



## Ready to celebrate Black History Month

## Final report released on DU death

JOSIAH MARTIN

a&e editor

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police issued a news release on Feb. 4 stating that student Marquis Jaylen “JB” Brown had marijuana in his system, amid other new details.

Students had initially called 9-1-1 around 10 p.m. on Oct. 5, 2018, to report a “possible fight between roommates” in Brown’s room, according to the police. Security camera footage supported eyewitness statements that Brown had been acting erratically in the elevator, hallway and dorm room prior to the call.

When Duquesne University police officers arrived at 10:05 p.m., they discovered no fighting, rather Brown’s roommate attempting to calm him down.

“Soon after the officers’ arrival, Brown picked up a chair and broke a window,” according to the statement. “Eyewitnesses in the room — including two Duquesne University Police officers, a campus security guard and a student Resident Assistant — stated that Brown then jumped out the window.”

Eyewitnesses also clarified that

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KATIA FAROUN / PHOTO EDITOR

On Feb. 5 students, faculty, guests and staff gathered in the Power Center Ballroom to celebrate the start of Black History Month with an event called “African-American Read In.” Attendees read excerpts of poems or short stories written by African Americans. Songs, speeches and plays, all authored by African Americans, were also performed.

## All sex-related charges dropped against Duquesne student

KAILEY LOVE

editor-in-chief

On Jan. 4, Allegheny County prosecutors dropped all sex-related charges against Nick Washington, a former Duquesne basketball player who was suspended from the university after he was accused of raping a female University of Pittsburgh student in his dorm room in early September 2017, his freshman year.

Originally charged with criminal counts of rape, involuntary deviant sexual intercourse, sexual assault, aggravated indecent assault and unlawful restraint, the plea deal accepted by the district attorney’s office allowed

for the dismissal of the first four counts, and amended the charge of unlawful restraint to a misdemeanor disorderly conduct. Common Pleas Judge Alexander P. Bicket ordered Washington to serve 12 months probation, with no travel restrictions placed upon him, and ordered Washington should have “no contact whatsoever” with the victim.

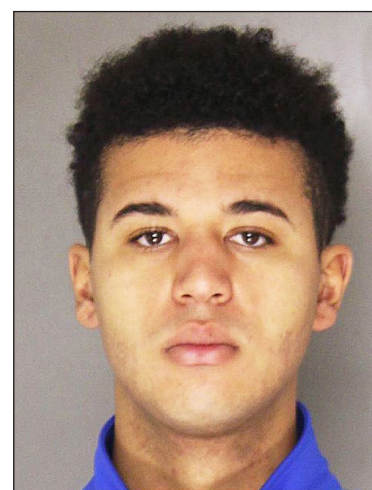
Washington, a 21 year old from San Juan, Puerto Rico, was a business administration major at Duquesne on an academic scholarship in addition to being on the basketball team prior to his suspension. He had no previous criminal history, according to statements made by his lawyers during

the hearing.

Robert Del Greco, who represented Washington, referred to his client as having had “his life on hold for a year and a half” due to the allegations and criminal charges.

“Nick Washington is relieved and elated over this favorable outcome,” Del Greco said in a statement. “He is also eager to resume his academic aspirations.”

According to the criminal complaint, the alleged incident between Washington and a Pitt student occurred on the evening of Sept. 1, 2017, when the victim met Washington at a party where she said he “showed interest in her.” The victim and a friend then went back to Duquesne’s campus



COURTESY PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

with Washington and one of his friends. Here the victim and her friend were separated when she asked Washington for a phone charger and followed him to his room to plug her phone in, the complaint said.

Once in his dormitory, Washington allegedly ordered the victim to perform oral sex on him, and when she refused, he forced her to do so anyway. He then pushed her onto her back on his bed and forcefully engaged in intercourse with her, according to the victim’s statement in the criminal complaint. The statement also said that the victim asked Washington to stop several times, all

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## POLICE BRIEFS

My dearest people of Duquesne University,

It is a pleasure each and every week to inform our dear readers of the crime that happens on our campus. But never, in my history have I been happier to present you the crime for the past week.

The only offense, on Feb. 2, a university visitor reported that her car had been damaged while parked in the Forbes Garage. A witness left a note with the offending vehicles registration; the driver was contacted and proper information has been shared.

That's it for me this week. I'm not sure what has gotten into y'all but keep it up! Less crime means more time for hitting the books (instead of other people's cars.)

Sincerely,  
Sister PB

## JOKE CORNER!

**Q: What do you call a lazy baby kangaroo?**

**A: A pouch potato.**

**Q: Why did Beethoven kill his chicken?**

**A: It kept saying, "Bach, Bach, Bach."**

**Q: Why did the chicken say, "Meow, oink, bow-wow, moo?"**

**A: He was studying foreign languages.**

## JOIN THE DUKE!

If you're interested, email Editor-in-Chief Kailey Love at [lovek@duq.edu](mailto: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](mailto:hallielauer18@gmail.com).

## United Pittsburgh partners with Duquesne

OLIVIA DONIA  
staff writer

Duquesne is turning its focus outward as it partners with local activists and community leaders to bring United Pittsburgh, a speaker series with accompanying courses, to campus.

The program offers one undergraduate and one graduate course, both theology classes focused on ethics, civic awareness and intersectionality, that go hand-in-hand with the 10-week lecture series by community activists.

The United Pittsburgh program was developed by Duquesne's Center for Catholic Faith and Culture (CCFC) after the office received a grant from the Henry Luce foundation. The grant enabled the office to start a multi-year program focused on bringing together students, academics and community activists.

"United Pittsburgh was modeled after a similar academic-community collaboration offered a few years ago by the University of Baltimore," said Darlene Weaver, director of both the CCFC and the Core Curriculum. "Divided Baltimore" brought together students, scholars, community activists and city residents to discuss that city's history of racial and ethnic divisions and the role of political leaders, educational institutions, community and faith-based organizations and the citizens themselves to explore solutions."

The initiative focuses on various social and ethical problems in Pittsburgh and discusses potential solutions to them. Some topics highlighted in the program

include race, violence, empowerment and economic and health care disparity.

The speaker series accompanying the program includes lectures titled "Who is my neighbor?", "What does belonging look like?" and "What is the difference between charity and equity?"

The nature of the United Pittsburgh initiative is designed to foster community involvement. By having courses and lectures given by both university faculty and community organizers, the United Pittsburgh initiative seeks to show how social justice and civic awareness operate outside of the classroom.

"By design, the courses are team taught by university faculty and prominent social justice advocates from the community to provide students with a comprehensive and first-hand look at how social justice issues play out in the Pittsburgh community," said Weaver.

The program aims not only to showcase the academic side of these issues, but also the first-hand perspective on how things like inequality and urban planning impact Pittsburgh as a whole.

"The courses are important because they connect the field of theological ethics to our local context and to lived experience, thereby transforming student understanding of what it means to think and act ethically through a lens of engagement," Weaver said.

But the United Pittsburgh program isn't just for students; the speaker series, which runs for 10 weeks, is free and open to the public, as well as Duquesne students and faculty. Most of the



COURTESY DUQ.EDU

United Pittsburgh speaker series requires registration, which can be done online. The series will have over 10 speakers including President Gormley.

lectures are given Mondays on-campus in College Hall room 104 at 6:30 p.m. Featured speakers range from government officials to community activists, such as Samuel W. Black of the Heinz History Center and Rabbi James Gibson from Temple Sinai.

The United Pittsburgh initiative particularly aligns with Duquesne's Spiritan mission, as it works to raise community awareness surrounding common social problems and their solutions.

"United Pittsburgh embraces many principles of Catholic Social teaching such as equality, dignity, solidarity, and participation as well as the particular Catholic, Spiritan mission of advancing the common good by working to build a more just and equitable world," Weaver said.

The United Pittsburgh program is heavily focused on involving

Duquesne in the greater Pittsburgh community, with the last lecture of the speaker series being titled, "What can universities contribute to a United Pittsburgh?"

"Community engagement is a top priority at Duquesne, as identified in the University's five-year strategic plan...United Pittsburgh brings together a diverse group of stakeholders who can identify the root causes of current community problems and explore ways to understand and address them in an effort to forge a more equitable and sustainable future for the Pittsburgh region," said Weaver.

The United Pittsburgh initiative, though begun by the CCFC and applying Catholic social teaching, is focused, above all else, on bettering Pittsburgh as a community and raising civic awareness for pressing ethical and social issues in the city.

## Pittsburgh Art Institute to close, one of many

JOSIAH MARTIN  
a&e editor

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh announced its plan to close both its physical campus and online programs on Mar. 31.

"This decision was made for a number of reasons, including significantly declining enrollment," according to a document, released by the institute, detailing the plan.

The current enrollment of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh consists of 1,924 online students and just 230 on-campus students. Its campus has been located at 1400 Penn Ave. in the Strip District.

While the institute chose March 31 as the date of closure to allow students to complete their current term, only a small fraction of students will be able to obtain their degrees within this time. Only 332 of the school's total 2,154 students will potentially be able to complete their programs by the end of March.

The plan states that current students who will not be able to complete their programs in time have the option of transferring to an-

other Art Institute campus or to an institution with a similar program. However, for Pittsburgh-based students, a nearby alternative is nearly impossible — the Art Institutes of Ohio, Washington, York and Philadelphia are all permanently closed as well.

Additionally, Dream Center Education Holdings (DCEH), part of the non-profit Dream Center Foundation which has controlled the Art Institute of Pittsburgh since 2017, has not yet made any public announcement regarding partnerships with other schools to which current students may transfer. On their website, this information is available for former students of several other closed Art Institutes, including Philadelphia.

Currently, the Art Institutes' official website lists 9 operating campuses and 44 closed campuses. In its current state, Pittsburgh's campus appears on neither list. The Art Institutes have been a financial burden for DCEH since the then-remaining 30 of them were acquired from Pittsburgh-based Education Management Corporation (EDMC).



COURTESY THE ART INSTITUTE

In an email sent to employees on Jan. 14, DCEH Chairman of the Board Randal K. Barton said "the shifting landscape, coupled with the vast amount of debt and fixed operating costs inherited when [DCEH] acquired the education systems from [EDMC] in Oct. 2017, has brought significant challenges to our operations."

DCEH has requested that the Department of Education make money available from the school's Letter of Credit, a fund set aside as collateral for schools in danger of

failing. Without those additional funds, the closure plan states that the Art Institute will be unable to cover the estimated \$1.5 million-\$2 Million cost of closure and will be forced to shut down before the proposed March 31 date.

DCEH will have to repay the federal government for any loans canceled via the "closed school discharge," a system provided by the Department of Education by which students can have their

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# Pittsburgh Foundation appoints DU faculty member to board

**MEREDITH BLAKELY**  
staff writer

William Generett, the vice president of community engagement at Duquesne was recently appointed to the Pittsburgh Foundation board of directors.

The Pittsburgh Foundation, established in 1945, was created in order to improve the lives of the residents of Pittsburgh by creating programs that resolve different community issues, such as poverty, while also promoting philanthropy.

The board of directors offers guidance and assistance to the foundation. Members of the board range from all different careers; currently there are 13 members.

They appointed a new member, William Generett, “despite the Pittsburgh region’s success at transforming its economy, about one-third of the people in the region still live in poverty. For me, this is not only an alarming statistic, but a very sad one,” Generett said. “Because of the work I do here at the university and have done since I returned to Pittsburgh in 2004, I know many people living in poverty. Some are

my friends and some are my colleagues. In other words, for me this isn’t just a depressing statistic, it continues to hit home for me because of the many people I know and care about living in poverty.”

“The Pittsburgh Foundation is a regional leader in addressing this problem. They are doing it through an exciting and innovative initiative called ‘100 Percent Pittsburgh.’ The goal of 100 Percent Pittsburgh is to create a Pittsburgh region in which all people have the opportunity to have a good quality of life,” Generett said.

The Pittsburgh Foundation has created 100 Percent Pittsburgh, which, according to their website, focuses on working with non-profit organizations to “meet the basic needs of individuals and families who find themselves facing what may seem like insurmountable economic and social challenges.”

“This means eliminating chronic problems like food insecurity and housing insecurity, providing jobs that pay a living wage, making sure every kid has access to high quality education, and giving all people access to things many of us take for granted like clean water

and air,” Generett said.

The 100 Percent Pittsburgh program, as well as the Pittsburgh Foundation overall, strive to solve the problem of poverty by working with both large institutions and small grassroots organizations as well.

“I am excited because the work of the Pittsburgh Foundation is totally aligned and complimentary to Duquesne’s Spiritan mission and the community engagement work that the university has done since it was founded in 1878 and that we are bolstering under the leadership of President Gormley,” Generett said.

The foundation also helps connect donors to the needs of the community and also give grants to those looking to improve communities in some way.

Generett said that his work is to ensure that everyone is capable of achieving the “American Dream.”

“I am honored to be on the Pittsburgh Foundation board because it provides me with another venue to do the work I love to do, and most importantly, the work our region desperately needs,” Generett said.



COURTESY PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION

The Pittsburgh Foundation was established in 1945, making it one of the oldest community foundations in the country.

## Art school closure

**ART — from page 2**

federal student loans forgiven if their school closes. Students that choose to transfer their credits to a similar program, however, are not eligible for this loan discharge.

The closure plan includes town-hall-style meetings with faculty, staff and students to explain options for students moving forward from the university, and individual meetings with students to determine the best course of action based on their individual needs.

As of the time of print, the Art Institute of Pittsburgh has not elaborated on the situation on its social media or official blog.

## Political crisis engulfs Virginia’s top officials

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The political crisis in Virginia spun out of control Wednesday when the state’s attorney general confessed to putting on blackface in the 1980s and a woman went public with detailed allegations of sexual assault against the lieutenant governor.

With Gov. Ralph Northam’s career already hanging by a thread over a racist photo in his 1984 medical school yearbook, the day’s developments threatened to take down all three of Virginia’s top elected officials, all of them Democrats.

The twin blows began with Attorney General Mark Herring issuing a statement acknowledging he wore brown makeup and a wig in 1980 to look like a rapper during a party when he was a 19-year-old student at the University of Virginia.

Herring — who had previously called on Northam to resign and was planning to run for governor himself in 2021 — apologized for his “callous” behavior and said that the days ahead “will make it clear whether I can or should continue to serve.”

The 57-year-old Herring came clean after rumors about the existence of a blackface photo of him began circulating at the Capitol, though he made no mention of a picture Wednesday.

Then, within hours, Vanessa Tyson, the California woman whose sexual assault allegations against Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax surfaced earlier this week, put out a detailed statement saying Fairfax forced her to perform oral sex on him in a hotel room in 2004 during the Democratic National Convention in Boston.

## Plea reached in former DU student trial

**COURT — from page 1**

of which he allegedly ignored, and the assault only stopped when the victim received a text from her friend.

During a preliminary hearing in January 2018, Washington’s lawyers contended that the episode that occurred between the two was consensual.

Following the summary on Monday, Washington’s accuser was given the chance to read her victim-impact statement, an emotional account in which she divulged how the incident impacted her life.

Describing her testimony as “the most difficult thing I have ever had to do” the victim said, “I wasn’t going to go through with this at first, and when asked why, the first words that came out of my mouth were that I didn’t want to ruin someone’s life the way you ruined mine ... I didn’t want to damage someone the way I was damaged.”

*The Duke* does not name victims of sexual assault.

Washington’s accuser went on to describe how after her encounter with Washington, she transferred to a new school in a different state, giving up a full scholarship to distance herself from the setting

where the alleged rape took place.

She also detailed rapid weight loss and fear of leaving her dorm room to go to classes immediately following the incident, further accusing Washington of “taking away her will to live.”

“You are a rapist, and you will always have to live with that,” the victim said in her testimony, directed at Washington. “Love conquers all in this world, and that is one thing you do not have.”

The victim also had harsh words for the justice system.

She said that the only reason she agreed to the plea deal was because it was implied to her that once she realized Washington was interested in her, “I should have run away. As if putting myself alone in the room with a male automatically implies consent.”

In the 2018 preliminary hearing she was questioned about consensual interactions that occurred between the two at the party where they met, as well as what she was wearing, which she referenced in her testimony on Monday.

“You can’t hurt me anymore,” she said. “You can’t shove my voice back down my throat a second time.”

## Police close the case on a DU student death

**JB — from page 1**

“there was no physical contact or confrontation between police and Brown in the room.”

While no clear reason is given for Brown’s erratic behavior, drug testing revealed marijuana in his system.

Pittsburgh police were dispatched to Brottier around 10:24 p.m., after Brown’s jump from the 16th-floor window, and EMS drove

Brown to UPMC Mercy Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 11:12 p.m.

“JB” Brown, 21, from Washington, D.C., was a junior at Duquesne and a running back for the football team. A month after his death, students led a walk-out protest demanding more details surrounding the incident.

Pittsburgh police have deemed the case closed unless new evidence is obtained.

The Associated Press typically does not identify those who say they were sexually assaulted, but Tyson issued the statement in her name.

Tyson, a 42-year-old political scientist who is on a fellowship at Stanford University and specializes in the political discourse of sexual assault, said, “I have no political motive. I am a proud Democrat.”

“Mr. Fairfax has tried to brand me as a liar to a national audience, in service to his political ambitions, and has threatened litigation,” she said. “Given his false assertions, I’m compelled to make clear what happened.”

Fairfax — who is in line to become governor if Northam resigns — has repeatedly denied her allegations, saying that the encounter was consensual and that he is the victim of a strategically timed political smear.

“At no time did she express to me any discomfort or concern about our interactions, neither during that encounter, nor during the months following it, when she stayed in touch with me, nor the past 15 years,” he said in a statement.

Tyson said she suffered “deep humiliation and shame” and stayed quiet about the allegations as she pursued her career, but by late 2017, as the #MeToo movement took shape and after she saw an article about Fairfax’s campaign, she took her story to The Washington Post, which decided months later not to publish a story.

The National Organization for Women immediately called on Fairfax to resign, saying, “Her story is horrifying, compelling and clear as day — and we believe her.”



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self any direction you  
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— DR. SEUSS

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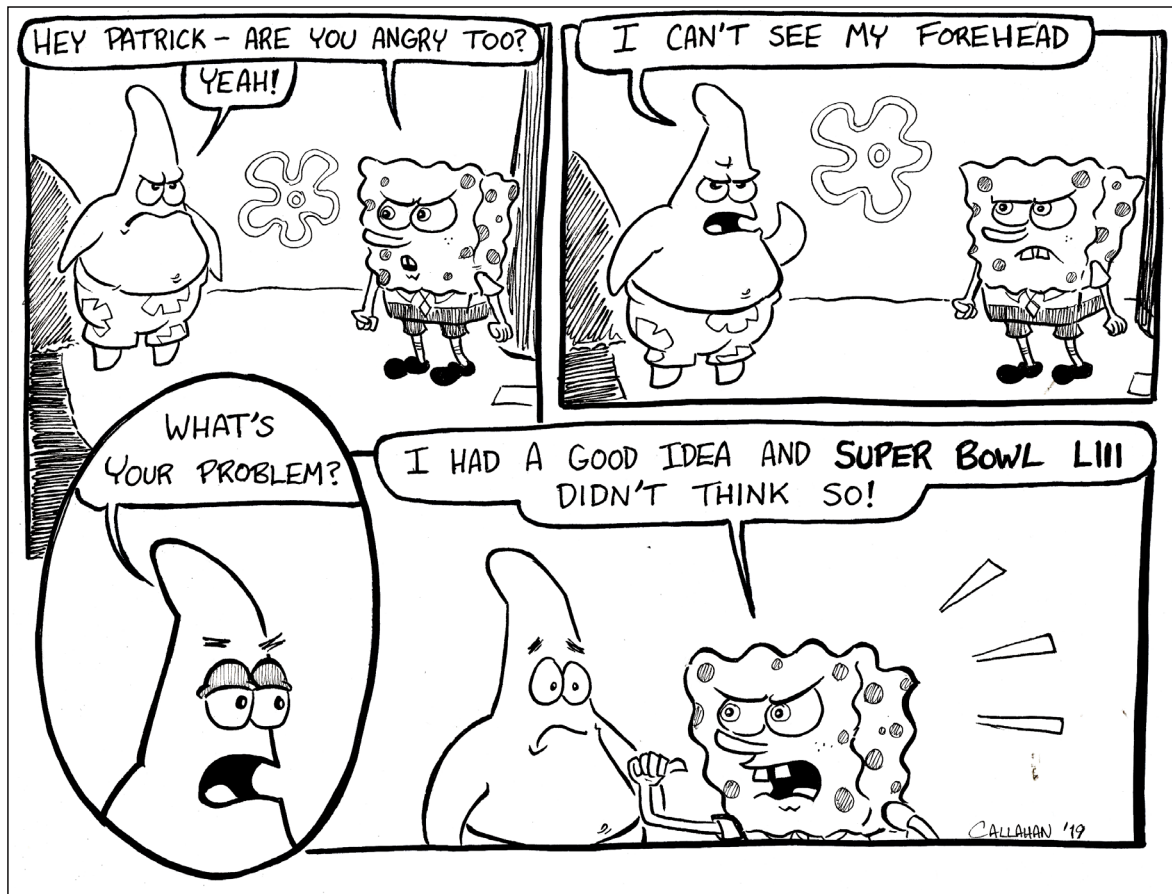
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### Corrections/clarifications

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

### Contact

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CARTOON BY JORDAN CALLAHAN

in focus...

## New Post-Gazette cartoonist criticized for sexism, misogyny

OLLIE GRATZINGER

opinions editor

Once upon a time, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette was a household staple. It would come to the door in its little green bag, and my father would bring it inside; it was the perfect companion to a cup of coffee. Back then, I was far more interested in the little green bag, blowing it up and swatting it around like a balloon. But as I got older, I started to care about the text on the pages — the news — and it was the Post-Gazette I'd pick up at the grocery store. Not the New York Times or the Washington Post, but our humble local paper.

Those days are part of the past, which seems to become more and more distant each day. Within recent years, the Post-Gazette's management has taken a disturbing, right-wing turn. While the news remains as high-quality as ever, the editorial page has become something else entirely, and it's forcing a wedge between itself and loyal readers who are all too aware of its disheartening new track.

Early 2018 saw the problematic editorial "Reason as racism" by editorial-page editor Keith Burris, which claimed charges of racism are "the new McCarthyism" and seemed to defend Trump's "shithole countries" remark. By

June of last year, the Post-Gazette faced national outrage after the firing of cartoonist Rob Rogers, who claimed he was let go after 25 years because his cartoons were critical of Trump, and the editors didn't like what they saw. According to the Post-Gazette, Rogers was fired because he was unwilling to cooperate with Burris.

Recently, conservative artist Steve Kelley was hired to replace Rogers, and his cartoons lack both heart and comedic conviction. Most of his jokes attack liberalism and Democrats, as well as the humanistic values at the core of left-wing politics. Not only are his comics senseless and unfunny, but they reek of sexism, misogyny and ignorance, as well.

A Jan. 14 cartoon caught the public eye, depicting two young girls fantasizing about divorcing a rich man "just like Jeff Bezos." The previous day's comic mocked the concept of the "modern woman," showing a couple sitting in a restaurant while the woman says she's "all for eliminating gender roles, at least until the waiter brings the dinner tab."

Other comics attack Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Nancy Pelosi and Hillary Clinton, or mock the liberal opposition to a border wall. One criticized Mayor Bill Peduto's proposed gun control legislation, and another trivialized the Gillette commercial

about toxic masculinity.

The most grossly offensive comic, in my opinion, came out on Feb. 3, and it depicted an older couple reading a newspaper. The man says, "Wow...the polar vortex brought temperatures so low a feminist was overheard singing 'Baby, It's Cold Outside.'"

Kelley attacks the feminist movement, underplays the concerns of women — a marginalized group of which, to my knowledge, he is not part — and validates the misogyny of bigots who now can see their views endorsed on the editorial page of a major metropolitan newspaper. The dangers of giving a platform for this kind of smug, tongue-in-cheek sexism are ample in number and vast in scale, and it normalizes rhetoric that can lead to things far worse.

Every time I see one of Kelley's comics, I can't help but ask myself, "They fired Rob Rogers for this?" Rogers' comics were critical of the powers that be and defensive of things like the #MeToo movement and feminism (see his April 29, 2018 cartoon about the fall of Bill Cosby). He tackled the real issues that ail our society in a way that put the victims first; immigration, Russian collusion, child separation, gun violence and more. Kelley, though, with his holier-than-thou attitude, seems to think that feminists are the biggest threat to our democracy.

While Rogers defended minority rights and took aim at the government, Kelley defends the government and takes aim at minority rights. His jokes, which

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## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Trump panders at State of the Union

In the second State of the Union address of his presidency, Donald Trump began his annual speech to Congress by calling for unity between parties following the longest government shutdown in history.

"We must reject the politics of revenge, resistance and retribution, and embrace the boundless potential of cooperation, compromise and the common good," the president said. "Together, we can break decades of political stalemate. We can bridge old divisions, heal old wounds, build new coalitions, forge new solutions and unlock the extraordinary promise of America's future."

While Trump was lauded throughout the media and by political pundits for requesting a both sides of the aisle approach to politics, his attempt to be "Mr. Congeniality" fell flat as soon as he reached the crux of his 2019 address to the nation: immigration.

In his usual style of divisiveness on the issue, Trump devoted about 15 minutes of his nearly hour and a half long speech to reiterating his need for a border wall and the "dangers" posed by illegal immigration, referring to the MS-13 gang and sex trafficking of migrants across the border to stress his desired legislative agenda. None of this is surprising, as this has been his chosen rhetoric since the days of his campaign.

Where he crossed the line was the revival of the "migrant caravan" myth.

Causing an audible and visceral reaction from Democrats, Trump announced that he would be sending 3,750 additional troops to the border, calling the caravan a "moral issue" that needed to be addressed.

"The lawless state of our southern border is a threat to the safety, security and financial well-being of all Americans," he said.

For those of us in Pittsburgh, the resurrection of the caravan-laden rhetoric poured salt into a wound that still hasn't healed. In case the president has forgotten — which it appears obvious that he has — it was the original caravan story that allegedly inspired a gunman to open fire on the Tree of Life synagogue in Squirrel Hill, killing 11 on Oct. 28, 2018. He only added insult to injury when he attempted to honor the victims of the shooting later on in his speech, after he had already gone off on his anti-immigration rant less than an hour before.

It wasn't immigrants who committed evil at Tree of Life, but rather a white American man allegedly radicalized by heavy anti-immigration sentiment. Immigrants did not open fire in Las Vegas, Sandy Hook, Charleston or Parkland. All of those terrorists were

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# OPINIONS

## U.S. aversion to absolute executive power leads to success

ALEXANDER WOLFE  
staff columnist

“When you have power, people try to take it from you always,” said Lynne Cheney to her husband Dick while the two sat and puzzled about the man’s political future. At least, according to *Vice* director and writer Adam McKay.

For those people who closely monitor executive activity, the warnings raised by one of last year’s Golden Globe nominated dramas are nothing new. The theory of the unitary executive has existed in Washington since the nation’s inception, both Federalists and Anti-Federalists alike are on the record endorsing some aspects of the unitary executive, and the concept is attractive in its both simplicity and its efficiency.

The theory itself holds that the president possesses the power to control the executive branch in its entirety. Its ideals are rooted in Article 2 of the Constitution, which vests “executive power” in the hands of the president. The president’s explicit job as chief executive is to execute the laws. Most of us have taken civics, but it bears repeating: What does that exactly mean?

Depending on which constitutional scholar you ask, this can be interpreted to say the president has no political duty, just an executive duty. Or, that the president is responsible for performing whatever duty is necessary to uphold the laws. It is this interpretation that is

closer to Dick Cheney’s use of the theory of the unitary executive.

Thankfully, many American presidents have opted to comply with executive precedent, choosing not to deviate from the powers of their predecessors. There are, however, those presidents who used their power in new and sweeping ways, which fundamentally changed the way the government and the country operated.

Theodore Roosevelt inserted himself into international negotiations between Japan and Russia, winning a Nobel Peace Prize, but doing so for no direct reason. Roosevelt just decided to add three extra Supreme Court justices because the current six threatened to rule his proposed legislation unconstitutional.

The first notable expansion of executive power came under Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard Nixon, when both presidents maintained the deployment of U.S. troops in Vietnam despite the lack of a congressional declaration of war. This prompted the 1973 War Powers Act, which garnered such bipartisan support that both the House and the Senate were able to override Nixon’s veto.

After Gerald Ford, Carter, Reagan, H.W. Bush, Clinton, Bush and Obama have all expanded executive power in new ways, all to the dismay of a shrinking group of constitutional scholars warning about the dangers of executive power.

“But President Obama wouldn’t have done



COURTESY OF NBC NEWS

President Trump signs an executive order, something that executive action gives him the right to do.

anything he didn’t need to” say MSNBC commentators pleading to Chris Hayes. “Trump has done things that are so much worse!”

By the same token, Fox News pundits assert that President Trump has only operated within the confines of presidential precedent set by Obama. At the end of the day, there seems to be an exponentially increasing expansion of executive power. President Obama’s drone strike authority was ridiculous, see the letter written by Eric Holder not conforming to Senator Rand

Paul that drones could not be used against a U.S. citizen, and President Trump seems to be about to build himself a wall via national emergency powers, see Sean Hannity’s remarks as the president’s personal oracle.

Executive power is horribly tempting, but it needs to exist to enable the president to deal with actual crises. Unfortunately, discussions

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## Stay informed: Speculations for the 2020 Democratic nominee

ALYSE KAMINSKI  
staff columnist

I think it goes without saying that the 2020 presidential election will be the most important we will see in our lifetimes so far. No matter which way you lean, the issues that are going to be debated and the consequences of the outcome will have an immense effect on the country and the whole world. Democrats especially are already keeping a close eye on this election; including myself.

A few solid Democratic candidates have thrown their hats in the ring and a few are expected to announce their candidacy at some point. In elections like this, it is essential to understand the issues that matter and the platforms of those running as soon as possible. So, I want to give a run down of

who I think has potential and some things they stand for.

One of the first prominent liberals to announce their running was Elizabeth Warren. Ever since I became interested in politics, she has been someone I look up to. I remember tweeting a few years ago that I want to be her when I grow up. While I admire her, I have to wonder how effective her campaign would be.

She is one of President Trump’s favorite verbal punching bags and the “Pocahontas” issue will not help her gain votes by anyone on the fence about voting Democrat. However, that does not mean I don’t agree with her ideas.

Warren continuously speaks up for civil rights. She cares about those from the LG-BTQ+ community, and if you haven’t seen her address Boston at the first Women’s

March, I highly encourage you to do so. As someone who cares about feminism, I can’t help but have a soft spot for Warren.

Economically, Warren is against trickle-down economics and wants to fight for the consumer. In her announcement video, she said, “America’s middle class is under attack.”

However, like I said, I am worried that someone with even an ounce of controversy running against Trump will beat him.

Kamala Harris (D), a California Senator, and Tulsi Gabbard (D), Hawaii’s 2nd District Representative, have also announced their candidacies. Harris is another woman in politics I have always admired. Her Instagram makes me happy; its unproblematic and wholesome, and I think her social media presence would be an asset to her. It certainly is better than President Trump’s.

Gabbard is someone I honestly haven’t heard much about, but so far, I’m really interested to see what she can offer our country. She served in the Army National Guard and is anti-war, something that I have always admired in a leader. If she plays her cards right, she could have a solid campaign, but I wonder how far she will make it being lesser known.

Harris made headlines when questioning Brett Kavanaugh during his hearing. She was, for lack of a better word, fierce. No matter where you stand on the Kavanaugh issue, you have to admire someone, especially a woman, who can boldly sit in front of a man and question him.

Cory Booker most recently announced

his candidacy. I’ve had my eyes on him for a while. He’s a solid public speaker and I think he can captivate his audience. His social media is also going to be essential to him in establishing a good campaign.

As far as the issues go, he cares about reforming the criminal justice and education system. More people should be talking about this, and I hope his candidacy sheds more light on these things.

More contenders are in the race already, but we would be here all day if I went over everything about them.

As of now, Joe Biden has not announced his running, but I think he is the best shot the Democrats have. While I think the government needs young blood, I, of course, have always loved Biden. It goes without saying that most Democrats think he would make a good president.

I want so badly for a woman to defeat Trump. If a woman won on election night in 2020, I would sob tears of joy. I just wonder if it can happen. If Trump can still win the presidency right after the Access Hollywood tape is released, he can still win now. I question if America is truly ready for a woman to be our leader. I know I am, but is everyone else?

To wrap this up, I want to encourage everyone on both sides to do research. I cannot stress it enough. No matter who you want to vote for, try to find out as much as you can about them. Watch the news. Watch more than just CNN or Fox News. And please, do not get all of your updates on politics from Twitter.



COURTESY OF REUTERS

Despite recent controversy regarding her identification as a member of the Cherokee Nation, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) remains a top contender for the Democratic nomination in 2020.



## Redhawk Coffee provides a welcoming, comfortable atmosphere

**MAKENNA WINNER**  
staff contributor

Redhawk Coffee is tucked away on the slanted slope of Meyran Avenue in Oakland. A bustling yet quaint space, Redhawk Coffee was born into the neighborhood in early 2017.

Before customers were going to the concrete space on Meyran Ave., Redhawk was going to them; the caffeine stop was once a coffee-truck that served its insanely good espresso at places like Highland Park. It's most famous spot? Parked on the pavement of Bryant Street. Serving beans from Passenger Coffee, Four Barrel and Dogwood, the coffee-truck was a

hit amongst locals. Along with its variations of espresso, coffee and cold brews, Redhawk served local additions that included apple and blueberry pies, delicately-made croissants from La Gourmandine Bakery and locally-made milk from Brunton Farms.

After some serious success from the espresso truck, Redhawk stationed itself in the heart of the University of Pittsburgh's campus. Now, Pitt students flock to the space to crank out homework, nearby UPMC nurses and doctors run in to grab an espresso before or in-between shifts and out-of-towners meander by looking for something with local charm and character. Whatever it may be,

Redhawk is the perfect destination. Encircled by hackneyed and trite chain-restaurants, Redhawk stands out as an assortment of Pittsburgh heritage and homage.

I first became a Redhawk goer in the fall, when I stumbled in there one day while I was in Oakland, looking for something that wasn't a Starbucks or Bruegger's. What I found was a quaint space with charming baristas, amazing bagels and the best coffee in this city. I soon found myself biking through the chilly fall winds in order to get a drip coffee with oat milk. Or, on a fun day, a mocha (which they make with locally made chocolate milk! Game-changer.)

The treks to Oakland were worth it for me. But then the coffee gods answered my prayers — I found out they were opening their Smithfield Street location and I was elated.

Recently, Redhawk Coffee opened its newest addition to the family on Smithfield Street, catering to a whole new segment of Yinzers. Bustling business employees from the Steel Tower, BNY Mellon and Highmark can now grab a locally-brewed americano, cappuccino, plain drip, or whatever may suit them.

While the Oakland location is more cozy, close and intimate with 2-3 tables, a snug window seat and a bar top, the Smithfield space is airy and free-flowing. This location is in partnership with PG&H, a local business that features collections of pieces from native-Pittsburgh makers. The new brick-and-mortar features a



MAKENNA WINNER/STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Redhawk Coffee offers a variety of delicious home brewed beverages.

coffee bar aloft with a deluxe espresso machine, assorted coffee makers, toasters for locally-made bagels and a fridge full of almond and oat milk. Surrounding it is a space full of ardently produced furniture — tables, chairs, décor, candles, artwork — all designed by Pittsburgh makers.

The area doubles as both a retail shop and coffee shop, creating a unique experience and space for customers and coffee-drinkers alike. The merging of the two into one climate feels effortless and comfortable. It has become a stop not only for neighbors to get business work done, but also to grab a cup and catch up with a friend or peruse some new décor.

The spot has created a uniquely

charming experience that somehow feels both foreign and familiar. You won't walk into either of these locations without hearing an affable, enthusiastic hello. And you won't walk out dissatisfied or unwelcomed. The baristas engage with their customers — keen to not just brew incredible coffee or perfectly toast a bagel but to connect and foster community. The spaces are gregarious, yet homey. Redhawk molds itself to be the space you need — whether that be a space of collective community or solitude. Redhawk Coffee has harvested its name into the Pittsburgh community and will continue to do so with its effortless desire to connect the community through coffee.



MAKENNA WINNER/STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Redhawk Coffee is a cozy space perfect for getting work done.

## Oakland Restaurant Week brings delicious food for cheap

**CLAUDIA HARDY**  
staff writer

Good quality food for a cheap price? Now that is a college eating hack.

Oakland Restaurant Week returned for the annual winter edition with 16 restaurants that offered \$6 menu items for six days, Jan. 28 through Feb. 2.

Whether you were in the mood for pierogies — a Pittsburgh classic, or a burger or maybe something you've never tried before, like a Mount Fuji chicken roll, this week featured a wide variety of menu items.

Students on a budget had the opportunity to ditch regular-priced food for something new on Forbes or Fifth Avenues for an inexpensive price, welcoming traffic from throughout the entire Oakland community.

"I had heard about this event for a while now but never had the opportunity to check it out," Duquesne student Morgan Keys said "There were so many people up in Oakland doing the same thing that I was — eating some good food for a discounted price"

This event was funded by the Oakland Business Improvement District (OBID) with additional support by Sustainable Pittsburgh.



COURTESY OF YELP

CHIKN was among the many restaurants that took part in the week long event

Through the Sustainable Pittsburgh Restaurants Program, diners were able to enjoy a Meatless Monday as well. According to sustainablephghrestaurants.org, these eateries are "designated restaurants that are good for people, the planet, the restaurant industry and our economy."

This six-day event included restaurants that are appealing to diversity; there was something for everyone.

Participating restaurants in-

cluded CHIKN, Fuel & Fuddle, Golden Palace Buffet, Hanami, Hello Bistro, Nellie's Sandwiches, Original Milano Pizza, Pamela's Diner, Pie Express, Prince of India, Sciulli's Pizza, Sorrento's Pizzeria, Sree's Foods, Stack'd Oakland, Sushi Fuku, The Garden Grille and Bar, Thirsty Scholar and Top Shabu-Shabu & Lounge.

OBID has organized Restaurant Week in Oakland for several years now and has been working to integrate both the restaurants and retail stores surrounding the

neighborhood.

Customers who participated in this event were able to enter to win free lunch for one month as well as other prizes from participating Oakland restaurants.

Prizes from past years have included Bluetooth headphones donated by T-Mobile and cookbooks donated by the Pitt bookstore.

OBID's advertising must not have reached as far as Duquesne, as many students were unaware that this event even took place.

"I've never heard of Oakland's restaurant week," student Allyson

Bonnoni said "I wish I had because it would be a nice break from campus food."

"This sounds like something that would be perfect for Pittsburgh college students," Lee Melendez said, "I wish they had done more advertising for it because my friends and I would have definitely checked it out!" +

Hopefully next year more Duquesne students will take the opportunity to participate in this event, as it is a great way to get off campus and try something new at an affordable price.



COURTESY OF YELP

Stack'd Burgers & Beer offered \$6 meals to the Oakland community



# James Ellis adapting well to life on the Bluff

ADAM LINDNER  
sports editor

Although he's ineligible to practice or play with the Duquesne men's basketball team this season, James Ellis is very much a part of the team. He may even be the team's biggest fan.

A 6-foot-11 freshman, Ellis was academically ineligible coming out of high school, but will be qualified to compete at the Division I level next season for the Dukes if things go according to plan.

For now, all he can do is watch. "Everyday, I think about playing basketball," Ellis said. "Watching [the team] practice to watching them in games — it gets me amped up. I keep a marked calendar, a countdown to my first day on the court."

If it weren't for Keith Dambrot and Duquesne, it's likely Ellis wouldn't be in Pittsburgh at all right now. Instead, he'd be in Cumberland, Maryland, at Allegany College — one of the junior colleges that Steve Francis attended before ultimately transferring to the University of Maryland.

Ellis said he's thankful for the opportunity that was afforded to him by Dambrot and Duquesne,

and he sounds adamant on making the most of his chance here on the Bluff.

"At first, I wasn't eligible to go anywhere, and no school wanted to really redshirt me or anything," Ellis said. "But Coach Dambrot, you know, he wanted to give me an opportunity — it was the only actual opportunity that I had other than the community colleges or Division II schools, so I took it."

"Look where it got me!" To be exact, it got Ellis to one of Chuck Cooper's alma maters. Cooper, who attended Duquesne from 1947-50, went on to become the first African-American player to ever be drafted by an NBA team when the Boston Celtics selected him No. 14 overall in 1950.

Interestingly enough, though, Ellis already hails from one of Cooper's old stomping grounds: Westinghouse High School, located roughly six miles from Duquesne's campus.

Ellis would be the first Westinghouse grad to play for Duquesne since Cooper, and the first Pittsburgh City League player at DU since Schenley's Jack Higgins in 2004-06.

How about that for pressure? "It puts a little bit of pressure



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

James Ellis, pictured following a win in the 2018 PIAA playoffs, would be the first Duquesne player to come from Westinghouse since the legendary Chuck Cooper.

on my back, but I'm used to pressure already from high school."

For now, Ellis will continue in preparation for next year. He said that he's been committed to putting on muscle, among other things.

"I've been in the weight room. I gained around 30 pounds," Ellis said. "I got here at 222, and I weigh 250 now."

Otherwise, Ellis said that he's been focusing on his schoolwork and conditioning, too.

In fact, he's turned into quite the early bird.

"I get up early, so I start my day off early," Ellis said. "Go to the gym, put in some work, and then I lift. Then, it's class time."

As far as adapting to life on the Bluff goes, Ellis said it's been "easy, but different" compared to life on the east side of Pittsburgh. He added that it's not anything that he can't get used to over time.

While his acclimation to life at Duquesne may be going smoothly, watching Duquesne enjoy its fair share of early success this season has only made Ellis hungrier to get back on the hardwood.

"I cheer 'em on everyday," Ellis said, referencing his soon-to-be teammates. "I love the way everyone's playing. I feel like I'll be ...

an even bigger help next year."

For the time being, Ellis will continue to prepare, all while cheering on the Dukes. He noted the growing number of people attending games at the A.J. Palumbo Center, saying, "it is exciting. It's overwhelming, actually."

"I know the fans are the ones that can actually take the game over if they needed to."



COURTESY OF POST-GAZETTE

Ellis appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's Fab 5 this past spring. Alongside Ellis was Mars' Robby Carmody (with ball), Woodland Hills' Amante Britt (back left), Quaker Valley's Coletrane Washington (back right) and Butler's Ethan Morton (out of frame).

## Penguins deal Brassard, Sheahan to Panthers for Bjugstad, McCann

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Penguins acquired forwards Nick Bjugstad and Jared McCann from the Florida Panthers on Friday for forwards Derick Brassard and Riley Sheahan and three 2019 draft picks.

The deal gives the Penguins an influx of youth in the 26-year-old Bjugstad and the 22-year-old McCann as they make another playoff push. The Panthers, meanwhile, get some salary-cap flexibility and two expiring contracts that could help at the trade deadline.

"We think we've got two very good players," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. "We're really excited about these guys and we think they're going to make us a better team."

Bjugstad has five goals and seven assists in 32 games for the Panthers this season while McCann has eight goals and 10 assists in 46 games with Florida. Bjugstad is signed through 2021 and carries a contract with an average value of \$4.1 million. McCann's deal is through 2020 and pays him an average of \$1.25 million per season.

This marks the end of Pittsburgh's experiment in attempting to make 31-year-old Brassard the team's third-line center.

"To (Brassard's) defense, he was asked to play a role that's different than he's played in

see PENS — page 11



ADAM LINDNER / SPORTS EDITOR

## Men's Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Davidson	8-1	17-5	W5	2/9 @ UMass
2.	VCU	7-2	16-6	W3	2/9 @ St. Bonaventure
3.	Dayton	7-3	15-8	L1	2/9 @ Rhode Island
4.	George Mason	7-3	13-10	L2	2/10 vs. La Salle
5.	<b>Duquesne</b>	6-4	15-8	L2	2/9 @ Fordham
6.	Saint Louis	6-4	15-8	W1	2/8 @ Saint Joe's
7.	St. Bonaventure	5-4	9-13	W1	2/9 vs. VCU
8.	La Salle	5-4	7-14	W4	2/10 @ George Mason
9.	Rhode Island	5-5	12-10	L1	2/9 vs. Dayton
10.	G. Washington	3-6	7-15	L1	2/9 @ Richmond
11.	Saint Joseph's	3-7	10-13	L1	2/8 vs. Saint Louis
12.	Richmond	3-7	9-14	W1	2/9 vs. G. Washington
13.	Fordham	1-8	10-12	W1	2/9 vs. Duquesne
14.	UMass	1-9	8-15	L3	2/9 vs. Davidson

## Women's Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	VCU	9-1	17-6	W4	2/9 vs. Richmond
2.	Davidson	7-2	13-9	L1	2/9 vs. St. Bonaventure
3.	Dayton	7-2	12-8	W3	2/10 @ Duquesne
4.	Fordham	7-3	16-8	W3	2/10 vs. George Mason
5.	<b>Duquesne</b>	5-3	11-10	L2	2/7 @ UMass
6.	Saint Louis	5-5	10-13	L1	2/10 vs. La Salle
7.	G. Washington	5-5	8-15	L3	2/10 vs. Saint Joe's
8.	St. Bonaventure	4-5	7-15	L1	2/9 @ Davidson
9.	George Mason	4-5	12-10	W1	2/10 @ Fordham
10.	UMass	3-5	11-11	L3	2/7 vs. Duquesne
11.	Richmond	3-6	6-16	L1	2/9 @ VCU
12.	Saint Joseph's	3-6	7-15	W1	2/10 @ G. Washington
13.	Rhode Island	2-8	7-15	L6	2/10 @ UMass
14.	La Salle	1-9	4-20	W1	2/10 @ Saint Louis



# Duquesne WBB team set to face UMass in A-10 battle

DAVID BORNE  
staff writer

It's been a year full of ups and downs for the Duquesne women's basketball team. After surviving what was a loaded non-conference schedule, Duquesne seemingly found its rhythm at the beginning of

conference play. Although, after a strong 5-1 start against Atlantic 10 opponents, Duquesne has dropped its last two games.

The Dukes (11-10, 5-3) stand piled in the middle of the A-10 standings. With a date with a slumping UMass team next on the schedule, Duquesne has a chance to gain important ground in the standings.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Dukes guard Chassidy Omogrosso, right, drives up the court against UMass during the 2017-18 season. The Dec. 31, 2017, DU win was Head Coach Dan Burt's 100th career victory.

Duquesne has definitely been able to find more of an offensive rhythm as of late than it did during non-conference play. Senior guards Chassidy Omogrosso and Julijana Vojinovic have had much more success from beyond the arc lately, and are shooting .417 and .273 from deep, respectively.

Of course, .273 isn't a great number for a proven marksman like Vojinovic, but it is a strong improvement over her season average of .238.

Kadri-Ann Lass has been pulling the weight for Duquesne's frontcourt on both ends of the floor, and leads the team in scoring on the season (11.2 ppg). Paige Cannon has also been solid for the Dukes below the basket again this year, locking up the majority of Duquesne's minutes at the No. 4 spot.

UMass (11-11, 3-5) has a young core that has shown flashes of brilliance, but at other times, their lack of experience has shown, as well. The Minutewomen have nine underclassmen on their roster. Junior guard/forward Hailey Leidel leads the team in scoring at 13.4 ppg alongside sophomore Bre Hampton-Bey (9.4).

Leidel is also one of the top rebounders in the conference, pulling down 7.2 boards per game.

In last season's matchup between the two teams, Duquesne squeaked out a 60-57 win at home on Dec. 31. Duquesne has won 11 of its last 12 games against UMass.

One key to Duquesne's success against UMass will be its ability to get physical. Duquesne needs to control the boards on both ends of the court, and crash the lane on offense in Thursday's game. Rebounding and their inability to get to the free throw line were two of the Dukes' biggest issues in their most recent loss to Fordham.

Duquesne does often live and die by the three-ball, but it would be huge if they can take advantage of UMass's younger post presence. Consistently getting trips to the free throw line would take plenty of weight off of shooters like Omogrosso and Vojinovic's shoulders.

Of course, there is still just under a month left in the regular season. However, the game against UMass could wind up being one of the most important for Duquesne's season. The Dukes need to march into Amherst and play the kind of basketball that they have proven to be capable of over these last few seasons.

If they do, it could end up being a turning point on the season. Especially considering a win could provide some much-needed momentum to carry into Duquesne's upcoming game against Dayton on Feb. 10.

February could end up being a make-or-break month for this Dukes team, and it will all begin Thursday night in Amherst. Tip off is at 7 p.m., and the game will be streamed live for viewers on ESPN+.

# With surgical precision, Patriots cause a whole lot of pain

ATLANTA (AP) — There's something surgical about the Patriots' dynasty that has made the rest of the NFL reel for nearly two decades.

They are 6-3 in Super Bowls in Bill Belichick's reign and with Tom Brady doing the clutch work. Yet the overall points for those games, dating to 2002, stand at 215 for New England, 201 for the opposition.

No blowouts.

They began this unprecedented run using a bruising defense that turned the Rams' Greatest Show on Turf into a tentative outfit that at times looked intimidated 17 years ago. On Sunday night, they brought it all full circle with a masterful defensive performance that humbled the Rams once more, even more so.

The Patriots take down opponents in the most painful ways, whether in shootouts like against Carolina and Atlanta, or in comebacks — Atlanta again, and Seattle. While it's always foolish to get into a tit-for-tat scoring binge with Brady, the 13-3 victory over Los Angeles proved the Pats can do the dirty work, win in the trenches and still survive.

It's maddening for the rest of the NFL. It's maddening for so much of America that wants to see someone — anyone else — shut down this show. It leads to Patriots haters noting that one of the worst officiating errors in NFL history cost the rightful NFC champions, the Saints, a shot at New England. Or

that coin tosses have handed the Patriots the ball in a Super Bowl and a conference title game overtime, and eventually they were lifting the Lombardi Trophy.

No matter where football fans outside the New England base turn, however, the finish often hurts.

Why?

Wide receiver Chris Hogan, who has been to Super Bowls in all three of his seasons in New England, explains it well.

"We have been in these situations so many times before in big games and we don't really blink," Hogan said. "We practice these situations, we know how to execute in these situations — that is what it comes down to. Four-minute drives and trying to end a football game, take care of the ball, run blocking and doing all of the fundamentals when it really counts. And we have been in this situation before and it just helps."

The Patriots have been in every position before. So when they need to rely on Brady to light up the scoreboard, they can. And if the game environment calls for grinding it out, they can.

One thing they never do is back off. In their losses to the Giants and Eagles in the Super Bowl, the Patriots remained aggressive. So did the opponent, though, and New York and Philadelphia simply made more key plays. Perhaps only one more key play,

but that was enough.

When the Seahawks and Falcons lifted off the accelerator — or made unwise strategic moves — New England swooped in.

The decisive drive in the fourth quarter Sunday night was typical of the clinical manner in which they keep winning. Sloppy, particularly on third downs, and even a tad frustrated by the 3-3 score, they put together a classic drive: five plays, four of them passes, for 69 yards, capped by rookie Sony Michel's 2-yard touchdown run.

Brady went to his meal tickets and they



COURTESY OF AP

Patriots linebacker Dont'a Hightower hoists a teammate into the air following the Patriots' Super Bowl LIII victory in Atlanta.

ate up an LA defense that had been relatively staunch. An 18-yard pass to Rob Gronkowski, followed by 13 yards to game MVP Julian Edelman.

Then a 7-yarder to Rex Burkhead led to a play that causes every defensive coordinator to lose sleep: Gronk going deep and overpowering as well as outreaching defenders — in this case double coverage — for 29 yards to the 2.

Once Michel scored, it seemed inevitable the Rams would find nothing but disappointment the rest of the way.

Leave it to Gronkowski to sum up what at some points looked like a so-so season for the Patriots. Yet there they were, at the summit again.

"I'll tell you this, it was the most satisfying year I've ever been a part of," said the star tight end who just might have played his last game; he's contemplating retirement, as he did last year before returning. "How we came together, the obstacles we had to overcome, the grind from the beginning of training camp to now. That was our identity; wear the other team out."

"We weren't making big, flashy plays all the time ... but we stuck together, we grinded, ran the ball."

"Now we're Super Bowl champions, we're world champions."

And the rest of the NFL writhes in pain.

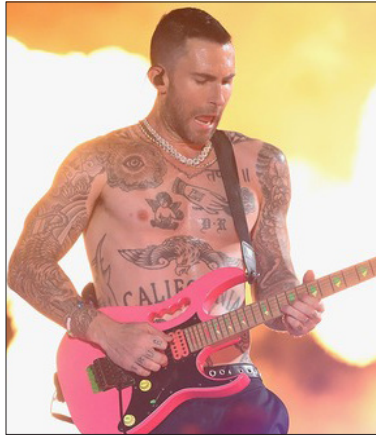


# Hyped-up halftime show disappoints

CLAIRE NEIBERG  
staff writer

While the New England Patriots had their sweet victory, the Spongebob Squarepants fans in the stadium did not. The Super Bowl 2019 halftime show brought disappointment to fans, as it was not the show-stopping performance anticipated.

With Maroon 5 headlining, along with Travis Scott and Big Boi as supporting performers, the show was advertised to be quite entertaining. Maroon 5 is one of the world's best-selling artists, and Scott's "Sicko Mode" climbed the charts to number one on the Billboard Hot 100.



COURTESY OF JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

Maroon 5 performed a medley of "Harder to Breathe," "This Love," "Girls Like You," "She Will Be Loved," "Sugar" and "Moves Like Jagger." Scott came in with his iconic "Sicko Mode" with Big Boi performing "Kryptonite (I'm on It)" and "The Way You Move."

Adam Levine was off-pitch in some of the songs, but overall, he and his band delivered a great performance of their most successful, fan-favorite songs.

Scott's "Sicko Mode" was a disappointment to the Spongebob fans in the crowd, as there was an anticipation that "Sweet Victory" from the episode "Band Geeks" would be performed instead to honor Stephen Hillenburg, the creator of Spongebob, who had just passed away in November.

After an online petition with over one million signatures and teasers from the NFL, fans had high hopes for "Sweet Victory." Before "Sicko Mode," a clip from the episode of Spongebob even played, leaving the fans in even more suspense.

While Spongebob is often considered a silly children's show, it has been one of the most successful and longest-running television shows Nickelodeon has produced. It has also reached outside of the TV, as the Broadway



COURTESY OF NFL

*Spongebob Squarepants' Squidward introduces Travis Scott at the halftime show.*

musical of the same name had great success at the most recent Tony Awards.

Paying tribute to Hillenburg would be paying tribute to the creativity and joy Spongebob has brought to the world. It is a classic comedy and has collected millions of fans over the years.

It was a dismay to play a teaser for a song that meant a lot to many fans, and after such a great letdown, it was difficult to enjoy the rest of the show.

In addition, the show lacked creativity, but this was due to many performers' refusal to take part in response to the NFL's treatment to Colin Kaepernick and his protest of police brutality.

The performers who agreed to perform even received backlash, however, both Scott and Maroon 5 donated to Dream Corps and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America to show their support of social justice.

If the NFL had been more supportive of Kaepernick and his decision to exercise his freedom of speech and more cautious to what the fans wanted, then the Super Bowl 2019 halftime show may have been more of a success. While the performers were all successful in their own right and delivered an entertaining performance, more could have been done to elevate the show as a whole.

## WEEK'S EVENTS

Six Characters in Search of an Author  
Feb. 14 at 8 p.m.

Duquesne's Red Masquers will present this play in the Genesis Theater, centering around a group of actors whose rehearsal is interrupted by six characters looking for someone to finish their story.

Build-A-Bear Workshop  
Feb. 8 @ 9 p.m.

Relive your fondest childhood bear-manufacturing memories with this free event from the Duquesne Program Council.

## UPCOMING RELEASES

The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part  
Friday, Feb. 8

This sequel 2014's acclaimed *The Lego Movie* is already receiving positive reviews for its returning all-star cast and similarly self-aware sense of humor.

Thank U, Next  
by Ariana Grande  
Friday, Feb. 8

This highly-anticipated album was led by the popular titular single, as well as "7 Rings."

# Despite tonal problems, Netflix's art thriller *Velvet Buzzsaw* still a gory romp about art's elite

NEIL RUNGE  
staff writer

Netflix's *Velvet Buzzsaw* is an exciting and enjoyable art piece that takes a critical look at the professional art scene of Los Angeles.

Starring Jake Gyllenhaal, who plays art critic Morf, Rene Russo as gallery owner Rhodora Haze and Zawe Ashton, playing Rhodora's business partner Josephina as the leads of the film. The big names don't stop at the main characters; minor characters are played by Daveed Diggs, John Malkovich, Toni Collette and Natalie Dyer.

After an apartment filled with paintings is found by Josephina, a supernatural entity targets the artists and collectors who allow greed to overshadow the desire to put art into the world. The greedy that corrupt the art scene are killed by the art they selfishly surround themselves with. It's a plot that director Dan Gilroy takes and turns into a fun to watch thriller.

The dialogue is what makes the film campy. At times it doesn't fit the artsy aesthetic of the

setting, but it adds to the tension, drama and unintentionally, the humor. The R rating allows for the f-bomb to be dropped, and Gilroy takes advantage of that. An excessive amount of swearing causes moments of the movie that should be serious to turn into something closer to a slapstick comedy special than a scene before someone loses an arm.

It doesn't really matter that the dialogue is cheesy at times because the cast delivers it with such passion and sincerity, especially Gyllenhaal. He gives a contemptible art critic depth and a character arc that turns Morf into a sympathetic man who tries his hardest to get the others to believe him about the paintings. It was another emotion-filled performance from Gyllenhaal.

On top of that, Gyllenhaal's character is bisexual. Morf's bisexuality isn't resigned to subtext. There are scenes throughout the movie that show him having feelings for both men and women. This is important because oftentimes, gay, lesbian or bisexual identities are hidden away or never shown in the thriller genre especially.



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

The film was directed by Dan Gilroy, who worked with Gyllenhaal in "Nightcrawler."

Zawe Ashton's portrayal of Josephina shouldn't be overlooked though. She was astounding because Josephina is a complex character. An on-and-off-again lover of Morf, she isn't reduced to just being the assistant or the lover. She's ambitious and strives towards her goals with a plan, something that doesn't happen often for female characters in thrillers, women are usually just killed off before they get the chance to speak.

These two performances, along with the others, allow the moral

lesson about greed to shine. The message of Gilroy's film is that greed should never take over any aspect of life but specifically art. Whether it's selling paintings or critiquing them, the point is to let art just exist. Putting *Velvet Buzzsaw* on Netflix where it's relatively free only furthers that point. It is allowing the art of the movie to exist as freely as it can.

A colorful gore-filled thriller, *Velvet Buzzsaw* is fun to watch and has a deeper meaning behind the screams of characters as the art that surrounds them, kills them.

## MICRO REVIEW

State of the Union Address  
by Donald J. Trump

One of the longest entries in the long-running State of the Union series, this one is better left unwatched. Cameo appearances by astronaut Buzz Aldrin and several World War II heroes aren't enough to distract from the tired and cliché talking points of the protagonist, played by former actor and real-estate mogul Donald Trump. The supporting cast included a sea of newcomers, primarily women, who, frankly, stole the show.

— Josiah Martin



# Cold War a chilling, unconventional, Oscar-worthy film

GRIFFIN SENDEK  
features editor

I did not hear about *Cold War* from trailers or online Oscar discussion. Rather, I first discovered the film on the T back to campus.

Wedge between the seat in front of me and the wall was an issue of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. As I unfolded the wrinkled-up paper and opened it to a random page, staring me right in the face was a movie review for *Cold War*. From the headline and photo alone, I learned the film was 1) Oscar-nominated, 2) Polish, 3) shot in black and white and 4) a love story.

At that point I did not need to read a single line of the review because I was already hooked. I made the decision that I needed to see this movie in a matter of seconds. Precisely two weeks later, I was sat in the Manor Theater for a matinee screening of *Cold War*.

From the title alone one might think *Cold War* is yet another film documenting the tensions between the U.S. and Soviet Union post World War II, but that could not be further from the truth. In fact, the U.S. is not mentioned once within the 1-hour-29-minute runtime.

*Cold War*, directed by Pawel Pawlikowski, tells a story of the era never before seen. The film opens

in 1949 with the talented conductor Wiktor (Tomasz Kot) and producer Irena (Agata Kulesza) traveling the Polish countryside recording traditional folk tunes with the goal of reintroducing the music to the masses. Wiktor holds auditions for the creation of a folk choral ensemble; it's at these auditions that he first comes across the fiery Zula, played excellently by Joanna Kulig.

It is not long before Wiktor and Zula's immensely passionate, yet turbulent, romance begins. As Wiktor's folk ensemble gains popularity, pressure from the Soviet government forces the group to sing songs of peace, homeland and Stalin. To avoid becoming another cog in the Soviet propaganda machine, Wiktor plans his escape to the West with Zula. Wiktor makes the journey alone, though, for Zula never shows.

*Cold War* is a stunning but incredibly bleak love story told over the course of 15 years through a series of vignettes. Wiktor and Zula's love is intrinsically tied to music; music is what brings the two together and what tears them apart time and time again.

Without music, *Cold War* would have no story; it is one of the most critical pieces of the film and the work put into the music is impeccable. The music, whether it be Joanna Kulig's enchanting singing

voice as Zula, the beautiful notes Wiktor strikes on his piano, Polish folk singers, jazz club musicians or concert accompaniment is all breathtaking. Music follows the story every step of the way; there is seldom a scene without it. More impressive, however, is that not a single non-diegetic note plays.

Color film is one of the most significant innovations for the entirety of the medium, I do not dispute that for a moment, but there is a certain kind of beauty and elegance to black and white that color will never be able to replicate.

When filming in black and white, contrast is absolute. In *Cold War* every piece of the puzzle, from the lighting to costumes, makeup and scenery, all fall perfectly into place, creating striking contrast throughout its runtime. The unification of all the elements results in the entire film having a superb balance between light and dark.

My jaw dropped in awe at the beauty of this film more times than I can count. Had I the ability to pause the projector and analyze individual frames, I guarantee I would still be sitting in the theater at the edge of my seat, eyes glued to the screen.

It is no surprise *Cold War* was nominated for best cinematography, as the film showcased absolutely excellent camera work. Cinematographer



COURTESY OF AMAZON STUDIOS  
*Cold War* is a Polish film — pictured are actors Joanna Kulig and Tomasz Kot.

Lukasz Zal truly outdid himself.

The urge to constantly cut and move the camera was fought in *Cold War*. More often than not, the camera is put in a single place in front of the actors or scene and left there. It might seem overly basic or simplistic, but in an age of films in which the camera is either cutting every few seconds or moving incessantly, leaving the camera in one place and letting the scene speak for itself, allowing the actors to display the best of their abilities genuinely, is a breath of fresh air. Camera movement is used deliberately and sparingly.

The traditional method of recording people having a conversation was thrown out the window for *Cold War*; instead of cutting back and forward between the two actors, Pawlikowski and Zal simply framed everyone within the shot and recorded the conversations

from a single angle. It was done so well, so seamlessly, that the average audience member would never notice a difference.

A sure sign that a film has you fully engaged is when you lose awareness of the passage of time. Nothing is worse than the feeling of wanting a movie to just end already, but *Cold War* had me so captivated I did not even realize it was ending until a short time before the credits rolled across the screen. I easily could have sat in that theater watching for another hour, but *Cold War* ended at the exact right moment, not a second too soon or too late.

Upon looking up the runtime of the film, I was shocked to discover it was only roughly 90 minutes long; for the amount of story and events contained within the film, it was

see OSCAR — page 11

## New Kingdom Hearts may pale to predecessors, but that's OK

SEAN ARMSTRONG  
staff writer

*Kingdom Hearts III*'s arrival was a disappointment for many, but is that due to the aging of the game or the fanbase itself?

On one side of the argument are those who eagerly anticipated the release of this installment in the platinum-selling saga despite years of delays. Given that many expected this game years ago, and it has been almost a decade since *Kingdom Hearts II*, it is understandable to expect a massive return for the time allotted to the studio to develop the game.

On the other side are those who expected the game to be a catastrophe due to the years of delay. In this frame of mind, the delays were not being used to perfect the game, but rather to remove bugs from it. Happily, I can report that few bugs, if any, are present in the game. The worst fears for this subset of fans did not come true and therefore means any disappointment must lie elsewhere.

This game has many different animations, costumes and characters for the developers to create due to the inclusion of the many properties owned by Disney. With these characters comes the animation for specific movements as well as scenario induced actions that require character models to change. Development takes time, and when porting to two different systems as well as creating variety in gameplay, issues arrive for production.

No studio can be expected to split their staff up to work on multiple titles, create a wide array of character models ranging in the hundreds and expect quality or even expedient

production to occur. Look to EA to see where that formula goes wrong.

This game succeeds in offering a variety to the gameplay so that fighting is not the only aspect of the title. The player has several mini-game options, various side content to explore and countless cut scenes to occupy their time.

*Kingdom Hearts III* has flaws: the side characters are childish, the storyline feels forced and the game is shorter than other principal installments in the series. The game also does several things well. The studio has improved the graphics significantly for this iteration, there are plenty of new settings for the player to explore and four companions are more than any other installment had allowed.

When the first *Kingdom Hearts* debuted in 2002, the game had fantastic graphics, an appeal to children and a partnership with Disney. Considering the quality of games back then, this was more or less a grand slam for Square Soft, the company that would later become Square Enix. Three years later *Kingdom Hearts II* hit shelves days before Christmas, once again capitalizing on the marketing opportunity at hand.

Fast forward to 2019 and the formula that was so appealing in 2002 is understandably not up to scratch. It is always easier to be the first to the market with an idea or product because the competition is non-existent. Consumers do not know what would be better because better hasn't happened yet.

Many kids who were not allowed to play violent games in the 2000s played *Kingdom Hearts* because that was a game with violence that was acceptable, compared to today when children are playing *Call of Duty* or *Fortnite*.



COURTESY OF SQUARE ENIX  
Sora, the protagonist of the *Kingdom Hearts* series, as he appears in the series' third installation.

The same games that were popular for 90s babies are not the same games that are popular for kids born in the 2000s. That may only be a one-year difference for some, but the world has also changed so much in recent years that it is reasonable to believe *Kingdom Hearts III* failed to adapt to the new video game market.

In recent years, add-on content has been a staple for games to slowly release content without pushing back release dates or driving up prices. *Kingdom Hearts III* still lives in a world where the internet does not play a role in how video games are sold. This game could have come out years ago if they would have just released it in an episodic format or churned out add-ons to keep players attention.

The game also failed to include many fan-favorite Disney titles or acquired content like *Star Wars*, anything from the Marvel universe or even Pixar films past the early 2000s. Given the long wait time, it is reasonable to expect some kind of return on what older fans wanted in the game.

Square Enix failed most of all to understand

what audience they were catering to. They ignored modern gaming marketing practices but kept a childish script. The dialogue at times made me cringe because of the sheer silliness of Sora's actions, but if I were a little kid maybe I would have enjoyed that. However, most kids are attuned to the newer way of marketing games and should be catered to if the script is more for them than older fans. It is clear the studio adopted older ways of doing things because it was easier for them, not because they were trying to cater to their aging fanbase.

Like it or not, how people judge different forms of media is not stagnant, but malleable. The only constant in life is change and this does not exempt any section of the entertainment industry.

*Kingdom Hearts III* is by no means perfect, but it is enjoyable and it does bring back nostalgia for those that played the earlier games as kids. As someone who has less free time as the years go on and finds it harder to justify dedicating time to video games *Kingdom Hearts III* was worth the time I've spent.



## Executive action dangerous

EXEC — from page 5

on how to limit executive overreach have existed on whichever side of the political aisle isn't in power. President Obama quietly mentioned its danger as he was set to leave office, but we can't expect executive power to be limited by the person who stands to gain the most from its expansion.

The country broke ties with one absolute executive a couple weeks ago, that person being Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela. We should perhaps investigate why the differences between both nations are so stark, and how our traditional aversion to sweeping presidential authority has led the nation to be so successful.

## Cartoonist proves to be controversial

KELLEY — from page 4

are hard to discern most of the time, are more like the things your conservative uncle might say at the dinner table on Thanksgiving — the exact type of comments that get a nervous chuckle from a peace-keeping relative and an uncomfortable silence from the rest. What's funny about mocking feminism? What's provocative about saying Nancy Pelosi has too much botox in her cheeks? What statement is he trying to make, and who, exactly, is he trying to make it to?

It isn't satire if the folks being mocked don't have social power. A hangman can't engage in gallows humor.

## Cold War Nominated

OSCAR — from page 10

amazing it all fit within the length of the average children's movie.

The film doesn't give the feeling of a single corner being cut, going to show that everything within *Cold War* was clear and deliberate choice culminating in creating a masterclass of 21st-century cinema.

*Cold War* is nominated for best foreign film, best cinematography, and best director at The Oscars. In my opinion, it deserves to win all of three. Unfortunately, I do not think it will be that lucky. On Feb. 24, when the Oscars air, hopefully, the filmmakers will be able to take home at least a single win, but even if *Cold War* gets horribly snubbed, you owe it to yourself to watch this film.

### CORRECTION:

Correction to the January 31st Asthma screening article:

The Breathe Project is no longer involved with the screenings. The funding now comes from the Heinz Endowment and the Jefferson Regional Foundation.



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## Immigration debate continues at SOTU

STAFF ED — from page 4

American-born and American-made, influenced in large part by a hatred that went un-discussed at the State of the Union address.

The speech was a flagrant display of the same demagoguery we've seen throughout Trump's campaign and presidency. The words were empty, backed by no action plans to address the issues most concerning to Americans today. There was no mention of the thousands of furloughed or unpaid workers still recovering from the shutdown, or of the uncertainty surrounding whether or not the government will shut down again. Praise for ICE agents

abounded, yet Trump failed to mention the 7-year-old Guatemalan child, Jakelin Caal, who died in ICE custody. Several representatives, including Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar, wore pins to honor her memory, however.

It was nice to see the Democratic women wearing white in a show of solidarity with the women's suffrage movement, and even the coldest soul could've been moved when the room burst into song, singing Happy Birthday to an 81-year-old Holocaust survivor. But Trump's speech touted American nationalism and offered the country little else.

## THIS WEEK'S WEATHER

Thursday

64 ° Dense fog in the morning

Friday

41 ° Clouds yielding to sun; windy

Saturday

28 ° Sunshine and patchy clouds

Sunday

39 ° A little afternoon snow

Monday

37 ° Cloudy

Tuesday

39 ° Snow possible in the p.m.

Wednesday

50 ° Mostly cloudy; breezy

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# Penguins deal forwards, picks to Florida

PENS — from page 7

his career,” Sullivan said. “Him and I have had a lot of conversations over the last year or so on trying to help him establish his game in the role we’re trying to cast him in. I think our expectations were so high of him because we value how good of a player he is.”

Acquired in a deal with Ottawa last season, Brassard struggled to generate much offense during his brief time with the Penguins, collecting just 12 goals in 64 games with Pittsburgh.

“Sometimes that happens for whatever reason,” Sullivan said. “I still have so much respect for [Brassard] and the person and player that he is. It’s unfortunate that it didn’t work the way we had all hoped.”

The 27-year-old Sheahan, brought over in a trade with Detroit early in the 2017-18 season, had 18 goals and 23 assists in 122 games with the Penguins. Brassard and Sheahan both have expiring contracts, and the Panthers — who are trying to get back into the Eastern Conference playoff hunt — may move them again before the Feb. 25 trading deadline.

“We’ll go game-by-game and week-by-week and then we’ll decide before the deadline what we’re going to do,” Tallon said.

Pittsburgh also sent a second-round pick and two fourth-round picks in the 2019 draft to Panthers to complete the deal.



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