

The Duquesne Duke Presents



Read the
Arts & Entertainment
section writers' picks
for the best films, tele-
vision, music and video
games of 2018 ...

A2-A3

A&E
Best &
Worst
of 2018

... then, read
what our writers chose
as the worst media of
2018.

A4



Regular Issue Inside

We asked our Arts & Entertainment section writers to pick their favorite media for 2018. Some pieces were loved by many, but a few picks surprised us! Check them out below and on A3.

The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel
Season 2
Salena Moran, Staff Writer

The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel season 2 continues to follow aspiring comedian Midge Maisel (Rachel Brosnahan) in her life at home and onstage as she competes to earn her spot in a primarily male-dominated career in 1959. The show's vibrant set design, excellent script writing and character chemistry makes it one of the most enjoyable series currently on air.

After season 1 established the preliminary details, this season branches out to settings like Paris and the Catskills while thickening the plot with Midge's love life and struggles with rival comedian, Sophie Lennon. As Midge's secret career begins to emerge among her family and friends, the show's writer Amy Sherman-Palladino (writer of *Gilmore Girls*) reveals enough saucy details without giving too much away.

The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel season 2 left me yelling at my TV for more episodes, as it is equal parts witty and hilarious as it is emotional and real.



COURTESY OF SONY INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Brooklyn Nine-Nine
Season 5
Natalie Schroeder, Staff Writer

This show, starring Melissa Fumero, Andy Samberg, Stephanie Beatriz, Terry Crews and Chelsea Peretti, ended its fifth season in 2018, only to be cancelled by Fox and picked up for a sixth season by NBC. The show started off with a bang of laughter and only got better as its characters developed and jokes became long-running. Every character brings their own humor and delivery to the screen, making every team-up entertaining, funny, unique and necessary. With each episode being roughly 20 minutes long, it is easy binge watch or watch regularly. The show tackles major social issues and stereotypes while also maintaining its easy-going and funny atmosphere. While there is romantic drama, there is always a humorous aspect that keeps the show moving forward on a realistic pace. This is a show that has deserved all its past awards and is sure to win more in the future.

Spider-Man, PS4
Neil Runge, Staff Writer

The swinging is good. Repeat: the swinging is good. That's one the greatest things about Spider-Man for the Playstation 4. After years of games with subpar swinging through New York City as photographer and superhero Spider-Man, Insomniac Games developed a game not only with web-swinging that felt just right, but a story that moved many players to tears and a set of costumes that included everyone's favorite spidey getups.

Spider-Man is a beautiful game to look at, as the animations are smooth and never grow boring after seeing them hundreds of times. New York City is portrayed in meticulous detail and major landmarks are included and can be visited by the player during side quests or in between main story quests.

On top of a incredibly made game, there is story that involves Peter Parker who's now older but still busy being a hero. He runs into a litany of villains from the comics,

controls of any platformer I have ever played and filled with to the brim with gorgeous pixel art. Despite its difficulty, there was never a moment in the game that felt unfair; every mistake was my own, which was the exact reason why I could never put the game down. The whole time I was telling myself "just one more time and I'll get it". On its gameplay alone, *Celeste* is absolutely excellent and a must play. The game goes the extra mile though by touching on concepts regarding mental illness, a topic decisively missing within modern games and was a pleasant surprise to find in *Celeste*.

Love, Simon
Claire Neiberg, Staff Writer

Love, Simon centers around a closeted gay teenager, Simon Spier (Nick Robinson). Spier is a junior in high school, and from the outside, leads a completely normal life, as he appears to have healthy relationships with his family and friends. However, his biggest secret leads him to pursuing a relationship with another closeted gay teenager over email. When these emails are discovered by one of Spier's peers, they are used against him, forcing Spier to choose between his friends and his secret.

While the film celebrates the LGBT+ community, *Love, Simon* is a film that anyone, no matter their sexuality, can connect to and find meaning in. The film is comprised of a racially diverse cast of characters as well, and focuses on issues that all high schoolers are faced with, mainly revolving around love and identity. The soundtrack is timeless as well, and compliments the plot perfectly without being a distraction. The overall message of the film is that "everyone deserves a great love story" leaving the audience filled with hope and a greater sense of acceptance.

Mission: Impossible - Fallout
Griffin Sendek, Staff Writer

One of these days, Tom Cruise is going to severely injure himself on a movie set and no longer be capable of doing all his own stunts. But until then, we get to enjoy his portrayal of Ethan Hunt in the fantastic,



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

unwavering action of the *Mission: Impossible* series. By the time a series reaches its sixth entry, most often it begins losing steam, but *Mission: Impossible - Fallout* doesn't slow down for a single moment. From director Christopher McQuarrie comes a masterclass on incorporating intense action while still telling a compelling story. The performances of all the returning members of the series are better than ever, with newcomer Henry Cavill, playing August Walker, truly stealing the show. *Mission: Impossible - Fallout* is not only the best of the series but the best action movie of 2018. With McQuarrie recently announced to be returning to direct two more *Mission: Impossible* movies back to back, I cannot wait to see what else is in store for Ethan Hunt.

RBG
Kailey Love, Editor-in-Chief

RBG delves into the life of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her rise beyond legal stardom into a nationwide household superhero as "The Great Dissenter" of the Supreme Court, or "Notorious RBG" more commonly. Through a series of interviews with Ginsburg herself and those close to her, the documentary provides a window into Ginsburg's life: her stylish jabots, her lifelong love of Opera and her memeable workout routines all making appearances throughout. It also placed a spotlight on Ginsburg's relationship with her husband Marty, which is a real life fairytale love story for the ages. "He was the first boy I ever knew who cared that I had a brain," Ginsburg said of her husband in the documentary, making

audiences swoon, teary-eyed. This equal partnership of support and love, paired with Ginsburg's unwavering resolve as an intellectual powerhouse, make *RBG* a must-see.

A Quiet Place
Natalie Schroeder, Staff Writer

This movie was released in April 2018, and followed a family in a post-apocalyptic world inhabited by blind monsters with an acute sense of hearing. The film stars John Krasinski, alongside Emily Blunt, Millicent Simmonds and Noah Jupe. While this wasn't your typical horror movie, it did grab its audiences attention and surprise them in the opening scenes. This movie centers around what a mother and father do to keep their children alive. Because they have a daughter who is deaf, they have survived this long with their knowledge of sign language.

This is only one of the well thought out plot lines that differs this movie from other horror movies with plot holes, dumb decisions by characters and deaths that could be avoided. For example, one of the few supremely poor decisions was made by a young boy. The youngest of the siblings was playing with a toy plane that made sounds, drawing out the monsters. Even though his father, portrayed by John Krasinski, bravely tried to save him, the monster inevitably killed the young boy. Throughout the movie there are justified decisions, a score that moves the plot through suspense and a loving family that is easy to root for. John Krasinski definitely deserved that Critics Choice Award.

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse
Sean Armstrong, Staff Writer

Spider-Man movies have become almost an annual event at this point, but this film finally tries something different and glosses over the details everyone should know by this point. This picture tries to blend together different animation styles in one of the most uniquely animated stories I have ever seen become a major motion picture. Furthermore, this film tries to take fringe comic book characters and bring them into the mainstream. All in all, this film takes plenty of risks, and while maybe not all of them were hits, they should be rewarded regardless.



COURTESY OF SONY ENTERTAINMENT



COURTESY OF ANNAPURNA

Sorry to Bother You **Neil Runge, Staff Writer**

An anti-capitalist science fiction extravaganza is the best way to describe Spike Lee's movie *Sorry to Bother You*. Although it was just released last year, it has cemented its place in film history as not just a cult classic, but as testament that not every movie from Hollywood will be a sequel, reboot or adaptation. There's still room and a demand for truly original stories.

This movie, from the posters to the actual film, is filled with color. It doesn't opt for a darker color palette just because it happens to be about a less than light-hearted topic. Its use of bright colors and wild dialogue make the twists and turns of the plot hit even harder.

This doesn't mean it looks like a rainbow was slapped across every frame. It means that every color just pops; the yellows are more yellow, the purple is more purple — everything is more saturated, but not to the point of being unbelievable.

The plot starts off calm (a broke man getting a telemarketing job) but quickly, the movie gets weirder and weirder in the best way possible. By the end, the plot has gone to an unforeseen place but it all works so well. *Sorry to Bother You* is something that feels completely original from start to end.

Won't You Be My Neighbor? **Kailey Love, Editor-in-Chief**

Won't You Be My Neighbor? focuses on beloved Pittsburgh native Fred Rogers, who hosted Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, produced at WQED. The film made history as the highest grossing documentary film of all time, making \$22 million at the box office. It was also highly praised by critics, earning a 98 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. Invoking strong senses of nostalgia from a childhood hero who taught children across the nation that they mattered, and he loved them just the way they were, the doc served as a reminder of the impact that Rogers made on our generation. By delving into Roger's methodology in creating educational episodes, his advocacy on behalf of the nation's children and never shying away from difficult-to-discuss topics gave audiences a silver lining in the midst of sobering news cycles.

"I Did Something Bad" **Claire Neiberg, Staff Writer**

In her latest album, *Reputation*, Taylor Swift continues to transform her image from the sweet country singer that quickly made the top charts over a decade ago to a fierce, electric popstar. While "Look What You Made Me Do" is the most well-known track from the album, Swift put out another song that is equally powerful and carries a strong message about narcissism. "I Did Something Bad" depicts

Swift's former relationship with a narcissist. The characteristics of a narcissist are often glorified in the media, as they are portrayed to be synonymous with self-love and empowerment. However, in Swift's song, she highlights the dangers of a narcissist, reminding her fans that narcissism is usually not detected until it is too late. Through her lyrics, she expresses how critical it is to set boundaries in relationships, because narcissistic people will overstep them, turning the relationship toxic. Unfortunately, victims of narcissistic abuse often are blinded by manipulation, but Swift brings awareness to the toxicity of these relationships.

Broken Record Podcast **Sean Armstrong, Staff Writer**

What makes this podcast special is that it combines the casual experience of sitting around discussing music with the very inquisitive nature of an interview. It almost feels like you're with the interviewee hearing their thoughts live. In this way, the strength of this podcast is that the thoughts of the artist are directly from the artist and none of them are boring. There were some musicians I liked better than others. There was some music I didn't like in the least. Yet, hearing each musician's thoughts was still an experience worthy of listening to irrespective of the quality or type of music on hand. If you love music, this podcast will hold your interests.

"Thank U, Next" (Video) **Kevin Sheppard, Staff Writer**

Thank you, Ariana Grande, for the "Thank U, Next" music video. We appreciate you. If you don't know what I'm talking about, then you clearly can't sit with us. But for the pop queens and kings that love tea by the gallon, get your cups ready.

Ariana Grande came out with her music video "Thank U, Next" on Nov. 30. and honey, it broke records. The video currently has 255 million views ... oh my. There is absolutely a reasonable explanation for why this video is so successful: the cameos, and the references, my darlings.

"Thank U, Next" contains Ariana's own take on elements of the iconic movies; *Mean Girls*, *Legally Blonde*, *Bring it On* and *13 Going on 30*. Not to mention the cameos, oh my my my, those cameos! Don't worry, the cameos will be revealed. That's a different flavor tea for a different kettle, patience is a virtue.

Let's start in with these movies, shall we? Ariana portrayed a lot of iconic throwback movies. The music video starts with *Mean Girls*, my personal favorite (no one cares). Ariana Grande plays Regina George, the Queen of Mean. You may have seen some familiar faces alongside. Ariana Grande's former co-star from *Victorious*; Elizabeth Gillies, plays Lindsay Lohan's character; Cady Heron. We love to see a Nickelodeon throwback reunion.

There is also a cameo made by some original

Mean Girls cast members; we have the girl who loved the fact that Regina George punched her in the face. We love a fact checker occasionally, so I took the liberty to look up who played that lovely character. Turns out her name is Stefanie Drummond, and we love her, okay? Then we have Aaron Samuels, oh goodness gracious. There's one more cameo that needs some attention: Amy Poehler's character, Regina's mom, is portrayed by.... Kris Jenner. Yes, I know!

The next movie is *Legally Blonde*. Reese Witherspoon, honey, what's good? Ariana perfected her all pink look that all-too-well resembles Elle Woods from the movie *Legally Blonde*. In all honesty, I would love to know where to get an outfit like that? Ariana (Elle Woods) is then seen in that all too familiar salon with our favorite beautician, Paulette, played by the same actress from the film: Jennifer Coolidge. Ariana Grande did so much right with this video. Slay, girl.

To wrap things up, Kris Jenner gets the last word for this music video, and it not only gave me life, it gave me immortality. So please watch the "Thank U, Next" music video, it's so fetch. Not going to lie, 2018 was a wrecked year for yours truly; this song medicated it greatly. Darlings, I haven't been in a solid relationship since the discovery of the Americas, but "Thank U, Next" made me want to get right back into the dating world, just to feel heartbreak, just so I would vibe with this song on a cosmic level. 2018, you were certainly something, but Thank U, Next, hello 2019!



COURTESY OF AWKWAFINA RECORDS

In Fina We Trust **by Awkwafina** **Sean Armstrong, Staff Writer**

This album is unlike any album I've heard in a long time. It clearly had a ton of time dedicated to it from start to finish because of the interplay between songs, the comedic aspect instilled in the fabric of it and the storyline weaved into that same fabric. It may have only been seven tracks, but considering it was produced as well as written by the rapper turned actress herself, it deserves some attention and at least one half-hearted listen. I cannot recommend this album enough.

Isolation **by Kali Uchis** **Evan Penrod, Staff Writer**

In her debut album, Kali Uchis delivers not only a fantastic first albu, but what I consider the best album of 2018. Featuring well-known artists such as Tyler, The Creator, the Gorillaz, and Jorja Smith to name a few, this album is a powerhouse of soul and constant smooth hit sound. It would be easy to characterize this album and say that it sounds similar to early



COURTESY OF RINSE RECORDINGS / VIRGIN RECORDS / UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP

Amy Winehouse and Alicia Keys, but that does a complete disservice to Kali Uchis's vocal talent and skill.

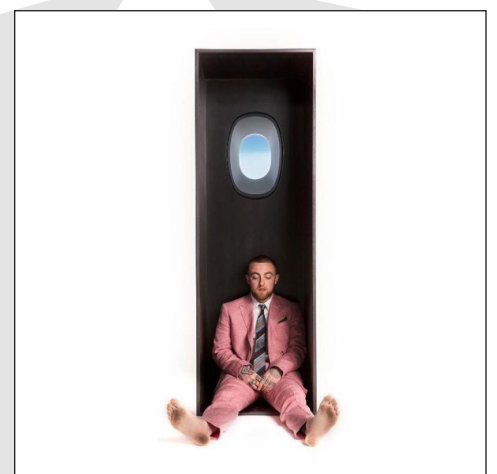
Overall, this album is nothing like anything that came out this year, blending a mix of soul, funk and R&B into one focused sound that many big name artists have failed to produce. Each song present on this album sounds individual yet fits into the main theme, giving a varied experience per tune all under the same feel. If this album is any indication on the future of Kali Uchis, then we should be expecting more great sounds and songs on this rising soul icon.

Swimming **by Mac Miller** **Madison Pastrick, Layout Editor**

This past summer Mac Miller released an album that gave a sophisticated swing to this rapper's usually playful style. Emerging from a difficult time in this artist's life, which included a breakup and problems of serious drug abuse, the album seemed to give his fans the impression that he was ready to start working on, as he would call it, "Self Care."

Though this album seems to revolve around the many struggles of Mac Miller's life, the overall message is actually quite inspiring. Songs such as "Ladders," "Jet Fuel" and "Small Worlds" present listeners with philosophical rap lyrics touching on accepting the truth and finding peace of mind, all of which are carried over funk-inflicted beats, giving the album a comforting mix of mellow and motivational vibes.

The album still holds the same brilliantly composed hits that fans originally fell in love with, however, there's no doubt that Mac Miller's death just over a month after the album's release has left a deeper imprint to his final lyrics. As both longtime and recent fans of Mac Miller's mourn the loss of another gifted artist, it is no doubt that *Swimming* continues to serve as one of the best and most emotional albums of 2018.



COURTESY OF REMEMBER MUSIC / WARNER BROS.

Ready Player One Neil Runge, Staff Writer

From the director of *Jurassic Park* and *Indiana Jones* came a movie released last year that tried its hardest to make viewers shocked that it could ever be made by Steven Spielberg.

Based on the novel by Ernest Cline, this movie was expected to be an action film about using virtual reality as an escape from the crowded cities in a world that rests on the edge of collapse and destruction.

Instead, what the movie did was cash in on an audience's abundance of nostalgia. Filled to the brim with characters from mostly '80s and '90s movies, TV shows and video games, it was built upon references that came off as more of an embarrassing "only '90s kids remember" meme than a

were a stretch. The album failed to produce any really upbeat or catchy singles and instead felt like a giant 40-minute lull.

Peppermint Natalie Schroeder, Staff Writer

Peppermint was released in September and was given a 12 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. Even though Jennifer Garner gave a great performance as a grieving vigilante, the story lacked originality. In the years following the death of her husband and daughter, Riley North gains strength as well as defensive and offensive strategies to take down the men who killed her family, and almost killed her, too. Having the protagonist be a woman and a mother makes sense to fuel her vengeance, but that is all it offered, since the story as a whole was

good. All this buzz was generated from a film that has stale writing, was filmed in a way that is very generic and uncreative, with an overreliance on drone shots, a story that gives very little payoff, and acting performances that leave something to be desired. *Bird Box* is not Sandra Bullock's best work by a long shot.

Riverdale Season 3 Evan Penrod, Staff Writer

Even die-hard *Riverdale* fans have been utterly disappointed and pushed away by the progression of the third season of *Riverdale*. What started as a genuinely good and sometimes goofy teen mystery show in the first season transitioned into a complicated boring mess in the second season and eventually became a joke in the third. The second season was tacky but at least had an easy to digest plot, while the third season really deviates from the first making the show feel completely foreign to the original concept. This show has become predictably unpredictable, and personally, I don't see how it can continue after this season. The characters have done things that are too far-fetched and require the viewer to suspend their disbelief further and further with each episode, and the season is only at its halfway point. Many scenes of the show feel as if they have been rewritten at the last minute or were written without any conscious thought of what else has happened in previous episodes, which makes this show one giant mess.

"BITCH I'M BELLA THORNE" Claire Neiberg, Staff Writer

We get it, Bella Thorne, you're not the 13-year-old little girl from *Shake It Up*, but did you too have to put out a gaudy track expressing your non-conformity just like every other former child star? In her process of reaching fame again, Thorne released "BITCH I'M BELLA THORNE." The track has similarities to Miley Cyrus' *BANGERZ* album, but lacks even

more creativity and is painfully repetitive throughout. Since the majority of the song is Thorne restating her name, it is difficult for her fans to relate to it, which is what gives music its power to begin with. She is also not known for her singing voice, so she stumbles through the majority of it, making it especially unpleasant to listen to. It is obvious in her music and style choice that she takes pride in being a poor role model for her younger fans, as like Cyrus, she is obsessed with sculpting her new image as a rebellious "young adult."

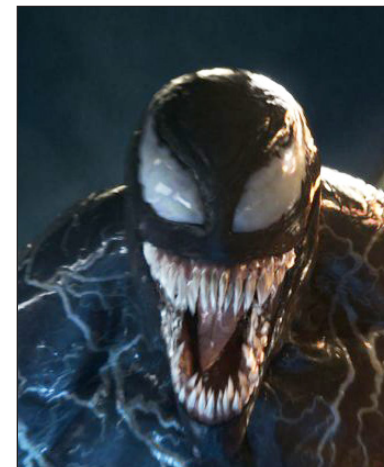
The Kissing Booth Claire Neiberg, Staff Writer

Released as a Netflix Original, *The Kissing Booth* is based off of a Wattpad story and runs exactly as expected. The plot is not just poorly written, but is incredibly boring as well. The film begins by introducing the main protagonist, Elle Evans (Joey King), and her best friend, Lee Flynn (Joel Courtney). Elle and Lee are born on the same day at the same time and are raised like twins by their mothers, who also happen to be best friends. As they grow older, they develop a list of rules to keep their friendship intact, the most critical rule being that Elle is forbidden to date Lee's older brother, Noah (Jacob Elordi). Every part of the film can be predicted from here on out, as in the first 10 minutes, it is evident Elle is developing feelings for Noah. As a school fundraiser, she and Lee set up a "kissing booth" and of course, she ends up blindly kissing Noah. This kiss sparks their relationship, forcing them to keep it undercover leading to a series of predictable and uncreative mishaps.

Ye by Kanye West Sean Armstrong, Staff Writer

Ye was not a particularly bad album, but it was one of the most overrated albums of the year. Kanye was at one time an artist on the cutting edge, making moves that opened up the rap genre to new possibilities, but lately, Kanye seems to do everything in a

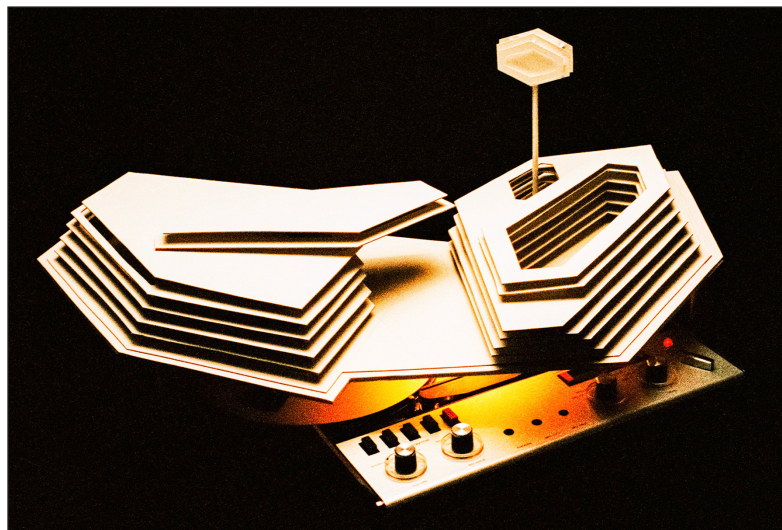
scatterbrained manner. Set aside his politics, his mental state or any other stigmatizing conditions the man has become synonymous with, his work is still not what it used to be. Every artist has their time and at the current moment, it appears Kanye is past his. I am not saying Kanye should stop making music or that he cannot come up with something fantastic in the future, but I am saying that *Ye* was judged to be a masterpiece by many before it arrived. In the weeks heading into its release, I heard plenty of hype around it. The album had almost this legendary status before it even dropped. It was almost in the too-big-to-fail category from the launch. When people are looking for the good they will find good, but when walking into a situation with few or no expectations, that is when true quality reveals itself.



COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES
ENTERTAINMENT

Venom Sean Armstrong, Staff Writer

I read the comic book long before the movie was even in production. The comic book centered on Flash Thompson, the high school bully of Peter Parker, who enters the armed forces after high school only to lose his legs in combat. Then, since he was a very skilled special forces operative he is offered the chance to serve again by merging with the symbiote used by Spider-Man himself. The catch is that he has to take it off every 48 hours or it can take over his body. This film opted for a less interesting storyline based on Eddie Brock, the journalist looking for truth. I get that Marvel updates superheroes' stories to keep with the times, and the search for truth is the question of the moment while the horrors of war seem like a topic from yesteryear, but just because we ignore something does not make it any less relevant. I think *Venom*, as he was portrayed in the comics, covered an area of debate no other hero really can which made the character what he was. This movie was a simplification of the character and thus a suppression of the potential of the story.



COURTESY OF DOMINO RECORDING COMPANY

heartfelt look back at past media. It may have been pretty to look at, but this movie lacked any substance other than gratuitous pop culture nods. There wasn't any risk or threat for the characters that kept viewers in suspense.

Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino by Arctic Monkeys Salena Moran, Staff Writer

The Arctic Monkeys did not score a hit with their latest album *Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino*. I have been a fan of the Arctic Monkeys, and still am, but I was frankly disappointed at their attempt at a new sound after waiting five years. I usually love when artists experiment with their sound and evolve over time, but this was something totally off the path. Lead singer Alex Turner ditched the classic British rock sound with the electric guitar and seemed to make sleepy elevator music. This album is very piano heavy and creates a weird vibe of Elton John meets Pink Floyd throughout the tracklist. The two main songs with any real substance were "Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino" and "Four Stars Out of Five," but even those

predictable. The movie was also unbelievable at certain points. While they added a five-year gap and had a heart-wrenching scene near the end, one person taking down a dozen men in a drug cartel is questionable. This movie also did a great deal of telling instead of showing in regards to her transformation and sudden skills and abilities.

Bird Box Griffin Sendek, Staff Writer

The culture surrounding *Bird Box* is fascinating to say the least. How this Netflix original movie that, by all means, is not a good movie, gained so much love and praise completely boggles my mind. *Bird Box* exploded upon release, garnering views by 45 million accounts in its opening week alone, taking the title of the most successful opening week of any Netflix original.

The film's success was partially thanks to the sudden and inevitable influx of *Bird Box* memes all across social media, working not only as free marketing for the movie, but also creating this sense of FOMO for anyone who had not seen it yet. This wouldn't be anything of note if *Bird Box* was, in fact,



COURTESY OF DOMINO RECORDING COMPANY

Duquesne screams for ice cream



KATIA FAROUN/PHOTO EDITOR

Despite the threat of snow and near-freezing temperatures, students and faculty alike line up to grab a cone of Millie's ice cream. The pop-up stand is for a limited time only and includes six of Millie's famous flavors. The pop-up takes cash, credit, Flex and PLUS and will be open every day 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

New position named at DU

KELLEN STEPLER
staff writer

New hometown, new college, same job.

That's what life is like for Gabriel Welsch, the new vice president for marketing and communications at Duquesne University. Welsch will start his new position on March 18.

Welsch is coming to Pittsburgh from Juniata College, where he was vice president for strategic communications and marketing a position he had held since June 2017. He began his career at Juniata in 2007 as the assistant vice president for marketing and was promoted to vice president of advancement and marketing in 2009.

Additionally, he also worked at Penn State University, where he was assistant to the dean for advancement and manager of

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Duquesne community mourns the loss of nursing student

OLLIE GRATIZINGER

opinions editor

&

KAILEY LOVE

editor-in-chief

A junior nursing student died on Jan. 14 at UPMC Mercy Hospital, a day after she was found unconscious in her Vickroy Hall dorm room.

Columbia Dyson, 21, was pronounced dead at 9:26 a.m. on Monday, according to the Allegheny County Medical Examiner's office. Cause and manner have yet to be determined, and the case has been turned over to the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police for further investigation.

Vice President of Student Life Douglas Frizzell sent an email to students and faculty on Monday morning, asking them to keep Dyson and her family in their thoughts and prayers.

"The death of a student is always tragic," Frizzell said in a statement to *The Duke*. "Columbia was



KATIA FAROUN/PHOTO EDITOR

a kind, energetic and active student on campus and in the nursing program. She was well-liked and she will be missed by the entire Duquesne community. She and her family will remain in our prayers."

Praise of Dyson's character was echoed by Mary Ellen Glasgow, dean of the nursing school.

"The entire School of Nursing community mourns the loss of ... Columbia Dyson," Glasgow said. "Columbia was a compassionate and committed student who excelled academically and cared deeply about her patients."

Glasgow went on to add that Dyson actively participated in Greek Life, as well as the Duquesne University Student Nurse Association.

"Columbia will be deeply missed by her nursing colleagues, sorority sisters and Duquesne classmates

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Dukes begin A-10 play

Team will face GWU in D.C. next

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Brooklyn Nine-Nine returns

2019 off to a strong start with NBC's cop comedy

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POLICE BRIEFS

Welcome back! Class has been in session for only a week and yet we have a full page of reports for you guys. So buckle up, Sister PB has quite the ride for you today.

On Jan. 10, two students were found to be in possession of marijuana, but that's not all folks. As Res Life was taking care of the incident, one of the students fell and injured his mouth, causing him to lose a tooth. That's one way to learn your lesson, I guess.

On Jan. 11, two students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct for underage drinking and because of how high their BAC readings were, they were transported to UPMC Mercy ER.

On Jan. 12 A student in the parking garage of UPMC was found with a small amount of marijuana on his person. He was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Also on Jan. 12 an under-aged DU student was involved in a DUI related crash on fifth Ave. The student was uninjured but was booked on DUI related charges and is pending preliminary arraignment. Oh, they were also referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Jan. 13 was a busy day for you hooligans, four intoxicated female students were found in the Towers lobby, another student was found to be in possession of marijuana, paraphernalia and alcohol. They were all referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

The 13th was also a bad day to be driving your car it seems. A student suffered damage to his unattended car which was parked in the Locust Garage Extension. Also in the extension, another student found the rear passenger window of their car shattered and several items missing.

Sister PB understands that it is the start of a new semester, but y'all should be hitting the books, not unattended cars.

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If you're interested, email Editor-in-Chief Kailey Love at lovek@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 Hallie Lauer at hallielauer18@gmail.com.

Director of Duquesne's Center for Teaching Excellence receives national award at conference

SAMANTHA ZAPACH
staff writer

Recently, Duquesne University's very own Dr. Laurel Willingham-McLain received a national award for her service in educational development. Willingham-McLain was recognized by the Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network in Higher Education with its highest honor.

The award is known as the Bob Pierleoni Spirit of POD Award, which was presented at the POD Network Annual Conference. The award is to recognize long-standing members who have made selfless contributions through their services to not only the organization as a whole, but to the field of educational development in tandem.



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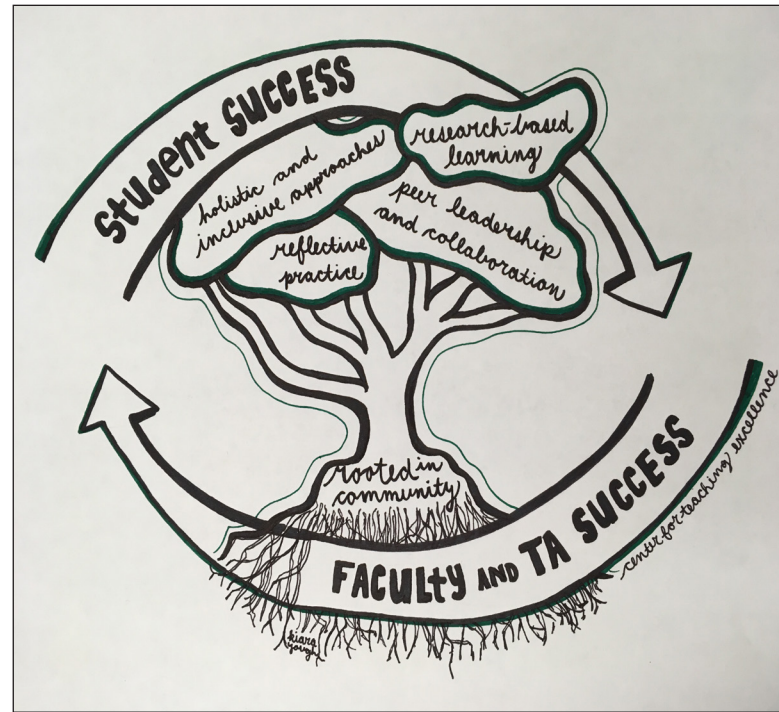
Willingham-McLain has been the director of the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) at Duquesne University since 2006. Prior to this, she served as the associate director for the CTE from 1999 to 2005.

The Center for Teaching Excellence is as a resource for faculty who are seeking assistance in various teaching and research techniques for teaching their students here at the university.

As director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, Willingham-McLain consults with faculty members on various teaching techniques and academic career success. She also frequently consults with program directors and department chairs on academic leadership.

"I am blessed beyond measure to be honored by my colleagues in the POD Network. At Duquesne's CTE, we have benefited in many ways from the professional development opportunities offered by the POD Network," Willingham-McLain said. "All the CTE programs and services are informed by the research and practices of POD Network colleagues"

Willingham-McLain received her bachelors in French at Asbury College and later received her master and a doctorate in French Linguistics from Indiana University at Bloomington.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

sity at Bloomington.

Willingham-McLain has also been recognized for a number of publications in academic journals such as 'College Teaching,' and has served on many education boards involving higher education and professional development organizations, including Core Committee.

According to the Center for Teaching Excellence's website, its

goal is to "help faculty and TAs excel as teacher-scholars deeply invested in students' learning."

The CTE website also offers numerous online workshops and handouts readily available for instructors to utilize.

The Center for Teaching Excellence at Duquesne University is located in Fisher Hall rooms 727 and 730.

Duquesne to celebrate life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. with a series of events through Jan.

LIZA ZULICK
staff writer

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is 'what are you doing for others?'" - Martin Luther King Jr.

What had started as a holiday for just the state of Illinois in 1973, by 1983 people all around the U.S. wanted to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. for the work he put into ending racial segregation and discrimination.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed on the third Monday of each January as a celebration for both his birthday, which falls on Jan. 15, and as a way to honor his life.

Following the traditions set across the U.S. in the early 1980s, Duquesne will host its own week of events to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and unite the community by bringing together students and neighbors to celebrate.

On Monday, Jan. 14, Duquesne began a week-long celebration that started with students and faculty placing flags with their dreams written on them on the College Hall lawn to represent King's "I Have A Dream" speech.

Other events that will take place this week in the Duquesne community include a lun-

cheon with keynote speaker and Duquesne professor Kathy Glass and a speaker series event with Elizabeth Ortiz, vice president of institutional diversity and equity from DePaul University.

"My speech will examine why Dr. King's love-driven politics provide models for 21st century activists who continue the struggle for sociopolitical equality," Glass said.

Following this week's activities, Duquesne will host events through Jan. 30, beginning with a prayer and breakfast program at Ebenezer Baptist Church in the Hill District on Monday, Jan. 21.

Later that day, a student athletic challenge will take place at the Power Center, where students can compete in basketball and volleyball tournaments. SGA and Ebony Women for Social Change will sponsor Student Dialogue: Faith and Community to promote conversation among the student body.

"It is imperative that we have an event driven entirely by students. Collaborating with Ebony Women for Social Change and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion on this is an honor for SGA. As a student body, we have not only the opportunity, but the responsibility, to take part in dialogue



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about our community," said Student Government President, Eric Chatterjee. "Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. this way allows us to envision the dream he spoke of and how we can work together to achieve it. It gives us an ideal to aspire to, and thereby a purpose to guide and nurture dreams of our own."

Duquesne's events will conclude with an invitation-only event of a presentation titled Sacred Conversation on Race.

"A courageous civil rights

leader, Dr. King offered a compelling framework for social change. In the coming days, we'll celebrate his accomplishments, drawing inspiration from his tireless commitment to solidarity, social justice and reconciliation," Glass said.

The majority of the events do require an RSVP, but all are encouraged to attend. A complete list and RSVP links can be found on Duquesne's website.

**Hallie Lauer contributed reporting.

New marketing and communications vice president announced at Duquesne

VP — from page 1

publications and public relations for Penn State's College of the Liberal Arts.

According to the Juniata College website, Welsch's responsibilities at Juniata were to oversee operations in marketing, digital and emerging media, public relations, senior communications and brand



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management.

Welsch has goals he hopes to accomplish at Duquesne, citing the university's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan.

"I aim to have more people know not what my plan will be, and with the communications and marketing team, I aim to have more people know not just Duquesne's name but what it stands for in terms of learning opportunities, community commitment and positive impact," Welsch said.

His previous experience at Juniata and Penn State led him to take this position at Duquesne.

"The combination of the location, momentum and people made it easy to say yes," Welsch said of his new job.

Additionally, Welsch had a decorated resume before beginning his job at Duquesne. He earned a bachelor's degree in English in 1993 and then received his Master of Fine Arts in English in 1998 from Penn State University.

In 2011, he received a

certificate from the Institute of Educational Management at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

Welsch will be the first person to enter this role at Duquesne, as it is newly created.

"This new, key vice presidential position was created in response to the dynamic growth taking place at Duquesne and the importance of marketing and communications in all forms in ensuring the continued growth of the university," President Ken Gormley said in an earlier press release.

Welsch hopes to leave his mark for future VPs of marketing and communication by achieving and exceeding their goals.

"I will feel I have done well if my colleagues and I achieve and exceed our goals, grow stronger in our skills, knowledge and creativity, and have positioned whomever follows us for the next level of success in alignment with the University's vision," Welsch said.

DU comes together to remember student

DYSON — from page 1

and friends," Glasgow said.

Dyson was the Alumnae Relations Chairwoman throughout 2018 for Duquesne's Alpha Mu chapter of the sorority Alpha Omicron Pi, and was just beginning her role as the Vice President of Administration this semester.

In an Instagram post, the Alpha Mu chapter referred to Columbia as "a beacon of light to all she encountered."

"The Alpha Mu Chapter of [Alpha Omicron Pi] is mourning the loss of a dear sister, Columbia Dyson," the

sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi said in a statement to *The Duke*. "Over the next few days, we ask for privacy to allow us to mourn our loss. We are currently supporting one another and remembering the good times with Columbia. We will miss her terribly. Most importantly, please keep Columbia's family and friends in your thoughts during this difficult time."

Counselors are available in the Wellbeing Center in 636 Fisher Hall. According to the email, information regarding Dyson's funeral service and a possible on-campus memorial service will be released shortly.

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Shutdown may upend State of the Union Address set for Jan. 29

WASHINGTON (AP) — The partial government shutdown threw a prime Washington ritual into question Wednesday as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi asked President Donald Trump to forgo his Jan. 29 State of the Union speech, expressing doubts that the hobbled government can provide adequate security. Republicans saw her move as a ploy to deny Trump the stage.

In a letter to Trump, Pelosi said that with both the Secret Service and the Homeland Security Department entangled in the shutdown, the president should speak to Congress another time or he should deliver the address in writing. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen denied anyone's safety is compromised, saying both agencies "are fully prepared to support and secure the State of the Union."

Inviting the president to give the speech is usually pro forma, and Pelosi issued the invitation in routine fashion, in consultation with the White House, several weeks ago. But with the shutdown in its fourth week, the White House and Democrats in a stalemate and the impasse draining the finances of hundreds of thousands of federal employees, little routine is left in the capital.

Pelosi left unclear what would happen if Trump insisted on coming despite the welcome mat being pulled away. It takes a joint resolution of the House and Congress to extend the official invitation and set the stage.

"We'll have to have a security evaluation, but that would mean diverting resources," she told reporters when asked how she would respond if Trump still intended to come. "I don't know how that could happen."

She added: "This is a continuation of government issue that we have the proper security for such an event." She was referring to an occasion that brings all three branches of government together in the same room — the president, members of

Congress and the Supreme Court justices who attend.

To Republican Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, the matter was less about security than about Pelosi feeling she has the upper hand in the budget standoff.

"She's talking about canceling the State of the Union — this is not somebody who's feeling any pressure," Johnson said. "I think Republicans are getting the lion's share of the pressure."

Rep. Andy Biggs, R-Ariz., said he hopes Trump will proceed with his speech. Pelosi is "censoring this vital message for transparent political purposes," he said.

The White House hosted a bipartisan group of lawmakers, followed by a group of Republican senators, on the 26th day of the shutdown, with no sign of breaking through the impasse over Trump's demands for \$5.7 billion to build a wall along the Mexican border. Democratic leaders are refusing to bargain over a border wall they oppose as long as the government remains partially closed.

On Wednesday, Trump signed legislation into law affirming that the roughly 800,000 federal workers who have been going without pay will ultimately be compensated for their lost wages. That was the practice in the past.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware are leading a renewed effort to persuade Trump to let the government reopen for three weeks in return for a commitment from lawmakers to try to address his concerns about border security in that period. They are seeking signatures on a letter spelling out the plan.

Trump rejected that approach earlier and the initiative was having trouble getting many Republicans on board.

"Does that help the president or does that hurt the president?" asked Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., among those who went to the White House. He has not signed the letter. "If the president saw it as a way



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to be conciliatory, if he thought it would help, then perhaps it's a good idea," he said. "If it's just seen as a weakening of his position, then he probably wouldn't do it."

While Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she has signed, others said GOP support was lacking. "They're a little short on the R side," said Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., another leader of the effort.

Other lawmakers are floating additional plans, but Graham was skeptical any would break through.

"I am running out of ideas," he said.

"The Democrats are not going to negotiate with the government shut down," he said. "People in the White House don't like hearing that. I don't know what to tell them other than what I actually think."

Even as administration officials projected confidence in their course, Kevin Hassett, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said Tuesday the shutdown is slowing growth more than predicted.

An economic shift could rattle Trump, who has tied his political fortunes to the

stock market and repeatedly stressed economic gains as evidence that his tax-cut package and deregulation efforts are succeeding. Economic optimism had already cooled somewhat as Trump's trade fight with China shook the markets.

Hassett told reporters the White House is doubling its estimate of the strain on the economy of the shutdown, and now calculates that it is slowing growth by about 0.1 percentage points a week.

With the shutdown in its fourth week, that suggests the economy has lost nearly a half-percentage point of growth so far, though some of that occurred at the end of last year and some in the first quarter of this year. Hassett said the economy should get a boost when the government re-opens.

Previous White House estimates of the impact did not fully take into account the effect on people who work for private companies that contract with the government to provide services, Hassett said.

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you are,
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— ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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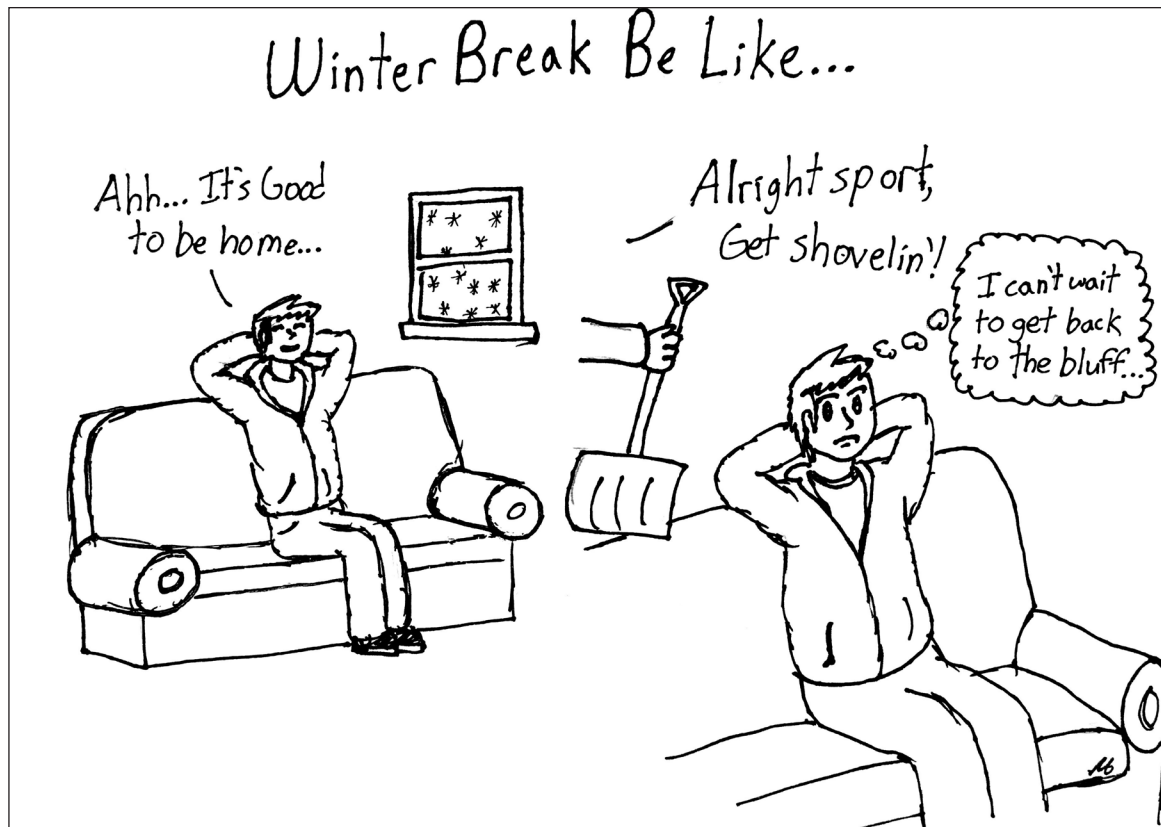
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CARTOON BY ROBERT GWIAZDA

in focus...

As debate surrounds Trump's wall, immigrants remain vilified

OLLIE GRATZINGER
opinions editor

Above all else, America is, has been and will always be a nation made up of immigrants.

Is that a controversial statement? Well, it shouldn't be. Every white citizen in the U.S. today is an American because somewhere in their family's lineage, someone was not. Be it a grandparent, great-grandparent or some more distant ancestor, one historic relative came from a foreign place to a country with a new culture, often a new language and a new set of challenges unique and separate from those they faced back home.

The Statue of Liberty stood as a beacon on New York Harbor, welcoming travelers, wanderers, refugees and immigrants to a land where progress was possible. Enscripted on its base, a sonnet by Emma Lazarus reads, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." The poem was called "The New Colossus," and for those coming from afar to America's teeming shores, the young country was just that —

something terribly enormous but brimming with potential.

Much has changed since the 19th century, but a lot has also stayed the same. Social gatekeeping, in which those Americans who had been here longer look down upon new arrivals, has always been a prevalent way that U.S. citizens perpetuated the concept of otherness. The Italians were hated, regarded in some ways as perpetual foreigners. The Protestant majority of the U.S., who had been around much longer, was rife with anti-Catholic sentiment, and that manifested frequently in violence against newly settled Italians.

The Irish, too, were resented after fleeing famine and political upheaval back home. They were stereotyped as rapists and brutes. Jewish immigrants, hated historically for a slew of stereotypes and unfounded accusations, and Africans, brought to the country often against their will, remain targets of hate groups in the U.S. today.

But now, Mexican and Middle Eastern refugees are becoming the next group of hated newcomers, and those guilty of the hating are quickly forgetting

their roots.

President Trump has preached separatism and perpetuated otherness since his days on the campaign trail, rallying his base with what he'd call "American values" and uniting them against a common enemy: immigrants. Rhetoric has been deeply negative, from calculated attacks on the DACA program and Dreamers to using the term "sh*t-hole countries" to describe nations such as Haiti, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Immigrants from those three countries once had what was called Temporary Protective Status, which in the wake of national emergencies, would be granted to those attempting to enter the U.S.

In 2017, Trump took that away.

Issues of family separation and "zero tolerance" at the border and, most recently, a call for more than \$5 billion to fund a physical wall between the U.S. and Mexico, have dominated the news.

The wall, if it's constructed, will be made of more than brick or steel. It will be made of hatred in the name of blind fear. It would symbolize a sense of security against those who pose little to no tangible threat. It would represent a denunciation of diversity and a triumph of ignorance.

Sometimes, a wall is more than just a wall.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Government shut-down impacts all

Today, the government shutdown enters day 26, having surpassed the record for longest government shutdown in U.S. history (the former record holder being 21 days in the Clinton Administration). However, through all of the political infighting, pointless press conferences and heartbreaking reports of federal workers struggling to make ends meet, there still appears to be no end in sight.

The fundamental question that everyone is asking, however, remains: what exactly does a government shutdown mean, and how does the government shutdown affect all of us?

This week, we have several pieces in our Opinions section that are focused on the government shutdown — the negative ways it has already begun to impact our nation, the arguments that are being made on both sides and the Trump administration immigration policy that started the fight in the first place — but we wanted to get down to brass tacks to better understand the mechanics of the mess that we're in.

As dictated by our Constitution, the legislative branch is supposed to pass spending bills to fund the various government agencies periodically. There is no set time period for how long these spending bills need to be (could span funding between weeks and a full year) and the bills could fully or partially fund the government. However, without passing said bill, the government will close. And, as there is no limit placed on how long a shutdown can last, it can continue indefinitely. Trump has publicly joked that he may make it carry on for months or years.

In our modern partisan climate, this phenomenon has often been used as a political bargaining chip for legislators to force votes on bills that both sides have fundamental disagreements on. In this instance, President Trump is attempting to use the government shutdown as a way to get funding for his wall (more than \$5 billion, to be exact) in order to uphold his "build the wall" campaign promise.

While this sounds like a lot of the same divisive back and forth that always occurs in the Capitol, it has real life ramifications that are hurting millions of Americans. As this is a partial shutdown, it affects about half of the government agencies; The Departments of Commerce, Agriculture, Transportation, Interior, State, Justice, Homeland Security, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development. In this situation, federal workers in these departments deemed "non-essential" can be furloughed, or sent home without pay, in order to manage the impact of the shutdown.

According to the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, 380,000

see STAFF ED— page 11

OPINIONS

A year in review — tragedy, politics and progress define 2018

ALYSE KAMINSKI
staff columnist

I always feel anxious at the beginning of a new year. Who knows what I will remember 2019 for? Will it be a year of positivity and growth, or will it be daunting and discouraging? Although I cannot know what 2019 holds for me or anyone else, I want to reflect on political events that shaped 2018 and could affect the new year.

Prevalence of Mass Shootings: Honestly, at this point, it is tragically unsurprising that this is something that hugely affected 2018. Mass shootings are all too common now. On Feb. 14, a gunman entered Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and killed 17 students and staff. In the wake of the heartbreak, students from the school spoke up about the need for gun control, which began the #NeverAgain movement. Following that, hundreds of thousands of Americans, students in particular, joined together for The March for Our Lives. I attended the Pittsburgh march, and it was an experience I will not forget. It was a refreshing reminder that our generation is the future, and it made me believe that common sense gun laws will be passed, although it may not be for a while.

As 2018 came to an end, the unthinkable happened when a mass shooting occurred miles away from where I grew up. I always feel upset

and angry when a shooting happens, but this one felt different. There were faces and names that my community recognized and loved. Our city had to grieve. The harsh reality of knowing that someone sick enough to do something so awful lived close to my loved ones and me still terrifies me.

And, of course, the incredible irritation that our government has not done much of anything to stop this overwhelming amount of destruction still lasts. Needless to say, every time I think of the Tree of Life Synagogue, I still feel the way I did when I heard the news. I still feel cold and gloomy when I think of the day my family and I paid our respects at the memorials outside the synagogue where it happened.

I hope that in 2019 our leaders make decisions that keep our country safe from those within it who wish to cause harm.

“Zero-Tolerance” Immigration Policy: Around June, the already boiling immigration debate grew thousands of degrees warmer when journalists were allowed inside a detention center in Texas. Images of adults and children in cages were all over the news and social media for a few weeks and everyone debated whether or not it’s ethical, or even legal, to separate families at the border. Personally, my heart hurt for any child who was placed in these facilities, because regardless of my opinion on illegal immigration, it is obvious to me that the

children in these situations are innocent. They didn’t ask to be born in an unsafe environment, and they do not deserve to be taken to a country that will rip them from their families.

Through the end of the year, the immigration debate continued to erupt with Trump’s relentless push for a border wall — a push that hurled the U.S. into its longest government shutdown in history. It is no secret that 2019 will be a year of arguments and probable chaos over immigration and the wall.

Midterm Elections: Despite all of the negative events of 2018, the midterm elections in November proved to be a pretty triumphant night, especially for women, members of the LGBT community and people of color. The newest House of Representatives is not only a Democratic majority, but one that will represent more than just white males. The 116th House includes the first two Native American women, four new LGBT people, an overall wave of youth swirling throughout and more victories for minorities. While I am happy to see a Democratic majority, especially in today’s climate, it is this sweep of diversity that is so heartwarming (and it is rare that I associate joy with politics these days). These men and women serving their communities give me hope for the new year that is ahead, despite all the negativity that is certain.

I don’t really have a specific word to describe



LOGO BY TIM HINDES

Following the mass shooting at Tree of Life, Tim Hinds created the “Stronger Than Hate” design.

2018, but what I will say is that it was something else. Between all of these events, the division that ensued during the Kavanaugh hearing and confirmation and countless tweets and actions by President Trump that further divided the country, 2018 was a year of deep anger. Yet, I want to be as optimistic as possible for 2019.

We are not necessarily off to a great start, considering this ongoing government shutdown, but all I can hope for is that the only way is up. I hope that in 2019, Americans can be kinder to each other and more understanding. I hope we listen to what everyone has to say and be respectful. Most of all, I hope that 2019 brings the U.S. a great presidential candidate to beat Trump in 2020.

Government shutdown drags on, doing more harm than good

ZOE STRATOS
staff columnist

On Dec. 22, the government commenced a partial shutdown after the president and the Democrats’ disagreement over new spending legislation to be passed on Dec. 21. The \$5.7 billion wall to be constructed along the southern border of the U.S. was the star of the show.

Sticking to the Trump administration’s “zero tolerance” policy, the shutdown has now been going on for 26 days — and no end seems to be in sight. So far, the shutdown has been the longest in history, beating out the Clinton administration shutdown that lasted from Dec. 5, 1995 to Jan. 6, 1996: 21 days.

Both sides have barely made any progress towards a compromise on border control issues, and the president threatened to declare a national emergency if necessary. With that, unused funds for other portions of legislation would go directly to

funding the wall, while bypassing congressional approval.

On the Republicans’ and president’s side, compromise has only gone as far as changing the wall from concrete to a metal structure, and Democrats refuse to comply. Their compromise includes increased border security in other ways, such as cameras and other advanced technologies.

According to ThoughtCo.com, if President Trump were to receive the requested \$5.7 billion, it would only cover 234 miles — along with the 580 miles already in place. This would leave around 1,140 miles uncovered. All around, the wall is quite expensive, and the U.S. government is already far in debt; over \$21 trillion to be exact. To continue building this wall would only push us further, and more quickly, into that debt.

Both sides continually play the blame game, as per usual, making the stalemate tough to break through. In the background of all of the arguing are over 800,000 government-employed citizens and government-funded programs and locations struggling with money. Some citizens have to work without pay. Some have been furloughed. Programs and locations are temporarily shut down or reduced in funding as well.

The president’s urgency to block off our southern border is unnecessary as of now, since U.S. citizens are suffering from losses of money, home, food, Medicare and other major necessities. The worry that illegal immigrants are taking over citizens’ jobs sounds hypocritical at the moment —

the government is currently taking away more than 800,000 jobs.

One of the most alarming situations includes TSA agents’ refusal to show up, reasonably, for unpaid work. In major airports like Atlanta and Miami, multiple security lines were closed, along with closed terminals due to major understaffing. In this battle over border control and immigration laws, the government is failing to realize the extreme risk of understaffing airports, as well as other borders. Isn’t increasing our control over immigration the whole point of this shutdown?

With that said, illegal crossing at the southern border is hardly the biggest concern, even though the president makes it out to be. According to the Department of Homeland Security and the Center for Migration Studies — and according to the BBC — the number of immigrants who overstayed their visas is greater than those who crossed the border illegally every year since 2007.

Not only that, but also according to the BBC, “In 2017, Canadians made up the largest group of these illegal [im]migrants that entered by air or sea port of entry, followed by Mexicans,” even though most do indeed enter by land.

Another huge problem lies in our national parks. As it is difficult to supervise such a large area of open land, national parks are beginning to feel the effects of the government shutdown as it enters its fourth week.

According to the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), most national

parks are closed for public safety reasons, and Joshua Tree National Park specifically is experiencing trouble.

“Vandalism, illegal camping and off-road vehicle use, and extensive trash and human waste led Superintendent David Smith to announce that he would close the park indefinitely,” said the NPCA. “A press statement from the National Park Service later reversed this decision and declared the park would stay open using previously collected fee revenue. Smith reported earlier this week that vandals had cut locks off of closed entrance gates, killed Joshua trees and driven vehicles illegally in closed parts of the park, creating new roads through pristine desert areas.”

Other national parks are accumulating an alarming amount of trash, which is endangering the plants and animals inhabiting the forests.

NPCA estimates say “the Park Service is losing \$400,000 per day from entrance fee revenue. Additional shutdown costs include the opportunity cost of lost labor, the cost of postponing maintenance that can lead to further and more costly damage and the cost of cleanup after the shutdown.”

With all of that said, increased border security isn’t an overall bad idea. The ways in which our government is currently handling the situation, though, are ineffective and childish — on both sides. Due to our government’s inability to communicate with one another, citizens everywhere are



COURTESY OF NATALIE BEHRING/GETTY IMAGES
Because of the shutdown, federal workers have either been furloughed or working without pay.

see **SHUTDOWN**—page 11

New semester brings new activities on campus and beyond

OLLIE GRATZINGER
features editor

Now that we are all back on the Bluff after what was hopefully a nice and relaxing break, it is time to get back into the swing of things with a bunch of activities on campus that will make home feel a little less far away.

Coming up on campus, Duquesne University's Musical Therapy program is hosting a drum circle on Friday, Jan. 18 at noon in the Dr. Thomas D. Pappert Center for Performance and Innovation. According to Campus Link, this event will be "a safe place to come out and try new things." The description adds that "this is a facilitated circle and [the] goal is to guide the group to be the most musical and safe environment for everyone that it can be."

On Monday, Jan. 21, classes won't meet in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. A lot of informative happenings, many of which will be sponsored or co-sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, will be held over the next few days, including an event series called Living Legacy 2019. Included in this lineup will be the Athletic Challenge, a set of student volleyball and basketball tournaments in the Power Center at 1 p.m. on Monday, as well as the Student Dialogue to be held in the Africa Room at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

The Spring Student EXPO will begin on Jan. 22 on the second floor of the Student Union and continue until Jan. 25. Students can stop by any day between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to learn more about the clubs and organizations on campus. Campus Link lists "free stuff" as a perk for showing up, and who doesn't like



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getting free things?

Duquesne Program Council (DPC) kicks off the Spring Film Series with *Crazy Rich Asians*, showing on Thursday, Jan. 24 and Friday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 26 at 9 p.m. in the NiteSpot. *Venom* will be showing at the same times and in the same place on Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and Feb. 2. Other planned films include *A Star is Born*, *Creed II*, *The Mummy*, *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, *Mary Poppins* and *Aquaman*.

DPC DUNites include the classic Build-a-Bear Night in the NiteSpot at 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8. Milkshake Night will be the following on Friday, Feb. 15, pottery painting on Friday, Feb. 22 and more to come after Spring Break, which will happen March 4-9.

On Feb. 11, students can buy discounted tickets to Phantom of the Opera starting at 8:30 a.m. in 305 Union. The

musical will be showing at the Benedum Center on Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. Tickets are sponsored through the DPC, will cost \$20 and are limited to one ticket per Duquesne ID. Students have to be present at the time of purchase, so you can't take your friend's ID and buy more than one ticket, and tickets will be sold on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Students should not be afraid to venture off of campus, too. Pittsburgh might be a smaller city, but there are plenty of things to do if you need a change of scenery.

You can take either of the two historic inclines up the hill to Mount Washington and walk around, enjoying beautiful scenic overlooks, restaurants and shops. Fare to ride is under \$3 per person, and if you are into photography, you can find views that are a must-see for anyone looking to see Pittsburgh in a new light.

A short walk down to Market Square can make for an afternoon of fun. With

a giant ice rink situated at the heart of PPG Place, our metropolitan cityscape can be transformed into a winter wonderland. You can pick up a hot chocolate at the rink or head into one of the many restaurants around Market Square to warm up and grab a bite to eat.

If you do not mind a 30-minute walk (or a short bus ride on the 86), the Strip District offers the most authentic Pittsburgh vibes you'll ever find. Neat shops line Penn Avenue, selling everything from Pittsburgh gear and handmade clothing to metalworks and flowers.

With a bunch of classic diners, including the first Primanti Brothers, De Luca's, Kelly-O's and Pamela's, as well as a Polish deli, sushi places, a handful of Asian-inspired restaurants and tacos galore, there's literally something for everyone in the Strip. Even your picky friends can find something from one of the street vendors, and you can pick up dessert at one of the candy shops on your way back. The best is Grandpa Joe's, an essential stop for anyone with a sweet tooth. From vintage sodas to foreign candies to classics that'll bring back childhood nostalgia you forgot you even had, it is a crowd-pleaser for sure.

With so much to do, there's no reason not to make the most of your time here at Duquesne and in the 'Burgh. Everyone needs a breather, so don't hesitate to plan a day out or a night in. This is hardly an exhaustive list of everything Duquesne has going on, but rather just a blurb to highlight some of the most popular events you can look forward to this semester. Be sure to check Campus Link, social media and billboards in dorms and academic buildings for other things that might pique your interest.

Horoscopes

GRIFFIN SENDEK
staff writer



Virgo

(August 23-September 22)

Tell your roommates the feng shui of the room is off. They won't mind.



Libra

(September 23 - October 22)

Hydroflasks double as melee weapons. Keep this in mind. You may need it.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 22)

Grubhub will forget your tacos, and you will get revenge.



Sagittarius

(November 23-December 22)

Getting a tattoo is an effective coping mechanism.



Capricorn

(December 22-January 19)

Millie's ice cream for breakfast, lunch and dinner? Yes, please.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 18)



Breaking news! Your soulmate is stuck in quicksand!

Pisces

(February 19-March 20)



Now is the time. Cheesecake from Milanos.



Aries

(March 21-April 19)

Duck at precisely 8:23 p.m. on Jan. 19.

Taurus

(April 20-May 20)



Study tips: Don't!



Gemini

(May 21-June 20)

Keep that hairband on your wrist. It's the only thing that'll save your life.

Cancer

(June 21-July 22)



Make friends with your sinus infection. They aren't so bad when you get to know them.

Leo

(July 23-August 22)



We both know that #new-year-me you posted was a lie.

Three insights from Duquesne’s conference outset

Four games into Atlantic 10 play, DU sits near the top of the league’s crowded standings at 3-1. Wins over Fordham, Saint Joseph’s and Richmond should have fans excited for the coming months, but the Dukes look far from dominant. Here are a few things I’ve noticed thus far in watching the team.

ADAM LINDNER
sports editor

Duquesne is four games into Atlantic 10 play, and it finds itself with three victories by a combined 12 points.

Its lone conference loss came via a tightly-contested 65-61 bout at Davidson. So is life in the A-10.

The Dukes haven’t looked necessarily spectacular to this point, with their well-documented lack of collective identity on full display.

Let’s not forget, however, that two seasons ago, Jim Ferry managed to win three Atlantic 10 games in total.

Already this season, Duquesne has one hard-fought road loss to Davidson, two solid home victories (Fordham and Saint Joe’s) and a road win at Richmond — the program’s first triumph there since 1993.

Most things in life are relative, and similarly, the success that Duquesne has enjoyed to this point is relative. Besides, the A-10 slate is only just kicking off.

Nevertheless, what’s transpired so far this season is still that: success.

Here are three insights I’ve garnered from



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Sophomore guard Frankie Hughes, a transfer from Missouri, has started to pick up more playing time lately thanks to Mike Lewis II’s departure. Hughes, a talented 3-point shooter, should continue to enjoy more minutes on the court, as Lewis II left the program and transferred to Nevada over winter break.

Duquesne’s first four conference games.

1. Dambrot’s rotations have solidified

Early on in the Dukes’ non-league slate, Head Coach Keith Dambrot made a specific point of spreading his team’s minutes around as evenly as possible. After an 83-71 victory over UMass Lowell in late November, Dambrot said he came into the game with the intent of playing several young guys, no matter what happened.

“I made the determination today that I was playing those young, big kids, and I don’t care what happens,” Dambrot said, referring to the 33 combined minutes that freshmen forwards Gavin Bizeau, Austin Rotroff and Amari Kelly played on Nov. 25. “If we have to take a hit or two along the way, we’re playing them.”

“For the good of the program, down the line, those guys are going to be good players. And we have to take our hit until they’re ready to play.”

As correct as Dambrot may have been back in November, the team’s developmental efforts are on pause, at least for the time being.

Dambrot’s recent rotations reflect that notion.

Bizeau, who played sparingly to begin with, hasn’t seen game action since Dec. 16 versus Maine.

Freshman guard Brandon Wade has played a combined 22 minutes versus conference competition, with 11 of those coming at Richmond.

Even Rotroff, who started four straight games in early December, has seen his playing time taper off as of late in favor of Kelly.

Outside of the team’s starters (Sincere Carry, Eric Williams Jr., Frankie Hughes, Marcus Weathers and Michael Hughes), plus Tavian Dunn-Martin, Kelly, Rotroff and occasionally Kellon Taylor, don’t hold your breath in regard to anybody else’s playing time.

2. Frankie Hughes has stepped up recently

On Jan. 5, in the first half of Duquesne’s Atlantic 10 opener at Davidson, sophomore wing Frankie Hughes was everywhere on

the Belk Arena hardwood: playing inspired on-ball defense opposite Wildcat star Kel-lan Grady, creating plays offensively and hitting jump shots, including two 3-pointers en route to 12 first-half points.

Especially after Mike Lewis II’s mid-season transfer to Nevada, Hughes should be well-positioned for a prime spot in Dambrot’s guard rotation going forward. Right?

Not so fast. Although Hughes played 34 minutes at Davidson and 28, 24 and 23 since, Dambrot has had Hughes on a fairly short leash. That may be because he sees Hughes’ humongous potential.

That same potential was on display late against Saint Joe’s as Hughes hit an important 3-pointer late in the game, and at Richmond in the form of five 3-pointers.

Dambrot sees it daily in practice. “I think the biggest thing with him is better conditioning, keeping it simple, practicing harder,” Dambrot said after the Davidson game. “He’s a high-level recruit, you know — he just has to be more consistent.”

3. Dukes will go as far as Sincere can Carry them

This was already evident to anyone who’s



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH SPORTS NOW

Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot looks on during DU’s meeting with Saint Joe’s on Saturday, Jan. 12. Duquesne won, 85-84.



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH SPORTS NOW

Freshman guard Sincere Carry (right) attempts to drive around a Saint Joe’s defender on Saturday, Jan. 12. Carry averages 11.8 points, 5.7 assists, 4.0 rebounds and 2.9 steals in 31.6 minutes a game for Duquesne.

watched Duquesne at all to this point this season. As early as the first few games of the year, Carry established himself as one of the pillars of this young Duquesne team, offering Dambrot outstanding energy and poise at the lead guard position as only a freshman.

Months later, Carry has cemented himself atop the Duquesne rotation, as well as the A-10’s Weekly Honor Roll (this past week, Carry was named to the list following a week that saw him score 18 points on .636 shooting in the Dukes’ two wins). Prior to the Richmond game, he led all freshmen nationally in steals per game.

At the beginning of every game, Carry’s the first one bringing the ball up the floor, and the first one ramping up the Dukes’ full-court efforts on defense. If Duquesne’s to continue to win A-10 games consistently, it needs for Carry’s effort to be just as consistent.

That shouldn’t be an issue. By no means is Carry Duquesne’s most talented player. He might be.

But, at this point, it’s clear he’s Duquesne’s most important player — and by a long shot.

Men’s Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Saint Louis	4-0	13-4	W5	1/18 vs. Saint Joe’s
2.	George Mason	4-1	10-8	W2	1/19 vs. Fordham
3.	Davidson	3-1	12-5	L1	1/19 vs. Richmond
4.	VCU	3-1	12-5	W1	1/19 vs. UMass
5.	Duquesne	3-1	12-5	W3	1/20 @ G. Washington
6.	Dayton	3-1	11-6	L1	1/19 @ St. Bonaventure
7.	Rhode Island	2-2	9-7	W1	1/19 @ La Salle
8.	G. Washington	2-2	6-11	W1	1/20 vs. Duquesne
9.	St. Bonaventure	2-2	6-11	L1	1/19 vs. Dayton
10.	Richmond	1-3	7-10	L1	1/19 @ Davidson
11.	La Salle	1-3	3-13	L3	1/19 vs. Rhode Island
12.	Saint Joseph’s	1-4	8-9	W1	1/18 @ Saint Louis
13.	Fordham	0-4	9-8	L5	1/19 @ George Mason
14.	UMass	0-4	7-10	L5	1/19 @ VCU

Women’s Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	VCU	4-0	12-5	W6	1/20 vs. Rhode Island
2.	Davidson	4-0	10-7	W4	1/20 vs. UMass
3.	Fordham	3-1	12-6	L1	1/20 @ Dayton
4.	Duquesne	3-1	9-8	W2	1/19 vs. Richmond
5.	Dayton	3-1	8-7	W1	1/20 vs. Fordham
6.	G. Washington	3-1	6-11	W3	1/19 vs. George Mason
7.	Rhode Island	2-2	7-9	W1	1/20 @ VCU
8.	UMass	2-2	10-8	L1	1/20 @ Davidson
9.	Saint Louis	1-3	6-11	L2	1/20 @ St. Bonaventure
10.	Saint Joseph’s	1-3	5-12	L1	1/20 vs. La Salle
11.	George Mason	1-3	9-8	W1	1/19 @ G. Washington
12.	St. Bonaventure	1-3	4-13	L2	1/20 vs. Saint Louis
13.	Richmond	0-4	3-14	L4	1/19 @ Duquesne
14.	La Salle	0-4	3-15	L6	1/20 @ Saint Joe’s

NFL conference champions to be set this Sunday

JACOB HEBDA
staff writer

The NFL Playoffs are generally thought to be one of the more unpredictable post-seasons in professional sports. However, in recent years, the top seeds have reigned supreme.

This year is no different. The four top seeds in the entire league — the Kansas City Chiefs, New England Patriots, New Orleans Saints and Los Angeles Rams — will be taking the field this Sunday looking for a trip to



COURTESY OF USA TODAY

Patrick Mahomes, pictured diving for the end zone's pylon against the Indianapolis Colts in the AFC's Divisional Round, will be tasked with slaying Tom Brady and the almighty Patriots this Sunday. New England topped Kansas City, 43-40, this past October.

Super Bowl LIII.

It's about what most expected, and it should make for a pair of entertaining games. Here's a preview of your Championship Sunday.

Los Angeles Rams @ New Orleans Saints (3:05 EST) —

After notching their first playoff win under Head Coach Sean McVay's tutelage, the

Rams travel to the Mercedes-Benz Superdome hoping to knock off the Saints.

This NFL season has featured unprecedented offensive firepower, largely thanks to these two teams.

Drew Brees, who turned 40 years old Jan. 15, has posted an MVP-worthy campaign in what could be his last shot at another Super Bowl. With All-Pro wideout Michael Thomas and a powerful running back duo in Alvin Kamara and Mark Ingram, this offense is dangerous.

What makes the Saints truly formidable, however, is their defense. After years of ineptitude on that side of the ball, this unit is no longer a liability. In fact, it's been a strength. Just ask the Eagles, who were held scoreless last week for the game's final three quarters.

The Saints are a complete team, but the Rams are one of the few opponents capable of keeping up with them.

Pro Bowl quarterback Jared Goff leads an offense packed with talent in the Big Easy. With Goff, first-team All-Pro running back Todd Gurley and skilled wide receivers Brandin Cooks and Robert Woods, the Saints' defense will be facing a stiff test.

The Rams' defense is also filled with big names, including likely Defensive Player of the Year Aaron Donald.

They've struggled against the run game, but after holding stud Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliot to 47 yards last week, the defense will have confidence going into this matchup.

There's also the McVay factor. He is one of the great young minds in football, and his scheming was a major reason why the Rams defeated Dallas so convincingly.

So, in many respects, this game is a toss-up. Both teams have the talent, coaching, and momentum necessary to win Sunday.

What could separate these evenly-matched groups are a couple of factors that are impossible to ignore.

Firstly, Brees is far more experienced than his counterpart, Goff. He's nearly twice as old as the Rams quarterback, and that disparity could show during this game.

With enough pressure, Goff can be rattled. There is no better example than L.A.'s visit to Chicago this past December. The Bears swarmed Goff, sacking him three times and hitting him another eight. The result? Four interceptions and a loss.

Being that the Saints rank sixth in the league when it comes to sacks per game, Goff could find himself in a tough spot.

Secondly, the Superdome is arguably the toughest place to play in all of sports. The Rams found this out firsthand back in November, when they fell to the Saints, 45-35.

New Orleans lost only two games at home this year, one of which was a meaningless season finale after clinching the NFC's top seed. Saints Head Coach Sean Payton and Brees are 6-0 together at home in the postseason.

There is no denying that playing at home is a major advantage for the Saints. Considering that factor, as well as the experience of Brees, I'll take New Orleans.

New Orleans def. Los Angeles, 38-35

New England Patriots @ Kansas City Chiefs (6:40 EST) —

There are many instances across professional sports where we pit a matchup as the battle between old and new, the present and future. It's a trite theme, but this showdown fits the bill perfectly.

Pat Mahomes, in his first full season as a starting quarterback, has taken the NFL by storm. He ranks first in touchdowns thrown and second in passing yards, only behind future Hall of Fame quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

He has produced at a high level individually, but also led the Chiefs to the No. 1 seed in the AFC. As a result, he stands as the frontrunner for NFL MVP.

Brady, meanwhile, is the reigning MVP winner. This season hasn't been quite at that caliber, but even at age 41, he continues to win.

The key matchup here will be the Kansas City defense against the New England offense. The Chiefs defense has attracted plenty of criticism this year, but when at Arrowhead Stadium, they're a completely

different unit.

Just look at the Divisional Round, where Kansas City held Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts to only one offensive touchdown en route to a 31-13 win at home.

If the Chiefs can keep Brady and company in check even slightly come Sunday, there's a strong likelihood they will represent the AFC in the Super Bowl. Andy Reid's offensive wizardry, combined with the talents of Mahomes and two more dynamic All-Pros in Travis Kelce and Tyreek Hill, is an ideal recipe for big-time points.

Kansas City scored at least 26 points in every game this regular season. They posted 40 when they traveled to Foxborough to play New England in mid-October. Offense won't be the issue for them. Finding a way to slow down the Patriots, however, is a different story.

There's also the Bill Belichick factor. Belichick, no matter the opponent, is always prepared. The game has changed massively since he took the job in 2000, but he's always managed to be ahead of the curve.

The Chargers found that out the hard way in the Divisional Round, as Belichick's team obliterated the Los Angeles defensive game plan in a 41-28 victory.

Much like the NFC Championship, this game should be closely contested.

In most cases, pitting a veteran quarterback versus a far less seasoned one, it would be easy to go with experience — especially when it's Tom Brady we're talking about. Mahomes, however, is the exception. At 23, he's already arguably the best signal caller in the league. In fact, he's better than Brady at this stage of his career.

Belichick and Brady, for all their playoff success, have a postseason road record of 3-4. Much like Kansas City, the Patriots' defense is worse away from home. With that in mind, it's not hard to imagine the unthinkable: Mahomes may vanquish the "Evil Empire" that is New England.

Nobody ever feels comfortable picking against the Patriots, but I'll take the Chiefs anyway.

Kansas City def. New England, 35-31

Longtime Pirates broadcaster Blass to retire after 2019

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Steve Blass' 60th season with the Pittsburgh Pirates will be his last in the broadcast booth.

The former pitcher announced Tuesday that 2019 will be his 34th and final year as a color analyst. He will step away as the longest-tenured broadcaster in team history. Blass will remain with the club as an alumni ambassador.

The 76-year-old Blass joined the organization after signing a professional contract with the club's affiliate in the Appalachian League in 1960. He made his major league debut with the Pirates in 1964 and spent a decade in the majors, going 103-76 with a 3.63 ERA in 282 appearances. The defining moment of his playing career came in the 1971 World Series when he pitched a four-hitter in Game 7 against Baltimore to lead Pittsburgh to a 2-1 win and the title.

"Sixty seasons with the Pirates, one organization in one city, I am so very proud of that. It ranks right up there with anything I have ever done on the baseball

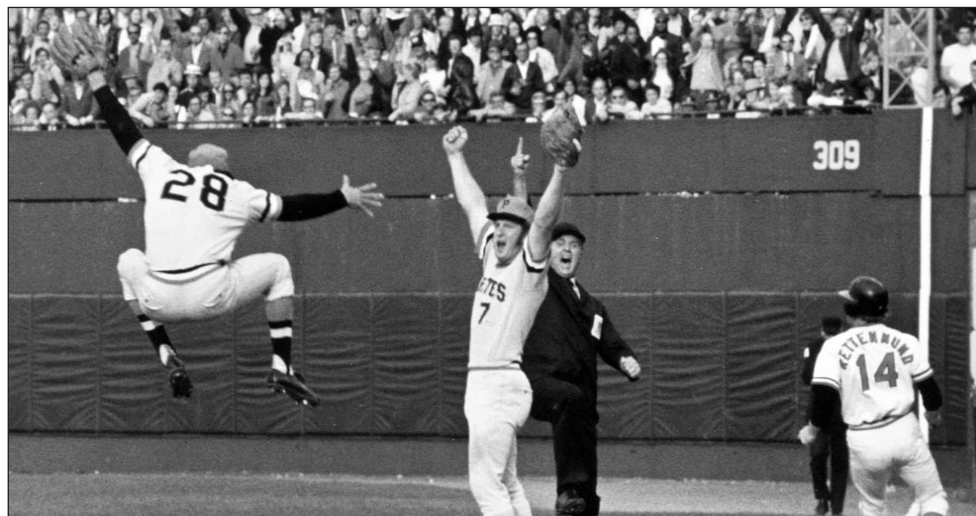
field," Blass said in a statement. "It has been a wonderful run."

Blass retired in 1975 after a baffling loss of control that became known as "Steve Blass Disease." He returned to the club as a part-time analyst in 1983 before joining the broadcast team on a full-time basis in 1986. His folksy delivery and penchant for sharing offbeat stories from his playing days became a fixture of broadcasts.

"Steve is as synonymous with Pirates baseball as anyone in the history of our organization. Steve leaping up into the air following the final out in his second complete game victory of the 1971 World Series is one of the most iconic moments in Pirates history," Pirates owner Bob Nutting said in a statement. "For 60 seasons, Steve has represented the Pirates with humility, grace, pride and passion. Words cannot express how appreciative we at the Pirates organization are for his dedication or how beloved he is and all ways will be."

The team will honor Blass throughout the season and is planning an on-field send-off

for Blass before the Pirates host Cincinnati on Sept. 28.



COURTESY OF MLB.COM

Pirates pitcher Steve Blass leaps into first baseman Bob Robertson's arms following the final out of the 1971 World Series. Blass led Pittsburgh to a Game 7 victory over Baltimore on Oct. 16, retiring the Orioles in the final inning to seal the title. It was Pittsburgh's second World Series title since 1925.

Brooklyn Nine-Nine returns on new home, NBC

OLLIE GRATZINGER
opinions editor

Last spring, fans of Fox's gold-hearted police sitcom went into mourning when the network announced the cancellation of *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*. Disappointed viewers lamented the loss of the show and eulogized its importance. In tackling issues like police brutality, racial profiling, corrupt prisons and anti-LGBT discrimination, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* became a gem among stones. After a handful of A-List names — Lin Manuel-Miranda and Mark Hamill, to name a few — took to Twitter to protest Fox's decision, talks began of another network picking up the show, and barely 31 hours later, NBC swooped in and saved the day.

Brooklyn Nine-Nine's NBC premiere dropped on Jan. 10, after a slew of promotions, trailers and treats from its new network. There's a reason the show was resurrected faster than Jesus; with a history of compelling characters, real-life plots and

storylines that teeter on the sweet spot between heartwarming and hilarious, Season 6 of *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* had a pretty big pair of shoes to fill. But fear not! Episode one, "Honeymoon," hit all the right notes.

Season 5 ended sweetly, after Jake and Amy tied the knot at a ceremony officiated by Captain Holt and decorated beautifully by the always-overzealous Charles Boyle. Holt received a letter whose contents had been a full season in the making — it would let him know whether or not he'd gotten the position of NYPD Commissioner, a title he'd been working toward for 30 years. Season 6 picks up exactly where its predecessor left off, in a bar with the squad gathered around their captain, whose characteristically unreadable facial expression gives no insight into what the letter says.

As it turns out, he was rejected. I wouldn't usually spoil such an anticipated bit of info, but "Honeymoon" revolves almost entirely around how Holt copes with his rejection. To sum it up,



COURTESY OF NBC
Jake Peralta (Andy Samberg) and Raymond Holt (Andre Braugher) in "Honeymoon."

he doesn't take it very well. He interprets it as not only a major personal setback, but a regression of the whole NYPD, as the man who did get the job was the old, conservative white man, John Kelly. Kelly's restrictive policies seek to bring back the power-driven and corrupt ideals that Holt — a black and gay policeman — fought avidly against.

The episode gets its title from the main plot, in which Jake and Amy celebrate their getting hitched with a trip to a small resort in Mexico. Going into Season 6, I had a few concerns regarding Jake and Amy's new status as a married couple. Too many shows fall into typical newlywed tropes, or worse yet, allow characters to change and become little more than so-and-so's husband or wife.

Fortunately, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* avoids the downward spiral, and when a dejected Captain Holt accidentally ends up at the same Mexican getaway, the pair responds in a typical Jake-and-Amy fashion: coming up with a plan to get Holt out of his funk, and then barely sticking to it in a

way sure to bring a laugh to even the most skeptical viewer.

The B-story, or subplot, will indulge anyone who loves Gina's wit or Boyle's awkward charm, and the C-story takes Sergeant Terry Jeffords out of his comfort zone and into a leadership position as Captain Holt's time off leaves Terry as the highest ranking officer at the Nine-Nine.

Rife with *Die Hard* references and subtly heartwarming moments, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* is still the same feel-good sitcom we've come to know and love. Switching networks changed only one thing, and that's the show's ability to use bleeps and blurs to censor excess profanity and nudity. If "Honeymoon" is any indication, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* will be taking full advantage of this little perk.

NBC drops Season 6's second episode on Jan. 17 at 9 p.m. Entitled "Hitchcock & Scully," the episode will feature Jake and Boyle digging up an old case from the 1980s, which was once investigated by the Nine-Nine's most senior (and useless) detectives.



COURTESY OF NBC

The series was picked up by NBC less than two days after its cancellation by Fox.

Death By Magic recreates fatal stunts

NEIL RUNGE
staff writer

Watch as a man takes possibly life-ending stunts to a whole new level. Netflix's new show *Death by Magic* is astounding and absolutely mind-boggling. It blends the genres of documentary and reality TV in a magical way.

Hosted by Drummond Money-Coutts, or DMC, is a professional magician who goes on a journey to learn about then test the limits of his illusionist skills in his new show.

Each episode starts in a new city, where DMC talks about a magician who died as a result of their own trick. DMC goes through the magician's deadly trick and does man on the street-style presentations of smaller, safer types of tricks that all build up to the finale at each installment.

From being nearly hit by a train



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Drummond Money-Coutts defies death and astounds audiences in *Death by Magic*.

in Cape Town, South Africa at the start of the show to tackling a spin on the Niagara Falls barrel stunt in Los Angeles, every stunt DMC pulls is an amped-up interpretation of a famous fatal stunt. DMC takes an already deadly event and somehow raises the danger and increases the risks.

Even the little tricks DMC pulls before the big finale are mind-blowing. What he does seems to defy all logic. The genuine reactions from the people he interacts with are entertaining and relatable.

The audience reactions aren't the only things that build up

Money-Coutts' authenticity in the series. After being buried alive or nearly drowning in water, DMC doesn't come out unscathed. He doesn't come out spotless or without a scratch — he gets drenched in water, cuts his hand, and, in the case of being buried alive, he came out covered in dirt.

DMC coming out harmed or at least dirty seems to erase any doubts that his stunts are faked. He doesn't hop up at the end of a performance with a huge flourish. Almost every time, he collapses in exhaustion before the people who just saw him complete a death defying trick.

Death by Magic still holds the dramatic flair of every magician's act. Alongside the flair, though, is a genuine show of tricks and stunts that leaves everyone watching stunned and questioning how someone could ever accomplish what DMC has.

WEEK'S EVENTS

A Little Night Music Auditions
Jan. 21 @ 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Jan. 22 @ 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Duquesne's Red Masquers are holding auditions for their production of "A Little Night Music" in the Genesius Theater. Participants are asked to prepare 32 bars of a song. Orchestra musicians are wanted as well.

Meet the Sororities
Jan. 17 @ 9 p.m.

The Panhellenic Council will once again hold this opportunity for prospective sisters to get acquainted with the different chapters at Duquesne.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Glass
Thursday, Jan. 17

This film, along with M. Night Shyamalan's previous works *Unbreakable* and *Split*, form a superhero trilogy, largely centered around David Dunn (Bruce Willis) and his superhuman strength.

Heard It in a Past Life
Friday, Jan. 18

Indie folk-pop artist Maggie Rogers debuts her third full-length album, her first on major label Capitol Records.

MICRO REVIEW

"Baby Hotline"
Jack Stauber

Pittsburgher Jack Stauber has found sizeable success with his electronic songs, paired with surreal, homemade VHS-quality music videos. "Baby Hotline" stands out from his other work as incredibly dense — the lyrics read as brief, disconnected, abstract vignettes. The video, a combination of different styles of animation and heavy effects, parallels this perfectly. Though an undeniably insane piece, "Baby Hotline" is 40 seconds of pure absurd mastery.

— Josiah Martin

The 15:17 to Paris proves not everyone can act (or direct)

GRIFFIN SENDEK
staff writer

For every Oscar-winning masterpiece, there are 100 more god-awful films. 2018 had its share of cinematic works of art, but it had its share of films that were nearly unwatchable as well.

The world was graced with what I believe was the worst film of 2018 in early February. From the creative mind of the once western movie hero and now Hollywood director, Clint Eastwood, came *The 15:17 to Paris*, a film which unequivocally is a dumpster fire projected onto the silver screen.

I had originally planned on reviewing this 94-minute disaster upon release, but got severely sidetracked by sudden hospitalization. Could it be that this movie was so bad it caused my spontaneous organ failure? Probably not, but I won't rule it out.

The 15:17 to Paris is the film adaptation of the true story of Aug., 21, 2015, when three Americans stopped the attempted terrorist hijack of a train en-route to Paris, likely saving the lives of everyone on board. I won't argue the merits

and titles of the three friends as heroes. That being said, this film does not serve them justice.

Eastwood decided that no one could tell the story of these three friends — Spencer Stone, Anthony Sadler and Alek Skarlatos — better than themselves in his movie, and the three real-life heroes star as themselves in this flick.

Much like the movie itself, this is an interesting concept in theory, but it fails in execution. Its biggest problem arises from the fact that none of these three men have any acting experience, and putting them in front of a camera did not magically change that fact. It is surprising how well they did given the circumstances, but their inexperience is still evident throughout and severely weighs down the film.

The climactic terrorist-stopping event which *The 15:17 to Paris* centers around took place start to finish in only a matter of minutes. Stretching a 15-minute sequence into a full-length movie is obviously impossible. Therefore, Eastwood extends the run time by including moments of the three men's childhoods, jumping to their adult life with a large portion dedicated to their vacation across

Europe.

I understand the need to flesh out who Stone, Sadler and Skarlatos are, and the idea of showing how seemingly-insignificant decisions and events in our lives can lead us to be in the right place at the right time is executed well enough. Unfortunately, all of those sections are horribly dull and feel like unnecessary padding.

The story and characters aren't the only things which were dull. Nearly the entire film is blandly and incoherently shot. The heavy use of handheld camera throughout appears to have been an attempt to replicate a realistic feel of the film. This is yet again another interesting idea that fell short. When the handheld cameras are used, they are distracting, and their absence is jarring and does not feel consistent to the rest of the film.

The 15:17 to Paris feels like a film that was quickly thrown together without any thought, communication or any comprehensive theme or style. The movie is chock-full of moments that are utterly painful to watch. Out of nowhere, the film features one of the worst and most unnecessary training montages



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES
Clint Eastwood chose to use the real-life heroes of the incident as actors.

that I have ever seen put to screen. Also, a scene in an Amsterdam nightclub looks like an honest attempt to try something new and different but ultimately feels entirely vacant of meaning.

For a movie that is relatively short, *The 15:17 to Paris* feels remarkably long to watch. The pacing is just so dreadfully slow and the content surrounding the train sequence is so brain-numbingly dull that the movie is practically unwatchable.

The one saving grace of this film is the train sequence, spliced in four-or-five moments throughout, before coalescing near the end. This scene, or collection of scenes rather, appears to have had the

most thought and work put into it. Comparing it to the rest of the film, it is almost as if it was made by a completely different director. There is intensity, emotion and suspense, it showcases the best acting from the three leads and its cinematography demonstrates consistency and coherence. Unfortunately, one good scene chopped up into four or five little bits cannot salvage an otherwise awful viewing experience.

Clint Eastwood has made great films in the past, and I expected far better from him. Hopefully one day he is able to make a film that can redeem himself, but until then, do yourself a huge favor and do not watch *The 15:17 to Paris*.

On the Basis of Sex: a fitting tribute to the Notorious RBG

KAILEY LOVE
editor-in-chief

After a year filled with more viral love for Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg than ever before, the "Great Dissenter" made her way to the silver screen (for the second time, following the 2018 documentary *RBG*) in the biopic film *On the Basis of Sex*, wide released on Jan. 11.

Nationwide fascination with Ginsburg exploded in 2013 when one of her fiery dissents inspired the creation of her online persona, "Notorious RBG." Internet memes, merchandise, *Saturday Night Live* depictions by Kate McKinnon and a documentary film were just a few results of her expanding popularity. *On*

the Basis of Sex is just the latest product of the public's infatuation with the Supreme Court Justice.

Written by Daniel Stiepleman, Ginsburg's nephew, the film follows Ginsburg (Felicity Jones) through her early career and her struggle to find work in the legal field in addition to all of the other professional obstacles she had to endure because of her gender, all inspired by the true events from her life. This culminates into the climax of the film — the first case that Ginsburg argued that dealt with gender discrimination, which became the first step in reversing the age old precedent that prevented the existence of gender equality in the law.

On the Basis of Sex opens with the perfect establishing shot to encapsulate the focal point of the film — the fight for



COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES
Felicity Jones stars as Ruth Bader Ginsburg in her early years, studying and practicing law.

gender equality — as a sea of young men walk to their first day of classes at Harvard Law School as the Harvard fight song plays. In the midst of all the men is one woman, our heroine, RBG, who was only one of nine women admitted to Harvard Law out of approximately 500 men that year.

Though the film's main plot ultimately revolves around the case that jump started Ginsburg's legendary career, what truly shines through in the movie is the depiction of Ginsburg's boundless perseverance and ambition. In setting the stage for the case, the audience follows Ginsburg through her struggles with the institutionalized sexism and misogyny that she built her entire career on trying to end.

Another element of the film that captivated audiences was the depiction of the relationship between Ginsburg and her husband, Marty (Armie Hammer). As the nationwide fixation on RBG continued to build, as did the obsession with the Ginsburg's marriage. The couple was married for 56

years, and were well-known for their equal partnership and deep love for one another, which was exemplified fantastically in the film by Jones and Hammer.

One of my favorite parts of the film came early on, following Marty's unexpected cancer diagnosis. In his final year of law-school at Harvard and physically unable to attend any of his courses, Ginsburg took his place in class in order to ensure that he would graduate on time, taking notes and typing up essays that he dictated to her. In addition to Marty's work, Ruth still attended all of her own Harvard law classes, completed her own coursework and cared for her sick husband and their three-year-old daughter, all while still maintaining her status at the top of her class.

Based on the true events from the early years of their marriage, this not only shows the strength of their relationship, but the strength, ambition and pure intellectual prowess of Ginsburg. It is no wonder that she earned the title of Notorious RBG.



COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES
Ruth Bader Ginsburg excelled in her classes while also attending her sick husband's classes.

Most Americans blame president for shutdown

STAFF ED — from page 4

furloughed government workers, and 420,000 still working without pay. This also doesn't take into account the government contractors that are also affected by the shutdown. This had led to a spike in workers filing for unemployment in order to supplement the absence of income. By the third week of the shutdown, approximately 2,300 federal workers throughout Pennsylvania have filed for unemployment, as reported by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Meanwhile, Trump just hosted a fast food feast extravaganza in the White House State Dining Room that has exploded into an Internet meme for the

ages (which, unfortunately, is the most productive thing he has accomplished in weeks).

The effects of this shutdown are clearly widespread, and growing. According to Pew Research Center, 58 percent of Americans think the shutdown is a "very serious problem," and a Washington Post/ABC poll revealed that 53 percent of Americans blame the president. Degrading the quality of life of government workers who serve the public in exchange for an impossible campaign promise that only serves Trump's ego is not the behavior of a leader, let alone any rational person. The shutdown cannot go on for another week, let alone months or years.

Shutdown brings suffering

SHUTDOWN — from page 5

suffering, and it's only going to get worse if the shutdown continues into next month. Even though the government can't come up with an effective compromise, a shutdown was not the best way to push the agenda.



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