



Epilepsy drug linked to opioid misuse

OLIVIA DONIA
staff writer

A recent study conducted by Duquesne University professor John Tomko has linked high dosages of the epilepsy drug Gabapentin to opioid abuse. Based on the findings of the study, Tomko recommends prescribing and distributing Gabapentin with more scrutiny and oversight.

Gabapentin, brand name Neurontin, has been formally approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat symptoms of epilepsy, such as seizures and post herpetic neuralgia, a type of pain caused by shingles. According to Tomko, however, Gabapentin has been used off-label (i.e., not approved by the FDA) to treat other ailments such as back pain, anxiety, bipolar

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Students participate in Greek-Life filled weekend



KATIA FAROUN/PHOTO EDITOR

Multiple Greek Life organizations hosted philanthropy events this weekend, where students could participate in competitions while supporting good causes. Tau Kappa Epsilon's Megapong tournament took place on Saturday, Sept. 22.

DU policy causes student outrage

KELLEN STEPLER
staff writer

In today's political climate, not much can bring people on opposite sides of the aisle together, but Duquesne University managed to do just that.

The school's political candidate policy, written approximately 20 years ago, prevents political candidates from coming to campus to speak to students.

According to University Media Relations Manager Rose Ravasio, Duquesne has numerous administrative policies, commonly referred to as TAPs. They are official directives approved by the university president based on recommendations of Duquesne's executive officers.

The administrative policy (TAP) relating to political activity at Duquesne is TAP No. 27.

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Duquesne SGA votes to release 2018-19 budget to public

RAYMOND ARKE
editor-in-chief

Following mixed feedback from students over lack of budget transparency, Duquesne's Student Government Association (SGA) Senate voted on Saturday, Sept. 22 to release its 2018-19 budget. This was the first time in at least four years that the budget was disclosed with the Senate's permission.

In a document posted on CampusLink, the SGA stated that its budget for this academic year totaled \$73,934. *The Duke* estimated in a staff editorial on Sept. 13 that, based on previously obtained data, the SGA's budget was around \$73,500.

The majority of the budget, \$30,000, is appropriated to the Loop Bus. Conference appropriations received the



KATIA FAROUN/PHOTO EDITOR

The executive board of the Duquesne SGA decided to release the 2018-19 budget to the public after a vote during a Senate meeting on Sunday, Sept. 22.

second highest amount with \$23,100. Other notable amounts include \$2,763 for the Study Break program, \$2,491 for Night of Lights, \$2,120 for Executive Board Contingency and \$1,985 for Senior Awards.

James Joyce, SGA vice president of finance, said in an interview with *The Duke* that he supported the Senate's unanimous decision to publicly release the budget.

"I'm very happy the senators decided to release the budget," he said. "[They] heard the chatter from *The Duke* and the students."

Joyce credited the Executive Board members' campaign promises as helping to motivate the Senate to action.

"It was our [executive] board's push to make it happen," he said.

Joyce said he hopes that making the budgetary figures

public will encourage students to get more involved.

"Most people are going to see ... [that] the largest line items in our budget go directly back to the student," he explained, like the Loop Bus and conference appropriations.

He also hopes to have more students apply for the conference appropriations, a process that he and SGA finance committee chairwoman, Isabella Gingrich, spent the summer simplifying into a two-form process.

"Conference appropriations are a resource for our students. It has been underutilized," he said. Now, "students get to see how much money is available to them."

Applications for conference appropriations are due no later than Oct. 8, and the documents can be found on SGA's CampusLink page.

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BLUFF BRIEFS

Celebrate Homecoming!

Homecoming 2018 is taking place from Oct. 1 to Oct. 7, where students and alumni can come together to celebrate Duquesne University.

The week will kick off with a liturgy at mass in the Old Main Chapel on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 11 a.m.

There will be different events each day, as well as themes daily, including Matching Monday, Wear Red Tuesday and Wear Your Student Organization Shirt Day.

The week will wrap up on Saturday, Oct. 6, with the annual Autumnfest on A-Walk and the Dukes football game against Bryant University on Rooney Field at 1 p.m.

For more information and a full schedule of events, visit www.myduquesne.duq.edu/duqhc18

POLICE BRIEFS

PB&J wishes you a happy start to fall! Here's the juicy gossip for the week.

On Sept. 20, a vehicle was damaged while parked in the Forbes Garage. The case is still active.

On Sept. 21, a resident student reported that she is being threatened by an unknown person or persons who possesses pornographic images of her. The blackmailers are threatening to release these images to the Internet. The case is active.

Also on Sept. 21, a Des Places resident was found intoxicated on the corner of Stevenson Street and Seitz Street. The student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

JOIN THE DUKE!

Writing for *The Duke* is a great way to get involved with everything going down on campus. Whether you like to write, draw, take photos, play video games, listen to music or are just looking for a new way to make friends, *The Duke* is a great place to start!

Being on the staff of *The Duke* looks great on a resume, no matter what your major is, and it involves a lot of free pizza.

If you're interested, email Editor-in-Chief Raymond Arke at arker@duq.edu or stop by our newsroom located in the basement of College Hall (Room 113).

EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

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

New study ties high doses of Gabapentin to opioids

DRUG — from page 1

disorder, migraines and more.

Tomko's study found that subjects in UPMC Mercy's Behavioral Health units were twice as likely to test positive for illicit drug abuse and Hepatitis C when they were taking more than 1800 milligrams of Gabapentin a day.

Tomko noted that these off-label prescriptions of Gabapentin are often unclear.

"Many of these off-label uses have little positive data supporting their use or may even have outcomes that do not support their use," Tomko said. "Previous works have shown that patients



COURTESY OF JOHN TOMKO
John Tomko is an associate professor at the university's School of Pharmacy.

may be using [Gabapentin] to enhance the effect of illicit opiates or opiate replacement treatments such as methadone or buprenorphine."

It is this link between Gabapentin and opiates with which Tomko's study was concerned. The study was first prompted by a correlation between patients visiting UPMC Mercy's mental health units who tested positive for drugs of abuse, and who had also been prescribed Gabapentin for off-label purposes. While other previous studies have shown that Gabapentin is often abused, Tomko's study sought to provide a model that can predict opiate abuse when a patient requests a high dose of Gabapentin from his or her doctor.

The study, which lasted from December 2015 to January 2017, focused on all patients admitted to UPMC Mercy Behavioral Health units. Tomko's research found that, of the 23.3 percent of patients who were prescribed Gabapentin, only 6.7 percent were taking the drug for an FDA-approved purpose. This, combined with the fact that 67.2 percent of Gabapentin users were taking 1800 milligrams a day or more, suggested to researchers that there was a problem with the use of Gabapentin among patients. Of particular note was

the fact that 9 percent of patients prescribed Gabapentin were doing so with an "undetermined reason for use," according to Tomko.

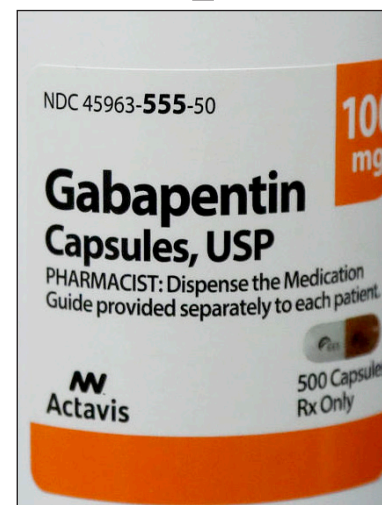
Tomko stressed that this study identifies Gabapentin as a drug used to enhance the effect of opioids, rather than as a gateway drug to opioid abuse itself. Being the first study of its kind to provide a predictive model for drug abuse, Tomko hopes that the findings of his study will cause doctors to consider prescribing Gabapentin with more scrutiny.

"If a patient is persistent in their requests, a physician may wish to inquire more about the reasons for the request and perhaps even request a urine drug screen to rule out illicit substance use," Tomko said.

He believes that the findings of this study support potentially considering Gabapentin as a controlled substance by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Douglas Bricker, dean of the School of Pharmacy at Duquesne, praised Tomko and his study.

"The research conducted by Tomko provides primary care physicians and other healthcare prescribers with pertinent information to recognize that patients who are prescribed or who ask for higher doses of Gabapentin should be aware of the association between this behavior



JEFF CHIU/ AP
Gabapentin, brand name Neurontin, is commonly prescribed to treat epilepsy, though it is often prescribed in high doses

and Substance Use Disorders," Bricker said. "In this era of extensive opioid misuse, having predictive warning tools ... can be very beneficial in combating the overuse and misuse of opioids."

Tomko's study adds not only to the existing body of work surrounding Gabapentin and its potential for misuse, but also provides a clear indication that high doses of the drug — often prescribed for unclear or off-label purposes — is linked to abuse of opioids.

Tomko and his team hope that this study will help physicians recognize more subtle signs of substance abuse and will raise awareness of substance use disorders.

DU receives Woodrow Wilson Foundation grant

OLLIE GRATZINGER

opinions editor

On Sept. 11, Duquesne University announced that it would be one of three institutions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to receive a grant from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation.

Created in 1945, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation originally served to "attract veterans back to academic careers," according to its website. Over time, the foundation has also come to focus on recruiting gifted teachers and preparing them to serve as STEM educators in "high-need" schools. Because of this, the Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship was born.

Along with the University of Pennsylvania and West Chester University, Duquesne will be awarded \$400,000 to put toward the development of new teacher preparation programs, according to the Pittsburgh Business Times. The goal of the program is to better prepare educators to lead (STEM) programs in underprivileged schools.

Pennsylvania joins Georgia, Indiana, New Jersey, Ohio and Michigan with the integration of the Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship into some of its institutions.

Duquesne University Times reports that the university will be able to enroll 12 fellows per year over the course of three years, with the first class slated to begin in the summer of 2019. Each fellow will receive \$32,000 to complete an intensive master's degree program. Then, they will serve for three years as a STEM educator in a high-need public school.

"All Pennsylvania students both need and deserve strong STEM teachers," said Woodrow Wilson Foundation President Arthur Levine in a press release posted to Duquesne's website. "Through this effort, Pennsylvania will continue to strengthen its schools, its communities and its future."

Duquesne University President Ken Gormley echoed Levine's sentiments, citing Duquesne's "deep commitment to the communities around it" as an influencing factor in the foundation's decision to include the university in its initiative.

"In meeting with the leadership from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, it was clear that they were captivated by the story of Duquesne University as an institution founded to help recent immigrants in the 1800s," Gormley said. "The Woodrow Wilson Foundation concluded that Duquesne was the ideal fit for



DUKE ARCHIVE PHOTO

Duquesne's Canevin Hall is home to the School of Education, which will largely benefit from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation grant that the university received on Sept. 11.

this special program, because the initiative was so directly connected to our mission as a Catholic Spiritan institution and our new Strategic Plan."

Gormley also stressed the ways in which the program will greatly benefit not only the university and its students, but also the Pittsburgh region as a whole.

"This initiative ... will provide new opportunities for the School of Education and the entire campus to continue our longstanding tradition as a leader in training great educators who will make enormous contributions in the future, enriching underserved school districts and communities for years to come."

No candidate policy sparks protest from DU students

POLICY — from page 1

Duquesne is a tax-exempt institution of higher learning, based on requirements under the Internal Revenue Code. According to TAP No. 27, the university is not permitted to “participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing and distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.”

“The university understands that student, faculty and staff participation in political process is and should be an educational experience, and that they are free to exercise their rights as citizens and be politically active,” Ravasio said.

The rule has caused some frustration with Duquesne’s College Republicans.

“This policy issue was raised by many of our members after conflict that we came across when we could not host our guest speaker at the last scheduled meeting,” Holden Sczerba, president of the

College Republicans, said.

Additionally, the College Republicans believe that “all organizations at Duquesne University should be able to host candidates for public office on campus as it allows for growth, diversity of viewpoints, direct contact and opportunities for members in terms of jobs, internships and careers,” Sczerba said.

The College Democrats also feel the restriction of not being able to have political candidates speak on campus. As a group, they were in contact with current United States Representative Conor Lamb (D-18), whose special election sparked national attention.

“We feel very restricted, as he and many other people or groups, have reached out wanting to hold events or meetings with us on campus,” College Democrats President Robert Goode said. “It is quite an unfortunate policy as we feel it would help keep students even more informed and up to date on

current events and the politicians that are important to them.”

“If each organization states that the candidates’ views are not endorsed by the university, then there should be no issue with an appearance,” Sczerba said.

While both groups may not agree with the policy, they both respect the university’s decision regarding the policy.

“With respect to our school, I understand how the university does not want to be politically affiliated and show favoritism towards sides and people,” Goode said.

“Our organization understands the current rules in place, and respects all decisions enforced by the University and administration,” Sczerba said.

Nonetheless, they hope for the policy to change.

“We look forward to having a healthy relationship with everyone on campus, and particularly the administration, to resolve the



COURTESY OF HOLDEN SZERBA

DU College Republicans posed for a picture with Scott Wagner at a fundraiser.

candidate and speaker policy,” Sczerba said.

“We feel this policy could be updated in a way that allows any

group to bring politicians to their meetings or events, showing that it is important to support all students and their beliefs,” Goode said.

New forensic science lab opens in Duquesne’s Fisher Hall

LUKE SCHRUM

staff writer

A classroom in the Fisher Hall annex has a new look this school year – the former traditional classroom space is now home to a state-of-the-art, 24-seat forensic science teaching and lab space being used by the Masters of Science Program in Forensic Science and Law. The program was established 14 years ago and has grown steadily – currently more than 140 students are enrolled.

Dean and professor of the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences Philip Reeder explained the reasoning behind the DNA and forensic chemistry labs, which are housed in Mellon Hall.

“Space was needed to meet the facility needs for the program in terms of finding a home for the comparison microscope that is used in firearms analysis, and forming a trace evidence lab,” Reeder said.

He continued, in part: “with improved facilities comes the ability to teach an even broader and worthwhile suite of material to the students.”

Duquesne President Ken Gormley also addressed the reasoning behind the new lab, noting the benefits it will provide to the campus community.

“During the past decade, rapid advancements in forensic science have substantially enhanced the system of justice in our country,” Gormley said. “This new state-of-the-art lab will provide Duquesne students with hands-on experience in scientific principles and techniques to analyze evidence, in a centrally-located space.”

When the M.S. program in Forensic Science and Law was put

into place, as is the case for all new programs, existing infrastructure and faculty were utilized to begin the establishment process. 14 years later, according to Reeder, a request was submitted to former Provost Tim Austin, who then submitted it to the university’s capital improvement plan. With construction taking place over the summer, following an approval and planning phase, the new lab was ready at the start of the fall 2018 semester.

“Lecture and professional development classes associated [with the program] will be taught in the lab... the laboratory section of the room will be utilized by classes having the need to do examination[s],” Reeder said.

Gormley, who attended the opening ceremony of the new lab, shared his enthusiasm regarding the addition to Fisher Hall’s facilities.

“It’s exciting to see the new forensic science lab opened; and it was especially enjoyable to join students and recent graduates, along with Pamela Marshall – the new Director of the Forensic Science and Law Program – for the ribbon-cutting ceremony,” Gormley said.

The unique nature of the program was a driving factor for the implementation of the new lab.

“The lab further bolsters the cutting-edge work of our forensic science and law program, which is the only one of its kind in the country to bring together science and law faculty to offer students a comprehensive education in forensic science and its applications,” Gormley said. “We’re thrilled to see this new educational and research space come to fruition. It will benefit Duquesne students for decades to come.”

Reeder said that Duquesne

University places high value in its Spiritan tradition, and the new forensic science lab will help to further its global goals.

“The creation of this lab will enhance student understanding in their discipline of study and will provide hands-on experience to make them better trained and thus more marketable in their field,” Reeder said, in reference to the Spiritan mission.

As professional requirements continue to evolve with changes in technology, laws and techniques – “Duquesne, the Bayer School and in particular the Forensic Science and Law program are poised to meet that need,” Reeder concluded.



KATIA FAROUN/PHOTO EDITOR

Duquesne University’s new forensic science lab is located in the annex of Fisher Hall’s third floor, offering students more state-of-the-art equipment.

Tom Hanks encourages America to vote

MADISON PASTRICK

layout editor

Tom Hanks encouraged all Americans to vote as part of U.S. Voter Registration Day on Sept. 25 at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum in Oakland.

“If we do not participate as citizens in every single election, we forfeit the establishment of justice to others,” he said.

Hanks, who is currently in Pittsburgh to film a new movie on the life of Fred Rogers, was speaking as a co-chair to the nonprofit organization When We All Vote. This organization was announced by former first lady Michelle Obama this past July in an effort to increase voter registration and civic participation rates.

Other local celebrities appeared at this event as well, such as Steelers executive Jim Rooney, fashion designer Kiya Tomlin and Steelers quarterback Josh Dobbs.

Tomlin, who is also the wife of Steelers coach, Mike Tomlin, spoke about the lack of female representation in the Pennsylvania government.

“Did you know that in the entire state of Pennsylvania we do not have a single woman in Congress? That is bizarre,” Kiya Tomlin said. “That’s why it’s so critical to vote. When we all vote, all of our voices are heard, but if we don’t, it’s the people who show up at the polls who get to make the decisions.”

Community members and voter registration advocates opened up the event, including Communication Director for the New Leaders Council Abby Wolensky; University of Pittsburgh student and newly registered voter, Ritika Bajpai; and educator and member of the American Federation of Teachers, Nina Esposito-Visgita.

Several hundred people attended, including a number of college students that were encouraged to

register as newly-eligible voters.

“Eight million Americans have turned 18 since the last presidential election,” said Wolensky. “Where can you find those 8 million 18 and 19-year-olds? Probably in school. So make an impact. It’s not hard.”

This event was part of a national campaign When We All Vote is hosting from Saturday, September 22 to Saturday, Sept. 29. The foundation of this organization is based upon its mission statement, which is to “bring together citizens, institutions and organizations to spark a conversation about our rights and responsibilities in shaping our democracy. Namely, the responsibility of registering and voting,” as stated on When We All Vote’s website.

Along with Hanks and Michelle Obama, When We All Vote is co-chaired by major celebrities, including Lin-Manuel Miranda,

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“You didn’t know it. You didn’t think it could be done. In the final end, he won the wars after losing every battle.”

BOB DYLAN

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

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Corrections/clarifications

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

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CARTOON BY JORDAN CALLAHAN

in focus...

Family separation still a problem; memo released

OLLIE GRATZINGER

opinions editor

We live in trying times. News pours over us from every angle until it feels like we’re drowning in headlines, and even though it’s overwhelming, we can’t allow ourselves to become overwhelmed. When we get overwhelmed, we become desensitized. When we become desensitized, we stop talking about it, and when we stop talking about it, it becomes the new normal.

With that being said, family separation hasn’t stopped just because the majority of the coverage has. On Sept. 25, multiple sources detailed the contents of a newly-released memo proving the Trump administration’s premeditated role in the crisis.

Even though officials maintained that the administration did not create a policy which separated children from their parents, the new memorandum, allegedly signed by Secretary of Homeland Security Kristjen Nielsen on April 23, contradicts those statements.

“The Secretary of Homeland Security has broad legal authorities to carry out her responsibility to enforce the immigration laws,” the memo reads. “DHS could also permissibly direct the separation of parents or legal guardians and

minors held in immigration detention so that the parent or legal guardian can be persecuted pursuant to these authorities.”

Large portions of the memo are redacted, but one can surmise its gist: Family separation was recommended to the DHS as a feature of the “Zero-Tolerance” initiative, which the memo mentions.

The signature is redacted, too, for privacy reasons, but being that it was addressed to Nielsen it’s likely that it belongs to her.

The memo suggests three options “for how to pursue this increased prosecution, ‘Zero-Tolerance’ initiative,” which are all redacted. It also recommends option three to the signatory, which is signed and approved by Nielsen, presumably.

In April, the Washington Post reported on what appears to be the same memo, though not yet approved by Nielsen, detailing the alternatives.

“The officials present Nielsen with two other options,” reads the article, published on April 26, “Prosecuting all single adults, and ramping up government resources accordingly; or working with prosecutors to charge as many adults as possible, using existing resources, which the memo said would be the least effective approach.”

Nonetheless, Nielsen deliberately opted to allow children to be taken away from their parents at the border, even when other

options were presented to her.

Despite Nielsen’s reiterated claims that “the administration did not create a policy of separating families at the border,” which she told the press time and time again, the memo proves that she lied. Not only did the administration enforce this policy — which at one point was pinned on Obama and his administration — but they signed life into it and brought it from paper to present. From redacted to reality.

We can’t forget about this. We can’t let this news get buried amid the myriad of other stories, even if they’re all just as important, frustrating and scary.

As of the end of August, the Washington Post estimated that around 500 children were still in government custody, separated from their parents, and even those who were reunited faced trauma and terror that could take a lifetime to settle.

The videos and audio files surfacing of crying children, toddlers who no longer recognize their parents and kids standing alone before a judge in court can’t fade into the background of media chatter. The way Nielsen apparently lied to the American people, perhaps even to Congress, can’t be accepted as the norm.

This was a crime against humanity perpetuated in our own country, signed into being by our own government, and then denied wholeheartedly by the very same powers that be. We, the people, must hold them accountable.

Ollie Gratzinger is a junior multiplatform journalism major and can be reached at olliegratz@gmail.com.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Though the world is laughing, our downfall isn’t funny

Being the butt of a joke is a position nobody wants to find themselves in, let alone an entire country. This week, the U.S. got to be the world’s joke, as most of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) burst into laughter in the middle of our president’s speech.

On Sept. 25, while addressing the diplomats and leaders of nearly every nation, President Trump earnestly stated that “in less than two years, my administration has accomplished more than almost any administration in the history of our country.” Cue an actual laugh track louder than *The Big Bang Theory*’s.

The president uncomfortably smiled and attempted to move on, but the awkward moment has been memorialized in cable news chyrons and Twitter timelines alike, turned into memes and sarcastic headlines. Even Fox News knew it was an embarrassing moment for our nation (even though they decided to handle it by editing the laughter out all together ... but that’s an entirely different problem).

But honestly, for us American citizens, this should really be no laughing matter.

As a nation, we were founded as an ideal. John Winthrop, an early American founder and governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, envisioned us to one day become “a city upon the hill. The eyes of all people are upon us.”

In many ways, America has not lived up to the standard that it hoped to set, yet it has often commanded the world’s respect and served as a symbol of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for refugees, freedom fighters and oppressed peoples.

Now, there is just another example of how that standing has been lost.

While the laughter incident was only a moment in the midst of the president’s 35-minute speech, it encapsulates how far we have fallen off the international stage since Trump took office. Our allies no longer take us seriously, and for good reason. Not only that, but clearly they are not afraid to be open about it. Though it may be hard to resist, we can’t joke about what happened at UNGA — we should be ashamed. We will all live with the consequences of a world where America is a laughing stock.

Repairing these broken alliances and reestablishing the vital trust between world powers that took hundreds of years to build will be one of our generation’s largest burdens to bear. However, by getting involved, which can be easy as following the news and, most importantly, voting, we can take small steps to becoming a nation we can be proud of again. So stop making memes, and start making change.

OPINIONS

Sexual harassment builds toxic workplace culture

TIMOTHY RUSH
staff columnist

Sexual harassment is an issue that has been ever-present in society throughout time, and it's still a very serious one. It is an issue that has plagued American sports leagues, though it has been recently highlighted in the news surrounding the Dallas Mavericks.

On Feb. 20, an investigative report done by Sports Illustrated brought to light various accounts of sexual harassment that took place in the Mavericks' corporate offices. One female employee retold her experience with then President of the Mavericks Terdema Ussery, where he remarked on her having sexual intercourse with multiple partners. In fact, she's not alone; another woman came forward and gave her account of how Ussery regularly propositioned her for sex.

While Ussery left the Mavericks in 2015, the environment of misogyny and sexual harassment hasn't ceased. Instances of alleged public fondling, sexual assault and superiors outright quelling complaints of this behavior have continued. In

response to this Sports Illustrated report, Mavericks owner Mark Cuban ordered an investigation into his team to drag these horrid experiences into light. This report, released on Sept. 19, confirmed the account by Sports Illustrated.

In response, Cuban has agreed to make a \$10 million donation to organizations that help those impacted by domestic violence and others that support women's leadership and development in the sports industry. While the donation by itself is definitely a noble thing — indeed the organizations are very noble causes — I believe we need to look beyond the simple action of donating, specifically in regards to the motivation of it. While these causes are noble, the reason for donating to them may be far less so.

While Cuban appears to be removed from these events — in fact, he ordered the formal investigation that brought all of this to light—it's still worth noting that as of right now there is no penalty being weighed against him or the Mavericks following this horrendous line of events.

While the report released by the formal investigation stated Cuban was unaware of this toxic and preda-

tory work environment, it is interesting that Cuban didn't take a proactive stance to combat the described "corporate culture of misogyny and predatory sexual misconduct," as described by Sports Illustrated. The excuse given is that he is just not involved to a great extent with the Mavericks' corporate office, but for someone who has owned the Mavericks since 2000, it is a little hard to believe that he was not, at least, somewhat aware of his own team's corporate culture.

At best, he was just ignorant of it all, and at worst he was blatantly apathetic to the toxic and misogynistic work environment of the Dallas Mavericks.

We shouldn't be comfortable with just letting this pass with no punishment levied. Cuban making a \$10 million donation is nice, but he is a billionaire. This is a small fraction of his wealth, and the fact that there is yet to be any formal punishment against the Mavericks is outrageous.

We should hold him and his team to a higher standard. He's the owner of the team, therefore he has the power to initiate positive change for this corporate organization. The NBA shouldn't let him get off with just throwing out a mere fraction of his wealth to mask the



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Amid sexual harassment allegations, the Dallas Mavericks stand out.

team's blatant problems of harassment and misogyny, regardless of if he was involved and aware or not.

The Mavericks need to be held responsible for their problematic behavior, so if Cuban really wants to be an ally to women's leadership and

development in the sports industry, he wouldn't just throw some dollars into the wind. He should vow to fight the predatory culture of his team and proactively fight misogyny and cases of sexual harassment where they occur.

Hollywood should embrace POC, women in popular roles

ZOE STRATOS
staff columnist

Known for its glamorous stars throughout the years, Hollywood never had trouble casting the perfect person for the perfect role in films and TV shows. However, after recent controversies in the acting industry surrounding fan outrage at casting people of color (POC), moviegoers need to leave their ignorance and hate in the past where it belongs.

Fans being upset about a book or cartoon turned movie character that didn't turn out exactly how they wanted is nothing new in the entertainment industry, but that's not the problem. The real issue is outrage toward POC receiving major parts in said films and TV shows, even though the part never belonged to a caucasian person.

One example is Anna Diop of the new *Titans* live action TV show due to air in October. Based off of the 2003 animation *Teen Titans*, the TV show follows the adult version of the team including leader Robin, Starfire, Raven, Cyborg and Beastboy. Diop plays the orange skinned alien from the planet Tamaran named Starfire.

After a trailer release of the highly anticipated show for DC and Marvel fans alike, the reaction



COURTESY OF ESQUIRE

Kelly Marie Tran has been harassed by racist "fans" via social media.

seemed to be overall disappointment in the casting and costumes of the heroes: specifically Starfire. Fans took to Twitter coining the hashtag "notmystarfire," and one fan said Diop was "too fat and dark to be Starfire."

Not only were there tweets harassing Diop, some fans even took it as far as commenting hateful things on Diop's Instagram posts. It's disturbing to know the "fans" have no problem harassing her to the point of her turning off comments on Instagram.

"Too often social media is abused by some who find refuge in the anonymity and detachment it provides: misused as a tool to harass, abuse and spew hatred at others," Diop wrote. "This is weak,

sad and a direct reflection of the abuser. Racist, derogatory and/or cruel comments have nothing to do with the person on the receiving end of that abuse."

It's understandable that people want a person with the "correct" skin tone playing a role, but in this situation it's completely absurd. How can someone assign an ethnicity to an alien with glowing orange skin? It's unfair to a talented actress like Diop, who would play the part of a strong heroine well. It's 2018 — it's about time Hollywood chose POC to act in films, and the public should accept it, too.

Unfortunately, racism from fans doesn't stop with Diop. *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* star Kelly Marie Tran faced similar, arguably worse

harassment from rude fans on social media. The Star Wars franchise began casting POC in their recent movies, including star John Boyega, as well as Tran herself: The first woman of color cast in the franchise. Tran played Rose Tico, a mechanic in the resistance against the First Order.

Tran, a well respected and talented actress, received hateful comments on her Instagram, including slurs like "ching chong." One fan even went as far as changing the "Wookieepedia" description about her to one with a plethora of profanities and stating that she "better die in a coma."

In what world is this acceptable? When did someone's ethnicity become grounds for death threats and putrid insults? People like this aren't really fans anymore, they are disgusting hateful people who attack innocent actors and actresses who are trying to bring joy and entertainment to the public. Somehow, Tran, like Diop, stayed strong through the hate.

"I avoided social media for a long time purely because I was afraid. I was terrified of being picked apart, of being scrutinized, of being seen," she wrote on one post. "I'm an incomplete, imperfect, broken mess, and I'm here to say that it's OKAY to be imperfect."

The one thing these fans fail to realize is parts aren't given to actors just out of pity for their lack of representation in the film and TV industry, they're given to them because they are talented, strong-women of color who deserve a chance at stardom. They have a voice for those minorities who want to become stars, too. Bringing them down only makes the fans look idiotic and, quite frankly, not look like actual fans, either.

A fan is someone who is excited about a film or TV show; they devote themselves to what they love, and a POC playing a certain character shouldn't change that. That POC deserves all of the respect and support that white actors and actresses receive. Hollywood doesn't "whitewash" characters as frequently, which is one step in the right direction.

In no way is the industry near perfect, but public acceptance of POC will take the proper casting of characters to the next level. Inclusion is important in this day and age, and women of color like Diop and Tran are inspirations to all of the young ethnically diverse children dreaming of making it big. It's not fair to tear down the actors and actresses who were once those kids dreaming of where they are now.

Documentary details group's trip to Tanzania

CLAUDIA HARDY
staff writer

Millions of individuals die every year due to water scarcity and contamination. If you could bring change to communities who need it, why wouldn't you?

Thanks to Duquesne's university's Pure Thirst project, students are able to raise awareness about the world's water crisis and work towards eliminating scarcity issues in Tanzania.

The Pure Thirst project strives to educate students in Western Pennsylvania about this crisis in hopes that real change to occur. According to the Pure Thirst Facebook page, they have managed to collect more than \$60,000, constructed two water purification systems in Honduras and educated thousands of students in the area.

In addition to these accomplishments, the group has produced a documentary about their water project and the experiences they had in Tanzania.

"Our involvement had three main goals," documentary narrator Catherine Hull

said. "To facilitate the updating of the community water pipes, to educate at the local grade schools and to research the community's levels of fluoride in their water and discover any feasible ways to reduce such levels."

Hull, along with other Pure Thirst members Kayley Szymanski, Faba Malik and Adam Milyak, attended the three-and-a-half week trip.

"Ultimately, we wanted our trip and time spent in Tanzania to create an understanding between two cultures," Hull said. "Ours in America and theirs in Tanzania."

Each member had a distinct role in creating the documentary. Malik, a biology major, tested the fluoride levels and how to reduce them. Milyak also captured photos and video footage to create the documentary.

Hull had traveled on the Pure Thirst trip to Tanzania last year and had familiarity with the area and people.

Cultural guides Matthew Hansen and Meghan Blaskowitz also attended the trip to help the group become familiar with the villages and facilitate interactions with local Tanzanians.

The group also dedicates the creation of this project to various partners, including the Spiritans, Rotary International and the university as a whole.

"The Spiritans were crucial in aiding in the logistics of the project, and helping us understand the cultural differences," Hull said.

The trip was split between living with the community of Okakola and staying at a Mission in between the town of Okakola and Arusha.

"We go outside of our comfort zones," Szymanski said. "If we just stay together and speak English they aren't going to want to come up to us. If you approach them and show interest in the culture, they get more excited to talk about it."

Szymanski described the absorption of culture as a two-way street.

"A couple of community members that I spoke with wanted to help teach me more Swahili and learn more about the culture," Szymanski said. "But they also wanted to learn from me and that's a really cool take-give element."

In addition to giving back to the local communities of



PHOTO COURTESY OF PURE THIRST FACEBOOK

Pure Thirst is also hosting the Wine into Water even on Tuesday Oct. 2 from 4:30 to 6:30 in the Africa Room. The event features local wineries and proceeds from the tickets go to funding research done by this organization.

Tanzania, members were also able to improve their own personal skills.

"The most rewarding part of making this film was giving back to Pure Thirst by being able to tell their story and highlight the great work and relationships they have formed over in Tanzania," Milyak said. "Students should get involved in Pure Thirst because they will have the op-

portunity to best utilize their own skill set."

Over the next several months, the group strives to continue spreading their mission to the population of Western Pennsylvania with their upcoming event Wine to Water, as well as becoming more educated on what they can do to properly assist communities in Tanzania.

ODK helps raise awareness of domestic violence

OWEN DONOHUE
staff writer

On Saturday, Sept. 22, the Duquesne University chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) hosted a fundraiser festival to benefit the Women's Center and Shelter of Pittsburgh and promote domestic violence awareness.

Attendees of the Fall Festival for Change enjoyed carnival games, live music, food and prize giveaways. Dozens of other Duquesne organizations collaborated with ODK to make the event possible,

donating raffle baskets and sponsoring games. Information booths provided carnival goers with statistics on domestic violence.

According to their website, the Women's Center and Shelter of Pittsburgh "is a safe harbor that provides specialized care and support for women who have experienced all types of intimate partner violence from physical to emotional through emergency shelter, legal advocacy, a 24-hour hotline, support groups and more."

The center has been a leading regional program for vic-

tims of domestic abuse and their children since its establishment in 1974.

"I wanted to start ... an inter-organizational dialogue," said Cam Kehm, president of ODK's Duquesne chapter. "This is something that each and every one of us, every day, can actively combat and actively fight, just by how we conduct ourselves. Our choices today and how we conduct ourselves around future generations—that is going to be the groundwork laid to stop domestic violence."

Also known as the National Leadership Honor Society, ODK was established in 1914 and recognizes student achievements in scholarship, athletics, service, communications and arts.

According to the ODK website, the organization encourages "cross-sectional collaboration among campus leaders — students, faculty, staff and alumni — to serve their community, among other goals written in its mission statement."

ODK has had a presence on Duquesne's campus since 1978. The honor society, which accepts junior and senior students, has often

acted as an intermediary for different philanthropic events, sending its members or funds to aid other organizations' initiatives.

Kehm has a personal connection to the cause behind Saturday's event. In October 2017, his friend and University of Pittsburgh student, Alina Shekyhet, was murdered by her ex-boyfriend.

"She was just this ray of sunshine and unfortunately she lost her life to the senseless violence that is a harmful relationship," Kehm said. "I knew that I wanted to do ... something that kind of memorialized who Alina was, just fun, outgoing, loving, just accepting. That's why we wanted to do something as fun as a carnival."

In addition to the organizations who contributed to the event on Saturday, dozens of organizations and student initiatives have been created on-campus events over the years to educate the Duquesne community on issues of sexual assault and domestic violence.

The stigma behind the topics has diminished somewhat over decades of their gradual introduction into

public discourse.

"What the community needs to do is be more aware and be more invested in what we do every day, especially when we're in those high risk situations," Kehm said.

The Saturday event helped spread awareness of not only domestic violence, but of ODK and its mission itself. Kehm said he hopes ODK will further develop its role as a member of the philanthropic community at Duquesne and continue to take an adamant, collaborative approach toward social change.

"People naturally want to make positive change happen. They want to live in a better world ... but you have to introduce them to the issue as a partner," Kehm said. "We have the opportunity, the resources and the talent to really make our corner of the world better and that 'our' is important."

A Duquesne University Counseling and Wellbeing Center crisis counselor is available 24 hours a day by calling the University Police at 412.396.COPS (2677) and asking to speak to a counselor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIANNA SCHMID

A variety of campus organizations also tabled and set up games at the ODK Carnival, which took place from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22.

Offseason moves have NBA fans ready for season

ADAM LINDNER
sports editor

When Cavaliers guard J.R. Smith infamously dribbled out the last seconds of regulation during a tied Game 1 of the 2018 NBA Finals, thinking his team was in the lead, basketball fans everywhere quickly realized the immensity of the mistake Smith had made — heavily overpowered by Finals opponent and juggernaut Golden State, not many people anticipated Cleveland would be able to force a competitive series in the first place.

After all, the year prior, the Warriors had dispatched the heavily overmatched Cavaliers in five games. Then, during the ensuing offseason, All-Star point guard Kyrie Irving was traded to the Boston Celtics in a severely lopsided trade.

Now, Cleveland found itself back in the Finals for the fourth-straight season — right alongside Golden State — largely thanks to LeBron James’ otherworldly play both throughout the course of the regular season and during the Eastern Conference Playoffs.

The Warriors, on the other hand, fancied mostly the same, overwhelming lineup that had punished the Cavs in the Finals the summer prior.

So, as Game 1 inched closer

toward the final buzzer, basketball fans everywhere gathered to see if the Cavs could steal home-court advantage from the Dubs in stunning fashion.

Instead, J.R. Smith grabbed a rebound off of a missed George Hill free throw, and instead of shooting instantly as the clock wound down, Smith ran toward the perimeter, thinking his main prerogative was to dribble the clock’s final seconds out.

And, just like that, Game 1 was headed to overtime thanks to Smith’s blunder — but NBA fans everywhere knew what was really happening. A masterful Game 1 performance from James was wasted by Smith’s mistake as the Warriors ran away with the game in OT, shattering the underdog’s chances of stealing an early game on the road against an unsuspecting opponent.

It only took the Dubs three more games after Game 1 to end the 2018 Finals, sweeping LeBron and the Cavs for the Bay Area team’s third trophy in four seasons.

A league accustomed to seeing copious amounts of player movement during the summer months, the NBA and its fans knew that the league’s landscape was soon to change in the coming months, but not exactly how. A pending unrestricted free agent, James had been rumored to be interest-

ed in joining either the Los Angeles Lakers, Houston Rockets and Philadelphia 76ers, but nothing too substantial ever materialized, no matter how bad some may have wanted to see The King running alongside James Harden and Chris Paul, or Ben Simmons and Joel Embiid.

Others were set to hit the open market, as well, including Paul George and Paul, but nothing too monumental is truly set into motion during NBA free agency until big fish like James are secured.

Months later, we stand only weeks away from the beginning of the 2018 season, and some of the Association’s most notable names have found new homes within the league. Some of these transactions, along with some other movements, have basketball fans geared up and ready for another season of professional basketball. Below are a few of the league’s most exciting storylines to follow as the beginning of the new season inches closer and closer.

Three storylines to watch as the 2018 NBA season nears:

1.) *LABron* —

Debatably the world’s top player, LeBron James made the decision this summer to join forces with one of the world’s most recognizable sports teams in the Los Angeles Lakers, and the world just can’t wait to see how it pans out.

In a basketball sense, it might take some time for James and his new teammates to mesh before extreme success can be expected on the court. In a stacked Western Conference, the Lakers may struggle out of the gate, as the team boasts no viable co-star for James. Young stars Brandon Ingram, Lonzo Ball and Kyle Kuzma should each benefit greatly from playing alongside Mr. James, but each figure to experience their fair shares of growing pains, too. Former LeBron foes Rajon Rondo and Lance Stephenson will be joining the #LakeShow this year, too, making for one of the most entertaining rosters ever.

2.) *Boston’s treasure chest of valuable guards* —

Last year, Boston entered the

new season figuring to be one of the league’s top title contenders, and definitely the East’s most talented squad. In the first game of the 2017 season, however, free



COURTESY OF ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER
After spending the first of his 15 NBA seasons with either the Cleveland Cavaliers or Miami Heat, LeBron James is taking his talents to Hollywood this year.

agent acquisition and All-Star Gordon Hayward fractured his tibia, and Kyrie Irving was sidelined for the remainder of the season before the postseason began. In their places, younger Celtics players Marcus Smart, Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and Terry Rozier played exceptionally well, leading Boston to seven games against eventual Eastern Conference champion Cleveland.

Seeing how talented this team can be when healthy — and how Head Coach Brad Stevens divvies up the group’s minutes — will be wildly entertaining.

3.) *The North welcomes Kawhi* —

Surely, those on social media within the past week have become acquainted with the “Kawhi Laugh,” a hilarious clip of the notoriously quiet Leonard awkwardly forcing a laugh during his first official media appearance with his new team, the Toronto Raptors. Jokes aside, the coming year is a big one for owner Masai Ujiri and his team; betting on Leonard in return for franchise cornerstone Demar DeRozan was gutsy — but could pay off majorly.



COURTESY OF THEARON W. HENDERSON/GETTY

Forward Paul George, left, made a big bet on Oklahoma City’s potential when he re-signed with the team this summer in the form of a four-year, \$137 million contract.

Upcoming DU Sports Events

The following events are all of Duquesne’s varsity athletic events for the next 10 days.

— **Sept. 27, 7 p.m.**
Women’s soccer vs. Massachusetts (**Arthur J. Rooney Athletic Field**)

— **Sept. 28**
Men’s and women’s cross country (Notre Dame Invitational)

— **Sept. 28**
Men’s tennis vs. Toledo (Rocket Invite)

— **Sept. 28, 7 p.m.**
Women’s volleyball @ Fordham

— **Sept. 29, 7 p.m.**
Men’s soccer vs. Saint Joseph’s (**Rooney Field**)

— **Sept. 29, 7 p.m.**
Women’s volleyball @ Rhode Island

— **Sept. 30, 2 p.m.**
Women’s soccer @ VCU

— **Oct. 2, 7 p.m.**
Men’s soccer vs. Cleveland State (**Rooney Field**)

— **Oct. 4, 7 p.m.**
Women’s soccer vs. George Washington (**Rooney Field**)

— **Oct. 5, 6 p.m.**
Women’s swimming & diving (Pentathlon/alumni meet)

— **Oct. 5, 7 p.m.**
Women’s volleyball vs. Dayton (**A.J. Palumbo Center**)

— **Oct. 6**
Men’s & women’s cross country (Carnegie Mellon Invitational)

— **Oct. 6, 1 p.m.**
Football vs. Bryant (**Rooney Field**)

— **Oct. 6, 7 p.m.**
Men’s soccer at VCU

— **Oct. 7, 12 p.m.**
Women’s volleyball vs. SLU

On This Day in Sports History ...

— On **Sept. 27, 1992**, the Pirates clinched their third-straight NL East Division title. The Pirates would not have another winning season again until 2013.

NCAA Football AP Top 10 — Week 5

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Alabama (60)	2-0	4-0	W4	9/29 vs. Louisiana
2.	Georgia	2-0	4-0	W4	9/29 vs. Tennessee
3.	Clemson (1)	1-0	4-0	W4	9/29 vs. Syracuse
4.	Ohio State	1-0	4-0	W4	9/29 @ 9 Penn State
5.	LSU	1-0	4-0	W4	9/29 vs. Ole Miss
6.	Oklahoma	1-0	4-0	W4	9/29 vs. Baylor
7.	Stanford	2-0	4-0	W4	9/29 @ 8 Notre Dame
8.	Notre Dame	N/A	4-0	W4	9/29 vs. 7 Stanford
9.	Penn State	1-0	4-0	W4	9/29 vs. 4 Ohio State
10.	Auburn	1-1	3-1	W1	9/29 vs. Southern Miss.

FCS NEC Standings — Week 5

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Sacred Heart	1-0	3-0	W3	9/29 @ Cornell
2.	Bryant	1-0	3-1	W2	10/6 @ Duquesne
3.	Duquesne	0-0	3-2	L1	10/6 vs. Bryant
4.	Cen. Conn. St.	0-0	2-2	W1	9/29 @ Lafayette
5.	Saint Francis	0-0	1-3	L2	9/29 vs. W.V. Wesleyan
6.	Robert Morris	0-1	1-3	L2	10/6 vs. Cen. Conn. St.
7.	Wagner	0-1	1-3	L3	9/29 @ Monmouth

WBB guard Aho set to return to court following meniscus tear

DAVID BORNE
staff writer

Heading into what was supposed to have been her sophomore season in 2017, Duquesne women's basketball guard Nina Aho turned heads during training sessions. In fact, Aho looked so comfortable on the court that head coach Dan Burt admits she was in line to earn a starting role.

But, just weeks away from the team's season opener, the injury bug bit. During a conditioning session, Aho twisted her knee. Having torn her ACL during her final year of high school, Aho is no stranger to serious knee injuries, but this didn't seem like one. So, with no major pain or signs of something significant, she didn't think much of it, and continued to practice.

It wasn't until a few days later when Aho realized something was very wrong. She woke up from a nap completely unable to walk. The team's medical staff sent her to get an MRI, and determined that she suffered a torn meniscus. The injury sidelined her for a significant period of time, and she redshirted the 2017-18 season.

Having been through a long recovery process before, Aho knew the road ahead of her would come with plenty of difficulties along the way — the biggest of which was not being able to contribute on the court to help her teammates win games.

"I've had two surgeries on the same knee, so I've had to come back twice. It's really tough to sit on the outside and watch [the team] play. It's really tough to not be able to help them, especially when the time comes," Aho said.

"You have to figure out other ways to help them," Aho continued. "It was obviously a really bad experience, but at the same time it made me realize a lot of things about my teammates, myself, and how to work around it and help my teammates out in different ways."

It's a process Aho describes as "very

frustrating," and one that comes with good days and bad. The biggest key for Aho, though, is patience.

"You have to be really patient when you go through it," Aho said. "You reach a step and think 'I'm done with this, I can do more,' but you really can't. You think you can, but it's really hard. Back to practicing, it's hard. My reflexes are not as quick as they used to be. I'm a little afraid of contact, obviously. It's all going to come back; I just need to get started."



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Nina Aho, pictured during a Jan. 18, 2017 home contest versus Saint Louis, started 15 of the 34 games during her freshman season in 2016-17. After tearing her meniscus prior to her sophomore season, Aho is prepared to re-enter the Dukes' rotation this season.

As is usually the case for players sidelined by injury, an entire year out of game action helped Aho's basketball IQ tremendously. She got to look at the game from a new perspective, and learned from her time on the sidelines.

"Sitting out and watching the games gave me a little bit of knowledge, too. I can see the team and the court better."

Burt expects Aho to be back at 100 percent by the season opener, but the coaching staff will monitor her workload in practice. She may see an occasional off day, just to make sure her knee is not overworked.

When fully healthy, Aho brings a much different style of play to Duquesne's rotation than other guards on the team's roster. She's a facilitator, with an offensive game focused less around scoring. Burt compared her skill set to that of Hall of Fame point guard, Jason Kidd.

"She's a playmaker. Her athleticism allows her to get into the lane. She's really good at driving, getting into the lane, and kicking," Burt said. "She's big, she's strong, she can get by people, and she shoots the three well enough that you must guard her at the line. She gives us the ability to be a playmaker, and last year we only really had Libby [Bazelak] who was a true playmaker."

Aho's playmaking ability is huge for the team, especially given the weapons that surround her. With sharpshooters Chasidy Omogrosso and Julijana Vojinovic to play alongside, Aho's shot-creating ability adds a whole new dimension to Duquesne's high powered attack.

"If you go with Nina, and have [Omogrosso] on one wing, with possibly [Vojinovic] on the other wing, you have the two best three-point shooters in the league with a kid at point guard who is bigger, stronger, and athletic, and can get into the lane on people. When she gets into the lane, that sucks people in and she's really good at kicking out, and you have the two best three point shooters, that's a pretty darn good thing," Burt said.

The women's basketball team begins its official practice schedule on Sept. 27. With the regular season still a ways away, Coach Burt isn't ready to establish definitive roles quite yet. Duquesne is loaded with depth at the guard posi-

tion, as Omogrosso, Vojinovic and Conor Richardson all figure to see significant minutes on the perimeter.

As for Aho, she will compete directly with sophomores Bazelak and Amanda Kalin for playing time. Both Kalin and Bazelak put together stellar freshman campaigns, and have continued to develop their games further. The return of Aho now allows Coach Burt and the Dukes to get very creative with potential lineups, as well.

So, whether she is on the court setting up teammates or supporting them on the sideline, Aho will be a major contributor for Duquesne this season, one way or the other.

Burt's team will begin its 2018-19 season on Nov. 6 at TCU before facing Texas on Nov. 8 in Austin. The Longhorns finished last season ranked no. 8 in the AP poll.

The Dukes will return home to the A.J. Palumbo Center on Nov. 12 to face Mount St. Mary's.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne Head Coach Dan Burt, pictured above, enters his sixth season at the helm of the Dukes in 2017-18. After making a run in the 2018 WNIT, topping both Miami (Ohio) and Georgetown before falling to St. John's, Burt hopes for more success in 2018-19.

Dukes jump out to early lead, but fall at Hawaii

ADAM LINDNER
sports editor

The Duquesne football team jumped out to an exciting 14-0 early lead against FBS foe Hawaii on Saturday, Sept. 22, but would eventually fall to the host Rainbow Warriors, 42-21, thanks in large part to 35 unanswered points.

The Dukes managed to force their opponent into making several mishaps within the game's opening moments, including a Jonathant Istache interception on a Cole McDonald pass in the Duquesne end zone on the Rainbow Warriors' first drive.

Prior to Istache's snag, McDonald had yet to throw an interception in his collegiate career — the sophomore had thrown 15 touchdown passes on 152 attempts prior to the Duquesne game, but no interceptions.

Following a punt minutes later, defensive back Leandro DeBrito forced a fumble by Hawaii wideout Cedric Byrd that Dukes sophomore DB Spencer DeMedal would recover at the Hawaii 36-yard line.

On the ensuing drive, star Duquesne senior receiver Nehari Crawford would grab

a 6-yard touchdown reception from Daniel Parr for the game's first score.



COURTESY OF MARCO GARCIA/AP

Duquesne junior wide receiver Kellon Taylor eludes a Hawaii linebacker during the Dukes' game at UH on Sept. 22. DU's game against the Rainbow Warriors was just the program's third-ever game against an FBS opponent.

Jacob Gill's kick for the Dukes would then be recovered by linebacker Bryan Glover at the Hawaii 23-yard line, giving the Dukes yet another prime opportunity to pad their seven-point lead within only the first half of the contest's first quarter.

Sure enough, freshman Aidan Cain secured his first career touchdown reception on a 20-yard connection with Parr, giving the Dukes a 14-0 lead.

Nevertheless, the Rainbow Warriors' high-profile offensive attack eventually settled in, scoring the game's next 35 points unanswered en route to a 21-14 halftime score and a 42-21 final.

The remaining Dukes score was made possible by sophomore defensive back Jassir Jordan's 69-yard kick return, and came compliment of a 10-yard touchdown toss from Parr to wide receiver Kellon Taylor in the latter half of the fourth quarter.

On the evening as a whole, Parr completed 13 of 24 throws for 113 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions.

Taylor led all Duquesne receivers with four receptions 66 yards and a touchdown, while Crawford hauled in five passes for 29

yards and a score. In addition, he added 51 kick return yards.

Duquesne, without lead back A.J. Hines (who was absent from Saturday's contest due to an injury) was led in rushing yards by Crawford, who had 17 on three attempts. Lucas D'Orazio recorded 12 yards on eight carries, while P.J. Fulmore had nine yards on five carries.

Defensively, two FBS transfers led the Dukes in linebacker Brett Zanotto, who recorded a career-high 11 tackles plus eight solo stops in the contest, and defensive back Daquan Worley, who added seven total tackles to go along with six solo tackles.

The loss moves Duquesne to 0-3 all-time versus FBS opponents, with its other contests coming on Aug. 30, 2014, at Buffalo, and on Aug. 25, 2018, at UMass.

Next, the Dukes will have a bye week before beginning NEC play on Oct. 6 against Bryant at Arthur J. Rooney Athletic Field.

With a 3-2 record thus far, the Dukes boast wins over D-II Lock Haven and FCS opponents Valparaiso and Dayton, with losses against UMass and Hawaii.

DU's remaining games are all NEC contests.

DROGAS WAVE tackles complex subject

SEAN ARMSTRONG
staff writer

Lupe Fiasco's newest album, *DROGAS WAVE*, is a meditation on the need for pan-Africanism, or as Encyclopedia Britannica defines it, "the idea that peoples of African descent have common interests and should be unified." This album is a crash course on the ideology of uniting Africans in their sameness under one common goal, popularized by Haile Selassie during his reign over Ethiopia.

This album is not for those who shy away from serious topics. The first track, "In The Event of Typhoon," recites the accompanying text from a painting entitled "The Slave Ship," which depicts a blood-red sun with violent waves crashing into each other, and hands reaching out of the water to signify many people drowning.

From this point on, it is easiest to think of the album as a well-structured essay that has four parts: A "how did we get here" section at the beginning; an early-middle introducing the overall topic; a late-middle discussing how African culture is crucial to social involvement; and a conclusion that sums up why the main idea is vital to the world we live in.

In this first section of Lupe's creation, "Manila" begins the explanation behind how the slave trade developed and how manila, a type of bracelet made in West Africa, led to many Africans going to the West In-

dies and Americas after their original usefulness to Europeans was exhausted.

This explanation of the exploitation of Africans opens up the discussion on why pan-Africanism is a popular idea in countless communities throughout the world, both Western and African in location.

It isn't long until the "Slave Ship - Interlude" concludes this introductory phase of the album with a somber string orchestra performance, signaling the impending fate of those that survived the journey to their new "home" in the Americas.

"WAV Files" details how those who didn't drown on the way to their new hostile homeland retained some semblance of Africanism despite various forms of oppression. Still, the section on why pan-Africanism is important isn't genuinely evoked until the song "Haile Selassie."

This song, dedicated to the figure that transfixes much of the reggae genre, weaves quotes from Selassie himself with verses from Lupe to create an experience in which the rapper applies concepts of pan-African philosophy to modern life.

The "Helter Skelter - Interlude" ends the early-middle section of this project, and signals the impending problem that many oppressed peoples agree is a potential reality if their rights are not secured: Violence.

The late-middle section of this album is less about pan-Africanism, and more about drug addiction, which according to The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMH-

SA) affects 12.4 percent of African-Americans compared to a national average of 10.2.

It isn't until the "Don't Mess up the Children - Interlude" that this part of the album connects to the overall thesis of this album: Why is there a need for pan-Africanism?

On this track, Lupe discusses how Western societies tend to break apart African-American communities and make it so that children in these societies cannot learn cultural values such as respect. Without a proper understanding of such a basic communal value, it can be difficult for children to grow up to be fully-functional members of society.

This, in turn, relates back to the prevailing subject matter of this section: Drug addiction. When people can't fit into the norm, then unfortunate things can happen when they feel alienated. That is why the concluding section is key to Lupe's thesis, through explaining how to overcome stigmatization.

During this final phase of this album, the "Baba Kwesi (interlude)" is the first time overcoming stigmatization is addressed. The need to not let society push down anyone's identity, the way one expresses their individuality and the value of heritage are the core themes behind this interlude. However, the underlying reasoning for why pan-Africanism begins to surface here and Lupe's original argument about Africanism turns into a more extensive discussion about a right to identify with your culture and heritage — a point that affects everyone, everywhere.



COURTESY OF 1ST AND 15TH PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Then the album closes out with "Mural Jr." a song that has a gospel choir in the background while Lupe talks about the importance of thinking for yourself. Lines like "In a war, where your performance score is your salary/It's like fantasies combating your mortality/I'm just trying to restore sanities/Sigmund Freud boy, Leroy to your vanity" further prove that underlying meaning.

The entire point of this album appears to be pan-Africanism from the get-go, but reveals itself to be a broader argument for a right to belong and express oneself as they see fit. While I must admit that at times the focus for this album appeared to be waning, by the end of the record it feels as though the songs worked to prove the underlying point in a way that creates empathy for everyone regardless of race, creed or heritage.

This album was one of the more original works of 2018, and with only a little over three months left to the year, it may just be the most creative.

WEEK'S EVENTS

Duq N' Roll: Battle of the Bands
Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m.

An annual event hosted by Duquesne Program Council, the Union Ballroom will host DU-based bands competing for the top spot. Tickets are available for free with ID at the Union information counter.

The Foreigner
Oct. 4 — Oct. 14 @ 8 p.m.

The Red Masquers present Larry Shue's famous two-act play. In the show, a small cast of characters reveal their secrets to a man named Charlie, who they believe cannot understand English.

Wake Up Billie Joe Armstrong
Sun., Sept. 30 @ 11:59:59 p.m.

Uh-oh! It's that time of year again! The famed Green Day frontman must be awoken from his month-long slumber.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Young Sinatra IV
By Logic
Friday, Sept. 28

This album, boasting a track featuring the surviving members of Wu-Tang Clan, acts as a follow-up to Logic's breakout, critically-acclaimed effort *Young Sinatra: Welcome to Forever* from 2013.

Smallfoot
Friday, Sept. 28

This animated family film features a group of Yetis who come across humans for the first time — a species they originally thought a myth.

MICRO REVIEW

"Africa"
By Scott Bradley's Postmodern Jukebox

A cover of the meme-tastic Toto track, this version excels past its recent Weezer counterpart by transforming the song into a retro swing number. An extreme and risky reinterpretation, Postmodern Jukebox's musicians knock it out of the park.

—Josiah Martin

The Duquesne Duke's Fall Favorites

We asked the editorial staff of The Duke for some of their favorite songs to listen to as the leaves start to change, and spooky time approaches.

"Harvest Moon" by Neil Young

Soft, gentle and quintessential Neil Young, this hauntingly beautiful track marked a dramatic shift back to folk rock from grunge in Young's long career, a welcome and critically-acclaimed stylistic choice.

—Josiah Martin, A&E Editor

"Yes I'm Changing" by Tame Impala

Much like the season's transitional vibe, "Yes I'm Changing" documents a young man's maturation in a way only the musically-brilliant Kevin Parker could.

—Adam Lindner, Sports Editor

"Autumn Leaves" by Ed Sheeran

Though it's a throwback to one of Sheeran's earlier albums, the title alone makes it perfect for the season and a good way to get excited for Shereen's upcoming concert at PNC Park this weekend!

—Madison Pastrick, Ad Manager & Layout Editor

"The Rains" by Henry Jamison

The moody tones that often accompany Henry Jamison's songs are more prevalent in "The Rains" than any other song included in his only album, *The Wilds*. As the title suggests, this song is a perfect listen for rainy days (and goes best with a cup of hot coffee and a fuzzy blanket).

—Katia Faroun, Photo Editor

"Across the Universe" by Fiona Apple

Frankly, this is the superior version of The Beatles' 1969 classic. Apple's flowing vocals give the song an even more dream-like quality. You can close your eyes and see the leaves changing and falling.

—Raymond Arke, Editor-in-Chief

"Northern Wind" by City and Colour

This honeyed, wholesome love song invokes feelings of tenderness and warmth, even as the temperature drops, with poetic verses like "You're the northern wind, sending shivers down my spine/you're like fallen leaves in an autumn night."

—Kailey Love, Managing Editor

"Heads Will Roll" by the Yeah Yeah Yeahs

Tired of hearing Monster Mash on loop at Halloween parties? (the correct answer is no, you should never be tired of it because who are you kidding, Monster Mash is a stellar spooky masterpiece for the ages — but let's pretend you said yes) Give your ghoulish gatherings a grungy vibe with this Karen O classic, which will surely achieve an eerie atmosphere with lyrics such as "off with your head, dance till you're dead." ... enough said.

—Kailey Love, Managing Editor

"Shame Shame Shame" by Lake Street Dive

This bluesy hit is the perfect song to listen to while driving past the colorful Autumn trees and rolling down your windows to take in the cool, crisp air of the new season. Just remember to bundle up for the shifting weather though, because as Rachael Price sings, "Change is comin'."

—Madison Pastrick, Ad Manager & Layout Editor

"Horror Business" by The Misfits

From a band whose every track could be considered Halloween-themed, this characteristically loud, violent track stands out as one of its most horrifying.

—Josiah Martin, A&E Editor

"Into the Mystic" by Van Morrison

This nostalgic tune evokes memories of times gone by and is perfect as the weather changes to the typical misty and gray. Summer slips away and we are, in more ways than one, floating "into the mystic."

—Raymond Arke, Editor-in-Chief

"Homecoming" by Josh Ritter

Appropriately titled, as Duquesne's Homecoming celebrations are coming up, the song perfectly encapsulates the feelings of going home. With powerful lyrics like "The nights are getting colder now/ And the air is getting crisp/I first tasted the universe on a night like this," Ritter beautifully describes autumn and continues to prove why he's one of the best living singer-songwriters.

—Raymond Arke, Editor-in-Chief

Telltale Games unexpectedly lays off most staff

GRIFFIN SENDEK
staff writer

The award-winning video game studio Telltale Games, best known for *The Walking Dead*, *Batman*, *Guardians of the Galaxy* and other licensed adventure games, announced Friday, Sept. 21 that it was shutting down. The studio has laid off 250 of its employees, keeping only a small staff of 25 to complete prior commitments. Development on all current games was subsequently canceled.

"It's been an incredibly difficult year for Telltale as we worked to set the company on a new course," CEO Pete Hawley said. "Unfortunately, we ran out of time trying to get there. We released some of our best content this year and received a tremendous amount of positive feedback, but ultimately, that did not translate to sales. With a heavy heart, we watch our friends leave today to spread our brand of storytelling across the games industry."

Telltale Game's closure was sudden and unannounced. All 250 of the now former employees received no warning regarding the state of their company and were given no time to seek alternative employment prior to being let go. Worse yet, they were given no severance pay.

The closure of the studio was not only attributed to poor sales, but directly tied to financing. Dan Connors, the co-founder of Telltale Games, responded to questions from Variety on the topic.

"Unfortunately, when the last potential financial backer abruptly pulled out ... we had no choice but to stop production," Connors told Variety. "Sadly, everyone was so focused on doing what was required to keep the company going that when the last

potential partner backed out, there were no other options."

Though it is unknown which backer pulled out, the removal of the funding left Telltale Games essentially bankrupt.

The last commitment Telltale Games has to fulfill is bringing an adaptation of its game, *Minecraft: Story Mode*, to Netflix. This is what the remaining skeleton crew of 25 employees is currently working on before most likely being let go as well.

This adaptation for Netflix appeared to be the last thing Telltale Games would ever produce, leaving the last two episodes of *The Walking Dead: The Final Season*, unfinished and unreleased, fans never to see the conclusion to the story Telltale Games started back with the first season of *The Walking Dead* in 2012. On its official Twitter, Monday, Telltale Games publicized the following:

"Multiple potential partners have stepped forward to express interest in helping to see *The Final Season* to completion"

Responses to this message have been mixed. It has garnered hope and excitement from many who have been following the game's story and characters for years. A great number of people have also heavily criticized Telltale Games for focusing on game development, rather than attempting to pay its employees. There are many who would love to see *The Final Season* completed, but strongly believe in giving the employees the pay they deserve should be the main priority.

Wednesday morning, Sept. 26, it was revealed that Telltale had removed *The Walking Dead: The Final Season* from all digital storefronts such as Steam, GOG.com, the PlayStation Store and the Xbox Marketplace, and replaced it with either a demo or



COURTESY OF TELLTALE GAMES

Telltale was known for its cinematic style, as seen in the popular "first season" of its *Walking Dead* series.

information about the game. Polygon.com reached out to Telltale for comment.

"Yes, we have removed season passes for *The Walking Dead: The Final Season* from stores for the time being," a representative told Polygon. "We're currently still working to find a way to hand off production of episodes 3 and 4 so that the season can be completed. The outcome of those efforts will determine when and how *The Final Season* returns to stores. We hope to have a firm announcement before the end of the week. For now, we apologize for any inconvenience."

One of the former employees, Vernie Roberts Jr., has filed a class-action lawsuit against Telltale Games on Monday, alleging it violated California labor laws for not notifying its employees 60 days in advance of the mass layoffs, in accordance to the WARN Act. Roberts is requesting a jury trial and is seeking to gain compensation for all the terminated employees equal to the wages and benefits as if they had con-

tinued to work another 60 days.

The other 250 ex-employees are left to find new work, but are not completely on their own. Many of the former employees took to Twitter to speak of their current situation. Out of this came #telltalejobs, in which dozens of other game companies have reached out to offer those affected take a look at their job openings. On a lighter note, #telltalememories surfaced as a place for fans and employees alike to share their favorite moments and memories from the company's 14-year history.

For many, Telltale Game's closing came as a shock. Although the studio's popularity had since waned following their explosion of fame after the 2012 release of *The Walking Dead*, and at times received criticism for lack of innovation between games. Despite that, few could have predicted the studio, which covered several large licensed franchises, would have such a sudden and unannounced collapse.

American Vandal plays to its strengths in new season

JOSIAH MARTIN
a&e editor

Last year, Netflix's *American Vandal* was a surprise hit: a mockumentary surrounding two young filmmakers as they try to clear the name of a student framed for spray-painting penises on teachers' cars. The result was unexpectedly riveting: a genuinely interesting mystery, with the backdrop of an impressively honest depiction of American high school culture.

Season 2 features the original filmmakers joining the hunt for the "Turd Burglar," an anonymous figure who wreaks several instances of fecal havoc on an unsuspecting private Catholic school. Much like the first season, the show quickly undergoes a tonal shift from non-stop comedy to puzzling and emotionally moving within the first few episodes.

In the opening scenes of the first episode, viewers are introduced to Saint Bernardine, a Catholic high school in Bellevue, Washington. Uniformed students sit before the camera and one-by-one explain the horrors of "the brownout," the day in which nearly the entire student body felt the consequences of laxative-tainted lemonade. This incident, put lightly, left the bathrooms, hallways and



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Peter Maldonado (Tyler Alvarez) prepares Kevin McClain (Travis Tope) for his first interview.

monogrammed sweaters of the school in shambles.

This scene is hysterical. It repeats what was done so well with the show's original season: the people being interviewed take the incident so unabashedly seriously, and recall it with such realistic shame and thousand-yard stares, that the sheer ridiculousness of the incident itself is that much funnier.

Then, just like the previous season, we're not thinking about how funny the prank it-

self was. We're instead suddenly concerned about the characters. We don't want to think that the awkward Kevin McClain (Travis Tope) actually pulled the heinous stunt, and we certainly don't want to see him framed for it if he's innocent.

Where *American Vandal* succeeds especially in this season, which has scaled back the constant gags and over-the-top humor, is in its portrayal of the students and faculty of the high school. From the aggressively faux-

relatable English teacher who remarks "I like to think of Kurt Vonnegut as the Kanye West of satirical postmodern literature" to the untouchable star basketball player, every character feels real. This is not a comedy writer's vision of high school; this is a high schooler's vision of high school.

Yes, this season is a bit toned-down comedically. You won't be rolling on the floor laughing quite as often as you would have with the previous episodes. This is a good thing. *American Vandal* has realized its strengths: the humor is in the juxtaposition, the palpable emotion and the sympathy for the characters occasionally broken by the ludicrous circumstances they've found themselves in.

The investigation itself is the same type of slowly-unravelling mystery that kept viewers on the edge of their seat last year. The prime suspect is constantly changing, and you find yourself doubting the veracity of almost every piece of evidence that comes to light. Though lacking in number of big twists per episode, the mystery of the Turd Burglar is still bound to keep viewers hooked.

In short, the bar was high, but *American Vandal* has done it again. It is a must-watch for Netflix bingers, comedy-lovers and mystery-lovers alike.

Rally in Oakland encourages young voters to register

Vote — from page 3

Janelle Monáe, Chris Paul, Faith Hill and Tim McGraw.

“We the people of the United States,’ that means every single one of us, doesn’t matter who you vote for, doesn’t matter what party you’re affiliated with, it doesn’t matter if you want to maintain the status quo or change the directional flow of the country – it means every single one of us. ‘We the people of the United States of America,’ Hanks said.

Hanks broke down the Constitution of the U.S. in his speech, mentioning that by not

participating in every election, people are giving up the very rights that America was founded on.

“That document is a promise and it is also a challenge to every single American, to partake in what the Constitution promises us,” Hank said. “I say if you don’t partake in the decision that is being made then you don’t get to complain, so shut up.”

The deadline to register for Pennsylvania’s upcoming midterm election is October 9. Anyone interested in registering to vote or learning more about this, can do so by texting WhenWeAllVote to 97779.

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Jail	0-90 days	0-90 days	0-90 days
Driver's License Suspension	90 days	1 Year	2 Years

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