Read-y to celebrate Black History Month

All sex-related charges dropped against Duquesne student

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 allowed 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 state 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
United Pittsburgh partners with Duquesne

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 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 investment. 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 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.

“We are thrilled that 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 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 15 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 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 with the mission of the Pittsburgh 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 people to the needs of the community and also gives grants to those looking to improve communities in some way.

“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.

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.

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

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

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.

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 added to the combustible mix that has driven three of Virginia’s top elected officials, including the governor, out of power.

“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 walkout protest demanding more details surrounding the incident.

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

Police close the case on a DU student death

Brown to UPMC Mercy Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 11:25 p.m.

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

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 lawyer 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.”

“Women deserve to be heard, to be believed. They deserve to be seen.”

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 a fellow at Stanford University and specializes in the political discourse of sexual assault, said, “I have no political motive. I am a fellow Democrat.”

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

Fairfax — who is in the middle of his term as Virginia’s lieutenant governor — said he was the target of a smear campaign by Northam, who he said tried to cover up sexual assault allegations against Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax during the 2017 election.

Virginia’s top officials

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Virginia’s top officials

“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 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, farther 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. “She can’t shove my voice back down my throat a second time.”
"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose."

— Dr. Seuss

You just read! Now tweet our thoughts. | us yours.
@TheDuquesneDuke

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**OPINIONS**

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**Cartoon by Jordan Callahan**

**in focus...**

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

Ollie Gratzingen
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 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.

These 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 toxic masculinity. The most grotesquely offensive comic, in my opinion, came out on Feb. 3, and it depicted and older couple reading a newspaper. The man says, “Wow...the polar vortex brought temperatures so low a feminist was overhearing 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 all 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

**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,” as President Donald Trump said.

“Together, we can break decades of political stalemate. We can bridge old political 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 steadfast belief 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-bashing 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 in 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 gone off script and his 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
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 its entirety. Its ideals are rooted in Article 2 of the Constitution, which vests “executive power.” Its ideals are rooted in Article 2 of the Constitution, which vests “executive power.” Its ideals are rooted in Article 2 of the Constitution, which vests “executive power.” Its ideals are rooted in Article 2 of the Constitution, which vests “executive power.”

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.

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 rundown 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 LBGTQ+ 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 less 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, 1, 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.
Redhawk Coffee provides a welcoming, comfortable atmosphere

**Making 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 cafe 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 crack 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 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 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 just brew incredible coffee or perfectly toast a bagel but to connect and foster community. The spaces are gregarious, yet homely. Redhawk melds itself to be the space you need — whether that be a space of collective community or solitude.

Redhawk has harvested its name into the Pittsburgh community and will continue to do so with its effortless desire to connect the community through coffee.

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 paninis – 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 both the on and off campus. Recently, Redhawk Coffee offered a variety of delicious home brewed beverages.

Through the Sustainable Pittsburgh Restaurants Program, diners were able to enjoy a Meatless Monday as well. According to sustainablepghrestaurants.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 included CHiKN, Fuel & Fuddle, Golden Palace Buffet, Hanami, Hello Bistro, Nellie’s Sandwiches, Original Milano Pizza, Pamela’s Diner, Pie Express, Prince of India, Sculli’s Pizza, Sorrento’s Pizza, 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 bookstores.

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 Alyson Bonnini said “I wish I had because it would be a nice break from campus food.”

“This sounds like something that would be perfect for Pittsburg college students,” Lee Me-lender said, “I wish they had done more advertising for it because my friends and I would have definite ly 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.
James Ellis adapting well to life on the Bluff

Adam Lindner

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 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 even an 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's exciting. It's overwhelming, actually."

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

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

James Ellis adapting well to life on the Bluff

Men's Basketball A-10 Standings

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
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<th>Overall</th>
<th>Start</th>
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<td>1.</td>
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<td>2/9 vs. Davidson</td>
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Women's Basketball A-10 Standings

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

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, 5–2) 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.

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 Juliana 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 marksmen like Vojinovic, but it is a strong improvement over her season average of .238. Kadri-Anne 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 squeezed 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. 6.

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 set for 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 throwing, they have been in every position to win. They 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 run 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 3–5 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 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 outrushing 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 30–0 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 down.”

“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 writes in pain.

David Borne
Staff Writer

Duquesne 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 Juliana Vojinovic have had much more success from beyond the arc lately, and are shooting .417 and .273 from deep, respectively.

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“Now we’re Super Bowl champions, we’re world champions.” And the rest of the NFL writes in pain.
Despite tonal problems, Netflix’s art thriller *Velvet Buzzsaw* still a gory romp about art’s elite

**Neil Runger**

*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 protagonist, played by former *Nightcrawler* actor and real-estate mogul Don 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 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.

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.

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 criticizing 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.

For 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.

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

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 page 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 see 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 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 hour-29-minute runtime.

Cold War, directed by Pawel Pawlikowski, tells a story of me and the wall was an issue of the Cold War. I did not hear about Cold War in how video games are sold. This game could not hear about Cold War in the years go on and finds it harder to justify dedicating time to video games like Kingdom Hearts III. I could have sat in at 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 a single non-diegetic note plays. 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 at theater watching for another hour, but Cold War ended at the exact right moment, not a second too soon or too late.

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.

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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.

Immigration debate continues at SOTU
STAFF ED — from page 4

American-born and American-made, influenced in large part by a hatred that went undiscussed 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.

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Immigration debate continues at SOTU
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Penguins deal forwards, picks to Florida

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.

Contact President Hallie Lauer for more details at lauerh@duq.edu

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