Brother of long-time DU employee seeks life-saving transplant

Raymond Arke
news editor

Everyone is taught to share many as early as preschool. For one man with a Duquesne connection, a person willing to share a kidney could save his life. Bryan McNalley is the brother of Joan Thompson, the long-time administrative assistant for Duquesne’s Philosophy Department. She said that it will have been 30 years with the department in August.

Thompson hopes to educate the campus community about her brother’s need for a new kidney and find a donor.

“[He] might not be with us much longer,” Thompson said.

McNalley has focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), which affects his kidney’s ability to function. There is no known cause and the only cure is a transplant.

“It affects the filter systems in your kidneys ... [they] don’t filter out the proteins,” he said.

Out of five stages of kidney failure, McNalley is in stage five.

“My kidney function is at 15 percent,” he said.

McNalley found out he had FSGS in 1990 at age 30 during a normal doctor’s checkup. The doctor had found protein in McNalley’s urine and did further tests, diagnosing him with the disease.

“It was a shock. I didn’t think anything was wrong,” he said.

Since his diagnosis, he has been on a strict diet.

“I have had no alcohol, no tobacco,” and foods are to be low in protein, phosphorus, potassium and sodium,” McNalley explained. He also has to drink a gallon of water a day.

Much of what he eats is “mainly vegetables, some fruits,” along with 6 ounces of meat or fish a day, he said.

As the disease has progressed, McNalley has become in need of a kidney transplant and is currently waiting on the often crowded transplant list.

“I’ve been on a transplant list. It’ll be two years in June,” he said.

He would prefer getting a live donor, as those kidneys last much longer than ones from a cadaver, plus he might not be able to wait for a cadaver kidney to become available.

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POLICE BRIEFS

Grandpa PB had a restless break away from all the rule-breaking chaos. Even though most students were gone, it looks like some folks were still able to stir up trouble.

On March 2, a student in Brotti was found with a small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

On March 4, a female outside of Liberman Hall was seen calling for help and was under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Her name was run through NCIC and was positive for a warrant in Beaver County. She was transported to the Allegheny County Jail.

On March 10, graffiti was reported on the Gumberg Library. No word on who is the budding Murdock.

On March 11, the revolving door on the Forbes Avenue entrance of Rockwell Hall was intentionally broken by an unidentified actor.

BLUFF BRIEFS

Campus PRSSA hosts third annual networking event

Duquesne’s chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America is once again hosting the “Bridging Opportunities” event which allows students to connect with possible employers. A variety of public relations, advertising, marketing and business firms will be in attendance.

Several businesses that have attended in the past include Marc USA, Havas PR and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

The event is on March 23 in the Union Ballroom from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Attendance is free and signing up is encouraged.

For more questions, contact Shannon Keys at 412-687-7664.

Upper St. Clair Mini-THON looks to grads at DU for funds

Students at the Upper St. Clair High School are hosting a Mini-THON dance to raise money for the Four Diamonds Fund and are looking for donations from their graduates.

Donations can be made at https://fourdiamonds.donordrive.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=donordrive.eventventId=19940.

MCNALLEY STILL SEARCHING FOR NEEDED KIDNEY DONOR

Alicia Gutierrez, clarinetist, was chosen as the winner of the DUWAB undergraduate music scholarship competition on March 13.

"The average wait for a cadaver kidney in Pittsburgh is five years," McNalley said.

Thompson and McNalley’s brother both have health issues that prevent them from donating. To help speed up the process of finding a donor, he has taken the effort into his own hands. His family created a Facebook page called KidneyBryan, which he says has 200 followers so far. McNalley has also taken to wearing a t-shirt which states his contact information, his blood type and his need for a new kidney.

He wore the t-shirt to Disney World where he met many people who offered words of support and some who said they may be able to donate, but so far no success.

"There were a few people... a lady from South Carolina, a complete stranger [said she would help], but I have not heard back," McNalley said.

He explained that the donation process is not too difficult or time-consuming. First, a potential donor has to have the same blood type.

"[Then] they’re tested... make sure their organs are ok," McNalley said. Then if the donation could proceed, most donors are out of the hospital in two days and back to regular work in less than a week.

An interested donor doesn’t have to worry about medical costs either.

"My insurance would cover testing and transplant... pay for lodging," he said. The only thing McNalley’s insurance doesn’t account for would be the missed salary of the donor’s time off work.

McNalley also said that anyone who is interested doesn’t have to worry about him mistreating the new kidney.

"I’m somebody that has taken care of my kidneys. I’m not going to abuse it," he said. According to his medical history, he has never smoked, has no alcohol intake and does not take illicit drugs.

McNalley hopes he hears from a donor soon so that he can continue taking care of his mother and his stepchildren.

If you are interested in getting in contact with McNalley, his blood type is O and more information can be found on the KidneyBryan Facebook page.
Conor Lamb secures upset victory in nearby Congressional race

RAYMOND AREE
news editor

Calling it a close race does not quite do it justice. Duquesne and Pizza Milano are close. The walk from Gumbar to Starbucks is close. This was something more. The March 13 special election in Pennsylvania’s 18th Congressio nal District was more than just tight; it came down to a couple hundred ballots.

With no official winner declared by the Associated Press as of press time, Conor Lamb (D-Mt. Lebanon), a former federal prosecutor and Marine, declared victory at 1 a.m. on March 14 over Rick Saccone (R-Elizabe th), a Pennsylvania state house representative for the 18th District. With all the votes counted and reported, Lamb holds a 627 vote lead. The New York Times and NBC News called the race in Lamb’s favor on the evening of March 14.

The 18th District consists of a combination of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh suburbs like Moon Township, Mount Lebanon and Bethel Park, along with parts of Washington, Westmoreland and Greene Counties. The district may not exist by November 2018, as the Pennsylvania Supreme Court threw out the old congressional map and drew new districts.

Since the resignation of former Rep. Tim Murphy (R-Upper St. Clair) in October triggered the special election, the area has seen intense national attention. Former Vice President Joe Biden and Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Youngstown) from neighboring Ohio both came out to campaign for Lamb. Saccone saw the visits of President Trump, Donald Trump Jr., Vice President Mike Pence and White House aide Kellyanne Conway.

The district was seen as a Republican stronghold. In the 2016 presidential election, Trump won the 18th by 20 points over Hillary Clinton. Before his resignation, Murphy had won his past three elections, dating back to 2012, handily, with no Democrats running against him in 2014 or 2016, according to Ballotpedia.

With the 18th District being so close to Duquesne’s campus, many Duquesne students voted in the election or participated in the campaign.

Conner Evans, a senior bio medical engineering major, made sure to vote yesterday and cast his ballot for Lamb.

“I voted for Conor Lamb primarily because of his general stance as a socially conservative Democrat,” he said. Evans particularly liked Lamb’s background as a federal prosecutor and that Lamb is relatively young. He is only 33. “I believe that we need fresh, young leadership in the Democratic Party, and Conor Lamb is the right guy to represent the people of the area,” he said.

Evans also pointed out that his name, Connor James Evans, is very close to Conor James Lamb, something he said “isn’t bad either.”

Michael DaPos, DeSales senior political science major with a pre-law concentration and an English minor and is active in Westmoreland County Republican politics, was disappointed by Saccone’s loss.

“Last night’s result was a disappointment for Pennsylvania Republicans and a surprise. Republicans across the country looking to build on the success of President Trump’s first year in office,” he said.

DaPos said he was proud of how Saccone ran the race. “He is a genuinely good man, which can sometimes he hard to find in politics ... Rick worked hard and had an army of troops on the ground, loyal to a fault, and tried to convince whoever and wherever he could that love and excitement too.”

Students across nation stage mass walkouts protesting gun violence

AP — They bowed their heads in honor of the dead. They carried signs with messages like “Never again” and “Am I next?” They rallied against the National Rifle Association and the politicians who support it.

And over and over, they repeated the message: Enough is enough.

In a wave of protests one historian called the largest of its kind in American history, tens of thousands of students walked out of their classrooms Wednesday to demand action on gun violence and school safety.

The demonstrations extended from Maine to Hawaii as students joined the youth-led surge of activism set off by the Feb. 14 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

“We’re sick of it,” said Maxwell Nardi, a senior at Douglas S. Freeman High School in Henrico, Virginia, just outside Richmond. “We’re going to keep fighting, and we’re not going to stop until Congress finally makes real change.”

Students around the nation left class at 10 a.m. local time for at least 17 minutes — one minute for each of the dead in the Florida shooting. Some led marches or rallied on football fields, while others gathered in school gyms or took a knee in the hallway.

At some schools, hundreds of students poured out. At others, just one or two showed up in defiance of administrators.

They lamented that too many young people have died and that their politicians are willing to let schools afraid they will be killed.

“Enough is enough. People are done with being shot,” said Iris Marie Ober, 18, a senior at Walth burn High School in Minneapolis.

Some issued specific demands for lawmakers, including mandatory background checks for all gun sales and a ban on assault weapons like the one used in the Florida bloodbath.

While administrators and teachers at some schools applauded students for taking a stand — and some joined them — others threatened punishment for missing class. As the demonstrations unfolded, the NRA responded by posting a photo on Twitter of a black rifle emblazoned with an American flag. The caption: “I’ll control my own guns, thank you.”

The protests took place at schools from the elementary level through college, including some that have been the scene of mass shootings. About 300 students gathered on a soccer field at Colorado’s Columbine High, while students who survived the Sandy Hook Elementary School attack in 2012 marched out of Newtown High School in Connecticut.
The idea that all Irish are drunks or alcoholics is still unfortunately common. We, as a staff, have personal instances of friends and family joking about being careless with what we drink because of our Irish heritage. While it’s easy to brush those encounters off, dealing with a loss of trust because of presuppositions of irresponsibility are substantially more biting. So you can see how a day totally dedicated to perpetuating that stereotype is, at the very least, insensitive.

Not only that, but St. Patrick’s Day “celebrations” typically don’t amount to anything more than getting as drunk as possible. Beyond being the patron saint of Ireland, and maybe the whole smattering of St. Patrick is just an abstraction, to Americans, and he certainly doesn’t garner the type of reverence actual Irish people afforded him to the average Joe going to the bar.

Putting all of that sticky cultural stuff aside, just the way Americans celebrate St. Patrick’s Day can make one’s skin crawl. We honestly can’t believe we have to write this, but drinking to the brink of blacking out is seriously dangerous. It compromises your ability to make decisions, leaves you vulnerable and you can seriously injure or maim yourself.

Instead, here are some quick tips for those who still want to celebrate but want some advice: set limits for yourself, use the buddy system, and don’t go to places you aren’t familiar with. Also be sure to look out for others. If you see someone who appears to be in trouble, you could be the difference between life and death.

So this Saturday, feel free to celebrate and learn about a great cultural figure, one that has a special significance to the Duquesne community. Just maybe cut back on the Guinness and try some soda bread or corned beef instead.

Happy early St. Patrick’s Day, Duquesne. Because we are incredibly boring prudes here at The Duke, we wanted to take a moment to remind you all of this one fact before you go out and get wasted this weekend:

St. Patrick’s Day is grossly insensitive and dangerous.

Now breathe. Breathe. Exhale. Please hear us out. To start, it was not that long ago that the Irish in America were treated like second-class citizens. If you’re fortunate enough to have living grandparents, ask them about the 1960 election. Ask them about the panic over an Irish Catholic running for president. You’ll be shocked. The Irish faced discrimination in employment, housing, you name it, for much of the same reasons that other minorities are discriminated against today.

And don’t get this wrong. We are absolutely not saying that Irish Americans are discriminated against today at the same levels as they were 60 years ago. What we are saying is that treating a day that celebrates an icon of Irish heritage by binge drinking and wearing cheap green trash perpetuates harmful stereotypes from decades ago.

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Instead, here are some quick tips for those who still want to celebrate but want some advice: set limits for yourself, use the buddy system, and don’t go to places you aren’t familiar with and have a contingency plan to get home.

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OPINIONS

Stephen Hawking lives on posthumously in science

Ollie Gratzinger
opinion editor

In 1963, Stephen Hawking was given only a few years to live following a diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, colloquially known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. A few years became 55, and the young, talented student became the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University — a position once held by Sir Isaac Newton — and, later, one of the most famous scientists in the world. After decades of discovery, curiosity, determination and an inspiring sense of humanity and humor, Hawking died in the early hours of Wednesday morning at age 76.

Hawking was best known for his starring brilliance and keen scientific eye, with his work in quantum theory and black hole mechanics coming to redefine the course of modern physics. But Hawking was not just a scientist. According to a statement given by his three children, Hawking once said, “It would not be much of a universe if it wasn’t home to the people you love.” Hawking was an inspiration to the community of all human kind and a rare example of a man who was not only exceedingly great, but also fundamentally good.

Perhaps no more than ever, we live in a time where science and goodness alike are threatened by the powers that be, and very real, dangerous issues are overlooked and pointlessly dismissed. In the past, Hawking spoke out against President Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement — a decision which Trump claimed would be counterintuitive to his (problematic) America First policy.

Hawking maintained that the action would cause “avoidable environmental damage,” according to BBC News. (The United States will become the only country that isn’t part of the Agreement, with even North Korea and Syria taking part.)

Hawking was also an active voice in the argument against nuclear war, citing it as one of the greatest dangers to the survival of the human race. Among other threats, Hawking warned of asteroid impacts, global pandemics and the consequences of stepping too far into artificial intelligence.

Even though Hawking’s passing brings great grief to the scientific community and beyond, it is imperative that we heed his words as the climate change argument intensifies, and as the threat of nuclear fallout looms like storm clouds overhead. His legacy will live on in the discoveries he made and the books he wrote, but to honor the good man behind the great mind, we ought to uphold the values he stood for. Included in Hawking’s ideals were the preservation and funding of science, political and social literacy and education as a remedy to ignorance.

It’s no secret that President Trump has made plans to cut the endowments provided to certain institutions that support arts and humanities, but with a Commander in Chief who tweets uncivilized, ignorant nonsense such as, “Perhaps we could use a little bit of that good old Global Warming that our Country, but not other countries, was going to pay TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS to protect against. Bundle up!” the prospects of American scientific advancement appear to be a little bleak. To deny something as catastrophic as global warming can only likely will, as Hawking once said, have catastrophic and irreversible consequences on the only planet we’ve got.

As if that isn’t bad enough, an early draft of President Trump’s 2019 budget plan included a proposal that would essentially put an end to the funds going toward the International Space Station (ISS) by the mid-2020s, as the Obama-era protections expire in 2024, favoring instead a more privatized approach to American space exploration.

Every day, we inch closer to a dark reality in which political demagogues forsake science and condemn the research of brilliant minds. If for no other reason than to honor the legacy of the late Stephen Hawking, we as a society must be tasked with stepping up and challenging the administration’s anti-science rhetoric, so that humanity may live on to venture boldly into the dreamlike cosmos.

California making strides toward cruelty-free cosmetics

Rachel Pierce
staff columnist

There is a new voice in California’s government, and it’s not human. Animal rights advocates created enough uproar that a new bill has been proposed that will change vendors drastically.

State Sen. Cathleen Galgiani (D-CAP) proposed the California Cruelty Free Cosmetic Act this past February. The proposed bill states that it will be “unlawful” for any cosmetic manufacturer or vendor to sell cosmetics or personal hygiene products “if the final product or any component of the product was tested on animals.” If passed, the bill will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2020. According to Refinery29, those who violate this law will be fined $500 for the first offense and $1000 for the following convictions.

In short, no stores or manufacturer in the state of California can sell any product (deodorant, shampoo, conditioner or makeup) that has been tested on animals. While this is a big step for animal activists, it is not surprising that such a bill was proposed in California. Newsweek states that in 2000, the practice of animal testing was banned in the state, but products that tested animals in other parts of the world could be sold in California. This new proposed bill is like an extension of the previous. If passed, California will be the only state in the U.S. to have a law like this. However, this law would not be new in other parts of the world.

The U.S. is actually lagging when it comes to animal rights in terms of testing. Relford reports that almost 40 global economies, including the European Union banned animal testing. Though many of these economies can sell products that test on animals, it is a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, there are also countries dragging behind the U.S.

In China, vendors must sell products that are tested on animals. In 2017, however, lawmakers lifted this ban for some cosmetics. Hopefully, China continues this direction.

Though California has become a trailblazer for animal rights, they are backed by a few powerful organizations and companies. These include LUSH Cosmetics, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty in Legislation, Cruelty Free International and The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. LUSH Cosmetics is not only known for their famous bath bombs, but for their dedication to a cruelty free market. According to Refinery29, LUSH Cosmetics has granted over $2 million to scientists and researchers working to develop safe alternatives to animals testing. For example, the Lewis Bioprinting Team at Harvard University has created organ-specific human tissue to replace animal testing. This may become the future of animal testing.

Whether or not the bill (assuming it passes) directly changes our market, I am hopeful that it will at least bring awareness to the public. Animal testing isn’t lathering a rabbi with our favorite shampoo. Animals are left with burns, breaking cuts and inflammation, all while living in tight quarters. It is simply inhumane. According to DoSomething.org, over 100 million animals are “burned, crippled and abused in U.S. labs each year.” In addition, 92 percent of chemicals that work on animals fail in human trials. Not only is animal testing inhumane, it is inaccurate. With only an eight percent success rate, who would trust this method anyway?

If people saw pictures of abused animals as a result of animal testing, they were not affiliated with animal cruelty. Individual, we are not going to stop animal testing. But if more and more people make the switch, I think large companies will be forced to eliminate animal testing.

If this bill does pass, it’s not going to halt animals testing. I foresee this bill stirring questions about the morality of animal testing. How horrible animal testing was I think people would avoid brands that were not cruelty-free. I think that people don’t think too much of it. Animal testing is not a matter of opinion, it’s a matter. As people become more aware of animal testing and more governments follow the footsteps of California, it’s plausible that testing becomes a part of our past.

If you’re not convinced, I invite you to visit the at least very search “animal testing,” and then click images.
Duquesne students go far and wide for Spring Break 2018

**Elsa Bueller**  
staff writer

While many students are perfectly content to stay home and get some well-needed rest during Spring Break, just as many use the time as an opportunity to travel. Whether it be a beach getaway, a road trip or a study abroad course, there are plenty of options available for students — both through Duquesne and other outside organizations.

This year, three Duquesne students volunteered to share their traveling experiences, in case you’re considering breaking up with your couch and branching out next March.

Where did you spend Spring Break?

**Dana Dryzal:** I spent Spring Break in France, including Cahors, Bordeaux, Lourdes and Toulouse.

**Maria Miller:** I travelled with a Spring Break class here at Duquesne called “Sacred Places: Faith, History, and Geography.”

**Jacob Salvatore:** Jay Peak Resort in Vermont.

Did you travel with a class or an organization?

**Dryzal:** I traveled with a class here at Duquesne called “Sacred Places: Faith, History, and Geography.”

**Miller:** I travelled with a Spring Breakaway class offered at Duquesne this Spring. It was a philosophy class, which was cross-listed as “Basic Philosophical Questions” and “Meaning of Life.”

**Salvatore:** I travelled with Duquesne Ski Club.

If you were exploring a new culture, what shocked you the most?

**Dryzal:** I tried to go into the trip with as much of an open mind as possible. However, I was expecting the people to be very impatient with us since [the French] are known to have high regard for their culture and language. To my surprise, everyone was very helpful and kind to us and even spoke in English if they could. It was comforting to know that they weren’t as mean as people make them out to be.

**Miller:** Before traveling, when I thought of Greece, I figured we would visit ancient ruins and then spend time along the crystal-blue water on the coasts. This was definitely the case when we visited the island of Aegina and stopped along the beach for a few hours in the afternoon.

**Salvatore:** I was not sure what to expect. [I was] very excited to travel to a new state and experience a new place.

What expectations did you have for the trip? What were you surprised to learn?

**Dryzal:** I gained so much from this experience — a greater appreciation for other cultures, history and my own inner peace. Traveling opens your mind and soul in a way that nothing else can.

**Miller:** I'm not sure that I was really shocked by anything in Greece, but I found it interesting how there are no skyscrapers in Athens. Our tour guide explained that there was a law passed in Athens that the highest building in the city would be the Parthenon at the Acropolis. There are buildings that have six or more stories, but no real skyscrapers, which makes for an interesting aerial view of the city and also shows how important the Acropolis and its history means to the people of Greece.

**Salvatore:** I met some great people and made some great memories.

Do you have a favorite memory or most memorable excursion from the trip?

**Dryzal:** The most memorable part of the trip was going to the observatory at Pic du Midi. It is about 9,500 feet up in the Pyrenees Mountains on the southern border of France. It was an amazing sight, you could see miles of snow-covered mountains. It was breathtaking.

**Miller:** My favorite memory from the trip was probably when a group of us climbed Mount Lycabettus in Athens during an afternoon when we had free time. The hike up was beautiful and the view from the top of the mountain was gorgeous, showing the whole city of Athens. There was also a very small, Greek Orthodox church at the top of the mountain, with beautiful frescoes. Then, on the way back from the mountain, we stopped at the Greek Parliament building in Athens and watched the changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier there.

**Salvatore:** Not one in particular, but the peacefulness and sights from atop the mountain were breathtaking.

Any tips for students wanting to take a Spring Breakaway course, or travel independently next year?

**Dryzal:** If you have the slightest interest in going abroad, do it, especially now while in college since you probably won’t right after you graduate. If you travel and don’t like it, then you don’t have to go again, but you will never know if you do if you don’t try.

**Miller:** This was the third Spring Breakaway course I have taken at Duquesne, and I’m so blessed to be able to study abroad. The best advice I can give is to plan your Core Classes and Theme Areas for the Spring semesters — it can be so easy to study abroad, no matter what your major is, through Spring Breakaways. I really believe that every student should take advantage of the study abroad opportunities that Duquesne offers.

**Salvatore:** Yes, do it.
NCAAs bring NBA-level talent to Pittsburgh

BY ADAM LINDNER & DAVID BORNE

The duquesne duke

On the 40th anniversary of Duquesne's most recent NCAA Tournament victory, top teams from around the nation will begin play in the NCAA Tournament at PPG Paints Arena, making the third year in the past seven to see the tournament hosted in Pittsburgh. This year's draw of teams visiting Pittsburgh may even manage to make the city the focus of the basketball world for a few days, being that there is absolutely no shortage of star power in a grouping of programs including No. 1-seeded Villanova, No. 1-seeded Villanova, and No. 7 seed and Atlantic 10 representative Rhode Island. Among others, college basketball's leading polarizing player this season, freshman Oklahoma guard Trae Young, leads a Sooners squad stumbling into Pittsburgh as a No. 10 seed, as well.

No. 2 seed Villanova and No. 2 seed Villanova, providing college basketball fans with a delicious lineup of teams that will begin its NCAA journey at 2:45 on Thursday, when it will take the floor at PPG Paints Arena (No. 3) hopes to lead the Blue Devils to their second NCAA title in four years this March. Allen & Co. will take the floor at PPG Paints Arena at 2:45 on Thursday, when it will face No. 15-seeded Iona in the Round of 64.

Duke's 26-7 overall, 13-5 Atlantic Coast Conference record for goals in a single game is the highest in the nation, too. Duke is a No. 10 seed, as well. There is no such thing as a sure thing come March — look at the 2014 Villanova Wildcats, who fell in the Round of 32 as a No. 1 seed to No. 8-seeded N.C. State here in Pittsburgh just four years ago for proof — but don’t be surprised if you see this duo, along with each team that will begin its NCAA journey here at PPG Paints Arena manage to make it all the way to the Final Four in San Antonio, either. Certain squads here possess the chops needed to make a long run, but only time will tell which teams are built solidly enough for success in March.

Below, each team is biographed, providing college basketball fans in Pittsburgh with a prime preview for this weekend's NCAA action.

Villanova (30-4 overall, 14-4 Big East); Big East Tournament Champions

East Region No. 1 seed — Excellence has become an expectation for Jay Wright and the Wildcats, and this season hasn’t deviated from that recent successful seasons for Villanova. The tournament’s No. 2 overall seed, the Wildcats cruised through the Big East Tournament, eventually capping off the tournament with an overtime victory over Providence at Madison Square Garden on March 9 to grab their third Big East Tournament crown in four seasons.

With NBA prospects Jalen Brunson and Mikal Bridges leading the way, the Wildcats’ scoring attack is a well-oiled machine, posting the country’s most efficient offense according to KenPom.com. An effective field goal percentage of 59.7 was tops in the nation, too.

Duke (26-7 overall, 13-5 Atlantic Coast Conference)

Midwest Region No. 2 seed — Coach Mike Krzyzewski and the Blue Devils ended their regular season with wins in seven of their nine final contests, but were ousted in the ACC Tournament semifinals by Tobacco Road foe North Carolina on March 9 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York. Arguably the most talented team in all the land, Duke struggled defensively at times throughout the season’s earlier stages, but a mid-year strategic switch to a primarily zone-oriented defensive scheme works tremendously well for the Devils. Now, they hope to once again prove to be one of the NCAA’s most dangerous programs come tournament time.

The pairing of Marvin Bagley and Wendell Carter below the basket hasn’t lived up to the enormous expectations that had been set for them, but the freshman big men both project as top-10 selections in this summer’s NBA Draft. Regardless, the duo helped Duke to achieve the nation’s top offensive rebounding percentage this season (30.1). Throw in guards Trevon Duval, Grayson Allen and sharpshooter Gary Trent, and almost any team in the country will struggle to slow down Duke’s high-powered offense, who wishes to knock off Duke is neutralizing Bagley on offense.

Rhode Island (25-7 overall, 15-3 Atlantic 10); A-10 Regular Season Champions

Midwest Region No. 7 seed — The Rams have fond memories at PPG Paints Arena, having won the 2017 A-10 Tournament in the building, and they hope to visit back to the Fifth Ave. arena sparks some March magic for them. Thought to be on its way to a second A-10 Tournament title in a row, Rhode Island was upset by Davidson in the conference final on March 11 in Washington, D.C., 58-57. Regardless, the Rams have assessed a resume that more than qualifies them for a decent seed in this year’s tournament.

Led with experienced leaders in seniors E.C. Matthews, Jared Terrell and Andre Berry, the Rams hope to shake off their late-season struggles before it’s too late. Sophomore Joe Dowtin is a reliable floor general, and freshman guard Fatts Russell is a lightning rod of energy for coach Dan Hurley.

Rhode Island forced just under 16 turnovers per game this season, tied for the tenth-highest average in the country. The Hokies are a team that lacks grit and an all-around attack. If Virginia Tech (24-11 overall, 10-8 Atlantic Coast) East Region No. 8 seed — Led by junior guard Justin Robinson, the Hokies are back in the tournament for the second year in a row under headman Buzz Williams. Boasting the nation’s 39th-most efficient offense according to KenPom.com, Virginia Tech has shown that it can hang with anybody with wins over ACC juggernauts Virginia, Duke, North Carolina and Clemson during the regular season.

The Hokies are a team that lacks the big names and starpower that other squads congregated in Pittsburgh may have, but are able to supplement their low profile with grit and an all-around attack. If the field of teams situated in Pittsburgh house sleeper now, it very well may be the Hokies.

Alabama (19-15 overall, 8-10 Southeastern) East Region No. 9 seed — Head Coach Avery Johnson’s team didn’t exactly put together a glamorous regular season portfolio, but the Crimson Tide had everybody on high alert during the SEC Tournament just last week — in large part, thanks to the efforts of freshman point guard and projected NBA lottery pick, Collin Sexton. The athletic scorer erupted for multiple 30-plus-point performances in the tourney’s earlier rounds, elevating his team all the way to the SEC semifinals, where it fell to surging Kentucky.

Everything about Alabama’s offense revolves around Sexton, who will be the key to any sort of success that the Crimson Tide plan to have in Pittsburgh or beyond. Forecasting the future in March is fruitless, but one thing’s certain: Sexton will be a sight to witness for fans at PPG Paints Arena.

Oklahoma (18-12 overall, 8-10 Big 12) Midwest Region No. 10 seed — Despite managing to win just two of its final 10 games, Oklahoma did seemingly enough in its full body of work to impress the selection committee and land an early-round matchup with the Sooners.

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Duquesne’s 2018 football slate includes two FBS opponents

As part of its non-conference schedule, The Dukes will make their first-ever trip to Amherst, Massachusetts, on Aug. 25 when they open up their season against the Massachusetts Minutemen. Competing as an Independent at the FBS level, Massachusetts is Duquesne’s first FBS opponent since Aug. 30, 2014, when the Dukes traveled to play the University of Buffalo in the program’s first-ever game versus an FBS opponent. Buffalo won 38-28.

Duquesne’s Aug. 25 game versus the Minutemen will officially occur during “Week 0” of the NCAA football schedule, as this contest will be the earliest into a season the Dukes have ever played a game. Massachusetts finished 4-8 last season.

The Dukes will then return home for a three-game homestand following its trip to Amherst, beginning with a Sept. 1 date with Division II Lock Haven. It will be the first meeting ever between the two schools. Last season, Lock Haven finished 2-9 overall and 2-5 in its conference, the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC).

Following the Dukes’ match-up with the Bobcats, Duquesne will host rival Valparaiso on Sept. 8 at Arthur J. Rooney Athletic Field. Last season, the two teams met in an early non-conference thriller at Valparaiso. Duquesne led 24-7 at halftime before allowing Valparaiso to score 24 unanswered points in the second half of a 31-24 loss. The Dukes are looking to avenge last season’s defeat in 2018.

In the game’s deciding moments, star freshman guard Kellan Grady hit a shot to give Duquesne a 58-57 advantage with just 1.9 seconds remaining. Richmond was unable to capitalize off of some late opportunities to put itself back on top, and the Wildcats held on to win. The Dukes’ non-conference schedule game capped off what was an all-around entertaining week of competitive A-10 basketball.

Despite decent individual performances from their starters, the Dukes could not keep up with Richmond, as they failed to take the lead even once in the contest. The Spiders controlled the boards by a 33-23 margin and shot a hot 57.4 percent from the field, compared to Duquesne’s competition percentage of 45.1.

The Spiders’ offense was powered by freshman guard Marcus Santos, who scored a game-high 26 points while shooting 50 percent from the field. Richmond held Duquesne to a 53-12 advantage in paint and 61-49 rebounding margin.

The game was an exciting one as you could wish for. It was the second game in the A-10 Tournament appearance, his team shuttered to an 81-68 defeat against the No. 7 seed Richmond Spiders on March 8, in the tourney’s second round.

In his final outing as a Duke, graduate transfer guard Rene Castro-Caneddy led his team with 17 points on 6-of-12 shooting from the floor. Mike Lewis II had a solid performance with 14 points. Tariq Smith, the recently-named A-10 Sixth Man of the Year, chipped in 10 points in the loss.

The competition will be quite challenging for the Dukes as they prepare to face perennial NEC contender St. Francis. Although the Dukes are expected to be heavily outmatched, they still have a chance to improve their overall record to 2-0 in NEC play.

So while the year ended in a bit of disappointment, there were relatively few surprises otherwise. The sectional round consisted of the tournament’s top-four seeded squads: Rhode Island, St. Bonaventure, Davidson and Saint Joseph’s.

Unfortunately for Duquesne fans, the Dukes’ time in Washington was short-lived. In Head Coach Keith Dambrot’s first-ever A-10 Tournament appearance, his team shuttered to an 81-68 defeat against the No. 7 seed Richmond Spiders on March 8, in the tourney’s second round.

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Despite a sobering late-season losing streak, a 16-16 overall record is an encouraging sign in the right direction. Last season, Duquesne finished 10-22 overall and an absolutely dismal 3-15 in league play.

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Blue’s Clues series revamped for new season

JOSHUA MARTIN  staff writer

After more than a decade off the air, Nickelodeon’s acclaimed children’s series Blue’s Clues is returning for a 20-episode season in the near future.

Nickelodeon provided details of the reboot in a press release on March 6, in which the company states that the new episodes will feature a “refreshed signature look.” The release was accompanied by a photo of the show’s protagonist, Blue, redesigned in a three-dimensional style.

The show traditionally featured a live action host against an animated setting and supporting cast. The host would solve problems with the help of paw print clues from Blue. Steve Burns hosted from 1996 to 2002, and Donovan Patton hosted as Steve’s brother Joe from 2002 to the series’ end in 2006. Nickelodeon has announced an open casting call to find a host for the new iteration of the series.

Following last week’s announcement, all time slots for the casting call have already been filled. As a result, the event’s website has since added a link for submission of video auditions.

The casting call will take place on April 14 in Burbank, California. Both Burns and Patton were white and male, but the new iteration of the series may see a break from this pattern. The public description of the casting call asks for “females and males who can play 18-25 years old, all ethnicities.”

The casting call also asks for those auditioning to have “a natural connection with the camera and will empower the home viewer to feel important, respected and smart.”

Interactivity was an integral part of the original series, where young viewers were encouraged to respond to questions asked by the host and play a perceived active role in solving on-screen problems. It appears that Nickelodeon intends to carry this aspect of the show into its new generation.

“Preschoolers are encouraged to interact with the action on-screen by answering questions, pointing out clues, jumping on their feet and playing along,” according to the press release. The script is to be read by auditioning actors featuring the host solving an episode's problem by using the visual clues provided by Blue, while leaving pauses for input from the home audience and speaking directly to the camera. This is consistent with the concept for the original series.

Aside from redesign of the main character, it is yet unclear how the series will differ from the original. Within the press release, the new episodes are referred to only as a “remake,” and Cyma Zarghami, president of Nickelodeon Group, refers to them as the “new, modern version of Blue’s Clues.”

In the original series, creator Traci Paige Johnson also provided the voice of Blue. Nick Balaban voiced Mr. Salt and composed much of the show’s iconic music, alongside Michael Rubin. It is unclear if these or any former cast and crew will be returning for the new series.

Production on the series is set to begin in the summer. The press release promises that the show “will have a new generation of preschoolers searching for clues.”

The Outsider lacks enjoyable, accurate story

NEIL RUNGER  staff writer

In Martin Pieter Zandvliet’s newest movie, The Outsider, Jared Leto plays Nick Lowell, an American prisoner of war in 1950s Japan. After meeting a gang member during his time in jail, Lowell trades his freedom to join the yakuza.

Even with a basic plot, and sparse dialogue, this movie does not know what to do with itself. The story is bland, and the characters, with only bare hints of backstories, feel like they could have easily been interchanged with each other. The female characters serve as mere plot devices, and the other Japanese male characters serve as mere plot fillers. As a result, the event’s website has since added a link for submission of video auditions.

The Outsider is holding a casting call to find the new host of Blue’s Clues. The open call is being held Saturday, April 14, in Burbank, CA. Nickelodeon is seeking people between the ages of 18 and 25, with special talents being a plus.

On top of a lifeless story and one-dimensional characters, there are historical inaccuracies as well. With a bit of research, it’s easy to know that the yakuza rarely ever trust Americans. In The Outsider, rival yakuza families both have members that are Americans. Now, this doesn’t ruin the movie, but it certainly doesn’t help when stacked on top of the other racial issues this feature presents.

Admittedly, there were a few things about this showing that I enjoyed. The Japanese cast surrounding Jared Leto are astounding. They played the characters amazingly, and their efforts made up for Leto’s subpar performance. The film score tried to help the story along when the narrative was lacking, and at times, it succeeded.

All in all, The Outsider was awful. The cast of characters and story were devoid of any real substance. I felt as if I was only getting enough information to move along Nick’s narrative. This dedication to one man’s story leaves the audience wanting more from an interesting and well-acted cast.

If you’re interested in the topic of the yakuza or 1950s Japan, then look elsewhere. These works will give a more accurate and certainly more in depth account of that time period. On the other hand, if you really love Jared Leto and have the desire to look at his face for about two hours, this movie is just the thing for you.

Netflix’s original movie, The Outsider, has received poor ratings despite having Jared Leto as the main protagonist.
“Farewell” fittingly ends Before The Storm

Deck Nine’s prequel to the first season of Life is Strange officially concluded last December, leaving players to decide the fate of Rachel Amber’s relationships with her parents. But fans who bought the Before The Storm Deluxe Edition have been left clamoring for the game’s bonus episode, released March 6 — starring 14-year-old and 13-year-old Chloe Price and Max Caulfield, respectively. “Farewell” marks fans’ last opportunity to spend time with these memorable characters and does not disappoint in going out with an emotional bang.

Before the Storm Deluxe Edition’s 10-track set — “album” Logic — both showing different sides of the rapper and having divergent purposes. Logic is a rapper who has brought a Rubik’s Cube on stage with him and began his latest artistic endeavor with a dialogue between two cartoon characters, which is something not many, if any, rappers would do. This dorkiness is key to understanding that this mixtape is not about promoting any kind of agenda or championing any ideas, but about Logic just having fun with his work and being authentic.

With the release of his new mixtape Bobby Tarantino II, Logic announced his Bobby Tarantino Versus Everybody Tour. The 33-date tour starts in Boston, MA.

Logic’s Bobby Tarantino II portrays authenticity

Marking an end to Deck Nine’s Life is Strange: Before the Storm, “Farewell” follows Max and Chloe’s childhood friendship, bringing more backstory to the relationship explored in the original game. This intro establishes that the new work is likely not for fans of Logic’s previous work on Everybody. The music opens up with an introduction starring pop-culture icons and cartoon characters Rick and Morty. In this opening, the episode marks the return of voice actors Ashly Burch and Hannah Telle as Chloe and Max, respectively. While Rhianna DeVries is a pretty amazing Chloe all throughout BTS, bringing back the original magic of Burch’s voice in an episode centered on the series’ main protagonist is fitting. Telle revoices the voice she used for young Max in the LVS photo flashbacks, sounding softer and more cautious than her older counterpart. The improved lip-syncing and facial expressions that Deck Nine employs in BTS carries over into “Farewell,” making Chloe and Max’s interactions lively and interesting.

Gameplay-wise, Deck Nine has certainly honored its commitment to the series’ love of fetch quests. As Max, players are tasked with running around Chloe’s attic and backyard to retrieve items crucial to finding the treasure. In some ways, the episode is a lite version of Gone Home — minus any real puzzles. The charm is ultimately in Max’s propensity to snoop and reflect on every object she observes, which comes with consequences. Players can choose, for example, to dig deeper into the things troubling Chloe in her early days at Beaview. Beyond that, try not to get too excited at the idea of picking up objects and shoving around furniture. This is not an episode that capitalizes on mechanics like time traveling or back-talking; it is all about character development. The headliness that Chloe displays in “Farewell” is almost jarring. She is still playfully full-mouthed, but she lacks the defensive and emotional barriers that players have contended with throughout the series. From Max’s perspective in LVS to Chloe’s abrasive personality in BTS, we have expected seeing Chloe occasionally react in excess to innocuous situations. It is a sad reminder (yet again) of how her father’s death and Chloe’s departure radically affected her life, and it gives us more insight on how Max struggled to get on par with Chloe in early LVS scenes.

Deck Nine leaves players various hints about the kind of person Chloe used to be: a nearly straight-A junior high report card, neatly scripted homework assignments from her childhood and a decidedly un-punk bedroom proudly displaying Max’s early photos. But some things never change, either. Chloe is endlessly sentimental and wears her heart on her sleeve. She has a hard time throwing anything out in her room no matter how much it makes sense to do so. And though Chloe might deny being gassy, she will not let Max forget about how much Chloe cares for her.

Not unexpectedly, the bonus episode is the shortest of any in the series with a runtime of about two hours. At the Deluxe Edition’s price, it would have been nice to see more content, particularly if it meant coming at the expense of Mixtape Mode or the Outfit Pack. At the very least, seeing Chloe and Max spend time outside of the bounds of the Price household — say, the beach, lighthouse or even Max’s home — would have been interesting. Deck Nine may have missed an opportunity to put the pair on a more memorable journey tracing their childhoods together, but at least it did not miss the mark in wrapping up their story.

Regardless of what can be said about the endings for LVS and BTS, Deck Nine’s biggest accomplishment in “Farewell” is giving us a polished product from start to finish. The story see CHLOE — page 12

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Davidson’s title gives A-10 three NCAA bids

A-10 — from page 8

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44 - Julius Caesar is stabbed to death

Close election ends in Democrat Lamb’s favor

LAMB — from page 3

right alongside him,” he said. “It was an honor to stand with and work for him in this pursuit.”

DaPos warned fellow Republicans not to lose momentum in future elections.

“I would caution my party not to fall victim to what I like to call the ‘Obama Problem,’ which is basically the potential for midterm and off-year complacency due to President Trump’s not being on the ballot,” he said.

“Now’s the time to buck up, recognize and admit our mistakes and make sure we take the steps necessary to ensure we don’t make them again.”

Dave Weigel, a national political correspondent for The Washington Post, had been in-and-out of the district five times since November when Lamb was picked.

Weigel said that it’s no surprise the Democrats have claimed the win, calling the move “strategic.”

“It’s a kind of result that makes sense that Democrats are declaring victory. It’s a kind of victory that usually isn’t overturned,” he said. But he did not rule out a recount, something that many Republicans are considering asking for.

Weigel said that the special election was less about President Trump and more issue-oriented.

“The race was ran on labor and worker issues ... There is a hard-core group of people who did not vote for Trump determined to vote in every election against Republicans. Weigel said that the special election victory fits the typical result of midterm and off-year elections going poorly for any president’s party.

According to The New York Times, Republicans plan on filing legislation to force a recount.

Nevertheless, even if Oklahoma manages to defeat Rhode Island in the Round of 64, it’s likely that Young’s collegiate career ends this weekend in Pittsburgh.

Iona (20-13 overall, 11-7 Metro Atlantic Athletic); MAAC Tournament Champions

Midwest Region No. 15 seed

The Gaels, representing the MAAC in the Big Dance for the third straight year, are certainly more prolific on the offensive side of the ball. Iona’s scoring offense (79.8 ppg) was tied with Los Angeles as the fifth highest in the country, and the Gaels love to hoist the 3-pointer.

Junior forward Ed Polite, who leads the Highlanders in both scoring and rebounding with 13.3 and 7.9 per, respectively, has a tall order ahead of him in facing off against Villanova’s frontcourt, led by Bridges and Omari Spellman.

Regardless, freshman Radford guard Carlik Jones, second on the team in scoring with 11.8 points per game, had one of March’s most memorable moments thus far, sinking a deep buzzer-beating 3-point dagger as time expired in the Big South Championship game, giving the Highlanders an unforgettable 55-52 victory on its home floor over Liberty.