RAGNAR ARBE
news editor

Many students vote and follow the news, and some wish to be a real part of the political process. For one University of Pittsburgh student, he’s following through on that wish.

Jennie Schulze, a political science professor at Duquesne University, said she had always been interested in Russian history and focused on Russian studies throughout her academic career. This interest in Russian studies led her to read “Identity in Formation” by David Laitin, a current professor of political science at Stanford University, during her time in graduate school. She cites this book, which takes a look into the identity crisis of Russian speakers living in former Soviet states, as the inspiration for her doctoral thesis and interest in the Baltic states.

“Much of the literature sort of treats Eastern European countries as if they’re simply kind of targets of these great powerful forces, and it doesn’t really treat them as agents in their own right,” she said. “My book is really about giving agency to those European actors and not just treat them as targets of great power pressure.” Schulze’s interest in Russian

POLI SCI PROF EXAMINES RUSSIA AND NEIGHBORS

As talk of an aggressive, meddling Russia swirls in news reports, one Duquesne professor has taken an in-depth look at the aspects of Russia’s influence on its neighbors.

Jennie Schulze, an assistant political science professor at Duquesne, recently published her book “Strategic Frames,” which focuses on the effects of Russia and European institutions on minority policies, particularly those that affect Russian speakers in Estonia and Latvia.

“I look at three policy areas. I look at citizenship policies, language policies and electoral policies from the time of independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 through 2015,” she said.

Schulze, who earned her bachelor’s degree in Political Science at Boston College and her doctorate in Political Science at George Washington University, said she had always been interested in Russian history and focused on Russian studies throughout her academic career.

“I do have respect for him.”

Faculty, staff and students gathered in the Africa Room on Jan. 30 to create blankets for underprivileged families in West Virginia.

MAKING A BLANKET STATEMENT

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SEE BOOK — PAGE 2

SEE FOUNDER — PAGE 3

FOLLOW US ON...
POLICE BRIEFS

January is coming to an end, but the crimes don’t stop. Grandpa PB is flabbergasted at how the weather isn’t the only thing misbehaving.

On Jan. 24, Residence Life found a small amount of marijuana on the stairwell outside Tows C. It is not known to whom it belonged. Perhaps a mischievous poltergeist?

On Jan. 26, a student left their wallet in a College Hall bathroom. Upon returning, they found the wallet stolen.

Also on Jan. 26, a rear wheel cover on a vehicle was damaged by an unknown car in Locust Garage.

Two students were off their trolley on Jan. 26. The intoxicated students were found on Stevenson Street and one was transported to Mercy Hospital by city medics.

Both were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Using ganja stinks, literally. On Jan. 27, the smell of marijuana was detected coming from a room in St. Martin Hall. One student received a non-traffic citation and two were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

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On Jan. 28, an intoxicated student walked off a bus near Backpack/College Hall. This student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Jan. 28, the code blue phone was activated on Bluff Street near Rooney Field. Officers found two intoxicated students. The case was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Jan. 28, an intoxicated student was found on the Towers elevator and was taken to Mercy. The case was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Jan. 29, the manager of the Barnes and Noble Bookstore called Duquesne Police and said a male had exited the store with a book and bottle of pop without paying for it. Kevin Orlando Legall, 42 and an un-affiliate, was taken into custody and will be charged with retail theft.

A SMALL JOKE

After a hard day at the construction site, three friends walk into a bar.

They did it again the next day and then the next day. Soon, they started complaining about headaches.

Nothing they did seemed to make it better. The routine went on for a week.

Finally, at the start of the second week, they ducked.

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 an 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.

Nursing school receives veteran-friendly rating

For the second consecutive year, Duquesne’s School of Nursing earned a Gold Level ranking for being military friendly from a national veteran organization.

Only 60 colleges and universities across the United States were given this rank. This year, schools were evaluated by student surveys, public data sources and Victory Media’s proprietary survey.

“We are very proud to support veterans and military service personnel in their efforts to become nurses or advance their career. They have served all Americans by their military service,” said Mary Ellen Glasgow, dean of the nursing school.

The Military Friendly School List was first created in 2009 in order to give veterans a better opportunity through education. This list allows an easy way for veterans to choose the best schools and make it as easy as possible for them to return to a civilian life and career.

According to the Military Friendly website, approximately 250,000 people leave the military service each year.

Before this program was created, the government launched the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), in order to assure all military members and families an easy return to civil life, but the founders of Military Friendly did not believe this was enough.

In 2001, Chris Hale, Rich McCormack and Scott Shaw, founders of the organization, began creating a new resource for veterans.

This award proves Duquesne’s School of Nursing to be one of the best schools for Veterans. Out of hundreds of colleges, universities and trade schools, Duquesne has been lucky to be considered a Gold Level ranking for two years consecutively.

“Obtain Gold status is to achieve the highest level of recognition for being Military and Veteran friendly. That means we are one of 10 recognized private academic institutions of higher learning to have earned this prestigious recognition,” said retired Capt. Patricia Watts Kelley, program director for the Veterans to BSN program at Duquesne’s School of Nursing.

“I am honored to continue to serve my fellow military members and Veterans.”

Duquesne’s School of Nursing offers many different programs for veterans interested in nursing. Each year, there are approximately 45 veterans who take part in these programs.

These include a four year degree Bachelors of Science in Nursing, a second degree program of 12 to 16 months allowing a veteran with a Bachelor’s degree to take the required courses and obtain a Bachelors in Nursing Science. Currently, both programs have a retention rate of 100 percent.

Book investigates Russia’s influence in Estonia, Baltics

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The school of nursing also offers a BSN completion program for RNs who want to obtain a Bachelor’s degree. Graduate degrees of Masters of Science in Nursing or a Post Masters Certificate with a concentration in education, forensics or Family Nurse Practitioner are also offered through the Military Friendly program.

“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 an 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.

BOOK— from page 1

speakers in the country’s ‘near abroad’, the now independent former Soviet republics, further developed after she earned a grant to travel to the Baltic states for research. She pointed to the Bronze Soldier Crisis, which occurred in Estonia shortly after she arrived in April 2007, as a turning point for her research.

Also known as the Bronze Night or the April Uprising, the crisis surrounded the decision to move a statue of the Bronze Soldier of Tallinn, from downtown Tallinn to the outskirts of town. While many viewed the statue as a symbol of former Soviet occupation, Russian speakers in Estonia viewed it as the symbolization of Soviet victory over Nazism, as well as their claim to equal rights.

“It was really interesting to be there and to see that first hand. That was really a fundamental staging point in the direction I wanted my research to go, because it was a real case in point that Russia could really aggrivate interethnic relations in Estonia and that there were real kin state effects there.”

Schulze defined kin states as “states that monitor one another, assert the rights and protect the interests of their co-nationals living in other states.”

“Russia uses the 25 million ethnic Russians stranded out-side Russia’s borders after the collapse of the Soviet Union as a pretext for involvement in its ‘near abroad,’” she said.

The Russia-Georgia war in 2008 and the annexation of Crimea in 2014, she said that much of the world turned to the Baltic states in fear that they may be next. Though she addresses this fear of Russian meddling abroad’ are,” she said. “Russian speakers in the Baltic states are pretty loyal to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania ... they don’t want to be part of Russia in any sort of way.”

Instead, her book argues that this fear of Russian meddling in their kin states actually helps shape policies for minorities such as Russian speakers in these countries, even though the credit for these “democratizing reforms” often goes to European institutions such as the EU.

“It’s not the end of the world; it’s a democratizing frame.”

While Europe institutions are typically credited for democratizing reforms in these states, my book shows that Russia was also crucial to passing minority policy reforms and has been the greater influence post accession,” she said.

“Russia’s actions provided important security frames which allowed policymakers to reverse decades of exclusionary citizenship policy toward Russian speakers in Estonia in favor of more inclusionary policies. In this way, Russia, not Europe, was a democratizing frame.”

Schulze’s book is available on Amazon, or from University of Pittsburgh Press.

February 1, 2018
ELECTION— from page 1

balancing the state budget, reforming the occupational licensing system and controlling healthcare costs. He addressed the budget first, which he calls “a mess.”

“This upcoming fiscal year, Pennsylvania is projected to have a $4 billion deficit and in the next couple years that shoots up to $8 billion,” he said.

The process has to change or the state’s credit will downgrades which could impact funding for schools and other state programs, Pavlecic warned.

“We have so many cost drivers there,” he said.

Another issue he cares a lot about is reforming the way the state occupational boards work, something Gov. Tom Wolf has already launched a task force address. These boards determine who can be a barber, who can be a doctor and you need to make sure your surgeon is qualified to do his job,” he said.

However, Pavlecic criticized the unequal amount of hours required for different careers. A barber requires about 1,250 hours to become a certified barber, and you need 120 hours to become an EMT, he said.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, to be certified as a Emergency Medical Responder requires 48-52 hours and to become an EMT requires 150-200 hours. The State Board of Barber Examiners confirmed that to become a licensed barber, a participant must spend 1,250 hours for a licensed barber teacher.

Fixing this board system is a place where he sees an opportunity for bipartisanship.

“I think that’s an area I can work with Republicans to try and get rid of some of these regulations to make it easier to jump into business or increase reciprocity agreements with other states, so if you move here from a different state and you’re qualified to do your job, you can still do it here,” Pavlecic said.

His third talking point involves trying to find a way for the state to control healthcare prices, something he regrets the state does not have more power over.

“Unfortunately, we are limited in what we can do at the state level. I’d love to import drugs from Canada or the European Union, but that just is not a state level decision,” Pavlecic said.

One way to help the problem is by making the costs transparent.

“Right now you go to a hospital or ER or an urgent care and they don’t have to tell you how much they’re going to charge for you to get treated, which is insane,” he said. “You have no idea what it’s going to be. What I would like to do is create a state-maintained database that has the most expensive charges for different common procedures, so people could go online, compare prices and use free-market power to restrain healthcare costs,” Pavlecic said. “I think it would have bipartisan support.”

As a current college student, Pavlecic also lists lowering the cost of college as a “personal goal.”

“One thing I would like to do with balancing the budget is to go to these universities’ presidents and say what could we do to get a full tuition freeze, and I mean every thing — room and board and all these extra fees — and freeze it for next year,” he said.

“I think this is something that would have a real impact and if you could keep doing that every five years, every passing year college becomes more affordable.”

Pavlecic is aware that many people may be skeptical due to his age. But he views it as an asset.

“I wonder with the state legislature, if any of them have taken the Keystone Exam or PSSA before? I have actually taken those tests,” he said. “I see exactly what the budget cuts do, what state-mandated standards do.”

He asked those who might question his abilities to give him a fair shake.

“Just keep an open mind and give me a chance. Let me earn your vote — give me a fair shot to see where I stand to show you that I’ve done the research,” Pavlecic said.

So far, this has been a learning experience for Pavlecic as he has navigated local politics. Luckily, he had a helpful connection.

“A big help for me is my mom [who is a local vice chair of the local Democratic committee],” he said.

Right now, Pavlecic is preparing to start circulating a petition to collect signatures to get on the ballot.

“I’m gearing up right now, trying to find volunteers to circulate petitions and get ready to get as many signatures as I can to get on the ballot,” Pavlecic said.

The petitioning is only the second worst part, according to Pavlecic. The worst, for him, is fundraising.

 “[Fundraising is] just trying to go around and begging people for money ... You feel really awkward,” Pavlecic said.

Other than the campaign and school, Pavlecic is involved in other activities. He writes for the Pitt Political Review, which he said is the school’s nonpartisan political journal, and he still referees local hockey games as a job.

He also encouraged students to get involved in politics, in any way.

“If you want to complain about government, but you don’t vote, then stop complaining because this is how you have the opportunity to change it. That’s the bare minimum,” he said.

Wellbeing a focus for Founder’s Week

FOUNDER — from page 1

aliveness is deeply felt as soul, expressed as authentic relationship with self, others and the cosmos,” said Edwards. “Wellbeing is living with purpose, meaning and intentionality in the midst of everyday life.”

Duquesne’s own Rev. Dan Walsh expressed the importance of celebrating the Spiritan fathers and their vision, legacy and values.

“The founders of the Spiritan congregation, Father Claude du Locle and Father Claude Karden, established the Congregation of the Holy Spirit for a purpose,” Walsh said. “Here at Duquesne, we build on the tradition of education as a way for young people to uncover and develop their talents. We are challenged to learn the lesson and continue the tradition.”

President Ken Gormley also shared his thoughts regarding Founder’s Week, praising the devotion and commitment of the Spiritans.

“The celebration of Founders Week is a joyous occasion of remembrance on campus — a time to recall those who form the heart and spirit of Rev. Francis Libermann, Founder of the Spiritan Congregation,” said Gormley. “His dedication to the poor, his life of prayer and service, and his commitment to the community around him, inspired his early colleagues and continues to inspire all of us at Duquesne today, to live by the same spirit.”

The week includes an array of activities filled with food, service opportunities, music, fitness, prayer and the sharing of stories. Those who partake in these festivities are encouraged to connect with others and tune into their faith to find wellbeing.

Founder’s Week is sponsored by the Division of Mission and Identity, who hosts the events and selects a theme. Luci-Jo DiMaggio, director of mission animation, explained how this year’s theme of Be Well in the Spirit relates to Duquesne’s Spiritan mission.

“The Spiritan Mission is rooted in the idea of Practical Union with the Spirit and openness to the Spirit. Wellbeing is essential if we want to truly exist in a way that we are always in Union with God,” DiMaggio said. “We need to care for ourselves in order to care for others. We need to be well to truly have healthy, authentic relationships.”

Acclaiming how much Duquesne has grown as a university since it was founded, Walsh credited the Spiritans for their transformative efforts.

“We have been blessed to receive a rich tradition of educating for the development of the mind, heart and spirit,” said Walsh. “Without the efforts of the early founders of Duquesne and many collaborators, this institution would have failed.”

Pavlecic is only 20, but he has announced his candidacy for the 30th Legislative District.

Olivia Higgins/staff photographer

Fitness Bash, held on Jan. 29 in the Power Center, was one of a number of activities done as part of Founder’s Week. The theme focused on wellbeing.

Dangerous flu sweeps country, Duquesne

ALEX WOLFE
staff writer

In 2018, you would think the human race could have conquered one of the most common diseases in the history of our planet. Yet, Time Magazine reported that since researchers began to track this year’s flu season, 74 people under the age of 65 have died as a result of the influenza virus, 32 of whom died in 2018.

However, the flu is not a death sentence. The severity one experiences are largely determined by the individual’s response to the virus. Many of these deaths were, in fact, the result of a misdiagnoses by the victim or a guardian.

Pittsburgh is undoubtedly at risk for multiple variations of the influenza virus. According to Duquesne University Health Services Director Dessa Mrvos, the Bluff has already been hit by a few.

In an interview, Director Mrvos explained that this particular season has been surprisingly brutal for students. However, one of the biggest problems for students is and the lack of knowledge about what Mrvos referred to as Influenza-like infections (ILIs).

“ILIs resemble the common cold and the influenza virus. Due to the fact that this year’s flu strain has spawned a host of

ILIs, many students fall into the trap of self-diagnosing,” Mrvos explained.

Mrvos warns that this behavior leads students to assume that their symptoms are the symptoms of some version of the common cold. By self-diagnosing, students put themselves and those around them at risk, especially if their affliction turns out to be a true strain of influenza.

Mrvos stated that, “While most students aren’t at risk of death, they are certainly at risk to hospitalizing symptoms or face other severe health risks that could have long-term effects, particularly given the shortage of hospital space this winter.”

Duquesne Health Services and Duquesne Pharmacy Services have been distributing the influenza vaccine to students since October.

“Duquesne Health Services has been well-prepared for this flu season,” and was quick to point out that, “the prevalence and pertinence of this influenza season forced us to ensure that we had the resources necessary to handle what was expected to be a flood of students experiencing symptoms.”

Mrvos’ assumptions about students seemed to be correct. Of Duquesne students polled, 52 out see FLU— page 12
staff editorial

Amazon choosing Pitts-
burgh as head quarters may be destructive

Any day now, Amazon will an-
nounce the location of its highly-

sought after second headquarters. With Pittsburgh being an underdog choice, it can be quite romantic to imagine our city landing such a huge deal. A promise of 50,000 jobs and a saucy $5 billion over 17 years, it’s a pretty sweet deal on the surface.

However, there is something missing in Pittsburgh’s (as well as other underdog proposing of the online retail giant: us.)

That may be a bit disingenuous to say, but by the way the city is shying away from requests for information about what they are offering, well, what else are we left to assume?

There is undoubtedly a lot of excitement surrounding Amazon’s second headquarters. However, with recent reports of walkouts in Germany and Italy over wages, as well as reports from the Mirror about 55-hour work weeks and hospitalizations for warehouse employees, there is also an underlying sense about incentivizing the tech giant.

If they can’t treat their employ-

ees with proper dignity and re-

spects, maybe make the move to Pittsburgh, or any other city looking to secure their next headquarters, confident that we’ll get a fair shake?

This is to say nothing about Am-

azon’s own war chest, as well as the personal worth of its founder, Jeff Bezos. At a net worth of $116.6 billion, Bezos doesn’t seem to be the one needing a little handout from a city who has a poverty rate of about 23%.

Again, all this might sound unfair. Pittsburgh, and a number of other cities have competition concerns and non-disclosure agreements with Amazon, so releasing their bids, in a sense, crush out another commun-

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OPINIONS

Campus dining halls in need of culinary upgrade

Ollie Gratzinger
features editor

They say you are what you eat. If that’s the case, how much of what’s on the Bluff are variations of a Towers’ grilled cheese? Well, it isn’t like there are many other delicacies to choose from. The dining hall formerly known as Options has been converted into something that looks like a mall’s food court, and our only “options” are Chick-fil-A or Cinco Cantina, aka Bluffsides Chipotle. A few stories below, there’s Incline. At Incline, the fries sometimes taste just like the chicken tenders, and when that happens, they both taste like burnt grease.

There are a lot of complaints being thrown around here, but all jokes aside, every last dining hall woe is a symptom of a much larger and much more serious problem: food accessibility at Duquesne. Now, when I say food accessibility, I don’t just mean that it’s more difficult for students with different dietary needs to find nutritious, filling and sustainable food that doesn’t taste like cardboard. While that is indeed true, eating kosher is all but impossible on campus, unless you’re willing to commit to not only protecting but promoting a leader who doesn’t take meal swipes. It’s certainly better than Chick-fil-A’s sauce-soaked glories, but by how much? It’s hard to say for sure.

Freshinis is a good place to go if you want something pretty healthy that tastes good, too, but I’ve long since learned that if a restaurant has an umlaut in its title, it’s probably overpriced. Freshinis does little to prove me wrong in that regard. If they took meal swipes, it might make things easier for a lot of people, because nothing will drain your FLEX faster than rice bowls and crepes. It’s no secret that Campus Market might as well be selling designer oatmeal and gold-plated Clif Bars for the price you have to shell out, and for some reason, Fisher Market doesn’t take meal swipes, either. It doesn’t really make much sense. If you’ve got back-to-back classes in Fisher Hall, you’re just plain out of luck. You’re either going to have to pack something from home/dorm/wherever, pay for something using real money or dive into your reserve of the precious commodity, FLEX, all while paying the absurdly high prices you’ll find in Campus Markets everywhere. If that doesn’t seem fair, that’s because it isn’t.

Beyond Towers, meal swipes are few and far between, and the quality of what you might get is always a major coin toss. For example, a ham sandwich in Campus Market comes with a side of fruit. If I had a dollar for every time I’ve cracked open a banana to find brown mush inside or sliced into an apple softened by the first signs of rot, I wouldn’t have to write an article complaining about expensive food prices on campus. Sometimes, the mac and cheese bowls at Incline are boiled to the point that the water in the bowl sits on top of the noodles instead of being incorporated into the cheese sauce. At other times, the pizza is charred and dripping grease – in a bad way. For the cost of a meal plan, there should be more choices, and those choices should be better. I get that Duquesne is a Catholic school, but it would be nice to have some kosher or halal options for students that attend for reasons other than religious affiliation. No student should have to go hungry because they’re out of FLEX, tight on cash or at the mercy of an absurdly hectic schedule, let alone because there literally isn’t anything for them to eat. Not everyone has the time to go to Towers and have a sit-down meal, and with the dining hall closing at 7:30 p.m., students with night classes or evening jobs might find dinner plans hard to come by.

Freshinis could start by expanding what’s included in a meal swipe. Try allowing items under a certain value to be swiped for rather than dictating what does and does not qualify as “meal-swappable.” That way, if a student just wants a Clif Bar and a coffee or a frozen dinner and a soda they can get that instead of settling for a sandwich, chips and half-rotten fruit. Keep Hogan open later, too.

Food accessibility is a complex problem with a simple solution: stop prioritizing revenue and convenience and start listening to what students need and want. Sure, kosher meats and fresh fruit are expensive, but it costs nearly $50,000 per year, per student, to attend Duquesne. There has to be money available here, too.

Down the street, Pitt not only has extensive options for celiac, gluten-free, kosher, vegan and other non-traditional diets, but its main dining hall is open until 1 a.m. most nights, 2 a.m. on Thursday, 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 12 a.m. on Sunday.

And, of course, allow meal swipes in Fisher Market! It really can’t be that hard to say, “Well, this thing is available for a meal swipe in Campus Market and Incline, let’s make it available here, too.”

Pope Francis is the most progressive pope we have had yet. He supports action to fight climate change, more acceptance of gays and, in fact, created a Vatican tribunal to try leaders accused of sexual assault. Pope Francis is a breath of fresh air, but his comments in Chile are a reminder that there is still work to be done within the church.

Pope Francis criticized for defending sex abuse scandal

Rachel Pearce
staff columnist

The Catholic Church is giving up on business. The steep decline in attendance has left leaders despair to pull more members, particularly amongst millennials. However, Pope Francis’s statements in Chile only pushed them farther away.

According to TIME, Juan Barros was appointed as head of the diocese in Osorno, Southern Chile by Pope Francis in 2015. Though there are no claims of sexual assault against Barros, he is accused of covering up those committed by Father Fernando Karadima, who was found guilty in 2012 for sexually assaulting three minors. The Pope’s decision to not only protect but promote a leader who would continue to support the Church. That is the price the Church will pay to continue serving the public, lead moral obligation, it would seem obvious that the Church should protect victims. But what is the price the church will have to pay, literally.

As for the moral obligation, it would seem obvious that the Church should prove the Church. But what is the price the church will have to pay, literally.

The Church’s reputation of sexual assault has turned millennials away, especially considering their higher awareness of sexual assaults. The Church should run like a business by staying in touch with the interests of its customers, millennials being said customers. By setting a zero-tolerance policy for anyone who covers up anyone who knowingly covers it up, the Church could set a fresh tone, a tone that could attract millennials rather than push them away. But the Pope’s comments are a step in the wrong direction.

As a Catholic myself, I am struggling to continue to contribute to the Church. I have been raised going to church every Sunday. I am also a lector for masses here at Duquesne. Though individual churches may have a different reputation, it’s hard to look past the overarching tone and years of abuse. As I’ve grown older, it is disappointing to see the reality of the church: corruption. The reputation of perpetuating sexual assault, as well as the practice of covering it up, has undoubtedly tarnished its reputation. I believe that Catholic millennials are practicing their faith in their daily lives more, appearing at home rather than going to church. That is the price the church will have to pay, literally.

Pope Francis has come under fire for his comments defending allegations of sexual misconduct.
In United States history, 1968 stands as one of the most eventful years to date. As the U.S. made its attempt to get a man on the moon, the country erupted in protests, both about the raging Vietnam War and civil rights issues. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy were both assassinated, and Richard Nixon was elected the nation’s 37th president. As all of this was going on, Duquesne had an historic year. Here’s a glimpse of life on the Bluff 50 years ago, courtesy of The Duquesne Duke.

The Feb. 16, 1968, issue of The Duke advertised something called Pittsburgh Free University on page two, saying the university was gearing up for its spring semester. Informal registration was held over two days in the Union, where students could sign up for courses (or, what students preferred to call them: study groups). At the Free University, there was no difference between students and the teachers, rather seeing learning as a “cooperative venture.” There were no lectures in these classes, instead focusing on group participation. Ranging from topics such as civil liberties to filmmaking, Pittsburgh Free University offered anyone, whether they were in college or not, the chance to learn in a more independent and unique way.

Among many of the spirited columns featured on the issue was one titled “Purge White Supremacy,” written by William R. Maloni. In his column, Maloni calls the college students of 1968 “the most promising generation America has spawned.” He uses that promise to argue his points about racial tensions in America at that time, pointing to the deaths of black college students at the hands of white policemen in South Carolina. He discusses the history of white America in creating an oppressive society created by the generations before his, and he suggests that his generation should purge the idea that white America is in any way superior to any race.

Perhaps one of the most interesting things about this issue is the advertisements it boasted. One appears to be a personal ad (pictured right), offering readers the chance to “Come away with me! I’ll show you how to live! (Be my valentine).” The ad doesn’t give anyone any contact information, though, so that part remains a mystery.

Two poster ads were featured in this issue, but one gave readers a unique opportunity, saying, “Blow yourself up,” to poster size. The college community at the time apparently had a pressing need for personal posters; the reason, however, is unclear.

If any Duquesne students needed a job, an ad on page two boasted a tempting employment offer, saying, “Admittedly, this is NOT a career opportunity. BUT WHAT’S WRONG WITH MONEY?” Ad placement was on-point, however, because next to this non-career offer was one that asked students, “Are you interested in a career with a future?” Thankfully, students had both option to choose from.

The Union as we know it today houses our beloved Starbucks, several food options and the popular尼特 Spot, among other things. In 1968, however, the Union was just getting its start, and a dedication ceremony was held for the building that year.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, students were invited to participate in free activities held in the Recreation Room and Arts and Crafts Room. While we may not have rooms dedicated to these activities, our union has been renovated several times since its inception; once in the 1990s and again in 2008, according to the university’s website.

Local DU chef, activist featured on TBS' Full Frontal

Marla Blunt: member of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), political organizer, fighter for a living wage and fair healthcare and Duquesne’s vegan/vegetarian chef.

Marla Blunt, Duquesne food service employee, is dedicated to establishing a living wage for all workers in Pittsburgh.
Loyalty in sport doesn’t seem to be two-way street

ADAM LINDEY
sports editor

When Blake Griffin became an unrestricted free agent this past summer, Los Angeles Clippers executives gave Griffin an extragrand display in an effort to re-sign him.

Griffin was shown a mock No. 32 jersey retirement ceremony in an empty Staples Center one summer night, alongside a “Blake Griffin Museum.” That’s right — the Clippers had prepared separate stations that looked back on Griffin’s career as a Clipper.

Then, after Griffin signed on the dotted line of a five-year, $171 million contract extension with the franchise, Clippers employees donned T-shirts with the inscripted word “Pioneers” appearing below the following figures: Martin Luther King Jr., Muhammad Ali, John F. Kennedy, Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela, Albert Einstein, Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi and Blake Griffin.

Yes, it’s as historically ignorant as it seems.

Regardless of the sensibility of the shirt, the underlying sentiment was understood. The Clippers were cementing Griffin, the team’s No. 1 pick in 2009, as the franchise’s G.O.A.T. Had Griffin finished his career with the Clippers, he would have undoubtedly been the greatest Clipper ever.

Shoot, he probably already is.

However, Chris Paul left via sign-and-trade deal with the Houston Rockets extending this past summer, effectively discontinuing the Lob City era in Los Angeles.

The Clippers, 22-4 at the time of the trade, are on the outside of the Western Conference playoff picture looking in.

Severely lacking both young talent and assets, the Clippers saw it fit to make a move to better themselves the future — especially with a tremendous free agent class coming in 2018.

Griffin, only suddenly, became a fantastic trade piece once he signed his five-year deal that didn’t include a trade clause.

But how could the Clippers?

After throwing literally everything that the Clippers had at him in free agency eight months ago, they’re going to take all of that back and send him to Detroit?

That’s almost like what Kevin Durant did two summers ago when he left small-town Oklahoma City for the more glamorous Warriors. If Durant had proclaimed his love for Oklahoma City in a blatant display of affection months earlier, he probably already is.

The hypocrisy exists in situations like this is aberrant.

Of course, the NBA is nothing more than a business, but the disdain directed toward players that make decisions like the Clippers recently made is ridiculous-delusory.

Spare me your burned jerseys.

First half of NHL season does not as planned

DREW WHITE
staff writer

The NHL season celebrated its All-Stars this past weekend in Tampa Bay, Florida, and as the season goes on, the league is just beginning to heat up.

At just over the midway point of the year, the playoff picture has started to take shape, and there are some surprise teams both at the top of the picture and on the outside looking in.

The biggest revelation of the season has definitely been the Vegas Golden Knights, who just began this October. The team, which is made up predominantly of players who were selected in last summer’s expansion draft, has gelled together perfectly and are flying on all cylinders.

Led by former Pittsburgh goalie Marc-Andre Fleury and a young core including leading scorers Jonathan Marchessault and Wil-liam Karlsson, the Golden Knights had already soared to the top of the Western Conference and are showing no signs of slowing down.

In their first game following the break, the Golden Knights (33-22-4) scored three goals in 53 seconds to stun Calgary late, 4-2, on Jan. 30. The win tied Vegas with the 1995-94 Florida Panthers and Mighty Ducks of Anaheim for most wins by a first-year team in league history, at 33.

But here’s the catch — Vegas still has 33 games left to play this season.

In the east, the Tampa Bay Lightning have rolled to the top of the standings. Leading the conference for the vast majority of the season, the Bolts currently sit with a league-leading 71 points through 50 games.

The Lightning have been led offensively by a plethora of forwards led by reigning Hart Trophy favorite Nikita Kucherov and potential Comeback Player of the Year, Alex Killorn. On the back-end, they are led by Norris Trophy candidate Victor Hedman and budding goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy.

After a slow start to the season, the back-to-back Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins have jump-started their season and have regained a spot in the tough Metropolitan Division for the time being.

The Pens are in a good spot at this point in the season as the offense has seemingly found itself with the likes of Sidney Crosby and Phil Kessel leading the way.

Pittsburgh can continue to rattle off victories, they are an experienced team to seriously be reckoned with come playoff time.

One of the other surprises has been the Montreal Canadiens, who currently sit 10 points outside of a playoff spot in the Atlantic Division. The team has underperformed all season, which has led to trade rumors about top players, including Vezina-winner goaltender Carey Price and team captain Max Pacioretty.

In the West, two recent Cup winners and perennial playoff teams have their work cut out for them in the final two months of the season. The Chicago Blackhawks and Los Angeles Kings have both struggled at times this season, which has left them both on the outside looking in.

In order for them both to find success, they need their star players to step up and lead them there.

The 2017-18 season has been a wildly unpredictable one so far, and the next 30 odd-games across the next two months should not disappoint.

Duquesne Briefs

— On Jan. 31, the Duquesne men’s basketball team beat George Washington, 75-73, in Washington, D.C. Mike Lewis II led the Dukes in scoring with 17 points, and utility forward Kel- lon Taylor chipped in with a career-high 11 points.

— Duquesne’s Jan. 31 win bumped the team’s record to 15-8 overall and 6-4 in the Atlantic 10. On Saturday, Feb. 3, the Dukes return home to A.J. Pa-lumbo Center, where they will welcome St. Bonaventure (15-6, 5-4 A-10) at 6:30 p.m. The game will be broadcast nationally on NBCSN.

— On Jan. 31 in Dayton, Ohio, the Duquesne women’s basketball team suffered its first loss in the league this season, when it fell to Dayton, 79-70. Duquesne and Dayton had been the only undefeated teams remaining in the A-10 prior to the Duquesne defeat.

— Dan Bart’s team returns to action on Sunday, Feb. 4 in Richmond, Virginia, where it will face the Richmond Spiders (9-14, 4-6) at 12 p.m.

— On Jan. 31, the Northeast Conference announced that freshman Duquesne bowler Ol-ivia Farrow had been named the NEC Rookie of the Week for a fifth time. No other bowler has been chosen this season.

— Both the swimming & diving and women’s track & field will travel to Youngstown State this weekend, as the track & field team will compete at the YSU National Invitational from Feb. 2-3, and the swimming team will participate in the YSU Diving Invite on Dec. 3.

— Both men’s and women’s tennis will face Carnegie Mel- lon on Feb. 3 at 4 p.m.

This Week in Sports History

— On Feb. 1, 1984, Dav- id Stern succeeded Larry O’Brien as NBA commis-sioner, beginning a 30-year reign at the top of the game. Stern is largely credited with increasing the popularity of the NBA in the 1990s and 2000s. On Feb. 1, 2014, Adam Silver took over as NBA commissioner.

— On Feb. 1, 2009, Steeld- ers wide receiver Santonio Holmes made a sensational catch in the end zone during the final minute of Super Bowl XLIII to give the Steelers a 27-23 lead. Holmes was named Super Bowl MVP in the win.
Eagles remain underdogs heading into Super Bowl LII

Back in early December, just a couple days after Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz suffered a season-ending knee injury, I overheard a classmate making a bold, seemingly unfathomable declaration. He guaranteed that the Eagles, with Nick Foles at the helm, would win the Super Bowl.

The National Football League is driven by quarterbacks. Only one non-quarterback (running back Adrian Peterson in 2012) has won the Most Valuable Player Award during the last 10 years. So it is easy to understand why just about everyone, myself included, considered the Wentz-less Eagles to be out of the picture.

Yet here we are, just a few days out from the Super Bowl, with the underdog Philadelphia Eagles preparing to face the modern dynasty that is the New England Patriots. While both teams were their respective conference’s top seed, this is not the matchup most expected.

Coming into the year, the Patriots were a preseason Super Bowl favorite. Some thought New England might even make a run at an undefeated season. Despite not achieving a perfect record, they are exactly where we all expected them to be.

The Eagles, on the other hand, are a much more surprising team. Until the season began and Carson Wentz started putting together an MVP-caliber year, there was speculation as to whether or not they would even make the playoffs. After Wentz tore his ACL, that uncertainty returned.

Despite finishing the season 2-1 with Foles at quarterback, Philadelphia opened their postseason slate as underdogs, becoming one of the only No. 1 seeds ever to be favored to lose in the Divisional Round. However, the Eagles stunned many by edging the defending NFC Champion Falcons and then clobbering Minnesota. In both games, Philadelphia was predicted to lose.

New England, meanwhile, cruised past the Tennessee Titans before staging a fourth-quarter comeback against the Jacksonville Jaguars. Regardless of their differing paths to the championship, both teams are now in Minneapolis preparing for their showdown Sunday in Super Bowl LII.

The Eagles are once again underdogs, largely due to the fact they are facing the greatest coach-quarterback pair of all-time in Bill Belichick and Tom Brady. Together, the duo has five Super Bowl victories.

The Patriots are also one of the most disciplined teams in all of sports. In the AFC Championship, they drew just one penalty for 10 yards.

Already, it is easy to see why Philadelphia is the biggest Super Bowl underdog since 2009. However, you might not want to write off this Eagles team so quickly.

The Eagles have one of the best defenses in the NFL this season, ranking No. 4 in total defense. In their two playoff games so far, against 2016 MVP Matt Ryan and the Atlanta Falcons and Case Keenum, they gave up just 17 combined points.

It also worth noting that Nick Foles, despite his backup status, is an experienced play caller. Although inconsistent, Foles has also had some terrific moments in his career.

In 2013, he was a Pro Bowler and tied the single-game NFL passing touchdown record on Nov. 3, 2013, tossing seven touchdowns for the Eagles versus the Raiders. He is also 4-1 since taking over for Wentz, with the only loss coming in a meaning-les season finale.

With all that being said, will the Eagles have enough to shock the Patriots and the football world alike?

It should be exciting to watch one of sports' best dynasties face off against one of the best stories in the NFL this year. The Patriots are, as they should be, favored to take home a sixth Lombardi Trophy, which would tie the Pittsburgh Steelers for most all-time.

However, the sports world is an unpredictable place. It was just last year that we saw the largest comeback and first ever overtime game in Super Bowl history.

So don't be surprised if you wake up Monday morning to find the Eagles are this year's Super Bowl champions. In fact, I'm picking Philadelphia to defeat New England, 27-24.

As good as the Patriots are, the Eagles have powered through adversity all season long. They are a deep team with plenty of talent, and Foles has shown he is more than capable leading the offense. There’s little reason as to why they can’t surprise us all again.

David Borne

With both basketball programs on campus about halfway through conference play, it’s pretty accurate to say that it has been an exciting year for hoops on the Bluff thus far.

The women’s team (13-4, 6-0 A-10) is rolling once again, and the men’s team (14-8, 5-4 A-10) has shattered expectations and is quickly becoming relevant once again.

Based on performances from this season’s action up to this point, below are midseason individual awards for both the programs.

**Top Freshman — MBB:** Mike Lewis II

When a team has as many quality uppersclassmen guards as Duquesne does, it would be easy to think that a freshman ball handler would not get much of a chance to shine. That’s not the case for Bazekal, who is the younger sister of junior Duquesne volleyball player, Maddie Bazekal.

Bazekal has done a fantastic job coming off the bench and supplying quality minutes for Duquesne. The freshman has transitioned well to the college game, and has already proven to be a trustworthy backup point guard. Her best scoring performance came in the team’s Dec. 22 loss to No. 1 ranked UConn in which she scored 14 points in 17 minutes of play.

Fellow freshmen Helmi Tulonen and Amanda Kalin have been impressive in limited action as well.

**MBB:** Eric Williams Jr.

Eric Williams Jr. has clearly been Duquesne’s best freshman, and is in contention to be the best newcomer in the Atlantic 10, as well.

Just 6-foot-5, the athletic swingman has received national attention for his rebounding ability. Williams Jr. ranks amongst the best freshman in the country in terms of rebounding ability, with numbers comparable to the likes of top-ranked big men Marvin Bagley III of Duke and Mohamed Bamba of Texas.

Williams Jr. ranks fifth amongst freshmen nationally with 4.8 rebounds per contest.

Williams Jr. hit a Duquesne freshman record nine 3-pointers in the team’s double-overtime win against George Mason on Jan. 20, and has recorded nine double-doubles this season through Duquesne’s 21 games this year.

**Most Improved — WBB:** Kadri Ann-Lass

Before the season, head coach Dan Burt remarked how important it would be for the team to have an asset to complement the similar level to how she did in her freshman season. She has certainly done that.

**Most Valuable Player — WBB:** Chassidy Omogrosso & Juliana Vojnovic

When a team has two players good as these two, it’s hard to just pick one.

The pair of junior guards carry the load defensively for the Dukes and form the most dangerous backcourt in the conference.

The combination of Omogrosso’s steady play, and Vojnovic’s scoring ability. Williams Jr. attempts a 3-pointer against George Washington on Jan. 3. Only 6-foot-5, Williams leads the Dukes in rebounding.

February 1, 2018

Sports

In February 1, 2018,
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

60th Grammys epitomizes gender inequalities

Nicolas Jozefczyk  a&e editor

The 60th Annual Grammy Awards encapsulated strength, vulnerability and, quite frankly, too many honors for Bruno Mars. Unlike last year, the show did not stand out in terms of comedic breaks, but held strong with some jaw-dropping and tear-jerking performances from incredible artists.

Opening this year’s show, Kendrick Lamar performed a medley of his tracks alongside U2 and Dave Chappelle to a backdrop reading, “This is a satire by Kendrick Lamar.” Before the song started, Chappelle presented a comedic break for an all-too-realistic art piece that had dancers dressed as soldiers marching and then falling down to the sound of gunshots.

Following Lamar, who had the best display of the night, host James Corden got a huge response from the crowd, and the Grammys were off to the races.

The televised awards included the classics, like Best New Artist and Best Rap Album, the highly sought after Song of the Year, Record of the Year and Album of the Year, and one that did not belong with any of the others: Best Comedy Album.

Personally, I understand that there are many other Grammy awards that do not include popular music (or music at all) but presenting the “Best Comedy Album” to Chappelle wasted a time slot that could have been better used for live music, such as Lordy singing a song off of her nominated Melodrama.

The other performances ranged from lackluster, to expected, to just frankly amazing. “Despacito” by Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee, being the overall hit that it was, deserved its moment on stage. “Pray” by Sam Smith and “Better Man” by Little Big Town felt uninspired; there was nothing that distinguished these performances from just a normal concert. Lady Gaga’s medley, “Wild Hearts Can’t Be Broken” by P!nk, “Praying” by Kesha and “I-800-272-8255” by Logic feat. Alessia Cara and Khalid garnered the quality needed to be a real Grammy’s production.

There is no question in my mind who had the greatest Grammies performance.

Hands down, it was Kesha. Introduced by Janelle Monae, who gave a powerful speech about the #MeToo and Time’s Up movements, Kesha took the stage with backup from other powerful women in the industry — Cyndi Lauper, Julia Michaels, Bebe Rexha, Camila Cabello and Andra Day.

The white rose worn by people at the Grammys symbolized the support for the Time’s Up initiative, and Kesha was the centerpiece. Her enthusiastic and unabashed performance included a white suit jacket that stuck out with embroidered roses, a clear nod to the movement.

Not only were people’s emotions dedicated solely to the serenading stars, the award show also struck plenty of negative chords with people watching at home, as well as with some artists, mainly about female representation.

The evening’s most noticeable corn was the overwhelming abundance of male winners opposed to female winners. Alessia Cara was the only female artist to win an award — Best New Artist — on TV. This underrepresentation was not caused out of the lack of effort made by women this year. In the midst of several #MeToo moments, this show was not present to accept the award, Sheeran won.

Also, it might be an unpopular opinion but 24K Magic and its singles did not affect the music industry enough to warrant Bruno winning the three biggest awards of the evening.

The 60th Annual Grammy Awards did not feel in touch with what music lovers feel. Other than for a couple sporadic performances, this show was uninspiring at best. Hopefully, the Recording Academy can start listening to the public and get off their collective high horse.

The evening’s most noticeable, though, was not caused out of the lack of effectiveness. The performance. Hands down, it was Kesha. Introduced by Janelle Monae, who gave a powerful speech about the #MeToo and Time’s Up movements, Kesha took the stage with backup from other powerful women in the industry — Cyndi Lauper, Julia Michaels, Bebe Rexha, Camila Cabello and Andra Day.

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WEEK’S EVENTS

Black History Month Lecture: Bound in Wedlock
Feb. 2 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Located at the Heinz History Center, the African American Program’s fourth Black History Month Lecture features Tera W. Hunter. Admission is free.

All About You
Feb. 4 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Enjoy free admission to the Westmoreland Museum of American Art and a 10 percent discount to anything purchased in the Westmoreland Museum Shop.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Allied Carbon
Feb. 2
Releasing on Netflix, this new series is an adaptation of a cyberpunk novel written by Richard K. Morgan. Set in the 24th century, a lone surviving soldier must solve a murder.

Men of the Woods
Feb. 2
Justin Timberlake’s newest album will be the fifth in his solo repertoire. The three singles released so far from the album sparked mixed reviews from listeners.

MICRO REVIEW

An Evening of Music and Comedy with Creed Bratton
Creed Bratton, famous for playing his fictionalized self on NBC’s The Office, played a solo set of original songs. His stage persona is as odd and hilarious as his on-screen character, but in contrast, his songs are moving and earnest.

— Josiah Martin

Monster Hunter: World sharpens gameplay

Grant Stoner  staff writer

As a franchise, Monster Hunter is notoriously difficult. Without a decent understanding of the incredible battle subtleties, each fight can devolve into a chaotic slugfest between your hunter and the beast.

Developed by Capcom, World continues the tradition of slaying gargantuan beasts and collecting their parts to craft progressively more powerful weapons and armor. The core mechanics remain the same, yet World introduces several new features which completely revolutionize the game. With every encounter, I found myself in awe of the new level of creativity the developers have shown.

Unlike previous titles, I found World’s story to be engaging, albeit slightly stale. Players create a character belonging to the Research Commission’s 5th Fleet. Members of this group are tasked with discovering the cause of the Elder Dragon migrations to the New World. The voice acting and character personalities are certainly entertaining, yet, at the end of the day, you’re still just a hunter who must kill or capture differing creatures.

To coincide with the same tried-and-true formula of utilizing a basic plot, World continues to employ its signature high-action genre mechanics. This isn’t necessarily bad. In fact, it’s one of the main reasons why I adore this series. With 14 weapon styles to choose from, hunters are expected to gravitate toward instruments which fit their specific playstyle. Hammers, for example, do the most damage, but their limited range and slow speed are not recommended for faster monsters. Whereas the longsword counters the hammer’s shortcomings, but deals significantly less damage.

Combat is where the Monster Hunter series shines. Aside from picking a particular weapon, hunters need to fully grasp the nuances of each tool, as well as their specific target. Understanding the overall speed and combos of weapons and monsters is vital to the completion of the game. My favorite weapon is the switch axe, which has the capability to transform between an axe or great sword with the press of a button. Yet, since it has a relatively slow swing speed, I’m learning to use the dual blades, an insanely fast, but incredibly weak weapon. By the end of my playthrough, I fully expect to have an entire arsenal which will allow me to effectively complete each quest.

As for the missions, hunters embark from the main city of Astera, where hunters upgrade equipment, monsters can be studied and shop-keepers sell an ever-expanding list of items. After a quest is selected, players will journey to one of five beautifully designed regions to complete their task.

Unlike previous entries in the series, World has created a seamless zone for hunters to explore. Rather than carry load times between different sections of the map, World offers an entirely open-world experience, a first for the series. Since transitions are so fluid, I was able to fully enjoy the mesmerizing environments.

Whether it be the lush landscape of the Ancient Forest, or the massive caverns of the Rotten Vale, I found the flora and fauna to be wonderfully unique, and, to my astonishment, noticed that they interact with one another.

To further introduce the open-world setting, World created Scout-flies. These green fireflies will highlight monster clusters, sparkles and animal materials for crafting or turn a shade of red when enemies are near.

In just three days, Monster Hunter: World shipped over five million copies — more than any other iteration of the Monster Hunter series in the same time.
I Like Fun emphasizes robust lyrical prowess

When a band has remained active for 35 years, it is almost unthinkably prolific. The reason their latter efforts would seem phoned in. Bands traditionally lose their edge over time. I Like Fun thankfully proves that this is not the case for They Might Be Giants. I Like Fun is the 20th studio album by They Might Be Giants, a band that has grown from a borderline-experimental duo consisting of lead members John Flansburgh and John Linnell to a versatile and intimidatorily prolific five-piece rock group. The past decade alone has seen the release of eight studio albums, each of which seems to top the previous in terms of quality.

Despite this output and growth as a band, the group has remained true to what made them great, always delivering eclectic collections of songs that pair impressive but catchy melodies with fiercely quotable and often bleak lyrics. The lyricism of I Like Fun is, in fact, its strongest suit. The album is solid overall.

However, the band’s trademark eclecticism led to some questionable choices, and the album is plagued by unnecessary genre-hopping and whipass-inducing mood shifts that are not successful. The opening track is promising enough, with the first track “Let’s Get This Over With” delivering massive, danceable drums with Linnell’s classic stream-of-consciousness style lyrics. Musically, this is one of the most pleasant songs on the album. This fact paired with the comparatively sour title is classic They Might Be Giants.

Second track “I Left My Body” is uninteresting compared to the opener, but stands well enough on its own as a quality song. This is likely why it was released as a single ahead of the album. “All Time What,” the first song on the album led by Flansburgh, does a far better job of holding the listener’s attention, especially with beautiful vocal harmonies on the chorus. This song is a strong contender for the one most likely to be stuck in your head, and possibly the best on the album.

The gentle “By the Time You Get This” maintains the quality standard set by “All Time What,” with garage rock track “In Suit to the Fact Checkers” being comparatively forgettable. “Mrs. Bluebird,” which begins with an absolutely captivating piano intro by Linnell, is a dark and beautiful almost-tango composition. While a wonderful song, this song’s arrival is the first prominent example of the abrupt genre switches you’ll experience within the album. The album’s title track takes a while to build to a gorgeous, ’30s jazz-inspired chorus which criminally does not make up much of the song’s composition, but nonetheless makes it a listenable and enjoyable track. The aggressive change to “Push Back the Hands” techno bass and dance club drums is unwelcome and difficult to listen to. It is one of the album’s weak links.

Now fully entrenched in the second half of the album, the listener has the pleasure of hearing Flansburgh’s gentle, ’60s guitar pop-inspired “This Microphone” before being stuck with four much more boring songs, which somehow feel homogenous despite trying too many new things: “The Bright Side” opens with guitars reminiscent of ’90s alt-rock group Dinosaur Jr., “When The Lights Come On” features an energetic snare-filled drum track, while “Lake Monster” and “McCafferty’s Bil” rely on distractedly electronic sounds that don’t add to their quality or fit much else on the album.

Luckily, this trend is reversed at last minute by penultimate track “The Greatest,” a soft track featuring little else than vintage horn sounds and slow, gentle notes on bass. Flansburgh’s high, almost whispered vocals suit the song perfectly. With one final monumental jump into a different style of music, “Last Wave” features similar vein to the harder rockers of the first half of the album and serves as a really strong closer.

I Like Fun is far from perfect. Profoundly demonstrating wildly different types of music was always a strength for They Might Be Giants, but this album feels inconsistent, some tracks seeming unique for uniqueness’ sake. The concepts behind these songs don’t feel fully fleshed out and
Adventure through the World

HUNTER — from page 9

animal materials for crafting or turn a shade of red when enemies are near. While I enjoy their assistance, I occasionally become annoyed when they begin to highlight every interactable object within the vicinity. Despite the fact that few new mechanics were introduced, Monster Hunter: World is an overwhelming success. Fights never become dull, areas come to life with exciting encounters and the monsters prove to be as intimidating as ever. It is refreshing to see that an established series such as Monster Hunter can continue to entertain.
In search of a ...

**COMIC ARTIST**

Those interested can contact Opinions Editor Shivani Gosai at shivang96@gmail.com with a sample of their work by Feb. 15.

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**Current flu proves to be worrying**

**FLU — from page 3**

of 100 said that they had felt flu-like symptoms. Additionally, 48 of the 68 students that said they didn’t experience flu-like symptoms said they had received their flu shot this year.

What has made this flu season particularly deadly is the fact that this specific strain has traveled so well and so quickly. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has reported the virus has appeared in every U.S. state, an incredibly high rate of spread by CDC standards. Mrvos said that “the best medicine is simply to allow the professionals to do their job.” Rather than self-diagnose or self-medicate, Mrvos wants students to know that they should see health services if they feel any doubt in their own health.

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**Correction from the Jan. 25 issue page 3. The Women’s March jump should read as such ...**

Feminism (TERF). Thank you for speaking up with your criticisms. We hear you,” it read. “The founding principles of Pussyhat Project are inclusivity, compassion, creativity, personal connection and open dialogue, to further women’s rights and human rights. It is an exciting and ongoing process, and these criticisms are part of it.”

Still, members of these marginalized groups — primarily members of the transgender community — feel as though the abundance of pussyhats at the March could’ve been counterproductive.

“I strongly dislike the hats — emphasis on strongly and dislike,” said Neil Runge, a freshman English major and transgender man. “I feel like it’s an obvious way to just remind trans women that they aren’t women, and to make trans men feel like they aren’t men. I’m all for empowering women, but these pussyhats alienate a huge portion of women who are fighting for the same rights. Feminism isn’t feminism if its exclusionary.”

As the march neared its end and the crowds began to thin, a call to action lingered still in the air. Gatherers were urged to go beyond showing up and to remain vocal even after the event was over.

“People don’t just march,” Neff said, speaking to the hope of a larger impact. “They get involved.”

“I think that it’s very important for marches like this to happen,” added Boone. “However, demonstrations amount to nothing if people don’t take action after the march. Voting, having challenging conversations with those around us and changing our own mindsets are crucial if we want anything to change.”

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