we witnessed not only criminal sexual conduct, but felt the weight and pressures put on the victims meant to coerce and silence them. And journalism, as an industry, is not excused from the same allegations of injustice and inequality. Just this last week, editor Carrie Gracie left her job at the BBC because of gender-baseddiscrimination that pay. However, what we find to be particularly worth highlighting about Time's Up is its specific goals — or, rather, the fact it has them. Granted, the overall mission of the movement is nothing new: ending workplace harassment and the culture of sexual violence has been the rallying cry of activists for decades. Where Time's Up differentiates itself from most other movements, however, is its legal defense fund. Housed at and administered by the National Women's Law Center, this more than $16 million fund aims to facilitate con necting victims of sexual assault — no matter their occupation — with lawyers. Best of all, the signatories of Time's Up acknowledge that this fund is "a first step," indicating, hopefully, there will be more active steps to come.

Continued action is the only way that the goals of Time's Up will be achieved, and well-defined steps present one of the best ways of eliminating injustice and inequality. This begs the question, then, of what some of those steps are:

Advocating legal changes and voting into office those who prioritize sexual assault victims are great places to start. On a smaller scale, not being part of the problem is also a good next step. This seems pretty obvious, but not sexual ly harassing or assaulting another definitely curbs both issues effectively. Calling out that behavior and standing in defense for victims is also crucial.

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

**What to expect from the Trump administration in 2018**

Trump has been a political oddity for most of his two years in office. Many of his decisions have been considered surprising or illogical by most Americans. We, as journalists, must be open-minded to the possibilities that come with the upcoming Midterm elections in November.

Before we get to the impending Midterm elections in November, we can agree that we’re a bit skeptical about the future of our country. Before we get to the impending future of our government, we’re somewhat concerned about the direction of Trump’s most memorable moments during his first year in office.

Following the Charlottesville rally in August, Trump called neo-nazis “very fine people.” Tried to ban transgender troops from the military. Demonzon the press and threatened to jeopardize the first amendment. Threatened nuclear war during his first U.N. speech. Threatened nuclear war on Twitter. Endorsed a child molester. Attacked the FBI for not personally supporting him.

Threw out environmental regulations implemented under the Obama administration to fight climate change. What a year it has been. To add to the fun, here are some things to expect this upcoming year:

* Mueller’s Trump-Russia investigation is still being conducted. The former White House National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and former Trump campaign policy advisor George Papadopoulos have pled guilty to lying to the FBI. According to the NY Times, Robert S. Mueller III, told President Trump’s lawyers last month that they are working to interview the president soon. The upcoming Midterm elections in November are also something to look forward to. Democrats need only 24 seats to flip the House, and two to take the Children’s Senate. Previously being mainly Republican-run, this party flip could really shake things up. Trump tweeted on Dec. 22 he’d be willing to work with Democrats in 2018, “for the good of the country,” so fingers crossed he will stick to his words.

On Jan. 30, Trump will address Congress during his first official State of the Union. This address is a time for presidents to discuss their accomplishments and future goals. Prepare to hear about his success as a “very stable genius.” The address may very well be coopted into a fight against sexual misconduct, with multiple news organizations reporting that female lawmakers are planning to wear black as a way to show solidarity with women who have faced sexual assault. Congress was given 60 days to make decisions regarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), an international pact to keep Iran’s nuclear program under control, after Trump refused to heed any leadership. The deadline to reinstate sanc tions is at the end of January.

One of the biggest issues this year that has yet to be resolved is the impending government shutdown. Congress has until Jan. 19 to pass a spending bill that will either fund the government for a few months or till the next year. The main issue is that Congress needs to come to resolutions on matters such as spending limits, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), disaster aid for hurricanes and floods, Children’s Health Insurance program (CHIP), and the ridiculous wall Trump would like to build between Mexico and the United States. Coming to an agreement on these topics is difficult for both parties, and with the deadline coming up so quickly we may have to endure a government shutdown.

However bad things may seem (or have been), I still have hope for the future. It’s hope that powers volunteers and advocates. They are strengthened by hope to speak out for what they believe in, or what they disagree with. Change will be made in the future, for better or worse, but that won’t stop the American people from working toward what is right. Let’s continue to make a better 2018 for all citizens, and push for our government to do the same.

I hope in 2018 that Trump will get a reign on his leadership skills, continuous lying and his unexplainable want to push the nuclear war button on his desk. I also hope that someone in the White House will finally decide that it is in everyone’s best interest to delete Trump’s Twitter account. 2017 was quite the whirlwind, so whatever may happen in 2018 may hardly be a shock. Will Trump be impeached? Will the world engage in nuclear warfare resulting in apocalyptic ruin? Will America finally become great again? Stay tuned, citizens!
New restaurant promises flavor, soul, lacks organization

Shivani Gosai

The Strip District's newest addition, Preeti's Pitt, is sure to become a local hotspot. Serving up classic American and soul food dishes makes this lounge a step above the rest. However, if they truly want to expand their reach, the owners will have to implement some serious organizational skills.

My first impression wasn't a great one. It took a few days for me to actually get to try the food, since their kitchen was never open during the times they claimed to be. It also doesn't help that their hours are not posted anywhere other than their door, so you have to resort to calling them or simply winging your arrival.

I was pleasantly surprised by the interior of Preeti's Pitt. The restaurant has a unique layout with a bar and stage, a lounge area and an open kitchen lined by counter seating. The environment was clean and we were greeted right away. My friend and I sat on the counter in front of the kitchen, and made friendly conversation with the cook and owner. Although they treated us like family right away, they didn't offer us menus or anything to eat until we asked. Their priorities didn't seem to be the (only) customers sitting right in front of them, which was odd.

Its menu featured items such as wings, fried lobster ($25), burgers ($20), various seafood and cheddar fixed fries ($14). They also offer sides such as linguine, mac 'n cheese, corn and green beans. We decided to order the fried shrimp, which was eight pieces, and fried chicken sandwich. Both orders came with fries. The eight piece shrimp was $27 and the chicken sandwich was $14.

It was really cool to see the food cooked right in front of you. The shrimp and chicken were hand-breaded and served to us in a matter of minutes. Imagine Hibachi, but for soul food.

The chicken sandwiches are made to order, meaning you can get anything such as jalapeños or pickles on it, as well as pick what type of cheese you'd like. You get a whole chicken breast, so it's a proper sized sandwich. The bread on the chicken was not too thick, and it had a generous amount of cheese on it. The bun itself was pretty average, but it didn't take away from the chicken. Out of 10, the sandwich rates at 7 1/2. The shrimp was by far the best out of everything. They were jumbo shrimp breaded and fried, which sounds simple but somehow, it turned out to be extremely flavorful. The shrimp were not overly breaded; they tasted fresh and had the perfect amount of seasoning. Out of 10, the shrimp is rated at an 8.

The fries were pretty spectacular, too. They were thick-cut and resembled Pittsburgh's favorite fries from Potato Patch at Kennywood Park. I would give 8 out of 10 for the fries as well.

Preeti's Pitt offers a great late-night hangout for students, although some of the items are pricey. The restaurant does, however, have discount days such as Soul Food Sunday and 60-cent wing nights on Mondays. Be on the lookout for DJs and bands that are set to perform in the future as well. The "sports bar" type ambiance is great for a late-night bite or to hang out and watch the game. The food is delicious, but the organization needs some serious work. If you'd like more customers, make yourself available to them! Make yourself, and your hours of operation, known online. Preeti's food is too good to suffer from such a lack of managerial effort. I hope to try Preeti's Pitt again soon when they've really straightened out all the kinks that come with opening a new restaurant.
Remembering sports’ biggest stories from 2017

Drew White
staff writer

Failures and successes. The end of some era, and the beginnings of others. Comebacks and collapses. Streaks, both ending and beginning. And, of course, controversy. These are just a few words to describe the most recent year in sports.

On the Bluff, Duquesne certainly saw its fair share of highs and lows. Both the men’s and women’s basketball teams suffered through disappointment in the 2016-17 season as the men’s team finished 10-21 and the women’s 12-18. Miraculously, Dambrot seems to have found immediate success. After a 76-64 loss to Pitt at PPG Paints Arena on Dec. 1, the Dukes have won 10 of 12 and won their first three games in the A-10.

Likewise, the women’s team has started strongly, currently resting at a 13-3 record overall and a 3-0 conference record.

On the football field, the Dukes looked strong all season, but a missed field goal against Central Connecticut State kept them out of the FCS playoffs and away from an NEC title. The team, led by a strong defense, graduate transfer quarterback Tommy Stuart, and running back A.J. knife, finished with a 7-4 record. The missed field goal left many Dukes fans wondering what could have been in an otherwise tremendous season.

Nationally, 2017 college football fans saw Clemson redeem itself with a victory over Alabama in the title game rematch. Led by now-Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson, the Tigers defeated Alabama in a thrilling seven-game series.

Perhaps one of the biggest stories of the baseball season, though, was the 22-game win streak the Cleveland Indians enjoyed from Aug. 24 to Sept. 18. The streak is the longest in American League history and second-longest in MLB history; however, some consider it the longest because the 1916 New York Giants 26-game win streak included a tie.

Speaking of streaks, another one was finally broken this season, this one coming on the gridiron. Buffalo Bills fans finally saw their 18-year playoff drought come to an end, as an Andy Dalton-to-Tyler Boyd Week 17 miracle touchdown led the Cincinnati Bengals past the Baltimore Ravens, who needed to lose for the Bills to reach the postseason.

And who could forget the mega fight at T-Mobile Arena in late August between Floyd Mayweather and Conor McGregor? Mayweather defeated McGregor, a UFC fighter, in 10 rounds via TKO. The fight was billed as the most hyped fight of all-time, and while McGregor did surpass many skeptic’s expectations, Mayweather ultimately prevailed.

On the international stage, the United States saw the highest and lowest of lows. In March, the US won the World Baseball Classic title over Puerto Rico, the first-ever title in the see SPORTS — page 8


A-10 Standings — Men’s Basketball

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<th>Conf.</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Streak</th>
<th>Next</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>4-0</td>
<td>12-3</td>
<td>W7</td>
<td>Jan. 13 vs. St. Bonaventure (11 a.m.)</td>
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<td>W2</td>
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<td>7-7</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>Jan. 12 at AU (after press)</td>
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<td>7-7</td>
<td>W1</td>
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<td>8-8</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>Jan. 10 at Fordham (after press)</td>
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<td>7-9</td>
<td>W1</td>
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<td>3-15</td>
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A-10 Standings — Women’s Basketball

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<td>5-11</td>
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Duquesne News

— After beginning Atlantic 10 play with three straight wins, Keith Dambrot’s squad fell in Richmond, Virginia, on Jan. 13 to VCU, 78-67, following a second-half surge. Mike Lewis led the Dukes (12-5, 3-1) with 23 points against the Rams, who outscored Duquesne 21-6 from the free-throw line. After trailing 36-28 at halftime, VCU scored 50 points in the second half against Duquesne, which is the most points allowed in one half season by the Dukes. Duquesne’s next game is Jan. 13 vs. La Salle (7-9, 1-2) at Palumbo Center. Tip-off is set for 12:30 p.m.

— At VCU on Jan. 7, junior women’s basketball guard Chassidy Omogrosso scored her 1,000th career point in a 70-51 Duquesne victory. Omogrosso finished the contest with 13 points for Duquesne, (13-3, 3-0) who will travel to Washington, D.C., on Jan. 15 to face George Washington (7-8, 2-1).

— After averaging 15.0 points and 10.0 rebounds in wins over George Washington and Fordham, freshman Eric Williams Jr. was named Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Week for a conference-high third time. Following Duquesne’s win over Fordham, the Dukes moved to 3-0 in the A-10 for the first time since 2011-12.

— Women’s track & field returns to indoor action on Jan. 13 at the Marshall Thundering Herd Invitational in Huntington, West Virginia. The Dukes haven’t competed since the Youngstown State Icebreaker on Dec. 1.

— Women’s swimming & diving will return to Towers Pool on Jan. 13 for a competition against Ohio State. The meet is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Jan. 13, the swimming & diving team defeated South Dakota 284-164 at the Orange Bowl Swim Classic in Key Largo, Florida.

Pittsburgh Briefs

— Following a first-round bye, the Steelers are preparing for an AFC Divisional Round matchup against the Jacksonville Jaguars, who defeated the Buffalo Bills 10-3 on Jan. 7 in Jacksonville. Star Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown returned to team practice on Wednesday, and impressed the coaching staff with his performance. “It looks like he hasn’t missed time,” Le’Veon Bell told reporters, “at all.”

On This Day...

On Jan. 12, 1995, NHL legend and Penguins owner Mario Lemieux announced that he had been diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma.
Washington and Moonchild invigorate rhythmic genre

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Overwatch League could squander casual experience**

**GRANT STONEY**

staff writer

In Nov. 2016, Blizzard Entertainment announced that its month-old objective-based shooter, Overwatch, would enter into the esports scene. Dubbed the Overwatch League, 12 teams from across the world will compete in a series of matches, hoping to secure a win in the championship.

Overwatch's shift into esports will almost certainly boost its overall popularity. According to an analyst report from Newzoo, approximately 221 million gamers will view varying events, with esports projected to earn roughly $922 million in 2018. With the creation of the League, Overwatch may find itself being able to compete with titles such as League of Legends, Dota 2 and Counter-Strike: Global Offensive.

Yet, the League has been marred by negative instances, even before its inaugural match on Jan. 10.

For example, it should be noted that nine of the 12 teams competing this month are from the US. Overwatch touted its venture into esports as a global affair. So then, why is the vast majority of Europe — or Asia for that matter — not competing?

Aside from the lack of diverse teams, one key player from the Dallas Fuel team, Felix “xQc” Lengyel, was suspended twice over a period of two months for inappropriate game behavior. According to articles from Kotaku, Lengyel's first suspension in November, which lasted 72 hours, was a direct result of abusing the in-game reporting mechanic. His most recent run-in with Overwatch authorities occurred due to the player intentionally throwing games. For those unaware, throwing a game results in a player purposefully performing poorly so that their team ultimately loses.

While these incidents were specific to Lengyel, they demonstrate a greater problem within the League. Officials need to be strict about these outbursts, because gamers are consistently forced to defend themselves to ignorant audiences. They are viewed as losers, social outcasts and immature individuals who are unable to handle even mild stress or criticism. By giving players like Lengyel a massive platform, his actions are going to be viewed by millions. To the uneducated eye, Lengyel represents the gaming population. League moderators should not have toxic individuals present on the world stage.

Finally, Overwatch’s obsession with competitive gaming has directly impacted the development of certain characters. In a September forum post, Game Director Jeff Kaplan outwardly admitted that professional players directly influence specific changes regarding game balance. For example, a support hero named Mercy was completely reworked in order to make her playable at the pro-level. Over the course of several months, the character went from an easy entry for players new to the genre to an increasingly-fraught pick, and continuing changes make her more and more inaccessible to all except the handful of elites.

**JOEY MUSER**

staff writer

WASHINGTON AND MOONCHILD
WHERE: MR. SMALLS THEATRE DATE OF REVIEW: NOV. 27, 2017

Jazz is a completely different art form all together, and it’s beautifully stuck in this constant state of improvement, which redefines exactly what jazz music is. The genre is at a point where it is not at its end; rather, the history of jazz sets aspiring musicians precariously on a springboard, providing them opportunities to create in an exciting genre. As technology continues to evolve into an overpowering force, it allows more jazz musicians to express themselves in original ways. Like all great artists, Kamasi Washington’s band put their own spin on jazz.

Incorporating some newer sounds with traditional jazz basics, Washington’s group operates like clockwork with a unique voice.

Now, if clockwork is nine people playing their independent parts which are so carefully interwoven into one another, then, yes, they jived like clockwork. Washington’s band is comprised of two saxophone players, a bassist, a guitarist, a groovy man on the keys, a vocalist, a trombonist (who played despite having the flu) and two drummers.

Washington accomplished quite a bit on his own, and over the past decade, he has grown in popularity impressively, and for good reason.

What distinguishes Washington from other sax players — and many a jazz reformist — are the new ideas he brings to the table. His melodies are nothing shy of brilliant. His solos are nearly obstreperous in their inability to be tamed. But, song after song on both his albums and live, Washington delivers exciting solos that somehow come back to the theme of the chart. It’s not far-reaching to call Washington a genius.

He knows his tenor saxophone so well that when he performs, it seems to become just a pure extension of his musical thoughts. Whatever he thinks to play can be brought to life instantly — bringing his most genuine interpretations to the table.

The excitement of Washington’s group doesn’t just stop at its headman either. Their whole band is extremely well-versed in jazz backgrounds. Take the man on the keyboard for example, Brandon Coleman. Coleman played with Jamie Foxx, Stevie Wonder and Earth, Wind & Fire, just to name a few. Now, playing with artists who are notably popular doesn’t necessarily make him good.

Coleman had to work to get to where he is today, and it shows in the melodies he chooses. I’ve never heard anything like his style, and Washington likes Coleman so much that Washington nicknamed Coleman “Professor Boogie.”

Coleman’s approach to the keyboards was unforgettable, but there is still more to appreciate in respect to the rest of the band. The ill trombonist, despite having a cold sweat, came out for a few songs wearing a scarf and hat, incredibly still playing at an elite level.

Among the performers was also surprise guest Rickey Washington, Kamasi’s father. Rickey, a long time soprano sax musician, previously played with Diana Ross and the Supremes, as well as the Temptations.

The two drummers, Ronald Bruner, Jr. and Tony Austin, played together imaginably well. The time keeping duo communicated with each other for the whole show and complimented the other’s style seemingly effortlessly. Towards the latter half of the band’s performance, Bruner and Austin shared a solo in which they traded fours, a solo type that allows two (or more) musicians to go back and forth, and having a battle of whose rhythmic ideas are better.

Ideally, I would be able to give full descriptions of everyone who played with Kamasi. However, in order to fulfill those aspirations, I would need a medium sized textbook to fill with the accomplishments and the proper acknowledgements that each of the members of Kamasi Washington’s band deserve.

Despite how wonderful Kamasi’s band is, it still didn’t shadow the technicality and brilliance of Moonchild, the opening act. The jazz/neo-soul group produces groovy lines lead by keys and synthesizers, but is balanced with the smooth vocals of Amber Naran. Notable from their performance was a jazz trio from the song “Don’t Wake Me,” which is only done in their live renditions of the song. The melodies danced with syncopated lines that can be traced back to early inspirations of big band jazz.

The trio in the song can be found on YouTube as well as other works from the great and rising group that is Moonchild.

In closing, lead man Kamasi Washington really is driving the train for jazz reformation with his previous music that lies in his wake and everything that is to be aspired to in his future works. After all, he’s only 36, and he will be in his prime for a long time to come.
Doctoral student works on his research

AHMED— from page 2

through eighth grade.
The Academy provides an excellent place to implement research, according to Ahmed, because of its dedication to its students and the diversity it exhibits.

“They have students that are relevant to my studies — such as [those exhibiting] challenging behavior and students with autism — so we can help them be successful in their life,” Ahmed said.

Zehner echoed Ahmed’s opinions about the school, both having previously conducted research together at UAP.

“It was wonderful to see such an environment of diversity and inclusion,” Zehner said. “It was so nice to see the students be accepted for who they are and what they believed, but also, from there, be able to build on academically. They feel safe, they feel accepted, so now they can learn.”

Ahmed commends UAP for being receptive to researchers and faculty.

“I would like to thank the Universal Academy of Pittsburgh for offering our students in our program these opportunities,” Ahmed said. “And special thanks to the principal [Ahmed Abdelwahab] who always accommodates our practicum hours and our research. They welcome us every time.”

Duquesne events preview: Spring 2018

EVENTS— from page 5

running until Feb. 25. Later in the spring, on April 28 and April 29, they’ll be hosting Equus, a 1973 play that tells the story of an existentially-dissatisfied psychiatrist’s attempts at treating a young man after his compulsive, religious preoccupation with horses has led him to blind six steeds.

Beyond the Bluff

Pittsburgh may be known to some as The City That Always Sleeps, but make no mistake: There’s a little something for everyone if you know just where to look. The Andy Warhol Museum, an easy 20-minute walk from campus, is offering Free Good Fridays for the month of January. Between 5-10 p.m., you can check out the local legend’s artwork free of charge while enjoying some music and a cash bar. For the rest of the year, admission to the museum will be half-priced on Friday evenings.

In addition to the Warhol Museum, Oakland’s two Carnegie museums also have some good stuff to offer. A quick bus ride or Lyft from Duquesne, the Carnegie Museum of Art and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History will be free to enter on the third Sunday of each month throughout 2018.

The Duquesne Program Council will also be sponsoring discounted tickets to a few shows around the city. First up is Wicked the Musical! at the Benedum Center on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 8 p.m., and you can grab a ticket for $25. Considering the fact that a quick check of the Benedum’s website shows that the lowest available ticket price is $44, the DPC has really come through on this one. Tickets are limited, though, and only available to students with a Duquesne ID. They become available on Jan. 22, so be sure to pick yours up ASAP!

Also sponsored by the Duquesne Program Council, discount tickets to RENT the Musical will be available for $15 starting on March 12. The show itself is at Heinz Hall for the month of March 28 at 7:30 p.m. The lowest available ticket price is twice that being asked by the DPC, at $30.

Of course, there’s always other events and activities popping up over the course of the semester. Be sure to scope out the Spring Organization Expo taking place on Jan. 22, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Union Annex, to see what goings on student clubs have planned for 2018.

Mark your calendars with these and more great opportunities coming up throughout 2018.

New league revamps old meta

LEAGUE— from page 7

For casual players, who make up 99 percent of OVERWATCH’s population, the favorite characters are being destroyed by the literal 1 percent. Gamers should not be fearful of losing their heroes simply because Overwatch’s developers are too busy catering to a small crowd.

Overwatch was initially designed as a game which could support both an esports platform as well as a large casual community. Yet, when given the opportunity, officials are behaving like bumbling idiots. It should not be this complicated for the two player basis to coexist. Instead, gamers are forced to watch as one of the best shooters of 2016 is turned into a farce, as it tries to establish itself on the world stage.

In search of...

COMIC ARTIST

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

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