



Do-nut worry, plenty to go around



CARISSA HASLAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

President Ken Gormley handed out donuts to students in the Student Union on Monday Jan. 28 as a way to kick off the semester. Prior to being in the Union, President Gormley was at the Hogan Dining Center handing out donuts.

DU cancels classes for weather

HALLIE LAUER

news editor

At 7:43 a.m. on Jan. 30, the university sent out a tweet announcing that classes would be cancelled, but offices were open for next two days. All colleges and universities in Allegheny County announced a closure for Wednesday Jan. 30 and some will also be closed Thursday Jan. 31.

According to the university's website, the decision to close must come from the president. Although classes were cancelled, it was still required that essential personnel report to the university.

On Tuesday Jan. 29, a petition started circulating the student body for the school to close Wednesday and Thursday. At the time of publication it had 2,859 signatures, with 30.6 percent of the student-body having signed.

There was no indication that the petition had influenced the administration's choice to cancel classes.

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Duquesne professor helps children at risk for asthma

KELLEN STEPLER

staff writer

A Duquesne University professor is heading up a program designed to help kids who live in high risk areas for asthma.

Jennifer Elliott, an associate professor in the Duquesne Mylan School of Pharmacy, is teaming up with Pediatric Alliance physician Deborah Gentile to implement school-wide asthma screenings for students. The program aims to ensure that any child found with asthma gets the care and education they need to manage the condition.

Funding from the Breathe Project of the Heinz Endowments and the Jefferson Regional Foundation made this project feasible for schools interested.



CARLEE EVANS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The South Allegheny, Clairton, Northgate and Woodland Hills school districts, along with Propel-Hazelwood charter school, implemented the screenings in September as part of a back-to-school process.

A four-question survey is given to parents that will help determine if their child has asthma, and if so, if it can be controlled by medication.

A previous study conducted by Elliott and Gentile found that asthma is especially prevalent in western Pennsylvania. The study, based at Allegheny Health Network, found that of more than 1,200 western Pennsylvania school children, 24 percent suffered from asthma. The nationwide average is 8.3 percent, as reported by the Center of Health

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POLICE BRIEFS

The cold musta scared everyone straight. Very little crime this week. Y'all make sister PB proud (and my job much easier). For those of you who stayed in, here are the offenses that happened this past week.

On Jan. 25, marijuana was confiscated from a student in Brottier Hall. They were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Jan. 26, Duquesne police responded to a call to the third floor of towers concerned an intoxicated male. When the police arrived he was alert and responding to questions, so DuPo let him go back to his room, after of course, referring him to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Jan. 28, a student reported damage to his unattended car which was parked in the Locust Garage.

That's it for this week! I'm proud that everyone is being so good. Now bundle up and stay warm!

JOKE CORNER!

Q: What's an ig?

A: A snow house without a loo!

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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.

At risk children screened for asthma at their school

ASTHMA — from page 1

Statistics.

Out of 2,338 children screened in the program this year, 526 of them are expected to screen positive for asthma and of those, 315 will have poorly controlled asthma.

Additionally, the study found that asthma was more common in African-American children, and those on public insurance.

Children with asthma experience their lungs and airways becoming inflamed when exposed to triggers, such as inhaling airborne pollen, or catching a cold or the flu. Another trigger of asthma is air pollution.

Elliott also found that asthma is one of the top causes as to why kids miss school.

According to Elliott in a Duquesne press release, "Asthma is one of the top causes of missed school days, which can have a negative impact on a child's ability to learn, be active and develop healthy peer relationships."

"In past studies, we've found that approximately 15 percent of parents may not even know that their children have asthma. School-based screenings can help ensure children with asthma receive the treatment they need earlier to live healthier lives," Elliott said.

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Clairton community in particular has a heightened awareness of air quality and air pollution. The nearby U.S. Steel Clairton Coke Works is often cited as the major source of sulfur dioxides and airborne particulate matter emissions that exceed federal standards in the Mon Valley.

Recently, Mon Valley residents were urged to limit outdoor activity due to air quality concerns after a Dec. 24 fire at Clairton Coke Works.

All 820 students in the Clairton school district, from elementary to high school, will be screened for asthma in this program.

If a child's asthma is not controlled or diagnosed, parents are advised to see their primary care doctor. If they don't currently have a primary care doctor, the program will provide one.

In the earlier study, Dr. Gentile told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that asthma cases declined in the Northgate School District after the closing of DTE Energy's Shenango Coke Works in 2015.

Additionally, the 2018 State of the Air report, compiled by the American Lung Association, scored Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania poorly for air quality. Pitts-



COURTESY DUQ.EDU

Jennifer Elliott is a clinical pharmacist specialist with the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh as well as the director of the pediatrics concentration at Duquesne. In her studies she found that many parents don't know their children have asthma.

burgh, Lancaster, Johnstown-Somerset and Philadelphia were the Pennsylvania regions listed as the top 25 for most polluted areas by "year-round particulate pollution."

"The screenings mark the beginning of a larger push to make asthma screenings available for all schools in the Pittsburgh region and eventually Pennsylvania," Elliott said in a press release.

Cold weather prompts closure

WINTER — from page 1

In Duquesne's history of 140 years, it seems that closing do not happen frequently.

A professor in the media department, Mike Dillon, said that he could "recall it happening once." Dillon has been a professor at Duquesne for 21 years.

Adam Wasilko, head of Freshman Development and Disability Services, recalled the university "fully closed for a couple days in a row in February of 2010."

Schools across the Midwest and Pennsylvania were closed for below average temperatures.

With the windchill, meteorologists predicted temperatures dropping to 21 degrees below zero in Pittsburgh this week as part of the Arctic Blast that has been sweeping across the U.S.

At that temperature, boiling water can be thrown in the air, and before it hits the ground it will be frozen.

In temperatures this cold it is best to remain inside, but if you must go outdoors, try to have as little exposed skin as possible.

DU professor gets first fiction novel published

LIZA ZULICK
staff writer

After 10 years in the making, John Fried published his very first novel, *The Martin Chronicles*.

Fried is an associate professor in the English department at Duquesne. He teaches creative writing, but currently, Fried is teaching at Duquesne's campus in Rome.

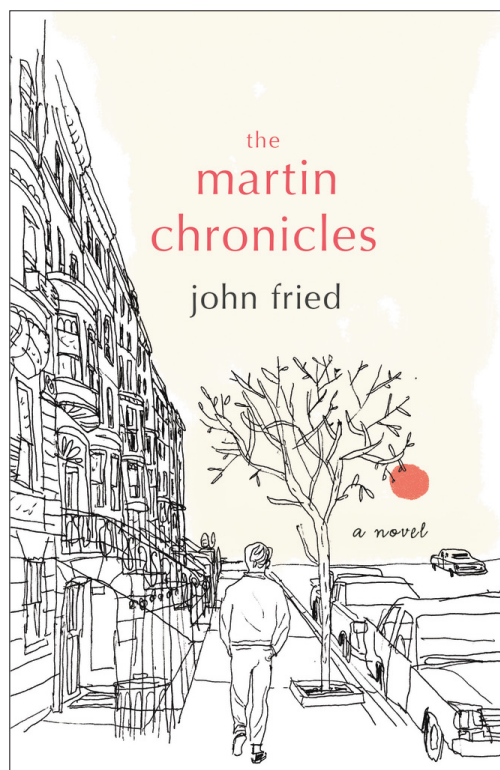
Published in January 2019 by Grand Central Publishing, this novel, which first started as a series of short stories, hit the shelves to tell the story of Marty Kelso, a young boy growing up in Manhattan.

The story takes place in New York City and revolves around Marty's coming of age. The novel walks through his life in the 1980s from ages 11 to 17 and follows him on a journey through his first kiss, first love, first enemies and first death.

The most important lesson Marty learns is that the world is not as safe and sound as he originally thought it was. Written through the eyes of Marty, readers are able to see what it is truly like to live as a young boy, experiencing all of the hard and important moments in his young life.

"I'm originally from New York City, but the book is not a memoir. I draw on my experiences as a kid growing up there, but the story is fiction," Fried said.

Although *The Martin Chronicles* was Fried's first novel, he has published many other pieces, mostly short stories. Working as a magazine writer, he has been published in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Rolling Stone*, *Real Simple* and other works. He has also published many short stories in different journals, which



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Fried's first novel is a classic coming of age, loosely based on his own experiences growing up in New York City. The novel is currently available in hard or soft back, Kindle edition or as an audio book.

is where the story of Marty started. The chapter "Birthday Season" from his novel first appeared in *Columbia: A Journal of Literature and Art*.

"After, I wrote a bunch of other stories, but I

kept coming back to Marty as a character and wrote [and published] two more stories. That's when I started to see there might be a whole book following Marty through his adolescent and teen years," Fried said. "I never started a story knowing exactly what was going to happen. Rather, it's always best when I feel the character takes over and becomes his own person."

In order to publish his novel, first, he found an agent to look for a publishing company for his novel. From there it was smooth sailing, and his novel quickly went through the editing process.

Stephen Chbosky, author of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, called Fried's book "a beautiful debut. *The Martin Chronicles* transforms a series of adolescent snapshots into a raw, unforgettable mosaic."

The artwork on the cover of the novel features a young boy walking through a colorless big city. The only thing colored is a large apple that hangs from a tree. Although Fried did not have a lot of control over the cover, he is happy with how it "captured the youth of the character" and also feels "timeless."

"In terms of giving advice, I would just say that this book took me a long time to write. Nearly 10 years. So the key is to persevere and keep working on your project, even when you get discouraged or frustrated," Fried said. "There were a lot of times when I wasn't sure if I could finish it or if it was any good. But you have to just keep going on and believe in your project. The most successful writers I know are the ones who just refused to give up."

Fried's book can be bought on Amazon or at johnfried.com.

Rockwell renovations to continue on the sixth floor

LUKE SCHRUM
staff writer

As technology and business continue to evolve and advance, the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business has been striving to match and exceed the pace of change. Through continued renovations on Rockwell Hall, home to the School of Business, it looks to maintain and further its competitiveness against other business schools and in the outcomes of its graduates.

Renovations on Rockwell Hall have been ongoing since 2013, when projects began to modernize the class space in the building, floor by floor. Floors 3, 4 and 5 have already been renovated, but the project set to begin later this spring on the sixth floor is larger in scale, according to Jennifer Grab Milcarek, program director of the Investment Center in the School of Business.

"The last major renovation for the Investment Center was more than 15 years ago, but enrollments have kicked up over the last 10 years," Milcarek said.

The need for more functional classroom and lab space in Rockwell is the result of years of program growth. The age of the program also presented a need for modernization.

"Our Investment Center was established in 1998, one of the first five in the nation, and the age of the equipment and space usage isn't conducive to efficient learning," Milcarek said.

Donations and grants totaling more than \$7.5 million will help to entirely transform



MEGAN KLINEFELTER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A poster hanging in Rockwell Hall shows the future plans for the sixth floor, which include a small café.

the sixth floor — primarily the Centers of Excellence in business ethics, investment management and sustainable business innovation will see change. Much of the funding for the renovations has come from outside sources which will allow for the implementation of new programming.

"A lot of the new spaces have been named or sponsored and there are many new programs that will be able to happen with the new facilities and funding," Milcarek said. "Our Student Managed Investment Funds and Duquesne Asset Management Group have been working with and cultivating

funds in different focus areas for decades," she added.

The renovations will primarily affect business students, but much of the new equipment is cross-curricular for students interested in what the centers have to offer.

"One of our hallmarks is that we're not just for finance students, we have management marketing, ethics, graduate, undergraduate ... any student can come in and we'll show you how to use the software. The experience is open to any business major, but many students in other majors have an interest in investing and the business side

of their future profession," Milcarek said.

"I think the renovation will brighten up a space that's uninviting and create a new area that will promote more student networking," freshman business major Stephanie Rosendale said.

The sixth floor is also the location of the Rockwell Hall Skywalk, which connects the building with the Bluff. As the skywalk is a major point of entry for Rockwell, the renovation project plans to rebuild the skywalk and create an atrium space to welcome students and visitors to the building and center of the School of Business.

Though renovations to the sixth floor will be comprehensive, project completion is scheduled for late summer to mitigate the effect of construction on students.

"The timeline for finishing is late August or September, but our operations will be moved to the fourth floor and we have contingency plans if the renovation gets behind schedule," Milcarek said.

Reflecting on the projects at Rockwell Hall that have been and will be completed in the near future, Milcarek believes the space will better represent the School of Business and its graduates.

"We're at the starting gate and being held back by the space we're in. We have lots of opportunities for things we can do after the renovation. The space isn't as important as what you're doing well, but the space should reflect what is being done well," Milcarek said.

Apple busts Facebook for distributing data-sucking app

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple says Facebook can no longer distribute an app that paid users, including teenagers, to extensively track their phone and web use.

In doing so, Apple closed off Facebook's efforts to sidestep Apple's app store and its tighter rules on privacy.

The tech blog TechCrunch reported late Tuesday that Facebook paid people about \$20 a month to install and use the Facebook Research app. While Facebook says this was done with permission, the company has a history of defining "permission" loosely and obscuring what data it collects.

"I don't think they make it very clear to users precisely what level of access they were granting when they gave permission," mobile app security researcher Will Strafach said Wednesday. "There is simply no way the users understood this."

He said Facebook's claim that

users understood the scope of data collection was "muddying the waters."

Facebook says fewer than 5 percent of the app's users were teens and they had parental permission. Nonetheless, the revelation is yet another blemish on Facebook's track record on privacy and could invite further regulatory scrutiny.

And it comes less than a week after court documents revealed that Facebook allowed children to rack up huge bills on digital games and that it had rejected recommendations for addressing it for fear of hurting revenue growth.

For now, the app appears to be available for Android phones, though not through Google's main app store. Google had no comment Wednesday.

Apple said Facebook was distributing Facebook Research through an internal-distribution mechanism meant for company employees, not outsiders. Apple has revoked that capability.

TechCrunch reported separately Wednesday that Google was using the same privileged access to Apple's mobile operating system for a market-research app, Screenwise Meter. Asked about it by The Associated Press, Google said it had disabled the app on Apple devices and apologized for its "mistake."

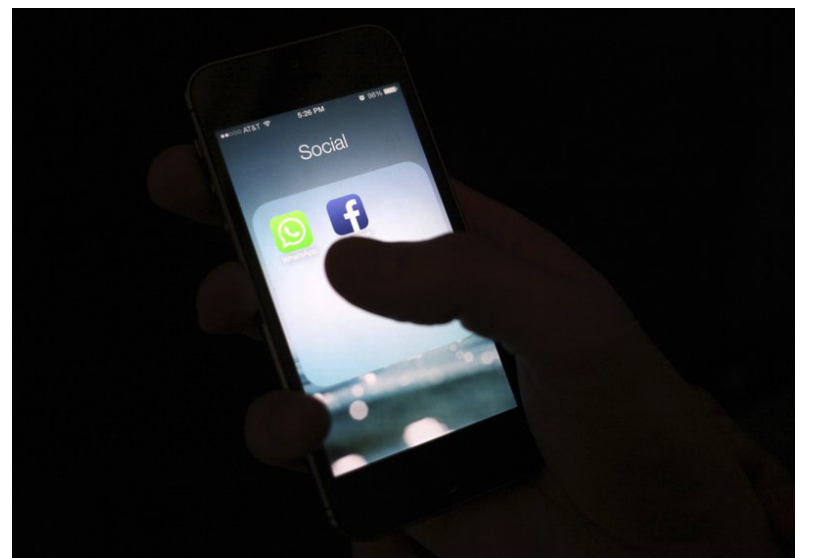
The company said Google had

always been "upfront with users" about how it used data collected by the app, which offered users points that could be accrued for gift cards. In contrast to the Facebook Research app, Google said its Screenwise Meter app never asked users to let the company circumvent network encryption, meaning it is far less intrusive.

Facebook is still permitted to distribute apps through Apple's app store, though such apps are reviewed by Apple ahead of time. And Apple's move Wednesday restricts Facebook's ability to test those apps — including core apps such as Facebook and Instagram — before they are released through the app store.

Facebook previously pulled an app called Onavo Protect from Apple's app store because of its stricter requirements. But Strafach, who dismantled the Facebook Research app on TechCrunch's behalf, told the AP that it was mostly Onavo repackaged and rebranded, as the two apps shared about 98 percent of their code.

As of Wednesday, a disclosure form on Betabound, one of the services that distributed Facebook Research, informed prospective users that by installing Facebook Research, they are letting Facebook collect a range of data. This includes information on apps users have installed,



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when they use them and what they do on them. Information is also collected on how other people interact with users and their content within those apps, according to the disclosure.

Betabound warned that Facebook may collect information even when an app or web browser uses encryption.

Strafach said emails, social media activities, private messages and just about anything else could be intercepted. He said the only data absolutely safe from snooping are from services, such as Signal and Apple's iMessages, that fully encrypt messages prior to transmission, a method known as end-to-end

encryption.

Strafach, who is CEO of Guardian Mobile Firewall, said he was aghast to discover Facebook caught red-handed violating Apple's trust.

He said such traffic-capturing tools are only supposed to be for trusted partners to use internally. Instead, he said Facebook was scooping up all incoming and outgoing data traffic from unwitting members of the public — in an app geared toward teenagers.

"This is very flagrantly not allowed," Strafach said. "It's mind-blowing how defiant Facebook was acting."



THE DUKESNE DUKE

113 College Hall
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

editorial staff

editor-in-chief Kailey Love
news editor Hallie Lauer
opinions editor Ollie Gratzinger
features editor Griffin Sendek
a&e editor Josiah Martin
sports editor Adam Lindner
layout editor Madison Pastrick
photo editor Katia Faroun

administrative staff

adviser Paula Reed Ward
ad manager Madison Pastrick
email us: theduqueduke@gmail.com

"Weather update:
Classes are cancelled for Wednesday, Jan. 30, and Thursday, Jan. 31."

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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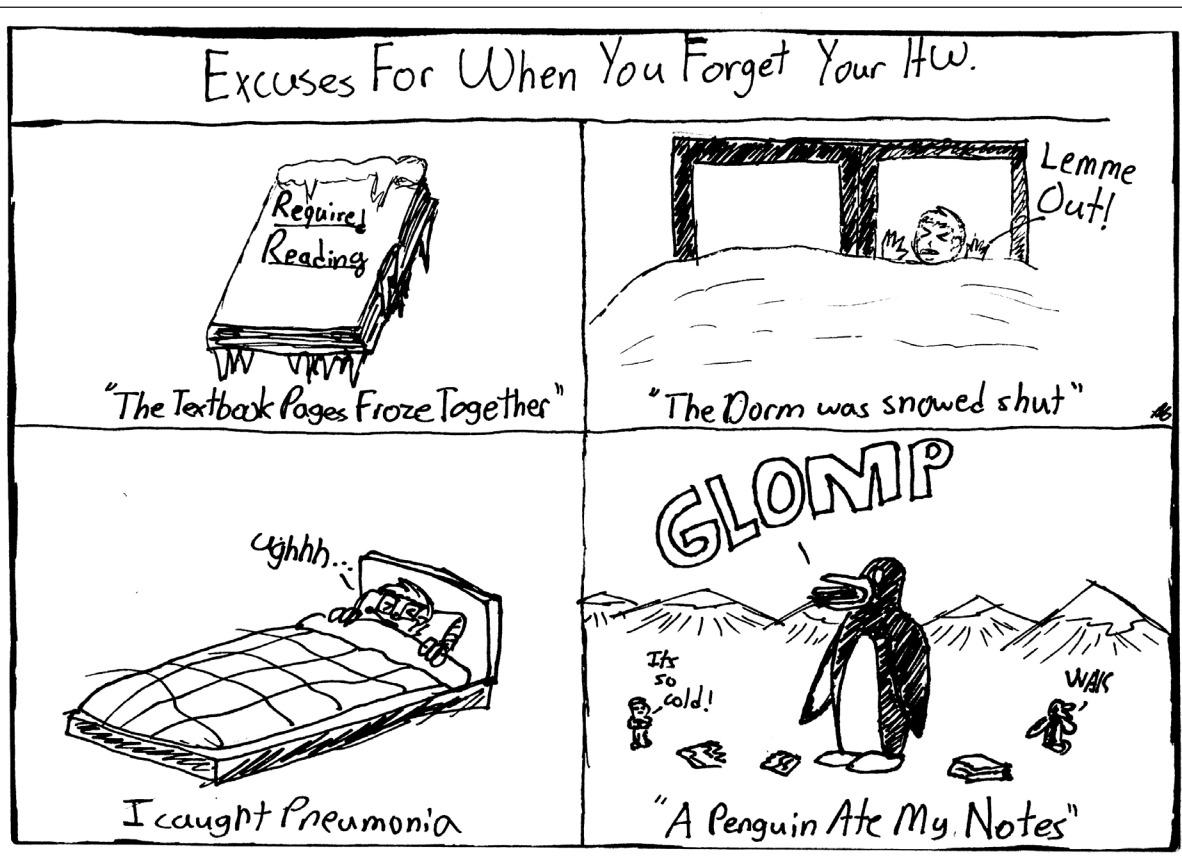
Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer's name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to *The Duke* office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduqueduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The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

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

Contact

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CARTOON BY ROBERT GWIAZDA

in focus...

Assault of Jussie Smollett proves yet again that bigotry still prevails

OLLIE GRATZINGER

opinions editor

In the early hours of Tuesday morning, while the Northeast and Midwest prepped for stunning bouts of cold, something even more chilling than snowfall and winter winds took place on the streets of Chicago. Jussie Smollett, known for his role as musician Jamal Lyon on Fox's *Empire*, was attacked in what the city's police department is calling a possible hate crime.

Smollett, who is African American and, like his character on *Empire*, identifies as gay, reported that he was attacked by two men wearing ski masks after leaving a fast-food restaurant. According to a statement from the Chicago Police Department obtained by the New York Times, the attackers used racial and homophobic slurs against him, poured an unknown liquid over his skin and attempted to tie a noose around his neck before Smollett was able to fight them off.

It was also reported that Smollett told police his attackers said, "This is MAGA country," referencing Trump's campaign slogan, though that remains unconfirmed.

Senator Kamala Harris took to Twitter with a message echoed by Senator Cory Booker: "This was an attempted modern-day lynching." Harris went on to tweet, "We must confront this hate,"

and I think she's right.

It's 2019. We pride ourselves on the progress we've made as a society and quickly dismiss talk of racism and bigotry as relics of times long past. But to do so is to exercise privilege; members of marginalized groups — among them, the black and LGBTQ+ communities — are all too aware of the intolerance, prejudice and very real dangers that not only still exist, but often prevail in places all around the U.S. Hatred isn't just something that pollutes rural towns cut off from the merits of diversity,

but rather something that invades even major cities in which diversity thrives. From the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh to the "modern-day lynching" of a gay black man in Chicago, bigotry is everywhere, and therefore, it's everybody's problem.

What happened to Jussie Smollett represents a disturbing social trend marked by a rise in right-wing extremism, white supremacy and intolerance. Of course, many would argue that we can't blame the president for the actions of two awful civilians, but we can blame the rhetoric of the administration for providing those civilians with a platform, for enabling them, for making them feel validated in their hatred.

Instead of condemning the attack as a blatant racist and homophobic incident — there's no "possible" about it — Trump tweeted, mocking

"Global Warming [sic]," and advocating for his border wall. Words matter, and the words those in power choose to say — or not say — can influence the actions of the public. The administration's silence and passivity could easily be mistaken for acceptance or tolerance, and that sets a very, very dangerous precedent.

It's difficult for someone who hasn't been part of a marginalized group to understand the way the world of the minority differs from the world of the majority. It's a string of subtle differences that are hard to name, but easy to spot. A lingering stare at a bus stop, for a heterosexual white man, would probably mean very little. But for a black person, an LGBTQ+ person, an immigrant, a Jew, a Muslim or anyone who doesn't fit the archetypal "American" mold, the same stare evokes a fight-or-flight response, a fear of getting hurt.

For the majority, the story of Smollett's assault comes from a distant place, a reality removed from their own. Sure, they might find it upsetting, scary or otherwise horrid. But for the minority, it's a terrifying actuality, a reminder that no matter how far we've come, there are still people in our communities who advocate for sameness and prejudice, who feel compelled by their ideology to commit acts of violence against the innocent. And, by extension, there are still people in positions of power who refuse to call hate by its name, who refuse to address the presence of bigotry because to do so would mean admitting their own guilt.

It's 2019. It's time that we, as a society, grow up.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Low temperatures spark climate change debate. Again.

As temperatures dip to record lows in Pittsburgh and across the Midwest, residents are warned to avoid leaving their homes. Schools and universities have cancelled several days worth of classes in anticipation of the below-zero wind chills (including Duquesne, albeit late with their 8 a.m. cancellation on Wednesday morning). And, of course, the alarm bells of climate change are ringing through the bitter winds sweeping the Northern states.

However, despite concern about extreme cold conditions, the president still seems to have difficulty differentiating between climate and weather.

"In the beautiful Midwest, windchill temperatures are reaching minus 60 degrees, the coldest ever recorded. In coming days, expected to get even colder. People can't last outside even for minutes. What the hell is going on with Global Warming? Please come back fast, we need you!" Trump said in a tweet on Jan. 28 (also notably misspelling the word "warming").

This general misperception about what weather is and what climate is has become widespread, reaching far past the Oval Office, and is not a new phenomenon under the Trump Administration. You may recall the February 2015 stint in which Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) brought a snowball to the Senate floor as proof that global warming was only a hoax, after 2014 was declared the warmest year on record.

While these misspelled tweets and general ignorance of basic scientific facts can be comical, the fact that a large percentage of the lawmakers in our nation simply do not believe in climate change due to the fact that it snows or temperatures dip below zero is really no laughing matter. According to a report released in October 2018 by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we only have 12 years to completely overhaul our global energy infrastructure in order to limit the long-term impact of global warming.

Though climate change has been widely covered throughout our Opinions section over the years, as the frigid wind plagues the Bluff this week, here are some fast facts that help explain how "Global Warming [sic]" factors into the record setting temperatures we're experiencing.

A tweet from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration featured a graphic explaining the cold front, detailing the process in which warmer ocean temperatures create an excess of moisture in the air, fueling the creation of the polar vortex. They captioned the graphic, "winter storms don't prove that global warming isn't happening."

According to the New York Times, "heat records have been broken twice as often as cold records in the United

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OPINIONS

China: Not the savior we wanted, but the savior we need

ALEXANDER WOLFE
staff columnist

Although Russian Orthodox Christmas was Jan. 7, Vladimir Putin continues to get presents beyond the second \$3,000 jumpsuit I'm assuming he asked for. The American government just ended a month-long shutdown, the European Union seems to be foaming at the mouth to humiliate Theresa May and the Treasury Department appears to be lifting sanctions on yet another Russian oligarch. As retired General Michael Hayden once said, Vladimir Putin is like the child at Thanksgiving who wants to sit at the adult's table, but rather than grow himself, he saws the legs out from under his parent's table until it's short enough for him. Unfortunately for the adults and fortunately for the Russians, no one seems to be able to stop the rising tide of dissatisfaction among the citizens of Western democracies.

Of course the world will continue to turn, we have Mackenzie and Jeff Bezos to thank for that, but the collapse of Western institutions cannot be solved with sole executive power.

Their survival depends on the maintenance of global cooperation between the world's leading nations. Yet while the weary titans of the West continue to falter, the ambitions of their eastern counterparts continue to grow, mainly due to the aggressive diplomacy of the hemisphere's hegemon: China.

Aggressive diplomacy sounds like an oxymoron, but the truth is quite the opposite. China has simply devoted staggering amounts of money toward courting developing nations. The most outwardly aggressive form of Chinese diplomacy is known as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Put simply, China is trying to establish a new, global silk road, with Shanghai at its epicenter. With this in mind, Chinese investment in African and Latin American coastal nations begins to make more sense. Whether or not the U.S. should welcome China as the new economic hegemon is another matter, but the fact remains; Chinese grand strategy for the past decade has been designed to expand its dense web of international trade.

But how does this play into the conflict between Russia and the West? Like China, Russia's goal involves the

expansion of its trade networks, but this expansion is regional, an effort to secure its oil trade with EU nations. The key is Russian oil. Russian oil accounts for more than 60 percent of its exports and comprises 30 percent of its GDP; therefore, the health of Russia hinges on the price of oil. So, one sly way of overcoming Russian influence would be to decrease the value of oil, forcing Russia to quickly cut back on its military and covert escapades. This was proven to work in 2014, as hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale allowed the U.S. to export enough oil for half the international price. Around that time, the Russian economy fell into a so-called crisis, and the Russian stock index dropped by 30 percent between June and December of that year.

Another way to decrease the international value of oil would be through the proliferation of cost-effective renewable energy. Coincidentally, the largest investor in renewable energies (as of 2017 and assuming we can trust the numbers) is China, outspending the next-largest investor, the U.S., by about 300 percent. China reported investing \$126.6 billion compared to the \$40.5 billion reported by the U.S.



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

Whether intentional or not, the absurd amount of Chinese government spending in the renewables industry may drive the Russians out of business. It's no secret that the next economic boom will be in green energy, and that economic revolution will begin when renewable energy becomes profitable enough to outpace oil. Assuming rare earth minerals aren't discovered in Siberia, Russia will be out of business when the world quits oil and natural gas.

It may seem ridiculous, but China

will be the savior for the West, crippling Russian energy exports and thus crippling Russian expansion against the West. In this, China will propel itself to superpower status, sidelining a major political thorn and acting within the interests of international institutions. The liberal in me wants to believe that the interests of the world will align with the interests of the Chinese government, and against Russia this seems to be the case. Of course, until the Chinese decide otherwise.

Democratic Party hopefuls ample in numbers, varied in policy

TIMOTHY RUSH
staff columnist

While the government trekked through its longest shutdown in history, democratic presidential hopefuls didn't put their announcements of candidacies and exploratory committees on hold.

With less than two years until the presidential election, the Democratic Party has had a surge of declared candidacies and committee formations. Announced candidates include Tulsi Gabbard, John Delaney, Kamala Harris, Julian Castro and Andrew Yang. Those who have formed their exploratory committees include Elizabeth Warren, Pete Buttigieg and Kirsten Gillibrand.

As one can see from this list, these are a lot of candidates. Certainly, one has plenty of choices from the names coming from various factions of the Democratic Party. But there are still potential candidates who have expressed interest in running for president. Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has voiced interest and is expected to run, Beto O'Rourke and Former Vice President Joe Biden have had much support behind a potential candidacy, and there are still many others.

I'm left to ask that with all these choices, could there be such a thing as too many? I know that the value of choice is incredible, but can too many choices hurt democratic candidates of all factions of the party?

Take the progressive faction of the Democratic Party, the one which admittedly I fall into. We are fairly represented in the pri-



COURTESY OF NBC NEWS

Many names have been tossed around regarding who will or will not be running for the Democratic nomination in 2020. Some fear that Democrats could lose if multiple candidates divide the voter base.

mary by Gabbard, Warren, Harris and Yang. Those are four candidates from just that faction, five if we throw in Bernie Sanders. Lots of choices, but a lot of them support the same policies with very minor differences between them: Single-payer healthcare, raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, the legalization of marijuana, decreased military spending, LGBTQ+ rights, and so on.

The only one that really goes beyond the others is Andrew Yang, who is building his campaign on the idea of a universal basic income, in the same vein as how Bernie Sanders built his campaign on single-payer healthcare.

With so many similar candidates, I have come to fear that such similarities with little deviation will result in a simple splitting of the votes based on the popularity of those candidates. In the way most primaries run, our system could result in all of these candidates having votes split

between each other, and weakening their faction's potential for having a Democratic nominee.

Not only that, but when you have all these candidates competing to be the nominee, they're all going to have to prove how they're better than the other. Do we not all remember the absolute bloodsport that was the Republican primary of 2016? When you have candidates that share similar policies, it often ceases to be a competition of ideas and instead a competition of personalities. And the last thing we need as Democrats is to tear each other down in preparation for the general election where there must be a thoroughly united front against Trump.

This is why I must say that, even though I was an ardent supporter and worked for his campaign, I do not want Sanders to run for president. I do not want Biden to run. I do not want Michael Bloomberg, Cory Booker, Beto O'Rourke or any others to

run. We have a healthy enough competition with what's here, without bringing in more Democrats with the same ideas as those already in it to muddy the waters more than they are.

Centrists and Blue Dog Democrats have Gillibrand and DeLaney. Berniecrats have Gabbard and Yang, and more moderate progressives have Warren and Harris. We are all fairly represented in the current landscape, others like Sanders and Biden don't need to run. We already have very powerful candidates in this field that represent many different Democrats.

Instead, why don't many of these would-be candidates throw their support behind the already-announced candidates. Sanders, instead of announcing his candidacy, should support a candidate that he strongly aligns with. Combine our powers, unify factions into cohesive fronts that can convince the American people. These factions are going to be stronger united behind a few candidates than dividing themselves amongst various personalities with little real differences. This goes for any of the sub-groups of the Democratic Party; let us unite behind what we share instead of tearing each other down for simple aspirations of being the candidate to beat Trump.

If we unify instead of divide, the Democratic Party has a much better opportunity of defeating Trump in the general election. More importantly, the various factions of the party have a better platform of getting their message to the American voters.

Connected Though Music concert promotes unity as part of Founders Week

KRYSTINA PRIMACK
staff writer

We take pride in the familiar story — more than three centuries ago in France, the Spiritans began as a group of Catholic missionaries that chose to forgo aspirations of prestige in favor of ministering to the poor and disadvantaged. Later, here in the U.S. in 1878, the Spiritans and Rev. Joseph Strub of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit founded Pittsburgh Catholic College, which, of course, was officially renamed Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit in 1911.

Since its earliest days, our school has thrived upon the Spiritan ideals of service to the Catholic Church, the community, the nation and the world. Theirs is a ministry that aims to promote a sense of selflessness that continues today. Therefore, each year in late-January/early-February, Duquesne University hosts Founders Week, a series of events in a university-wide celebration to honor our Spiritan roots. This week serves as a time to highlight the Spiritan origins and integral contributions to our institution, as well as their vision, values and legacy.

This year, the Founders Week theme has been Companions on the Journey.

As the official event summary



KRYSTINA PRIMACK/STAFF WRITER

The Connected Through Music concert showcased music from many cultures.

states: “Walking with one another is a concept that is deeply rooted in the Spiritan tradition...We are called by our Catholic Spiritan Heritage to walk not as individuals, but as a community rooted in love, patience, and trust...We are called to be companions to one another on the journey.”

Other Founders Week events have included A Journey In My Shoes: Sacred Conversations on Race, Interview with a Spiritan Lunch Edition and Feast of Feast Days Give Away. A complete list of remaining events, times and locations can be found online by searching “Duquesne Founders

Day 2019,” and are posted on bulletin boards across campus. RSVP is required for some events.

One way that campus communities and the Spiritans have celebrated the Founders Day theme thus far has been through the unifying power of music. They did so on Jan. 28 with a world-music concert entitled *Connected Through Music*. Presented by Dr. Joseph Sheehan of the Mary Papert School of Music, this concert featured instrumental pieces and vocal ensembles to represent China, Colombia, Brazil, Benin, Ghana and Argentina.

In keeping with the theme of companionship, each musical piece was chosen not only to illustrate the diversity that Duquesne values as an institution, but to share music from different cultures and different places around the world with the audience.

“I just tried to choose repertory that I thought was interesting to play and that represented a wide variety of countries and cultures. And I also asked a couple of graduate students, and two of them that got back to me were from Colombia so that’s why we did a piece from Colombia,” Sheehan said of the decision-making process that went into building Monday evening’s program.

Beginning the concert by representing China, special guest performer Yang Jin played the traditional Chinese song “The River on a Spring Night” on the pipa, a four-stringed instrument similar to the lute. Jin also played “Spring in the Tianshan Mountain” and “Theme from Schindler’s List,” alongside Samuel Boateng and Joseph Sheehan on percussion and piano, respectively.

Graduate students Maria Hincapie Duque, flutist, and Harold Gómez, clarinetist, played a lively song entitled “Jorge Humberto (Pasillo)” to represent Colombia.

Representing Brazil and Benin together, guitarist Anthony Am-

broso, bassist Jason Rafalak, percussionist Peter Roduta and Sheehan on piano played “Retrato Em Branco E Preto,” which translates to “Black and White Portrait.” The group also played “Benny’s Tune.”

Later, to represent Ghana, vocalist Maya Brown and pianist Samuel Boateng joined the group with their renditions of “Anoda Day” and “Nana Ere Ba,” songs reminding the audience to live life to the fullest. Additionally, this ensemble played Boateng’s own “The Movement So,” another lovely song set to the melody of “The Way You Look Tonight.”

For the finale, the musicians gathered to represent Argentina with the song “Libertango.” This song choice closed out the evening with a note of joy, something to leave the audience with the positive sentiments of togetherness that are such foundational aspects to the Founders Week theme of Companions on the Journey.

This year’s *Connected Through Music* concert served as an excellent occasion to promote unity and diversity, as well as to exemplify the rises and falls of life’s journeys. As the Rev. Raymond French observed at the event’s introduction, music provides a way to connect us all, through the good times and the bad. As such, the Founders Week concert reminds us of the Spiritan legacy of working together for the common good.

Gallery Crawl showcases excellent Pittsburgh artists

GRIFFIN SENDEK
features editor

Pittsburgh’s celebration of art returned last Friday with Gallery Crawl in the Cultural District. Featured works ranged from paintings, photography and abstract sculptures, to dance, light shows and glow-in-the-dark creations.

While some of the galleries are open for multiple days, others were only available for the single night. Gallery Crawl and its one-night-only tradition has solidified a spot in Downtown Pittsburgh events that need to be attended by all art lovers. If you happened to miss it last Friday, don’t be too upset, for Gallery Crawl will be returning in April with all new and unique art.

I began my night in the Trust Arts Education Center, following the crowded staircase up three floors and stepping foot in the Glow Gallery. Upon entry, I was greeted with hip-hop beats from the DJ and floral-patterned multi-colored canvases on the walls. From the ceiling hung what looked like a bright green stuffed oval, floating beside a neon orange ball painted with a spiral. All the artwork was illuminated by black lights lining the entire ceiling of the venue.

The large crowd had formed around the left-most wall, carrying an assortment of multi-colored sharpies. They decorated what was called the “graffiti wall.” Everyone in the room wanted to make their own addition; many signed their names, others wrote inspirational messages and some created their own designs. Two giant black lights aimed at the wall made every little addition pop out among the black background.

The other half of the room was scattered with couches and beanbags to rest on to while watching various neon glowing balloons frantically blowing around by a row of fans.

The Glow Gallery was an excellent first stop, but I did not have time to sit for the rest of the night. I exited the Glow Gallery and went up a

floor to the Radiant Hall Studio Artists.

The hall was an open space allowing more than a dozen artists to showcase their work. This was home to a lot of exquisite paintings, and several artists were working on new pieces in real time. The center of the floor was a sculpture of a rather strange amalgamation of items strewn about. The piece was intriguing, but did not capture my interest for long.

My personal favorite of the floor was artist Oreen Cohen’s demonstration of her work. Cohen laid out a giant piece of paper on the floor and worked with a mixture of charcoal and black paint, scribbling a seemingly random series of markings all across. Cohen was rolling all over the paper as she created her piece; her hands, feet and clothing were absolutely covered in charcoal. Watching the process made me appreciate the product so much more.

I left the hall and made my way across the cold street to the Wood Street Galleries, which had a line almost out the door. The first of Refik Anadol’s exhibits was, from my short glimpse inside, a small room that seemed to be covered with bright moving stars from every angle. It had nearly an hour wait, however, so I elected to skip it and move upstairs instead.

Anadol’s second exhibit was a room filled to the brim with fog. In the room was a single bright light on one wall creating sharp lines through the mist. On the ceiling were three more lights shining down, creating different series of squares on the floor. The lights, paired with robotic and electronic sound effects created an engulfing futuristic atmosphere. Anadol’s light show was captivating and one of my favorite part of the Gallery Crawl.

I stopped by the Emmanuel Fine Art Photography Gallery and saw some beautiful nature and cityscape photos printed onto large panes of glass. Additionally, a local artist had set up a canvas within the gallery for every guest to make



GRIFFIN SENDEK/FEATURES EDITOR

The Glow Gallery’s “graffiti wall” allowed guests to add their own designs, one of many Gallery Crawl events.

some small addition.

DanceFilm, an exploration, combined the art of dancing with the art of film to make some of the most unconventional and surreal films that I have ever watched.

One of the biggest highlights of Gallery Crawl was the exhibit 10 Futures. Showcasing 10 different artists all with unique styles and mediums, 10 Futures held the greatest variety of the entire night’s events. Home to some extraordinarily strange art, this exhibit had cinderblocks made out of hair, plastic birds trapped inside hexagonal cages and a multi-colored brain with a plant sprouting out the top.

My favorite of the exhibit was none other than “Portmanteau” by Maybe Jairan Sadeghi. “Portmanteau” consisted of several pedestals with what looked like science experi-

ments of strange alien life.

Along with the pedestals was an unceasing video of two doctors conducting surgery on what appears to be a patch of the moss. As they cut into the moss with a scalpel, out came this strange gooey substance. Multiple people saw roughly two seconds of the video and abruptly turned away, but some, like myself, could not help but stay to watch the whole thing.

I cannot adequately describe what it was that I enjoyed so much about this piece; I think it was just that it was so new and different from anything I ever have seen before.

Attending Gallery Crawl was a fantastic experience that was well worth facing the cold January weather. I, without a doubt, will be returning to the Cultural District in April for the next Gallery Crawl.

MLB teams, players locked in free agency standstill

DAVID BORNE
staff writer

In most sports-related labor conflicts between players and team owners, it's very difficult for me to side against the players. At the end of the day, the players are the ones that are putting their bodies on the line and helping the owners reach a profit by doing so. This stagnant MLB offseason, however, has me feeling differently. Team owners and general managers are tired of handing out massive contracts to players and seeing little on-field reward for doing so, and I could not agree with them more.

During the last decade, we've seen teams hand out massive — almost insane — contracts to players like Alex Rodriguez, Albert Pujols and Miguel Cabrera, just to name a few. These players signed contracts worth around \$250 million for durations of about eight to 10 years.

Each of those deals went the same way. The players produced for two or three seasons after signing, and then began to dra-

matically decline while continuing to cash massive paychecks.

While Rodriguez is now retired, Pujols and Cabrera are still inked to the contracts they signed in their heyday. The pair played just a combined 155 games last season while making a total of \$60 million. Yikes.

On top of that, borderline play-off teams have been quick to hand out massive money to free agents, just to finish the year missing the postseason or with a quick first-round exit.

Finally, teams are tired of it. Gone are the days where teams will quickly agree to expensive, decade-long contracts for just a few productive seasons. They've also realized that there is no incentive for spending a fortune just to win 85 games anymore, and they couldn't be more correct in their approach.

Should generational talents on the free agent market like Manny Machado and Bryce Harper have been able to work out a deal by now? Yes. Of course they should have. Will they eventually be signed to huge contracts? Yes,



COURTESY OF WTOP
Bryce Harper, shown above following the 2018 Home Run Derby in Washington, D.C., is arguably the game's top free agent this offseason.

they will. But the players that have signed expensive deals before they failed to meet expectations and let names like Bryce Harper and Manny Machado down.

Some players and player representatives have screamed "collusion." They seem to want to believe that the owners have all come together, and have collectively agreed to not sign free agents as a way to drive market prices down significantly.

It isn't collusion, though. Teams are just finally becoming smarter with their money. Players and agents have pushed around owners for years, and now the owners are refusing to meet their insane demands. The owners have been burned by bad deals so many times and are tired of it.

So here we are as baseball fans, in a similar situation that we were last year around this time. The free agent pool is still filled with a group of disgruntled quality players, with less than a month until pitchers and catchers report to Spring Training.

It's not a great look for Major League Baseball, and from a fan's perspective, it isn't the slightest bit exciting. Especially in comparison with the energetic off-seasons that other leagues like the NBA and NHL have. But again, the players have nobody to blame

but themselves.

If MLB players want to continue to sign massive contracts when they reach free agency, they have to begin to prove they are worth the money.

Once Harper and Machado eventually find their new homes, they will have to remind owners that spending big money is worth it by backing up their mammoth sized contracts on the field. If they don't, the new trend of teams being unwilling to spend will become a permanent change.



COURTESY OF NY POST
Jenny Mejia, pictured with the New York Mets, was once banned for life by MLB. Now, he's reached a deal with Boston on a minor league deal, before other marquee free agents have found homes.

KDKA calls Tom Brady cheater in graphic; employee fired

(AP) — Tom Brady is not a beloved figure in most places outside New England, but Pittsburgh has to rank high up there in terms of disliking the five-time Super Bowl winner.

And after a TV station in Steelers Country ran a graphic on Monday that called Tom Brady a "known cheater," the station fired the employee responsible for the gag, Sports Illustrated reported.

The station in question is KDKA, Pittsburgh's CBS affiliate. The employee was not identified, but it's pretty certain he bleeds Steeler black and gold.

"While fans are entitled to have personal opinions, we have a journalistic responsibility to provide unbiased reporting," KDKA told SI.com in a statement. "The graphic that appeared Monday violated our news standards. The individual who created the graphic no longer works for KDKA-TV."

Brady served a four-game suspension at the start of the 2016 season for his role in the "Deflategate" scandal a year and a half earlier. Brady and the NFL went back and forth in court for more than a year before Brady decided not to press his appeal as far as the Supreme Court.



COURTESY OF AWFUL ANNOUNCING
Above: A screen-grab of the graphic.



COURTESY OF USA TODAY
One of 2019's most sought-after free agents, Manny Machado, pictured during the 2018 World Series with the Los Angeles Dodgers, has yet to find a new home.

Men's Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	This Weekend
1.	George Mason	7-1	13-8	W5	2/2 @ VCU
2.	Davidson	6-1	15-5	W3	2/1 @ St. Bonaventure
3.	Dayton	6-2	14-7	W2	2/2 vs. Duquesne
4.	VCU	5-2	14-6	W1	2/2 vs. George Mason
5.	Duquesne	5-2	14-6	L1	2/2 @ Dayton
6.	Saint Louis	5-2	14-6	L2	2/2 @ Rhode Island
7.	Rhode Island	4-3	11-8	L1	2/2 vs. Saint Louis
8.	St. Bonaventure	4-3	8-12	W2	2/1 vs. Davidson
9.	La Salle	2-4	4-14	W1	2/2 @ Richmond
10.	G. Washington	2-5	6-14	L3	N/A
11.	Saint Joseph's	2-6	9-12	L2	2/2 vs. UMass
12.	UMass	1-6	8-12	W1	2/2 @ Saint Joe's
13.	Richmond	1-6	7-13	L4	2/2 vs. La Salle
14.	Fordham	0-7	9-11	L8	N/A

*STANDINGS
ACCURATE
AS OF
JAN. 29.

Women's Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	This Weekend
1.	VCU	6-1	14-6	W1	2/3 @ Saint Joe's
2.	Davidson	5-1	11-8	W1	2/3 vs. La Salle
3.	G. Washington	5-2	8-12	W2	2/3 @ Saint Louis
4.	Dayton	5-2	10-8	W1	2/3 @ Rhode Island
5.	Duquesne	5-2	11-9	L1	2/3 @ Fordham
6.	Fordham	4-3	13-8	L1	2/3 vs. Duquesne
7.	UMass	3-3	11-9	L1	2/3 @ Richmond
8.	George Mason	3-3	11-8	W3	2/3 @ St. Bonaventure
9.	Saint Louis	3-4	8-12	L1	2/3 vs. G. Washington
10.	St. Bonaventure	3-4	6-14	W2	2/3 vs. George Mason
11.	Saint Joseph's	2-5	6-14	L2	2/3 vs. VCU
12.	Richmond	2-5	5-15	W2	2/3 vs. UMass
13.	Rhode Island	2-6	7-13	L4	2/3 vs. Dayton
14.	La Salle	0-7	3-18	L9	2/3 @ Davidson

Patriots, Rams set for battle in Super Bowl LIII

JACOB HEBDA
staff writer

Two weeks after one of the most controversial NFL Championship Sundays in recent memory, Super Bowl LIII is slated to take place on Feb. 3 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

The Los Angeles Rams, beneficiary of a crucial missed call late in the NFC Championship game, will be battling the New England Patriots.

Normally, the conference title matchups

start Rams and dynastic Patriots ready to go to battle.

All controversy aside, these two groups are inarguably two of the best in football.

Despite what seems to be dearth of roster talent, the Patriots continue to win thanks to the play of quarterback Tom Brady and coaching of Bill Belichick.

At age 41, Brady remains the NFL's most consistently great player. Even after a regular season that incited some doubts about the Patriots, Brady has the franchise right back to where we're used to

than the sum of its parts, the Rams possess a roster crammed with stars. Defensive lineman Aaron Donald and running back Todd Gurley are 2018 First Team All-Pro, quarterback Jared Goff is a dark horse MVP candidate, and that's just the tip of the iceberg. With names like Brandin Cooks, Robert Woods, Ndamukong Suh, and Aqib Talib, Los Angeles has a deeply talented supporting cast.

The players aren't the only stars of this showdown though, as Belichick and Rams coach Sean McVay are two of the league's premier coaches.

With five Super Bowls, Belichick is among the most accomplished football coaches in history.

McVay, on the other hand, is just setting out on what should be a prosperous career. The innovative wunderkind has transformed the Rams from a perennial laughingstock into a true contender in just two seasons.

With a win, Belichick would be the oldest Super Bowl-winning head coach ever. If McVay and Los Angeles take the Lombardi, though, he would be the youngest to do so.

There is at least one crucial matchup that will play a significant role in determining which of those records is set — Tom Brady versus Aaron Donald.

The greatness of Brady is undeniable, but even he can struggle under defensive pressure.

One of the biggest reasons why Brady so frequently thrashes defenses is because said defenses are unable to get into the backfield and rattle him.

The Los Angeles Chargers registered no sacks against New England in the Divisional Round, a game in which the Patriots scored 41 points.

Kansas City Chiefs defensive coordinator Bob Sutton was fired days after the team's

37-31 loss to New England in the AFC Championship. What did the Chiefs defense have in common with the Chargers from the week before? No sacks.

All of this is to say Brady will pick apart a defense if he has the time to. Against the Rams though, that's a big if.

With 20.5 sacks this season, Donald is poised for back-to-back Defensive Player of the Year honors. If the Rams win, it'll almost certainly be because Donald had a big game.

The Patriots are the epitome of a team that doesn't beat themselves. Los Angeles will need to exploit every possible advantage they may have, and it starts with rushing the quarterback.

This is the key matchup in a game full of them. Can renowned Rams defensive coordinator Wade Phillips concoct a plan to contain veteran Patriots pass catchers Julian Edelman and Rob Gronkowski? Will Goff be able to locate his receivers against a strong Patriots secondary? Is it Belichick or McVay that wins the battle of wits?

This will be a clash between some of the most skilled players and coaches in the NFL.

Plenty of NFL viewers are undoubtedly frustrated that New England is in another Super Bowl, but here's some good news — in each of team's eight previous Super Bowl appearances, all eight were decided by a single score. So, especially considering the quality of these two teams, it's fair to think that Sunday's game will be a thriller.

Perhaps against my better judgment, I'll take the Rams. Donald and Suh are arguably the best pass-rushing duo New England has faced all year. The Patriots' interior offensive line is solid, but I expect Donald and Suh to disrupt Brady's offensive rhythm and give Los Angeles the upper hand for a 31-28 win.



COURTESY OF USA TODAY

Aaron Donald, pictured in a game versus Syracuse during his time at Pitt, anchors a Los Angeles Rams defense that hopes to disrupt New England quarterback Tom Brady on Sunday.

are a distant thought by the time the Super Bowl arrives, but not this year.

Poor calls are commonplace in all sports, but a blatant pass interference penalty that wasn't called against Rams defensive back Nickell Robey-Coleman has continued to steal many of the pre-Super Bowl headlines.

Nevertheless, here we are, with the up-

seeing them.

The duo of Brady and coach Bill Belichick will be making its ninth Super Bowl appearance. They have had more visits to the championship game than any franchise in the league, except for, of course, the New England Patriots.

Whereas the Patriots are a team greater

Jackie Robinson once faced a Kyler Murray-like decision

(AP) — In the middle of this week-long celebration of football leading up to the most popular sporting event in America — the Super Bowl — a year-long celebration of the 100th birthday of arguably the most important athlete in American history will begin.

He didn't play football.

But he could have and may have wound up one of the all-time greats.

Jackie Robinson's 100th birthday is Thursday, and Major League Baseball will celebrate the centennial with a series of events throughout the year to commemorate the ballplayer who changed the game and American culture as the first black player to break baseball's color line, taking the field with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

But Robinson faced a Kyler Murray-like decision to play professional football or baseball, like the choice the Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback is facing now.

Then again, his choices were limited and more complicated, since at the time black players were denied the opportunity to play major league baseball or in the National Football League.

He was a heralded college athlete, first at

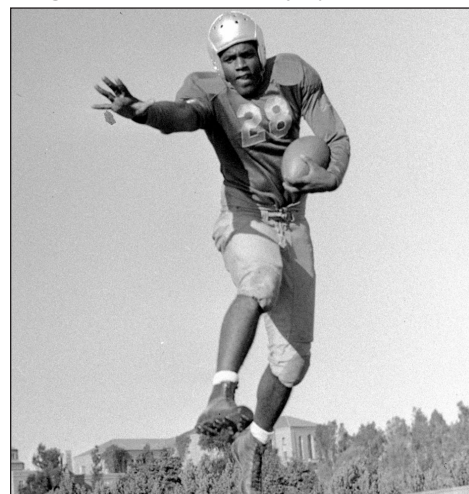
Pasadena Junior College, a four-star athlete in baseball, basketball, track and football, where he played quarterback and safety. Robinson went on to play all four sports at UCLA and was the first athlete at the school to win varsity letters in all four sports. He was one of four black players on the football team, along with Kenny Bartlett, Woody Strode and Kenny Washington, who would become the first black player in the NFL.

While the door was closed in both major league baseball and the NFL, there were professional football opportunities for Robinson. He played semi-pro football for the integrated Honolulu Bears in 1941 and then for the Los Angeles Bulldogs in the Pacific Coast Football League, a predominantly white league which allowed black players. Robinson was one of a handful of those players, and, playing quarterback, reportedly scored on a 41-yard touchdown run in his first game.

Robinson would be drafted into the service during World War II, but upon his discharge, resumed his professional football career, going back to play for the Bulldogs. He was the star of the team, throwing two

touchdowns in his first game back and rushing for 101 yards on eight carries in the next game, according to Bob Gill of Professional Football Researchers.

In his next game, though, Robinson left the game with an ankle injury the first time



COURTESY OF SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

Jackie Robinson, the first black player to break baseball's racial barrier, was once a prodigious football talent at UCLA.

he handled the ball and would not return ever.

This was not the game of professional football that dominates the American sports landscape today — far from it. The NFL was just barely two decades old and still trying to grow as the country emerged from the war. And while there were the minor league and semi-pro football opportunities for Robinson, they were few and far in between, and hardly a way to make a living at the time. Baseball still dwarfed football in the spotlight and at the box office.

Robinson ended his football career to take a job as athletic director at Sam Houston College in Texas, where he also coached the basketball team, in 1945. Professional baseball came calling — not the major leagues yet, but the Kansas City Monarchs in Negro League Baseball. Robinson reportedly earned \$400 a month playing for the Monarchs. Then came the moment when Brooklyn Dodgers general manager Branch Rickey came calling to sign Robinson to a contract to play for their minor league club,

see **ROBINSON** — page 11

Trip abroad inspires local grad to become artist

SEAN ARMSTRONG

staff writer

For many upperclassmen, graduation is fast approaching, and with it the splendor of seeing friends move on to pastures new.

With this joy also comes the question: What's next? That inquiry, depending on who you are, is either a point of contention or excitement. Nearly two years ago, that was the question University of Pittsburgh graduate Cameron Schmidt was seeking an answer to.

Like many people encountering a big life change, a new career choice can be the make-or-break moment in how someone rises to the occasion or crumbles under the pressure of it. For Schmidt, that new perspective was a pilgrimage of sorts.

Schmidt, a graphic artist, always had an interest in artwork and creating, but in his college years, that was somewhat suppressed due to his studies in civil engineering.

"I was always doodling in the side of my notes. When I went to

pieces across the whole wall ... They have totem pole pieces that just go down the side of a building and it's amazing," he said.

While the city itself poses a robust amount of street art, it was Teuffelsburg, a kind of outdoor graffiti museum created at the site of a former military base, that would reignite his artistic drive.

"I went [to Berlin] and I went to Teuffelsburg ... and it was absolutely mind-blowing — the depth and the amount of work that they had around that city," Schmidt said.

Teuffelsburg is about a two-mile hike through the woods away from the suburbs of Berlin. To put it simply, it is not a quick stop; this is not something people do not simply drop by to see while on vacation.

"I went there, had a bit of a change of heart, had some things happen in my personal life around the same time and it really got me thinking about what is going on, and what I wanted to do long term, what was fulfilling, and it was clear that art was that."



SEAN ARMSTRONG/STAFF WRITER

Pitt graduate Cameron Schmidt poses with his one of his street art-inspired works.

maybe, something I could make money off of."

The civil engineering degree satisfied that desire to create as well as the need for financial security, but it failed to address Schmidt's love for art in the same way that Teuffelsburg touched it.

"100 percent, I do not regret doing [the civil engineering degree] because I have learned a lot of science and math... And I love science and integrating cool concepts into my art whenever I can sneak them in."

Now, almost two years after Schmidt's realization that art was one of the most important things in his life, he had his first art show, External Forces, displaying artwork inspired by Picasso, Warhol and of course, the streets of Berlin.

In one of the pieces at his show on Jan. 25, Schmidt made a sculpture of a spray can that had a base made to resemble a pool of water or ink. The wood used to create the base of the sculpture is made of Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF).

MDF is condensed sawdust that allows the artist to cut into it at any angle without the problem of going against the grain. As a result, the number of shapes that can be created out of such a product is far easier than regular wood. This is one of the most blatant displays of the knowledge Schmidt acquired from his degree applying to his art.

However, when asked how to

describe his art, Schmidt isn't sure what to say. "Right now I'm just trying to get into people's eyeballs. I feel like if people see my work they'll like it. And if they don't that's fine with me, but I just want to get out there more," he said. "So, what I want people to know about me is just that I try to paint [stuff] that looks cool or makes you think or reminds you of stuff, but more than anything, I'm trying to be original."

Still, when you ask his friends what they think about his art, and in particular what was on display at the art show, they have much more to say.

"I think Cam's art is honestly just incredibly fun to look at, especially the new stuff at External Forces. You could look at the same piece 20 times and see something new every single time," said Alec Munson, a Pittsburgh rapper and friend of Schmidt. "His character design is so distinct and unique yet so uniform that it seems [like] they are all of the same sort of universe he's creating. You know almost immediately when a piece is by Cam."

Cole Marks, another friend and the frontman for the group Back Alley Sound, describes Schmidt's artwork differently. "I would describe Cam's artwork as equal parts whimsical and disciplined. His work really thrives in this sweet spot between chaotic and nostalgic, which translates to people regardless of the medium."

Still, even though the choice has been made for Schmidt to follow his passion, that does not mean that the journey is over. There is still plenty of growth to be had. "For me, moving forward after the show, the goal is to kind of keep my prints and my sticker packs going and that passive income so I can get myself to a point where I can actually be sustainable in this, but more than anything, education [is my goal]," Schmidt said.

"[My goal is to start] working on newer mediums and learning more about art history, because I really only know about the rock stars of art," Schmidt said. "I need to learn more about movements and individual times before I feel confident, saying that I know the world I'm trying to join."



SEAN ARMSTRONG/STAFF WRITER
Here, Schmidt utilizes Medium Density Fibreboard, a material he learned of in his civil engineering studies.



SEAN ARMSTRONG/STAFF WRITER

A section of Teuffelsburg, the Berlin-based outdoor gallery of graffiti and street art.

college I was like, okay, this needs to stop." Schmidt said. "I'll get a separate notebook so I can doodle on the side and then take my notes when I need to."

Two notebooks, while a practical solution to a common problem, does not address the split attention aspect of this habit.

"I didn't really focus until [about] eight months before I graduated," Schmidt said. "So, a year and a half ago I was just like, this [art] is something that you have this drive to do, and if you just put work into it like it's any other craft, you will build those skills."

Having to pick between what you love to do and what is practical is not an easy decision. This choice is at the heart of the stereotypical S.T.E.M. versus liberal arts debate often echoed throughout academia.

Luckily for Schmidt, his options were made easier upon visiting Berlin. "If you've ever been to Berlin, it really is just paint everywhere. They have every form of graffiti from little small throwies to big burner

Upon arriving at the graffiti park, it is clear that most of these buildings would be condemned if not for their new-found purpose. The sheer amount of dust and decay is choking upon entering any given building. Imagine how the investigators feel upon entering one of the houses on the show *Hoarders* and you can easily translate that into what this experience was like. In order to see much of the artwork, it is necessary to go into buildings with terrible air quality.

This journey is not something a person does if they have a passive interest in the arts.

"At the time I was finishing off the [Civil Engineering] degree. It was getting to that toughest, but most real point where you're doing the projects that are real life stuff and doing that work that is fulfilling, but it wasn't for me," Schmidt said.

"I was restless and I was too tied to this idea of getting paid for [stuff] that I made," Schmidt said. "You know, creating something and that being wanted and then

WEEK'S EVENTS

100 Days 'Til Graduation
Celebration
Feb. 1 @ 5 p.m.

The class of 2019 is invited to get together to celebrate the upcoming end of their academic career at Carson City Saloon. The event is for 21-and-up attendees only.

Trivia Night
Feb. 8 @ 6 p.m.

Duquesne Program Council and Professional Fraternity Council will host Trivia Night at the Red Ring. Free food vouchers are available from room 305 in the Union.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Arctic
Friday, Feb. 1

In this survival film, appropriate for the current weather, Mads Mikkelsen portrays a man trapped in the Arctic after a plane crash.

Russian Doll
Friday, Feb. 1

In this new Netflix series, Natasha Lyonne plays Nadia, who discovers that she repeats the same night over and over again, a la *Groundhog Day*, dying gruesomely each time.

MICRO REVIEW

Teal Album
Weezer

On Jan. 24, Weezer dropped a surprise self-titled record, *Weezer (Teal Album)*, a 10-song compilation of critically-acclaimed rock covers featuring Toto's "Africa," Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" and Ben E. King's "Stand By Me," among others. The album encapsulates the best rock of the era, but it ultimately falls short of what it could've been. The arrangements are dryly similar to the original versions of the songs, leaving little room for Weezer's signature gritty style.

— Ollie Gratzinger

Two new documentaries tell the story of Fyre Festival

HALLIE LAUER
news editor

If you had twitter in April of 2017, you more than likely saw the memes and distraught tweets that were coming out of the Bahamas during the “luxury music festival” Fyre Festival. For those of you that were doing a social media cleanse, Netflix and Hulu summarized the best of it and explained the whole story in their respective documentaries.

Fyre Fraud, a Hulu documentary about the failed Fyre Festival and Netflix’s documentary *Fyre* both hit streaming sites mere days apart, and now everyone is arguing over which is better and which you should spend your time on.

However, to really understand the entirety of the disaster that was the Fyre Festival, you have to watch both the Netflix and the Hulu documentaries. While they tell the same story, they approach it from two completely different angles, but actually end up complimenting each other and telling a full, complete story.

Here is the bumper sticker synopsis for those of you haven’t heard of Fyre. Rapper Ja Rule and self-proclaimed entrepreneur Billy McFarland came up with the idea to throw “an immersive music festival.”

However, it turns out that neither of them had any real event planning experience, and chaos ensued. Chaos and fraud to be exact.

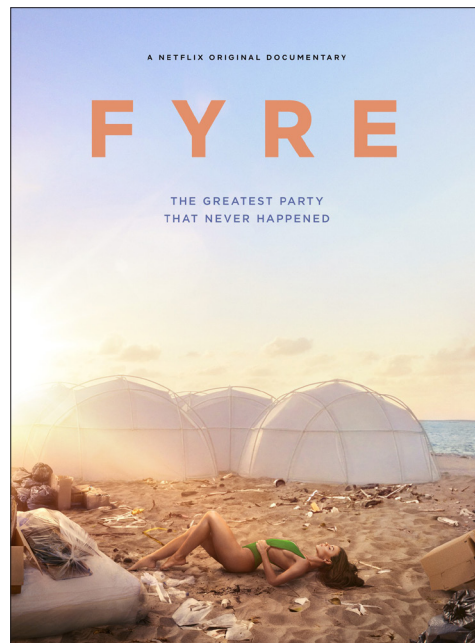
The Netflix doc shows more about the great failure that was trying to plan a music



COURTESY OF HULU
Hulu’s documentary premiered on Jan. 15.

festival in six months, on an island with next-to-no infrastructure. This one was more visually pleasing, with many, many shots of McFarland and Ja Rule riding on jet skis in the Bahamas. It was centered mainly on the actual festival itself.

The Hulu documentary, however, goes more into McFarland’s background of scams and cons, which date back to grade school. It also incorporates more of the background on how the idea of Fyre Festival spiraled out of



COURTESY OF NETFLIX
Netflix’s Documentary premiered on Jan. 18.

control to be the failure that it ended up being.

Also, the Hulu documentary is the only one with an on-camera interview with McFarland. So much Billy McFarland awkwardly staring at the camera. So. Much. They would do these weird cuts where McFarland would stop speaking and they would keep the camera rolling and just zoom in on his facial expressions. I’m not sure what the goal of these shots was, but if they were to make the audience feel incredibly

uncomfortable in McFarland’s presence, they succeeded.

Both documentaries used relatively the same footage from social media, however, the Netflix documentary showed more of what happened once guests arrived on the island.

The best parts though, were the interviews with former employees of both Fyre and the ad agency Fyre used to promote the festival.

What happens in these documentaries though is astounding. The amount of straight up lying these people did is incredible. They honestly are lucky that things hadn’t gotten any worse and no one died. Sure some rich people were upset, but the situation honestly had the ability to become disastrous.

It is incredibly fascinating in the Hulu documentary to watch the camera crew ask McFarland why he didn’t do simple things that could have alleviated so much of the pressure on him, and would’ve made the festival less of a failure. McFarland, in these instances, is silent or bumbling.

It is fascinating to watch him deny that he conned everyone. deny that he committed fraud and deny that he did anything wrong. Both documentaries end with video clips of McFarland starting another business, both insinuating heavily that he is just working on another scam.

All that aside, I can’t recommend you watch just one of these. You have to watch them both to get the full picture. Plus, everyone loves a story of a conman. This one just happens to be true.

Mikkelsen shines in otherwise-lackluster *Polar* adaptation

NEIL RUNGE
staff writer

There are very few things more disappointing than a movie that seemed like it was going to be celebrity-filled and action-packed but turned out to be a confusing, gory mess. Netflix’s *Polar* is an example of that.

Based on a webcomic-turned-graphic novel of the same name, this film stars Mads Mikkelsen as an assassin named Duncan who’s in the process of retiring. It is a mashed-together, jump-cut-riddled disaster. Here’s the catch: if he gets killed before he’s officially retired, all the money he’s earned goes back to the agency he works for.

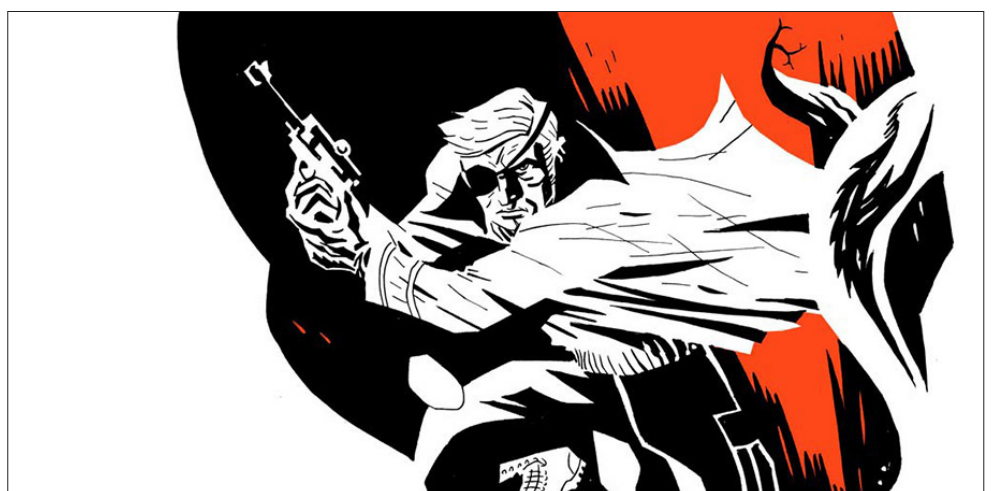
With that simple of a plot, it’d be easy to have a story crammed with action and violence. An aging agent versus a whole crowd of people who want his money could

have easily drawn in action movie fans. It could have been a tale driven by outstanding actors and amazing camera work.

What *Polar* is, however, is a movie that gives no explanation for anything really. Vanessa Hudgens’ character who lives next door to Duncan doesn’t seem to have any thought put into her. Nor do many of the other characters who names have either been changed from their possible source material counterparts or who never existed in the graphic novel to begin with.

The connections to the comic are loose at best, and at worst, just a nod to it; a two-hour long Easter egg.

On top of all of this are the confusing jump cuts between Duncan and the antagonists, a group of agents that work for the same company as Duncan. The time jumps that might not be time jumps because of the way it was edited makes it



COURTESY OF VICTOR SANTOS/POLARCOMIC.COM

The *Polar* webcomic and graphic novel’s distinct visual style is thanks to its creator, Víctor Santos.

seem like time has passed when it might not have. There’s also the fact that almost all of the movie didn’t happen in the webcomic or the graphic novel lead to more questions asked than answered.

The comic was nothing but action with occasional sexual panels of half-naked women, albeit used in a positive way. It shows women taking their bodies and the stereotypes put against them to their advantage. The women in the comic use their bodies as a weapon. The film *Polar*, however, is made up of senseless violence, gratuitous swearing and just left me confused in my seat.

One of the only major positives is that Mads Mikkelsen gives an amazing performance. He nailed the role of a stoic and traumatized hero. Having played Hannibal Lecter, who’s a vastly different

type of killer, it was nice to see him act as someone gruffer. Unfortunately, Mikkelsen was just surrounded by a cast of actors and characters that were subpar and one-note.

The other positive is that the color palette. The characters wear bright outfits — It doesn’t fall into the trope of many actions movies, where the palette is made of grays, dark blues and blacks, it’s a palette that can be seen in real life.

What Mikkelsen brought to the table was what made the movie watchable. He brought an expected amazing performance to a movie that otherwise would have just been nothing.

B-list at best, *Polar* is a movie to put on to see Mads Mikkelsen look thoroughly husky, to see him fight people and to see a few unknown actors try their best.



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Mads Mikkelsen stars as Duncan and Vanessa Hudgens stars as Camille in Netflix’s *Polar*.

Cold weather sparks climate debate

STAFF ED — from page 4

States since the 2000s.”

Also according to the New York Times, in December 2017, parts of the U.S. were 15 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit colder than average, but the world as a whole was .9 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the 1979-2000 average.

Globally, the 20 warmest years on record have been within the last 22 years.

Having colder-than-normal and warmer-than-normal weather is not uncommon. The movement of polar air from the North Pole to the U.S. is called Arctic Oscillation, and changes in polar atmospheric pressure influence weather patterns in the U.S.

However, the overall warming of the Arctic is changing the jet stream, which alters normal weather patterns, such as pushing polar air below normal latitude levels.

According to KDKA, the low temperatures in Pittsburgh this week are breaking records, as “minus-1 is the record low for Wednesday. Temperatures, though, will continue to fall to minus-6 on Thursday morning. The record there is minus-3.”

While Chicago is currently experiencing near-record lows, Adelaide, Australia is experiencing record highs, recording 116 degrees Fahrenheit this past week, making it the warmest capital city on record.

Despite all of these stats and facts, Trump has tweeted skepticism about climate change or global warming 100 times since 2011.

Robinson nearly football star

ROBINSON — from page 8

contract to play for their minor league club, the Montreal Royals, in 1946. One year later, Robinson made his historic debut with the Dodgers, breaking baseball’s color line and forever changing a nation.

Robinson might have instead followed Washington, his first UCLA teammates, into the NFL as a groundbreaker, but it would have hardly had the same impact that his presence did in baseball, given the impact baseball had in American culture compared to football.

Murray has different choices, with different impacts. Football is now the bigger stage, and, perhaps as a first-round pick in the upcoming NFL draft, the bigger opportunity. But Murray, the first pick by the Oakland Athletics in last year’s draft, may still have a bigger impact on the baseball field, with the potential to be a star black player in a sport with just 7.8 percent black players down significantly from the all-time high of 27 percent in 1975.

Murray could be the face of the movement to bring both black players and fans back to the game of baseball.

Jackie Robinson would probably tell the young man to do what his heart tells him. But if he were to choose baseball in the 100th year of the birth of Robinson, it may be the best moment in a year-long celebration to honor the memory of the Hall of Fame ballplayer, who, like Murray, once lit up the football field.

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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER

Thursday

12° Brisk and bitterly cold
NO CLASSES

Friday

26° Morning snow; mostly cloudy

Saturday

41° Partly sunny; not as cold

Sunday

51° Some sun; not as cool

Monday

56° Occasional afternoon rain

Tuesday

54° Cloudy, mild

Wednesday

54° Rain and drizzle possible

Courtesy of AccuWeather

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9	1	2	5	3	6	8	7	4
5	8	3	4	1	7	9	2	6
6	4	7	9	2	8	1	3	5
1	7	4	8	5	3	2	6	9
8	6	5	7	9	2	4	1	3
2	3	9	6	4	1	7	5	8
3	9	8	1	7	5	6	4	2
7	2	6	3	8	4	5	9	1
4	5	1	2	6	9	3	8	7

Courtesy of The Guardian



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