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 symptoms of epilepsy, 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

Students participate in Greek-Life filled weekend

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.

Duquesne SGA votes to release 2018-19 budget to public

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. The 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 Senate 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.

in this 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 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.

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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 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.

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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.

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New study ties high doses of Gabapentin to opioids

Drugs – from page 1

Disorder, migraines and more.

Takako's study found that the effects of UPMC Mercy's Behavioral Health units were twice as likely to test positive for illicit drug abuse and Hepatitis C when Gabapentin was present, compared to patients who had been prescribed Gabapentin for off-label purposes. While other studies have shown that Gabapentin is often abused, Takako's study sought to provide a tool that can predict opiate abuse when a patient requests a high dose of Gabapentin from her or his doctor.

The study, which lasted from December 2015 to January 2017, focused on patients admitted to UPMC Mercy Behavioral Health units. Takako's research found that, of the 1933 percent of patients who had been prescribed Gabapentin, only 6.17 percent were taking the drug for an FDA-approved purpose. This, combined with the fact that 57 percent of Gabapentin users were taking 1,800 milligrams a day or more, suggested to researchers that a model that can predict opiate abuse when a patient requests a high dose of Gabapentin from his or her doctor.

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 those who had been prescribed Gabapentin for off-label purposes. Takako's study sought to provide a tool that can predict opiate abuse when a patient requests a high dose of Gabapentin from her or his doctor.

Takako and his team hope that this study will help physicians recognize Gabapentin's potential for abuse, 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.

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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 Section 501(c)(3), 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 couldn’t 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 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 university to change the policy.

“We look forward to having a healthy relationship with everyone on campus, and particularly the administration, to resolve the conflict that we came across when we try to exercise our rights as citizens and be politically active,” Ravasio said.

Along with the College Republicans, the College Democrats feel the policy should change.

“If we do not participate as citizens in every single election, we lose 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 is 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,” Goode said.

Community members and voter registration advocates opened up this 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. 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.”

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

Madison Pasterick 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 lose the government 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.

“We hope all of our viewers who 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.”

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Tom Hanks encourages America to vote
“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.

@TheDukesneDuke

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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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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 laughed 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 idea. 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 but clearly has 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 restoring 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.

THEOPINIONS

Family separation still a problem; memo released

OLLIE GRATZINGER

opinions editor

W e 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 disappeared; it’s 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 prosecuted 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 it can be seen that it was addressed to Nielsen it’s likely that it belongs to her.

The memo suggests three options “for how to pursue this important 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 amidst 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; they won’t be forgotten because the world’s respect and served as a symbol of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for refugees, freedom fighters and oppressed peoples.

When we become desensitized, we overwhelm. When we get overwhelmed, we become desensitized.

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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.

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.

The report released by the formal investigation stated Cuban was unaware of this toxic and predatory 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 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

K

nown 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 2009 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 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 used by some who find refuge in the anonymity and destructiveness that 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, 'not like race' and 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 “Wookiepedia” 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 vote themselves to what they love, and a POC playing a certain character 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 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 women of color who deserve a certain character needs to be given to them, not just the 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.

September 27, 2018
FEATURES

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 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 the crisis in hopes that real change will 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 Blass-kowitz 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 towns 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 be able to communicate with 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.”

It added to giving back to the local communities of 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 opportunity 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.

ODK is a national leadership honor society which accepts junior and senior citizens. Founded 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 Shekhet, 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, outing, 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 towards 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’s what’s 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.
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 jugger- naut Golden State, not many people anticipated Cleveland would be able to force a competitive se- ries 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 inch ed closer toward the final buzzer, basket- ball 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, shuttering the underdog’s chances of stealing an early game on the road against an unsus- pecting 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 move- ment 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 Ange- les Lakers, Houston Rockets and Philadelphia 76ers, but nothing too substantial ever materialized, no matter how bad some may have wanted to see The King run- ning 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 mo- tion 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 profes- sional 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 deci- sion to join forces with one of the world’s most rec- ognizable 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 West- ern 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 along- side Mr. James, but each figure to experience their fair shares of grow- ing pains, too. Former LeBron foes Rondo and Lance Stephen- son will be joining the #LakeShow this year, too, making for one of the most entertaining rosters ever.

3.) The North welcomes Kawi —

Surely, those on social media within the past week have be- come acquainted with the “Kawi 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.

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Boston

NCAA Football AP Top 10 — Week 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Streak</th>
<th>Next</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Alabama (6)</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>W4</td>
<td>9/30 vs. Louisiana</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>W4</td>
<td>9/30 vs. Tennessee</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Clemson (3)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>W4</td>
<td>9/30 vs. Syracuse</td>
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<td>Ohio State</td>
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<td>W4</td>
<td>9/30 vs. Penn State</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Stanford</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>W4</td>
<td>9/30 vs. Notre Dame</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Notre Dame N/A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>W4</td>
<td>9/30 vs. #7 Stanford</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Penn State</td>
<td>1-0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>W4</td>
<td>9/30 vs. Ohio State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>1-1</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>9/30 vs. Southern Miss</td>
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FCS NEC Standings — Week 5

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Streak</th>
<th>Next</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sacred Heart</td>
<td>1-0</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>9/30 @ Cornell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Bryant</td>
<td>1-0</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>10/6 @ Duquesne</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Duquesne</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>2-2</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>10/6 vs. Bryant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Conn. St.</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>2-2</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>10/6 vs. Lafayette</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Saint Francis</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>10/6 vs. W.V. Wesleyan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Robert Morris</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>10/6 vs. Conn. St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Wagner</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>10/6 vs. Monmouth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. 29
  Men’s tennis vs. Toledo (Rocket Invite)

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

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

- 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 (Penthalon/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)

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 sea- son again until 2013.

On This Day in Sports History...

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On the ensuing drive, star Duquesne sophomore defensive back Jonathant Istache intercepted a Cole McDonald pass in the Duquesne end zone, and the Dukes settled in, scoring the game’s next 35 points unanswered en route to a 21-14 halftime score and a 42-21 final. Sure enough, freshman Aidan Cain scored 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 Jashen Hall’s 50-yard kickoff return, and came as a compliment of a 10-yard touchdown toss from Parr to wide receiver Kellon Taylor in the latter half of the fourth quarter. On the game’s opening moments, including a 6-yard touchdown reception from Daniel Crawford 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.

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DROGAS WAVE tackles complex subject

SEAN ARMSTRONG, Staff Writer

The Dusquesne 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.

“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.

“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 Sheeran’s upcoming concert at PNC Park this weekend!

“The Rains” by Henry Jamison
The moody tunes 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.

“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.

“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.”

“The Dusquesne Duke’s Fall Favorites”

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The Dusquesne Duke’s Fall Favorites

“Week’s Events”

Duo 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 Masqueurs present Larry Shue’s famous two-act play. In the show, a small cast of characters reveals their secrets to a man named Charlie, who they believe cannot understand English.

Wake Up Billie Joe Armstrong
Sun., Sept. 30 @ 11:59-99 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, a follow-up to Logistic’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 Brandon’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

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 sanity/Stand up/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 be long 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.
Telltale Games unexpectedly lays off most staff

GRIFFIN SENDEK  
staff writer

Tell 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 Hailey 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 and CEO 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, Walking Dead: The Final Season, unfininished 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 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 continued 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 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

JOSEPH 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 havoc upon the students, faculty, and guests of the school. 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, the humor in the juxtaposition, the palpable emotion and the sympathy for the characters occasionally broken. 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, the humor in the juxtaposition, the palpable emotion and the sympathy for the characters occasionally broken.

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.

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

This scene is hysterical. It repeats what was done so well with the show’s original season: the people being interviewed take the inci

American Vandal

dency 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.
Rally in Oakland encourages young voters to register

Vote — from page 3


“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,” Hanks 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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