Duquesne students design for NASA

Duquesne University is an institution with many connections not only throughout the nation, but across the world. Now, it is attempting to expand its reach even further — into space.

A team of students at Duquesne is one of 25 advancing to the testing phase of NASA’s Microgravity Neutral Buoyancy Experiment Design Teams (Micro-g NExT) competition, in which students must produce and design a device that can cut and retain zip-ties in space. NASA requires that the zip-tie cutter be a handheld device with no sharp or pointed edges. The device must also rely on manual operating power and be able to be used ambidextrously.


Tariffs on Canadian paper pose threat to US newsrooms

According to the Associated Press, there were 276,000 more journalists in the country 20 years ago than the 150,000 that work in the U.S. today.

In the past two decades, journalism as a profession has decreased by 65 percent. With the proliferation of online news platforms and the sharp decline in the newspaper industry, printed publications have experienced decreases in revenue and readership. Now, newspapers across the country face another threat: tariffs.

NBC News reported that “recently imposed tariffs on Canadian newsprint” are hiking up costs of production for smaller or underfunded papers in the U.S. The article goes on to explain that the tariffs came in response to “a complaint to the U.S. Department of Commerce from a hedge fund-owned paper producer in Washington state, which argues that Canadian competitors are taking advantage of government subsidies to sell their product at unfairly low prices.”

However, there is concern regarding the notion that it may not be Canadian big businesses that feel the heat of the tariffs, which are as high as 10 percent. Newspapers around the U.S. have begun discussing what steps must be taken in order to continue operating despite the increased cost of production. Several Duquesne graduates have broken into the field of journalism, but for them, tariffs promise uncertainty.

“We’re having a meeting later this week where we’re going to be talking about … having less pages and possibly having subscribers pay higher prices,” Sean Ray, ex-Duke A&E editor and current reporter at The Titusville Herald, said. “If we do have less pages, one thing we’re going to have to do is cram a lot more articles on a page. This means articles are going to have to be short. While people will still have the same amount of news, it won’t be nearly as extensive coverage.”
Students advance to final round of NASA contest

The undergraduate students will travel to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas for a round of testing in May. This will take place in a 30-foot-deep pool at NASA’s Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory, where astronauts train for spacewalks.

The opportunity for this project was found by sophomore physics and biomedical engineering double major Madelyn Hoying while she was speaking for NASA Internships. She is currently interning at the NASA Langley Research Center this semester.

According to Hoying, who is leading the team, they started the project in October by submitting a proposal and were selected by NASA in November to continue their work.

The presentations meet once or twice a week to work on the zip-tie cutter and other surrounding duties. Team members are delegated different roles and assignments, while some students handle the design, some are in charge of fundraising and others handle the community outreach portion of the project.

Clare Flanagan, a freshman biomedical engineering student involved in the project, detailed some of the team’s efforts.

“As part of the project, we had to do community outreach in which we went to a few high schools and presented our project, taught a related lesson on the physics of it and promoted NASA and STEM,” Flanagan said. “It was at one of these outreach opportunities that we got local news coverage, which I then shared with Dr. John Viator, who then tweeted that out. This garnered us the attention of the rest of Duquesne, for which we are very grateful.”

According to Flanagan, about 75 iterations of the product were invented before they settled on their final design. The team used 3D printers and other instruments for the production of the device.

Hoying explained the significance of this project and competition, noting how it has real-life effects and influences.

“This is important to NASA because it addresses an issue that the astronauts run into when in space,” Hoying said. “Using normal scissors to cut zip ties won’t work, because any fragments become hazards if they float around in space. So, our device addresses this by collecting the fragments and preventing hazards in space.”

This importance was echoed by Flanagan, who noted that this competition grants NASA the chance to “outsource to young engineers and utilize their creativity and innovation from an outside perspective, which is a great way to go about progress. They get fresh takes on old problems in this way, and they can then move forward.”

Flanagan also emphasized that the participating Duquesne students chose to work on this project in addition to their coursework and extracurricular activities.

“We are not a club, nor are we doing this for any class. We are just a group of STEM students who were willing to step up to a real challenge, and so far, we have been met with success,” Flanagan said. “We are going up against schools such as Columbia, UCLA and Texas, to name a few. And if we at Duquesne can stand among them as a contender, that would be pretty neat and certainly boost Duquesne’s prominence.”

Benjamin Goldecht, assistant professor of biomedical engineering and the team’s mentor, also highlighted how the students’ efforts could one day result in their device’s use on the International Space Station.

“The project is an important test of our students’ knowledge and ability in regard to basic engineering principles,” Goldecht said. “If they are successful, their prototype may one day end up being used by real astronauts in space to cut zip ties safely and effectively so that they can deploy various devices on board the spacecraft and in the microgravity environment.”

Any students interested in participating in NASA competitions should contact Madelyn Hoying at hoyingm@duq.edu. In order to go to the competition, the team is running a crowdfunding campaign. Those who wish to donate or learn more can visit spirit.duq.edu/project/10240.

Manager receives Campus Leadership Award

Kachur summarized his job as being “part of the support system for students on campus” by overseeing the distribution of textbooks and other necessary supplies.

“My first priority is to run a friendly, efficient and professional retail store that the Duquesne community can be proud of,” he said.

One of the best elements of his work, he said, is working with his student employees.

“Being part of the job is seeing student workers—we have up to 30 working for us at any one time—mature before my eyes,” Kachur said. “People start working for us as eager and nervous freshmen, then come back to visit after graduation as assured and confident adults, running businesses and raising families of their own. And when they say they learned something from working at the bookstore, that’s very rewarding.”

Kachur said that his winning of the Campus Leadership Award was “a combination of our service and the dedication of our students, our staff and the University.”

“My regional manager, John Champa, gave a short speech about my outreach efforts on campus, which led into a video of congratulations from people at Duquesne. Then I was called to the stage, received a nice plaque and a round of applause,” he said. “In combination with celebrating my 20th year with B&N, the whole thing was quite moving. It feels good to be recognized, of course, but more so, it inspires me to want to live up to that recognition every day I’m here.”

Since a lot of his work goes on behind the scenes, Kachur wanted students to know what he does.

“I would like students to know that we really are doing our best to serve them and the whole campus community by running the best bookstore, clothing and gift store and cafe we possibly can,” he said.

“We’ve implemented so many services over my time here, such as our rental program, price matching, the ability to see your booklet within your DORI account, new student e-mail campaigns, distress and other in-store events, our mobile app and more.”

Serving students is crucial to his role as manager.

“We are here for students and because of students. I take the responsibility of helping students very seriously, but I try to do it with humor and kindness,” Kachur said. “I treat every person through the door exactly as I’d want my own family to be treated,” Kachur said. “We’re not curing cancer or doing brain surgery, but who knows, one of our students might be before we know it. Therefore, we need to help everyone with patience and professionalism and more than a bit of fun thrown in.”

Kachur encouraged students to reach out to him if any problems arise.

“As I like to say when I welcome families during FAST, there’s no issue that can arise that we can’t figure out a solution to, so never hesitate to ask for me or any other manager in the store, because we will find a way to help out,” he said.

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**POLICE BRIEFS**

Finals are almost upon us! Can you taste it? PBKJ wants all students to be informed in these final weeks, so here’s the delicious Duquesne drama.

On April 17, an occupied vehicle on Gibbon Street was struck by another vehicle. The driver of the vehicle properly left their driver’s information and Honesty is so sweet.

Also on April 17, non-affiliate Jordan Roberts was arrested for retail theft at the bookstore and transported to the Allegheny County Jail.

On April 19, while medics were in St. Ann’s responding to a case, two residents took a City of Pittsburgh Medic Transport stretcher from the hallway and hid it in their room. The students were cited and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On April 21, a Duquesne student was found intoxicated by the police at Pitt. DUPO was called and alerted, and a citation was issued to the student.

On April 22, a student was found vomiting outside of Towers. The student was under the age of 21, resulting in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct. That really stinks.

Also on April 22, DUPO found an intoxicated undergraduate student on Magee Street. Since it was their second offense, the student was issued a citation and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

**BLUFF BRIEFS**

Sports Marketing prof ‘no longer employed’ by DU

Steven Greenberg, an executive in residence and professor of sports marketing and sports leadership, is no longer working at Duquesne, according to Bridget Fare, chief marketing and communications officer at Duquesne.

Greenberg’s faculty webpage on Duquesne University’s website goes to a “content not found” page.

Before becoming a Duquesne professor, Greenberg had served as a vice president of marketing and new ballpark development for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

“As this is a personnel matter, the University will have no further comment,” Fare said in a statement to The Duke.

**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.

You can send your tips and story ideas to arker@duq.edu or Raymond Arke at arker@duq.edu.

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**BOOK— from page 1**

“…by working at the bookstore, because we will find a way to help out,” he said.

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**NEWS**

April 26, 2018
Cosby's case continues

AP — The jury in Bill Cosby's sexual assault case began deliberating Wednesday in the first big celebrity trial of the #MeToo era, weighing charges he drugged and molested a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home 14 years ago.

The seven men and five women got the case after receiving final instructions from the judge.

The two-week trial pitted Cosby, the 80-year-old former TV star once beloved as "America's Dad," against Andrea Constand, a former Temple University sports administrator who testified that he knocked her out with three pills he called "your friends" and violated her at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in January 2004. He said their encounter was consensual.

Cosby faces three counts of aggravated indecent assault, each carrying up to 10 years in prison.

Twice by late afternoon, the jury had questions for the judge, asking him for the legal meaning of "consent" and requesting to see written statements from prosecution star witness Marguerite Jackson, a former Temple colleague of Constand's who testified that Constand spoke of framing a prominent person for the money before she went to the police about Cosby.

Judge Steve O'Neill told the jurors they had already been given the definitions of the charges, and he said they would have to rely on their memory of Jackson's statements.

Deliberations got underway after a marathon day of closing arguments Tuesday that portrayed the comedian both as a calculating predator who is finally being brought to justice and as the victim of a multimillion-dollar frame-up by a "pathological liar."

"The time for the defendant to escape justice is over. It's finally time for the defendant to dine on the banquet of his own consequences," prosecutor Stewart Ryan told the jury.

Cosby's lawyers argued that the charges were based on "flimsy, silly, ridiculous evidence."

The jurors heard testimony from five other women who said that Cosby drugged and violated them, too. Before excusing the jurors to deliberate, O'Neill told them they could consider the women's testimony as possible evidence that Cosby had a pattern of predatory behavior, but he forbade them from using it to find that the comedian is "a person of bad character."

Facing the prospect of a conviction and lengthy prison term, Cosby nevertheless seemed in good spirits Wednesday, giving a quick fist pump and sashaying toward well-wishers who had "love him" as he arrived at the courthouse.

His more streamlined first trial ended in a hung jury last year after six days of deliberations. Only one additional accuser testified that time. Nor were jurors told the amount of Cosby's 2006 civil settlement with Constand: nearly $3.4 million, which defense lawyer Tom Mesereau on Tuesday called "one of the biggest highway robberies of all time."
Duke staff grateful for advisor’s decade-long service

With bittersweet hearts, we present to you more than just the last paper of the academic year, but also a shift in The Duke’s internal staff. With the end of the semester, we say goodbye to Robert Kerlik, who has been The Duke’s academic advisor for 10 years.

His advisory position and role at The Duke may not be apparent to readers, but it was through his guidance that we were able to bring hard-hitting and encapsulating stories to life. Throughout the Chick-Fil-A concerns, Student Government Association issues and many other controversial topics, Bobby helped keep the staff focused and honest throughout all of our reporting.

Bobby has been a member of The Duke family for almost two decades, starting as an office staff writer in 2000. He quickly became the Sports Editor and graduated from Duquesne University with a B.A. in Journalism.

In this role, professional life, Bobby worked at the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review for 12 years, and in 2015, he became the Vice President of Media Relations for the Pittsburgh International Airport named Airport of the Year by Air Transport World Magazine, as he’d be quick to tell you), where he currently works.

Bobby has advised The Duke for 10 years, and the time he has spent has not been left unrecognized. To staff past and present, Bobby has been more than just an advisor. He came into the newspaper on Wednesday nights, treating us not as mere college kids, but young professionals doing a real job. He offered invaluable guidance on ethics and news value, lessons that we’ll take into our future careers.

Bobby always went out of his way to know how the staff was doing and what was going on in their lives outside of the paper. He took the time out of his busy schedule to have real discussions with us and to that, we are thankful beyond words.

From bringing us buffalo fries every Wednesday to handling our educational trips to Washington D.C. and Canada, Bobby was willing to let us be college students. He understood the pressures of producing a weekly paper paired with school and knew how to let us have fun at work every now and then.

Don’t just take the praise from us, here’s Maggie Joen Patterson, Duquesne Journalism Professor and Publications Board member: “Bobby has helped to guide The Duke through rough waters and smooth over the past ten years. His commitment to good journalism practice, his common sense and his deep respect for students have been most apparent and reassuring to me through our many conversations,” she said, “I have counted on him, and I will miss him.”

And here’s Kaye Burnet, former Duke Editor-in-Chief: “During my four years with The Duke, Bobby was a constant source of wisdom, support and Cajun fries from Milano’s. He answered many late-night texts from me with questions about the door to College Hall or how to get certain information.”

Burnet said, “He is a staunch defender of student media and always stood up for The Duke in difficult situations. Without his leadership, The Duke would not be the success it is today, and nobody would know how to order printer ink.”

Although he will no longer be academic advisor for The Duke, Bobby will still remain as a member of Duquesne University Publications Board.

We at The Duke, want to sincerely wish Bobby well in all of his future endeavors and thank him for all of his time spent in this newsroom. So we leave you with these words, as our own intrepid leader said in his farewell column in 2003 finishing his editing days at The Duke:

“Warm up the wiper and paste your pages, make the PDFs and finish proofreading because I’m out. Let’s go to the bar.”

“I won’t say goodbye my friend, for you and I will meet again.”

Tom Petty

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

@TheDuquesneDuke

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Duquesne Duke is the student-written, student-managed newspaper of Duquesne University. It is published every Thursday during the academic year except during semester breaks and holidays, and prior to final exams. The Staff Editorial is based upon the opinions of the editors of The Duke and does not necessarily reflect the views of the students, faculty, administration, student government or the University publications board. Op-ed columns do not reflect the opinions of The Duke, but rather are the sole opinions of the columnists themselves.

Letters policy
Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer’s name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to The Duke office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduqduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The editors reserve the right to edit any and all submitted copies. All letters must be verified before being published.

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

Contact
e-mail: theduqduke@gmail.com
There's a lot of talk about human activity changing our climate, the effects of which would ultimately halt the human race. But what about the lives we are terminating without a voice? We used to have sloths the size of elephants and car-sized armadillos. Rhinos used to be 10 times the size they are now. The Atlantic's recap of the study proposes that it is human activity that has led to size-selective extinction, or mega fauna extinction.

Size-selective extinction refers to the tree that lost the branches and left a greater risk for extinction. The Atlantic discusses a new study called “Body size downgrading of mammals over the late Quaternary” conducted by Felisa Smith from the University of New Mexico that examines this trend. Smith believes that size selective extinction began in the Homo erectus era, about 2 million years ago. This period marks the shift from plant-based diets to meat-enriched diets. This is when animals first were hunted.

Why the big animals? The Atlantic reports that by 15,000 years ago, the average mass of a mammal in North America dropped from 216 pounds to just 17. In addition, the time hominids left Africa, the mammal population had decreased by 50 percent. Large animals can withstand fluctuations in climate and geography over the decades. Smith simply states, “You hunt a rabbit, you have food for a small family for a day. You hunt a mammoth, you feed the village.” But it’s not just hunting that threatened these large mammals thousands of years ago. The growing Homo sapien population encroaches upon their space to live.

The United Nations Population Fund notes that it took hundreds of thousands of years to reach 1 billion, but within the last 200 years we are now at 7.6 billion people. We need more room, and that means pushing the large mammals out.

“it doesn’t take a lot to make a species go extinct. Humans didn’t need to go out and kill every last individual, you need is a stressed population and just enough hunting pressure to keep fertility rates below replacement levels. Eventually a population will collapse,” explained Ad Vait Jakar from George Mason University to The Atlantic.

I find this quote to be critical when talking about the impacts of human activity. Our ecosystem and food chains are fragile. It can be difficult for some to grasp the idea that humans are changing the atmosphere and that we are killing species. But once we realize how fragile our world is, it is easy to see how this happened.

Other factors must be considered. Over the past several million years, there have been major geographical and climate changes. It is hard to single out humanity as the root cause of size-selective extinction. But Smith points that “when it got warmer or colder, it didn’t select for bigger or smaller animals. It’s only when humans got involved that being large enhanced your extinction risk.” In this case, correlation also seems to be the cause.

For thousands of years, hunting and growing human populations have been a steady threat to wildlife, but the modern threat of large mammals’ habitats as one, large communal trash can. The Washington Post compiled numerous incidents across the U.S. where animals were found stuck in pieces of trash. Many were stuck for five, 10 days at a time. Greg Grim, a volunteer and board member for the Gold Country Wildlife Rescue in Auburn, California says this “happens all the time, and most of the time we don’t even know about it, because the animals die.” The rescue saves about 3500 animals each year. Unfortunately, this is only a fraction of those caught in our soda tops.

The problem is not limited to the United States. Activists in the United Kingdom became so disturbed, McDonald’s changed its McFlurry cup. KFC also promised to change its lids on the Krush ems milkshake.

On a large scale, human activity is changing wildlife and has been for millions of years. Hunting and closing in on large mammals habitat has squeezed out the last of a population. While we cannot individually halt our population increase, but we can be careful with our trash. Besides obvious solutions, such as making sure your trash is properly disposed off. The Washington Post suggest folding over or cutting your plastic cups so that animals won’t find their head caught inside a McFlurry lid.

Just because we’re thriving doesn’t mean our furry friends are. The trends are clear. Human activity on a large scale, like population increase, or on an individual scale, like trashing their habitats, impacts animal populations. It’s hard to look at a picture of a starved coyote with its head jammed in a plastic container. It’s even harder to think how it takes only a few steps to a trash can to prevent it in the first place.

Gun debate continues, assault weapons unnecessary

Spencer Murphy
staff columnist

In the current environment surrounding the debate on gun control, it is hard to reach a satisfying position. The general disagreement, at least currently, is focused on automatic weapons and if the right to own such weapons is justified.

Many people want those weapons outlawed for a simple reason: the conservation of life. They feel that these weapons rob them of their ability to feel safe. With countless mass shootings in recent years, this position is not without merit.

However, on the flip side, there are those who argue that the Second Amendment includes the right to assault weapons, or that the outlawing of such guns would leave them only available to criminals. Recognizing the validity of both arguments makes moving forward complicated. However, with a careful analysis of key answers, it is possible to reach a stable answer.

The first has to do with the effectiveness of a gun ban if it were to be implemented. Of course, we can only speculate, but intelligent inference is possible. If we look at the Port Arthur incident in Australia, we see a mass shooting which claimed more than 30 lives and effectively ignored gun control laws that soon took effect. After the banning of assault style weapons in Australia, there has not been a single mass shooting in the 20 years since.

This, compared to our own country in which we can recall multiple shootings off the top of our heads (Sandy Hook, Pulse nightclub, and the Vegas concert incident) is shocking. The UK has seen similar results after banning all modern assault-style rifles some decades ago. The difference that we see between the U.S. and countries like Australia and the UK is remarkable. Such drastic change means that not only is this grizzly resulturable, but it’s already been cured elsewhere.

There’s no denying that there are many differences between these countries and our own, and saying that a ban on assault weapons is a definite cure would be an overstep. But the idea that such a gigantic problem could be rectified gives hope, and with its track record of success, it seems a viable route worth sampling to determine its success.

Next, we must question if the proposed ban would step on the rights of Americans by stepping on the Second Amendment. I am of the opinion that no, it does not. My reasoning comes from an analysis of intentions, not an analysis of what currently is, but of the government that implemented this amendment.

As we all remember learning in school, our country was founded out of a struggle to throw off an oppressive government. As such, many of our laws and systems were implemented to ensure that such oppression would not rise from our own government. The prevention of search and seizure, the illegality of forcible housing for soldiers, and the right to bear arms are codes to uphold. However, we must also consider that when such rules were implemented, the weapons that were available were simple. Muskets, rifles and bayonets were the tools of the time, and these were primarily used for hunting and militia work when necessary. The point is that such weapons were not capable of killing large groups of people in the fashion that has become all too normal in the modern age. Given the intent of a right to self-defense and means of providing, a simple rifle or shotgun is fit within this category.

Beyond the ability to do those functions, a gun’s extra capabilities become unnecessary. Furthermore, an archaic perspective in which we cite old examples of gun laws is outdated and dangerous. Advancement of weaponry means that whatever laws and safety measures we put into effect must be as current as the weapons themselves. While the spirit of our constitution should be present in all legal motions, it should not be a singular guide that we are afraid to deviate from.

Assault weapons are unnecessary items whose existence offers no purpose in the hands of civilians except to contribute to disaster. While this topic walks a very thin line it is important to avoid devolving into overly anodyne statements.
Honors College celebrates August Wilson’s birth

Claudia Hardy
staff writer

This year would mark two-time Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson’s 73rd birthday, and Pittsburgh’s legendary Hill District cannot wait to celebrate. Wilson was a famed African-American playwright who was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. One of his most famous works, Fences, earned him his first Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award in 1987. Wilson dedicated the majority of his plays’ settings to the Hill District of Pittsburgh where he grew up.

Wilson’s work highlighted the joys and struggles of an African-American life in the U.S. during the 20th century. His rise from humble beginnings to stardom left a memorable mark on the world, especially for the city of Pittsburgh.

The annual August Wilson Block Party celebration will take place on Saturday, April 28 to honor and reflect on Wilson’s accomplishments and legacy. The event begins from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will take place on Bedford Ave. in the Hill District. It will start at the August Wilson House (AWH), Wilson’s childhood home on 1727 Bedford Ave. and extend east for several blocks. Should it be rained out, the celebration will be moved to Sunday, April 29. Admission will be free to the public, and attendees are encouraged to bring their families.

Sponsors who have helped to make this celebration possible include A. Martini & Co., McAuley Ministries, University of Pittsburgh Library System, Mistick Construction, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Trek Development Group, State Representative Jake Wheatley, Councilman Daniel Lavelle, Ujamaa Collective, Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company, and Pitt’s arts management, programs, and services.

Activities include games, community groups with information tables, a variety of performances (including a dramatic monologue competition), children’s activities, and a variety of food trucks and vendors. DJ Selecta will be playing music in between shows.

The celebration is helping fund the restoration of Wilson’s childhood home to honor his legacy and serve as a community arts center that will sponsor roundtables, classes, exhibits and plays.

The most important thing is to celebrate the community of the Hill District, where August Wilson set most of his plays and where he learned the most as a child,” Kathleen Roberts, head of the university’s Honors College said. “It’s a celebration of his family, his community and his art.”

The university has partnered with the August Wilson House since 2011, and students from the Honors College help to support its programs to merit his legacy. This year Erick Garrett, a professor at the university teaches two classes that work closely with the AWH.

“These students work to promote the literary and social legacy of August Wilson throughout the past few years. Students take on various responsibilities each year to help refurbish and replenish the house and create programming around it, which includes the annual block party that falls near on or April 27, Wilson’s birthday. ‘Students work with the city to figure out the permit and logistics for the block party,’ Garrett said. ‘They have multiple chances to interact with the wonderful people of the Hill District, who are our neighbors at Duquesne.’

The annual block party celebration serves to bring the community together to not only feel united, but to remember a Pittsburgh legend.

There will be a free AWH shuttle bus that will be open to all students, staff and faculty. It will stop by campus every half hour starting after 11:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. The shuttle will have a large sign indicating that it is for the August Wilson Block party.

“It’s a day for everyone … to learn and share,” Roberts said. “The Hill District is an incredibly special place and we are proud to have this partnership with August Wilson House. Please come and see for yourself.”

A look into the early 2000’s with Duke archives

Jamie Crow
staff writer

As our academic year winds down, we have the chance to look at one that was just gearing up. The beginning of the fall semester in 2000 brought the final address of the university’s then president, the introduction of Duquesne’s Italian campus and a visit from Jimmy Fallon. Needless to say, the Sept. 14, 2000, issue of The Duquesne Duke was an interesting look at life on the Bluff.

Today, the ability to study abroad at Duquesne’s Italian campus is an opportunity taken by many students. In 2000, however, the program was just getting started. The Duke announced the introduction of the Italian campus in a front-page article. It then explained that the opportunity was being inaugurated with a pilot program that fall, with the study abroad opportunity being offered to all students in the spring of 2001.

Much like today, the program was available to all students regardless of major. Advertising the opportunity to study in “heart of the Etruscan countryside” rather than the “aesthetically pleasing confines of College Hall,” Duquesne’s original Italian campus was 30 miles northwest of Rome in a town called Manziana.

The article also queried some worries about the cost, noting that it is the same as an academic year here, which remains true today. Over the past 17 years, students have jumped at the opportunity to take their education global, marking the campus as a definite success.

President John E. Murray, Duquesne’s 11th president and first lay president, gave his 13th and final State of the University Address on Friday, Sept. 8, 2000.

Duquesne as we know it wouldn’t exist without President Murray, as the article in The Duke highlighted his many achievements as president. Academic Walk, Vickroy Hall, Fisher Hall, Rangos School of Health Sciences, Bayer School of Environmental and Natural Sciences and Rooney Field were all built during Murray’s tenure.

Over the course of his 12-year presidency, enrollment also increased from 6,000 students in 1988 to 10,000 in 2000. After his presidency, Murray became the Chancellor of Duquesne and was still active in his role as a professor in the law school. He worked as a professor at Duquesne until his death in 2015 at the age of 82.

A small feature on page six highlighted the sold-out show of “a very up-and-coming star.” He’s someone you might have heard of: Jimmy Fallon. Back then, Fallon was still on Saturday Night Live and the youngest cast member of the show at the time. Fallon’s visit was a hit with the students, who were said to have laughed at Fallon’s jokes and antics. The comedy show was organized by the Duquesne Program Council, which still organizes an annual comedian event every year. Who knows - maybe Jimmy Fallon will come back for an anniversary show at some point. We can only hope.

In the world of sports, the women’s volleyball team impressed at the Stetson Invitational in Florida, finishing second out of the four teams playing. The team had to overcome some technical difficulties when a blown transformer caused a power outage that delayed play for over two hours. The volleyball team’s only loss that weekend was to Cornell, who beat Duquesne by two points in the final match and clutched the invitational victory.
Suddenly, DU has two former players in NBA

**Adam Lindner**

**sports editor**

On Feb. 22, 2017, before a home contest versus conference foe Fordham, Duquesne retired No. 13 in honor of men’s basketball great Mike James, who scored 1,411 points in 114 games as a Duquesne Duke from 1994-1998. James’ 1,411 point total is good for 40th all-time at Duquesne, and in the guard’s final three years on the Bluff, James led the Dukes in assists three years running. James was named an All-Atlantic 10 Pick as a senior in 1998, and was inducted into the Merle E. Gilland Duquesne University Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

Therefore, James was a worthy selection for jersey retirement by Duquesne, which has also retired the numbers of Chuck Cooper (No. 13), Shingo Green (11), Norm Nixon (10), Dick Ricketts (12) and Willie Somerset (24). However, the end of James’ career in 2014 also marked the end of former Duquesne players in the NBA — and, if you didn’t know any better, you may have thought that the NBA was about to see a lengthy stretch without any former Dukes in the league. Nevertheless, T.J. McConnell — Duquesne guard from 2010-2012 before bolting as a transfer for Arizona prior to his junior year — turned in a fantastic undrafted free agent with the lowly Philadelphia 76ers in 2015. McConnell stayed on the roster through his rookie season, eventually earning two votes for a spot on the NBA All-Rookie Team following the season.

Still, it felt like it would be a while before any former Duquesne player played meaningful basketball in the NBA.

Three years later, McConnell has solidified himself as a legitimate ball handler behind probable Rookie of the Year Ben Simmons as the Sixers have won back-to-back NBA titles.

This past Sunday, McConnell dribbled the ball up the court in his NBA debut in Sacramento on April 11. Jackson signed a contract for the rest of the 2017-18 NBA season with Houston early on April 11, and flew to California’s capital to play in the game that night.

Duquesne lacrosse team wins on Senior Day

**Drew White**

**staff writer**

The Duquesne women’s lacrosse team finished its home portion of the season on a high note on April 22 as it defeated the George Washington Colonials 20-13 at Rooney Athletic Field. The win improved Duquesne’s record to 11-1 on the season, and 2-6 in A-10 play. Right from the start, it was all Duquesne, as sophomore Maddie Hart scored the first of her team-leading four goals and got the Dukes on the board just 2:25 into the game. The Dukes then rattled off two more goals as Sarah Kollhoff and Haley Matthai found the back of the net with just under six minutes elapsed in the game forcing, the Colonials to call an early timeout.

After the Colonials finally made it onto the board, the Dukes responded almost immediately with three straight goals, making the score 6-1 in favor of the Dukes. After the last of the three goals, it appeared as if the Dukes would continue rolling, as they drew a yellow card on the ensuing play, sending the Dukes to the man-up advantage for two minutes with giving them possession.

Duquesne couldn’t cash in though, as George Washington goalkeeper Jenna Oler then made a save and drew a penalty on Jill Vacanti in the process, negating the Dukes’ man-up advantage. It turned out the penalty to Vacanti would motivate the Colonials, as they went on a four-goal-run to control the last 10 minutes of the half, bringing them within one goal of the Dukes at a score of 6-5 when the halftime buzzer sounded.

When the second half started though, the Dukes came out with a vengeance scoring the first eight minutes of the half. Vacanti, the leading goal scorer for the Colonials, had been held goalless in the prior three games but finally broke the drought during the second half of the game, scoring the Colonials’ third goal of the game. Vacanti and Kollhoff each contributed an assist. Vacanti and Kollhoff each contributed an assist. Vacanti scored six goals and had two assists on the day.

The Colonials eventually found the net, ending the four-goal run for the Dukes, but Duquesne was not done as it then proceeded to go on a 7-0 stretch across nine minutes, rolling past the Colonials in the second half.

After George Washington was finally able to stop the bleeding, it was already too late, as the damage had been done. The Colonials had already won a game in the prior three games but finally broke the drought during the second half of the game, scoring the Colonials’ third goal of the game. Vacanti stopped a Dukes’ attack with less than a minute left on the clock, and it was all over.

This Week in Sports History...

On April 27, 2017, Marc-Antoine Fleury led the Penguins to a 3-2 win over the host Washington Capitals in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Semifinals. Pittsburgh美容 got a three-goal lead before finding itself trailing. The Capitals dominated the game in overtime, and Fleury was named the first star of the game. Fleury's performance was crucial in helping the Penguins advance to the Stanley Cup Final.

Duquesne football recruit Jake Collins faces second theft charge in one week

Duquesne football recruit Jake Collins faces another theft charge just days after being charged with stealing firearms and jewelry from a Palm Beach County (Florida) sheriff’s deputy’s home, and then pawning some of the items to nearby shops.

Collins is now being accused of stealing from a home near his own that has been empty since its owners died. A judge ordered him held without bail during a bond hearing at the Palm Beach County Jail on Friday, April 20, according to The Palm Beach Post.

After police had investigated Collins’ transactions with pawn shops following the initial charge, investigators found that Collins had also pawned items that weren’t taken from the deputy’s home, including a gold necklace, an expensive watch and a 55-inch television set. Then, an acquaintance of Collins’ confirmed to police that Collins had stolen a gun from the empty home.

The home’s trustee, a granddaughter of the former tenants, was in the process of cleaning the house, but had not been there in some time. Police investigated and found the house was missing the gun and the TV. A jewelry box that had been broken into was also located.

According to The Palm Beach Post, a judge “ordered Collins held on one charge of armed burglary of a home, three charges of grand theft of a firearm, and one charge each of dealing in stolen property, fraudulently pawning items worth $900 and in excess of $500, and fraudulently obtaining money from pawn shops for $300 and $500.”

Last week, Duquesne Head Football Coach Jerry Schmitt said in a statement obtained by The Duquesne that “the school would not take any action regarding Collins’ status until it had gathered the necessary factual information.”

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**see LAX — page 12**
2017-18 Duke Awards

The Duke recognizes remarkable Duquesne players, coaches and teams for their successes over the past year.

Men's Team of the Year: Football

If it weren't for a gut-wrenching 28-27 loss to Central Connecticut State on Nov. 11, the Duquesne football team would be celebrating its fifth Northeast Conference title in seven seasons, and would have represented the NEC in the FCS playoffs for the second time in the past three years. However, junior Dukes place-kicker John Domit missed an 18-yard field goal attempt as time expired, effectively forfeiting the NEC title to the Blue Devils on Duquesne's Senior Day at Rooney Field. Nevertheless, despite the team's end-of-year disappointment, Head Coach Jerry Schmitt's squad still managed to rattle off seven straight victories from Sept. 9 to Oct. 28, outscoring its opponents — including four NEC foes — 261-118 in that span.

Newcomer of the Year: The Nike Swoosh

No disrespect to Duquesne's bevy of impressive first-year athletes, as there were several Dukes well deserving of The Duke's 2017-18 Newcomer of the Year Award. However, Duquesne's decision to switch its official athletic outfitter from Adidas to Nike beginning in the fall of 2017 is an extremely impactful decision for the school moving forward. Duquesne's first season sporting the swoosh will be the cornerstone for the school's athletic uniforms moving forward, and while many Dukes teams didn't sport the flashiest or most detailed jersey sets this past season, many of the school teams' uniforms did look sleeker than they previously did with Adidas. Plus, the men's basketball team's newfound affiliation with LeBron James' Nike brand — thanks to Coach Keith Dambrot's strong relationship with the NBA star, dating back to their days together at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron, Ohio — is sure to benefit both the school and the program in marketing and recruiting efforts.

Women's Team of the Year: Swimming & Diving

Following back-to-back second place finishes at the Atlantic 10 Championship in 2016 and 2017, the Duquesne swimming & diving team finally prevailed in 2018, securing the program's first-ever A-10 title. The Dukes beat Richmond in the process, which had won seven consecutive A-10 titles prior to this year's event.

Coach of the Year: Dave Sheets, Swimming

If Duquesne athletics as a whole are blessed with anything, it's exemplary coaches. Dan Burt (women's basketball), Jody Fetterhoff (bowling) and Al Alvine (women's soccer) all did enough in 2017-18 to be considered for Coach of the Year. In his 17th season as Duquesne's head swim coach, however, Dave Sheets delivered something to the Bluff that it had previously never seen: An Atlantic 10 Championship swimming & diving title. An A-10 title for the Dukes was only a matter of time, and Sheets finally came through.

Male Athlete of the Year: Tommy Stuart

A graduate transfer in 2017 from Boise State, Stuart had one year on the Bluff to live up to big expectations. He did just that in Duquesne's first season since 2012-13 without Dillon Buechel behind center, leading the Dukes to a 7-4 record to go along with 2,405 total passing yards. Stuart did something in 2017 that Buechel never did during his time at Duquesne, too, winning the 2017 NEC Offensive Player of the Year Award. A starter in all 11 of the Dukes' 2017 contests, Stuart completed 66.7 percent of his passes, threw 27 touchdowns to only eight interceptions, and averaged 218.6 yards per game through the air for the Red & Blue.

Most Improved Team: Men's Basketball

Following a 2016-17 campaign that saw the Duquesne men's basketball squad finish 10-22 and 3-15 in Atlantic 10 play, the future of the program looked extremely bleak, leading to former Head Coach Jim Ferry's dismissal. One calendar year later, Keith Dambrot has instilled brand new life into the Duquesne program, engaging with a fan base that hasn't seen the NCAA tournament since 1977. The 2017-18 Dukes finished .500 overall at 16-16, and finished No. 9 in a 14-team conference that Duquesne was projected to finish last in.

Female Athlete of the Year: Linnea Faccenda

Although the Duquesne women's soccer team fell in the A-10 semifinals to top-seeded La Salle 2-1 in double-overtime on Nov. 3, the 2017 season was one to remember for the Dukes. Senior midfielder Linnea Faccenda contributed greatly during her final season on the Bluff, earning A-10 Midfielder of the Year honors following the season. Faccenda finished her career at Duquesne third all-time in points scored with 51.

Senior Athlete of the Year: Kylie Isaacs

On Sept. 10 at the Carnegie Mellon University Invite, Isaacs broke Rachel McGowan's all-time Duquesne victory record with her 148th career win. Then, one week later at the Greater Cincinnati Invitational, Isaacs won her 79th career singles match, becoming the all-time winningest Duquesne tennis player in program history. With the A-10's tennis tournament currently underway in Orlando, Florida, Isaacs has already left her mark on DU.

Senior Kylie Isaacs (top, left) appears repetitively throughout Duquesne's women's tennis record book. Meanwhile, the men's basketball team (bottom) saw a great resurgence under first-year Head Coach Keith Dambrot in 2017-18, winning four more A-10 games than the previous team managed.
**Fortnite at head of rapidly growing genre**

**GRIFFINSENDEK**

**staff writer**

Since its release, *Fortnite: Battle Royale* has captured the hearts of over 45 million players, claiming the title of most popular video game in the world. Epic Games’ smash hit is not alone though. It is just one in an ever-growing sea of recently released battle royale games, all fighting to be number one.

The battle royale genre, at its most basic, consists of a large number of players fighting it out until only one is left standing; the last one alive is the victor. The genre’s simplicity has proven successful among a wide variety of gamers. Developers can relatively quickly and easily adapt their already existing game or build one to follow the battle royale formula.

In fact, *Fortnite’s* battle royale mode was something of an afterthought, an addition to the game Epic had been developing since 2011. The game that has accrued so much fame, popularity and money was put together in only two months. Epic Games simply took the gameplay and mechanics of their survival title, then called *Fortnite: Save the World*, adapted it to the game mode and released for free.

The chance of ending a match in the number one position and the fish humor and loot being the best among a horde of other players are what make battle royale games so compelling. The gameplay loop of these games creates this addicting rush, as the number of players alive slowly diminishes and the playing field gets smaller and smaller. The mode creates a stressful atmosphere where an enemy player can pop out of nowhere and end gameplay with an end to all progress made. These games keep people playing, too; as soon as someone dies, the player can be in a new match within seconds, completely eliminating all downtime between games. Participants will play address the dark side of the criminal, striving to be better, to fix their mistakes and make it closer to the elusive number one spot.

Not only have the games exploded in terms of the amount of people playing them, but the viewership on sites such as YouTube and Twitch for battle royale-related content have proven the most popular effort in the battle royale genre since its release as an early-access game in September 2017.

**COURTESY OF EPIC GAMES**

*Fortnite: Battle Royale* has proven the most popular effort in the battle royale genre since its release as an early-access game in September 2017.

**OHLIEGRATZINGER**

**editor**

In 2013, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* premiered as Fox’s daring police sitcom with a heart of gold. Its creators brilliantly intertwined compelling, diverse characters with seemingly effortless humor from the start, all while still maintaining the genre’s cookie-cutter variety: Raymond Holt, Raymond Holt (Andre Braugher).

For over 100 episodes, the characters are hopping on the trend. *Fortnite* is all over the show. From references to *Die Hard* and Marvel’s *Avengers: Infinity War*, to *NSYNC and *NSYNC, it’s impossible to miss. This event showcases art and music from the Pittsburgh area spread across a 14-acre site in Downtown Pittsburgh’s historic Cultural District. The event is free and open to the public.

**WEEK’S EVENTS**

April Gallery Crawl
Friday, April 27 at 5:30 p.m.

This event showcases art and music from the Pittsburgh area spread across a 14-acre site in Downtown Pittsburgh’s historic Cultural District. The event is free and open to the public.

Climbing the Wall Over the Stigma of Mental Illness
Saturday, April 28 at 12 p.m.

The Active Minds club is hosting a wall climb on campus. $5 admission gets attendees a climb and a t-shirt, and the funds raised go to suicide prevention and mental illness awareness.

**UPCOMING RELEASES**

**Avengers: Infinity War**
Friday, April 27

Characters from across the Marvel Cinematic Universe finally converge to fight the evil Thanos as he tries to collect all six of the Infinity Stones, which would grant him unlimited power over the universe.

**Bearbones & Bentley**
Friday, April 27

Post Malone’s second album will feature the artist’s signature single “Rockstar,” which reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 last year.

**MICRO REVIEW**

“2002”

Anne-Marie’s new track, co-written by Ed Sheeran, breathes nostalgia while melodically being a current pop song. Making references to early 2000’s hits by acclaimed artists like Britney Spears and *NSYNC, it’s impossible to not sing along and reminisce about easier, adolescent times.

— Nicolas Jozefczyk

**Brooklyn Nine-Nine still an unlikely social pioneer**

In 2013, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* premiered as Fox’s daring police sitcom with a heart of gold. Its creators brilliantly intertwined compelling, diverse characters with seemingly effortless humor from the start, all while still maintaining the genre’s cookie-cutter variety: Raymond Holt, Raymond Holt (Andre Braugher). For over 100 episodes, the characters are hoppi

**See Nine — page 12**
Nintendo Labo proves fun and innovative, but not flawless

"Into the Badlands" astounds with riveting season premiere

Nicole Peralta
staff writer

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season 3 of "Into the Badlands" returned as a weekend series premiere Sunday night. The plot pulsed, delivering a heavy dose of beautifully choreographed fight scenes, engaging plot development and new mysteries on the horizon with the arrival of a new villain.

Last season, the tides seemed to turn against the Widow (Emily Beecham) as Tilda (Alla Amundsen) rebelled against her adoptive mother. Sunny (Daniel Wu) emerged from his (Marton Csokas) in one final, epic battle to decide the fates of Veil (Madeleine Mantock) and their newborn son, Henry. But just as Sunny thought Quinn was defeated and prepared to escape the latter's compound with his family, Quinn grabbed Veil and threatened her life if Sunny failed to hand over Henry. Veil chose to take her own life alongside Quinn's instead, however — leaving Sunny heartbroken and with no other recourse than to go into hiding with their child. Bajie (Nick Frost), greatly injured by a pair of scissors, takes a desperate bike ride to an old recourses than to go into hiding with their child. Bajie (Nick Frost), greatly injured by a pair of scissors, takes a desperate bike ride to an old.

The Good

"Badlands" is all about its martial arts, and the scenes this season promise to be no less compelling than before. The roughly first 10 minutes are a fantastic meta moment, cinematic overviews: a view of the conflict between the Widow and Baron Chau (Eleanor Matsuura). On an actual warfront, we witness one Butterfly slaying multiple Chau soldiers before she is knocked down by a barrage of arrows. The scene then shifts to the Widow riding along a sandy beach on horseback toward a stone tower. There, she confronts Naether (Sherman Augustus), the legendary Sniper Sunny defeated after cutting off his hand last season. But it is not Moon's head she is seeking. It is his cooperation as her new Regent, even if it must be elicited by force. Their battle takes up a good chunk of the episode, but it is a worthwhile wait. From balancing on two swords embedded in the ground, to effortlessly scalping the stone tower (and in heets no less), the Widow shows off her formidable grace with and deadly determination.

On that note, her character continues to toe the line between freedom-minded idealist and ambitious cutthroat. After enlisting Moon, she presides over the coffins of the Butterflies from the front line and is soon visited by the mother of one of the deceased. Beaming's acting is on par as she searches the eyes of the Butterfly accompanying the mother to elic her the dead woman even was, trying to give her new reality, when the mother about fighting for a better world. Unmoved by abstract ideals, the mother's sale in the Widow's arms as the latter awkwardly tries to embrace her. It is a much-needed reality check. The scene juxtaposes her strange new role as a freedom fighter over being a Baron — one that will, at times, demand genuine compassion over merciless brutality.

In the six months since Sunny disappeared with Henry, Tilda has gradually built up her new identity as the angry leader of the Rabbits — raiding the Widow's supply convoys and delivering whatever she finds to a refugee camp headed by Lydia (Orla Brady). One such raid even gives Tilda an unexpected surprise: Bajie, chained up in the back, Tilda is rightfully angry after her defeat at the Widow's hands from the previous season and her sense of betrayal at her adoptive mother's plans. It is a demeanor that perfectly contrasts her former, unquestioning loyalty as one of the most capable Butterflies on the show. Plus, she receives a colorful outfit upgrade compared to the Butterflies' uniform blue.

The OK

The show is taking an interesting approach to the deadly Sunny being a single parent. Sunny is no longer be held to his propensities to kill. When a small group of "stalkers" try to take his head (now worth a hefty sum) while he is capped out at an RV with his son, he unflinchingly dispatches each in close quarters combat. Sunny even uses a device built into his crib to skewer one through the neck. Yet, this is the same man who is hesitant to kill a deer just as he sees a fawn approach it. The contrasting scenes may very well be a setup for Sunny's struggle to raise his child in a world drenched in violence and war, partially symbolized by the blood splattered on Henry's cheek.

Sunny's later decision to spare the man who ordered the hit stems more from pity for the man's own kids, who Sunny believes ought to grow up with their father around. It is nice, internal bickerson about parenthood within the episode that also displays subtle character growth on Sunny's part.

The Ugly

Action-packed though it may be, the premiere's narrative pace past the battle between the Moon and the Widow slows down quite a bit. The premiere effectively functions as a reunion between key players from last season — now united around the surprising revelation that Henry, who has developed a fever, has begun to manifest the gift at an unusually early age. Acting is not exactly "ugly." per se, the episode closes out as a deliberate setup with little internal plot resolution beyond Sunny's introspection on parenting.

Zach Landau
editor-in-chief

Back in the yesteryears of this past January, I was excited for all the fanfare and excitement for "Into the Badlands" latest dookie, the Nintendo Labo. The hybridization of video games and model kits, Labo promised to justify every fold is and how to fold bits of cardboard. And I know that Labo is made for kids, but make a joke about their redundant nature. The roughly first 10 minutes are a Baron — one that will, at times, demand genuine compassion over merciless brutality.

In the six months since Sunny disappeared with Henry, Tilda has gradually built up her new identity as the angry leader of the Rabbits — raiding the Widow's supply convoys and delivering whatever she finds to a refuge...
Season 3 riveting, impressive

PHOENIX — from page 10

The End

The episode closes with an introduction of a new antagonist on the scene, who proclaims himself as a messiah. Pilgrim (Babou Ceesay), accompanied by two youths bearing the gift, takes down all of Chan’s Clippers at one of her checkpoints, sparing one to report on the slaughter. Meanwhile, Sunny, desperate to find a solution to his son’s gift manifestation, becomes determined to seek out Aza for answers. With an Aza compass in Pilgrim’s possession as well, we may finally see the mysterious civilization this season — or at least the fate that has befallen it. Episode 2, “Moon Rises, Raven Seeks,” premieres Sunday at 10 p.m. EST.

Cardboard creates new Nintendo Switch add-on

LABO — from page 10 takes tons of functionality for years to come. I honestly cannot wait to read the blogs of those who make intricate games with the equipment, as that’s where the enthusiasm and real potential for the device lie.

I don’t want to give the impression that I didn’t have a good time with Labo, because I did. There is an inevitable charm to building Toy-Cons much like there’s enjoyment to be found building, I don’t know, model airplanes? (God I am getting old.) The ingenious ways to turn bits of cardboard into moving, mechanical parts are similarly fascinating, and the process of watching as flat sheets become models then whole Toy-Cons delights as much as it frustrates. For every tab that refuses to stay in place there are ten others that snap together snugly, and my principal enjoyment emerged from the moment-to-moment construction rather than the finished product.

But what baffles me is who this product is for. I can see some of Labo’s appeal for pre-teens, maybe, but any younger, and they’ll inevitably rip and tear something. Even if they are older, kids will just be frustrated by the slow instructions and its really, really childish aesthetic. Also, you better hope your kid doesn’t misuse the cartridge, or else you’re stuck with a box of useless cardboard. Also, also, I hope you like organizing, because Labo comes with a litany of little bits of tat to keep track of.

But aren’t all toys like this? I honestly can’t remember, it’s been so long. Even if they are, I would be re-miss to not say it feels weird to live in a world where Nintendo is actually legitimately a toy company.

All in all, was Labo worth the price of admission? Yeah, I would say so. I am really excited for the potential in this thing, and whatever complaints I had were minor enough to not really taint my experience. Labo might be the must-own title for the Switch if only because I can’t imagine anything like it existing again.
Police sitcom tackles real-world stereotypes

Brooklyn Nine-Nine

The series continues to address important social issues.

NINE — from page 9

the form of strong, independent Latina women and their penchant for general spunk.

While most cop shows depict strength in women as synonymous for tomboyishness, Brooklyn Nine-Nine avoids getting tripped up by this. In “Gray Star Mutual,” Santiago chases a perp through an alley, somersaults and tackles the bad guy before he can get away, all while wearing the elegant wedding dress Diaz had talked her into trying on.

As a newly-appointed sergeant, Santiago worries that her identity as a Latina woman will make it more difficult to earn the respect of her subordinates, but with the support of Diaz and the rest of the Nine-Nine, she excels. Strength and femininity aren’t forced toward the opposite ends on a spectrum of womanhood. Instead, they coexist alongside one another, making Diaz and Santiago great cops and feminist icons.

Brooklyn Nine-Nine has never shied away from LGBT-related topics in the past, either. Holt’s loving, inter-racial and hilarious relationship with Kevin — his equally firm husband — has earned the series a nomination in the GLAAD Media Awards every year since 2014, though it was Season 5 that finally afforded the series a win. Not only does Kevin finally get more screen time after a dangerous deal made in good heart threatens to catch up to Holt, but another LGBT character joins the lineup when Diaz comes out as bisexual.

Diaz dropped the bomb to Boyle in the season’s ninth installment, “99,” on a road trip gone wrong. In “Game Night,” she comes out to the whole precinct and she is met with love, support and affection. Holt remarks that things have changed a lot since he came out to his peers in the late ’80s, but the reactions of Diaz’s parents demonstrate that there are still miles to go.

She faces biphobia, which isn’t usually addressed even in LGBT circles, let alone on television. Her heavy sadness is well recognizable to anyone who has been in similar situations and easily understandable for those who haven’t. A heartwarming scene at the end of the episode once again reminds viewers of one of Brooklyn Nine-Nine’s recurring motifs and one adulthood’s greatest luxuries: the ability to choose who you call your family.

Peralta’s thoughtfulness and consideration prove again just how much he’s grown. Holt’s tenderness comes as a pleasant surprise, but when he and Diaz embrace, they bond silently over a shared emotional ache. With their tension and sorrow both easily palpable, the episode’s concluding scene is among the most emotionally moving of the series.

Brooklyn Nine-Nine is a show for the underdogs. It’s for the people that don’t often have the luxury of seeing themselves represented on screen. Season 5 builds onto something that was already progressive and strong, and with a few more episodes to go before the season finale, there’s no doubt that there are more great things to come.