Read the Arts & Entertainment section writers’ picks for the best films, television, 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 surprised us! Check them out below and on A3.

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

The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel season 2 continues to follow aspiring comedian Midge Maisel (Rachel Brosnahan) in her life at home and on stage as she continues to make a name for herself. The show, which ended up in the future. past awards and is sure to win more in the future.

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.

Spider-Man, PS4
Neil Runge, Staff Writer

The swinging is good. Repeat: the swinging is good. That’s one of 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 a story that involves Peter Parker who’s now older but still bary being a hero. He runs into a litany of villains from the comics, some familiar like Doc Ock and some that might not be as well known like Mister Negative. This is a just a diverse cast of villains. The playable characters aren’t just limited to Peter and Spider-Man. Many missions in the game are devoted to playing as Miles Morales and Mary Jane, making this game not just a swinging filled action game but this film finally tries something almost an annual event at this point, delivering a story that moves the plot through suspense and tension. 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, unswerving 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 in 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.

Love, Simon
Claire Neilberg, 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 over all message of the film is that “everyone deserves a great love story” leaving the audience filled with hope and a greater sense of acceptance.

Celeste
Griffin Sendek, Staff Writer

Celeste is a game that completely and utterly kicked my butt this year, but one I could not put down. For those who are unaware, Celeste is a tough-as-nails 2D platformer in which you control a girl named Madeleine on her quest to make the dangerous climb to the top of Celeste mountain for no reason other than proving she can. Every step of the way, you are met by obstacles and people telling you that you will never make it. Madeleine perseveres, striving to make the treacherous climb higher and higher no matter how difficult it gets. Celeste has some of the tightest 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 deciding missing within modern games and was a pleasant surprise to find in Celeste.

RBG
Kaitly Love, Editor-in-Chief

RBG dives into the life of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her rise beyond legal stardom into a nationwide household phenomenon 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, among other things. The movie 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 deciding missing within modern games and was a pleasant surprise to find in Celeste.

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**Sorry to Bother You**

Nell Range, 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 saturated, but not to the point of being unpleasant. It is meant to be bright—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?" (Video)

Kevin Sheppard, Staff Writer

Thank you, Ariana Grande, for the "Thank U, Next" music video. We appreciate it. 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, 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, Victoria Justice plays Lindsay Lohan’s character; Cady Heron. We love to see a Nickedelon 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 Drummmond, 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. Okay, girl. Not going too far 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 f*cking good!

Not going too far up, the same fabric. It may have only been seven months 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!

In Fina We Trust

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 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 album, but what I consider the best album of 2018. Featuring well-known artists such as Tyler, The Creator, the Gorillaz, and Kori 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 Amy Winehouse and Alicia Keys, but that does complete disservice to Kali Uchis’ 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 songs and sounds 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. Not going to lie, 2018 was a wrecked year for me life, it gave me immortality. So please watch this music video, and it not only gave me life, but it all works so well. *Sorry to Bother You* is something that feels completely original from start to end.
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 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
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 sound with the electric guitar and is not Sandra Bullock’s exploded upon “Stars Out of Five,” but even those two main songs with any real music. This album is very piano sound with the electric guitar and was something totally off the path. 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 sound with the electric guitar.

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 a 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, 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.

“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 both on the same day 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 unoriginal 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 start. 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.
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.

Duquesne community mourns the loss of nursing student

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 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.

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

see DYSON — page 3

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...
We want your input!

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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).

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

Liza Zulick

“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 1971, by 1989 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 luncheon 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 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.**

**OPINION**

**JOIN THE DUKE!**

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Policing duquesne

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 returned full 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 several items missing.

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 underaged DU student was involved in a DUI related crash on fifth Ave. The student was uninjured and several items missing. He was 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, parphenalina 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 way to learn your lesson, I guess. So buckle up, Sister PB has quite the ride for you today.

Samantha Zapach

I was so excited to go to the Duquesne University’s Eastern Conference over the weekend. We were able to bring back a lot of knowledge and experiences that we can use in our future careers.

On the first day, we had a lecture on the history of Duquesne and its development. We learned about how Duquesne started as a small college and how it has grown into the university it is today.

Later that day, we had a workshop on writing effective letters. We learned how to structure a letter and how to make our writing clear and concise. This was a great opportunity to practice our writing skills.

On the second day, we had a session on research methods. We learned about different types of research and how to design a study. This was a very helpful session.

Finally, on the third day, we had a role-play activity on decision making. We were able to practice our decision making skills in a fun and interactive way.

Overall, the conference was a great opportunity to learn and network. I look forward to attending more conferences in the future.

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“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 1971, by 1989 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 luncheon 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 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 include overseeing operations in marketing, digital and emerging media, public relations, senior communications and brand 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 what our 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 the community,” 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 communication in all forms in fostering 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.

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 25th 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 addressing his border security in that period. They are seeking signatures on a letter spelling out the plan.

Trump rejected that approach earlier this week, saying he didn’t have the time to get 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 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 shy on the right,” 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 former 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 reopens.

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.
OPINIONS

Winter Break Be Like...

Ahh... It's Good to be home...

Alright sport, Get shovelin'!

I can't wait to get back to the blues!

Cartoon by Robert Gwiazda

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. Enscribed 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 and despised. 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, railing with 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*thole 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 deportation of those attempting to enter the U.S. have fundamental disagreements on. In this instance, President Trump is at the mercy of Congress. 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've flown 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, Energy, 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
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 for 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 did not 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 LGBTQ 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 Congress includes the first two Native American women, four new LGBTQ 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 the government’s inability to communicate 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 was to be passed on Dec. 21. The $3.7 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 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 it common sense to care more about 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 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.
New semester brings new activities on campus and beyond

Ollie Gratzinger
features editor

ow 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 getting free things?

Duquesne Program Council (DPC) kicks off the Spring Film Series with Crazy Rich Asians, showing on Thurs., 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 D’UNites 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 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 #newyearme 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.

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 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 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 freshman forwards Gabe 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 1 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 Titian 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 on-ball defense opposite Wildcat star Kelan 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 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

On Jan. 5, in the first half of Duquesne’s Atlantic 10 opener at Davidson, sophomore guard Sincere Carry (right) attempts a week that saw him score 18 points 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 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 6-of-9 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.
NFL conference champions to be set this Sunday

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 the hard way 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 England 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, second in passing yards, only behind Drew Brees, who turned 40 years old Jan. 28.

Brees, meanwhile, is the reigning MVP and second in passing yards, only behind Mahomes. Being that the Saints rank sixth in the league when it comes to sacks per game, Brees can be disruptive.

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.

Evil Empire” that is New England. Nobody ever feels comfortable picking against the Patriots, but I’ll take the Chiefs anyway.

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.

Kansas City def. New England, 35-31

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.

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.

Pirates broadcaster Blass to retire after 2019

The Pirates will honor Blass throughout the season and is planning an on-field send-off for Blass before the Pirates host Cincinnati on Sept. 28.

For 60 seasons with the Pirates, Blass is a living legend. The Pirates ordered him to retire last season, so he could do it on his own terms.

“Sixty seasons with the Pirates,” 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 Blassing.”

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Brooklyn Nine-Nine returns on new home, NBC

OLIVIA GRATZINGER

ast 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 storieslines 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 6 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 his 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, 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, and 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 deceased 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 indigulate anyone who loves Gina’s wit or Boyle’s awkward charm, and the C-story takes Sergeant 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.

Death By Magic recreates fatal stunts

NEIL RUNGE

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 the lost skills 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 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 ampied-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 defying 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 DMC’s 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.

Death By Magic

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

Incapable of Death

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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 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 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, so 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.

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

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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.

STAFF ED — from page 4

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