Chalk up your cues, it’s time for pool

Juan Paz-Rosario lines up to take his shot at the pool tournament in the nite spot. After the success of their first Pool Tournament on Jan. 23, the Duquesne Billiards Club hosted their second Pool Tournament, complete with free food and prizes for the winning team.

Post-Gazette under fire for publisher’s recent actions

Kailey Love
editor-in-chief

According to the Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh, the union that represents Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reporters, an incident that occurred on Feb. 8 involving the paper’s publisher and co-owner John Block caused employees to fear for their safety. According to a press release from the Guild with detailed eyewitness accounts, Block came to the newsroom at approximately 10 p.m., clearly “intoxicated” with his young daughter in tow, and began “ranting like a madman” about various different topics. He was particularly irate about a sign on a Guild bulletin board that read, “Shame on the Blocks!”

According to eyewitness Marianne Mizera, a web editor, “He shouted that he wanted a picture of himself and his daughter taken in front of the Guild sign and demanded it run on the ‘front page of tomorrow’s paper.’ He fervently demanded the photos be taken NOW, right away and forcefully grabbed his daughter’s forearm, pulling her into the picture as she tried her best to pull away from him. She was crying, shaking and pleading with her father that she did NOT want to be in ANY photograph.”

Post-Gazette has come under fire multiple times in the past year, for unpopular editorials and for the firing of cartoonist, Rob Rogers in June of 2018.
Red Ring now delivers to residence halls

Everyone was being so good for two whole weeks and then this all happened. What got into you? Is it the snow? Is it the rain? Is it midterm? Sister PB needs answers!

On Feb. 12, a driver was stopped on Locust Street for a traffic violation. The driver didn’t have a license or proof of insurance. They subsequently were issued four citations.

On Feb. 13, a Towers desk aide called Duquesne Police to report an intoxicated male in the lobby. The male was checked for wants and warrants, which returned warrants in both Allegheny and Beaver Counties. The male was transported to Mercy Hospital and then Jail.

Also on Feb. 13, an intoxicated student was transported from St. Ann Hall to UPMC Mercy ER by City of Pittsburgh Medics. Two students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct for underage drinking.

On Feb. 14, four residents were caught smoking marihuana by the loading dock of Libermann Hall. All four were referred to the Office of Student Conduct. They must have not been feeling the love that Valentine’s Day.

A quiet weekend, and then on Feb. 18 a Towers resident was found in possession of marijuana.

That same day, Towers RA’s were making rounds when they smelled “an odor of burnt marijuana coming from a room on the third floor.” All occupants of the room were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Maybe with midterm exams everyone will stop committing crimes and hide out in Gumberg!

Students interested in delivery can call 412-396-3550 to place their order, and the Red Ring will deliver the food to the lobby of the residence hall in which the student resides. Orders must be paid in full prior to delivery.

The fifth annual Duquesne Chopped competition took place on Feb. 15 in Hogan Dining Center. Twelve different teams competed for the grand prize.

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If you’re interested, email Editor-in-Chief Kailey Love at lovek@duq.edu or stop by our newsroom located in the basement of College Hall (Room 113).

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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.

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Day of Giving results announced

OLIVIA DONIA
staff writer

The annual Duquesne Day of Giving, held on Feb. 19, raised a total of $332,300 from over 1,700 different donations.

Many donors issued donation-matching challenges, pledging to match donations going towards a program or organization of their choice. This year, donation challenges were issued and met for the football program, the Gumberg Library, the School of Nursing, the women’s lacrosse team and many others.

The Red Ring was also donating 20 percent of funds from the restaurant’s Happy Hour on the Day of Giving.

The Interactive Day of Giving website kept track of all the donations coming in and mapped statistics such as where donations were coming from and which schools or organizations raised the most money. Athletic programs saw the highest number of gifts, followed by the Liberal Arts School and then the Duquesne Endowment, a program which goes towards the university’s greatest needs.

Samsung phone different, $2,000

OLIVIA HIGGINS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

As far as raw numbers go, over $72,000 was raised for athletics, $36,000 for the Liberal Arts School, $28,000 was raised for unspecified “other” programs, and nearly $25,000 was raised for the School of Nursing.

As with previous years, though all Duquesne schools saw donations on the Day of Giving, for Greek life, Tau Kappa Epsilon raised the most money, followed by Alpha Sigma Tau and Delta Zeta.

Donations came in from across the country, with the greatest number being of course from Pennsylvania, with 1,202 donations coming from the Keystone State. Behind Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland and Virginia saw the next highest number of donations. Overall, donations came in from 42 different states.

There were also a number of international donations as well; five donations were received from Israel, and four from Canada. Italy and Kenya had two donations each, while Colombia and Estonia each had one donor.

The Day of Giving will return again in 2020. Those seeking more information on the Day of Giving should visit the website at daysofgiving.duq.edu.

Duquesne announces memorial service for student

DYSON — from page 1

forthcoming.

“The death of a student is always tragic,” Frizzell said in a statement to The Duke. “Columbia was a kind, energetic and active student on campus and in the nursing program. She was well-liked and she will be missed by the entire Duquesne community. She and her family will remain in our prayers.”

Dyson was an active participant in Greek Life and the Duquesne University Student Nurse Association. In 2018 she was the Alumnae Relations Chairperson of the chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi and had begun her role as Vice President of Administration this semester.

The cause and manner of Dyson’s death are still to be determined.

Counselors are available in the University Counseling and Wellbeing Center, located at 636 Fisher Hall or can be reached at 412-396-6204.
"The truth is rarely pure and never simple."

— Oscar Wilde

You just read | Now tweet our thoughts | us yours.

@TheDuquesneDuke

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

**The Duquesne Duke** is the student-written, student-managed newspaper of Duquesne University. It is published every Thursday during the academic year except during summer breaks and holidays, and prior to final exams. The Staff Editorial is based on the opinions of the editors of The Duke and does not necessarily reflect the views of the students, faculty, administration, student government or the University publications board.

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

**Correction/clarifications**

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

**Contact**

email theduquesne@gmail.com

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**OPINIONS**

**Staff Editorial**

Hate speech and free speech not the same

The Democrat-Reporter, a newspaper in the western Alabama town of Linden, expanded its small readership this week with an editorial that forced its way into the mainstream news cycle by beginning with the sentence, “Time for the Ku Klux Klan to ride again.”

The op-ed called for the return of the infamous white supremacist group to “raid the gated communities” of Alabama Democrats and “Democrats in the Republican Party,” who the unsigned editorial accused of “plotting to raise taxes.” Though the piece ran on Feb. 14, it went largely unnoticed until students who posted photos of it on Monday. Tuesday morning, it occupied front pages and news channels across the country.

Long-time editor and publisher of the Democrat-Reporter, Goodloe Sutton, confirmed to several outlets that he was the mind behind the disturbing article and threw even more gas on the fire by saying “If we could get the Klan to go up there and clean out D.C., we’d all be better off…” well, we’ll get the hemp ropes out, loop them over a tall limb and hang all of them, in an interview with the Montgomery Advertiser.

Though there have already been calls from journalists across the country and Alabama lawmakers (including Democrat Rep. Terri Sewell, who represents the district that Linden falls in) to Sutton to apologize and resign from his post, this incident speaks to a much larger societal issue; giving hate a public platform.

While the Democrat-Reporter’s editorial may have been considered an extreme example, it falls within the confines of the national conversation surrounding hateful op-eds making their way onto editorial pages across the country. This hits home in Pittsburgh, as we have seen our share of controversy, over the line editorials within the pages of the Post-Gazette — one may recall the “Reason as Racism” opinion piece that ran in the paper on Martin Luther King Day in 2018.

As journalists, we understand and respect the need for a robust opinion section that represents viewpoints from across the political spectrum. However, we are at a point at which we require a redefinition of a valid opinion, and what is just revolting rhetoric. The latter has no place being published on any platform, because in our elevator pitch, free speech as a legitimate viewpoint, allow it to start becoming normal.

Free speech and hate speech must occupy different parts of our discourse; the two have been inter-twined for far too long. Free speech---
As election year nears, is U.S. ready for female president?

Allyse Kaninski  
staff columnist

Although we are only two months into 2019, I can already tell you what my wish for 2020 is: for a woman to win the presidential election. I hoped for the same thing in 2016. I wasn’t necessarily hoping for it to be Hillary Clinton, but I wanted the 45th president to be a woman. Early on in my childhood, I remember wondering why there haven’t been any female presidents. It didn’t add up in my very young mind that there had been so many male presidents. I wondered what that said about women in America.

It is now 2019. I am almost 20 years old and I still have not seen a woman be sworn in as the president of the U.S. But I’m not surprised. I think when I was little I had a very idealized vision of what the world was like, but I’ve since lost that hopefulness. I lost it on election night in 2016 when a misogynistic abuser of women was awarded the highest office in the world. It screamed volumes about the value of women in America.

An election year is almost upon us, and there are a lot of women who have already announced their candidacy. I think a lot of girls out there are anticipating the 46th president to be a woman. I want that more than anything in the world, but I’ve been asking myself this question: Is America ready for a female president?

I would love to say we are, but are we really? Is it even possible today?

I’ve been doing research on statistics about the way Americans feel about women in leadership. According to The Pew Research Center, 72 percent of women, a large majority, say that they feel they need to do more to prove themselves in the political and business world. 48 percent of men agree.

These numbers are not surprising to me. I think when a woman is successful in politics or business everyone acts like it’s some sort of phenomenon. “How does she do it?” they ask. She’s proven herself to the masses; she played the game right. For men, it’s easier. They’re expected to get promotions or hold public office. We’ve essentially expected a man to be president since 1788. That’s a long-standing tradition to end, and we know Americans love tradition.

Pew also reports that only 47 percent of men see a benefit for them when women are leaders. Men fail to see that when a woman takes a responsibility, it can open doors for men, too. They don’t need to bear a burden they otherwise would have, and it could lead to other opportunities for them. If men are already the ones in decision-making positions, it doesn’t look good for women who are going after higher realms when men don’t think they will benefit.

If American men are not willing to see how a female president could make things better for them, then a woman simply will not win this election. If men fail to see the areas in which feminism can improve their quality of life, for example, advocating for paternity leave or highlighting the dangers of toxic masculinity, then a woman will not win this election. Yes, Clinton won the popular vote, but if people vote like they did in 2016, 2020 will be a repeat of history.

I think things are changing little by little. This past midterm election gave me hope, when the most diverse Congress in history was put in action. I am still left wondering how this presidential election will play out. I really feel like it’s possible for President Trump to win a second term. No one expected him to do it the first time around.

So, back to my original question — Is America ready for a female president? These statistics made me uneasy, in all honesty. It is going to be crucial for men to be able to see a benefit for them if a woman is president. If a female candidate happens to strike some chord with the majority of men, there may be a fair shot. As for now, I’m skeptical if America is ready.

I hope American has seen a Madam President by the time I have my life and career together. I truly believe that it would mean great things for the whole world if the right woman did it. Of course, not every woman can be president, but not every man can, either. With that being said, it should not be some overwhelming phenomenon if a woman became president. We are just as qualified or capable as men are to do the job.

If the year 2036 rolls around and there has not been a female president... well, let’s just say you’ll be hearing a lot more from me.

BDS movement; Israel is not evil, but should be investigated

Alexander Wolfe  
staff columnist

Before President Trump captured headlines by declaring a national emergency to build his wall on the southern border, new members of the House Democratic caucus came under fire for anti-Semitic comments made regarding the state of Israel.

That said when a topic becomes as taboo as anti-Semitism, it’s important that we address accusations of anti-Semitism with the precedence and sensitivity it deserves. This means the unequivocal condemnation of anti-Semitic remarks and an honest investigation into charges of anti-Semitism when the truth does not appear so clearly. We have seen the right wing fringe dabble with questions of anti-Semitism, but I’ve been asking myself this question: Is America ready for a female president?

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If the year 2036 rolls around and there has not been a female president... well, let’s just say you’ll be hearing a lot more from me.

The BDS movement is critical of Israel, its occupation and its treatment of Palestinians.

The point of criticizing the Israeli government is not to question Israel’s right to exist, despite what AIPAC might have you believe. Israeli, in addition to its status as the sole Jewish state, fulfills an important geopolitical role in the Levant. The Israelis should have taken stock of the situation in 1967, and the nation hasn’t looked back.

The Israelis should have taken stock of the situation when a Security Council resolution unanimously passed accusing Israel of committing a “flagrant violation of international law” with regard to their policy of building settlements in officially designated Palestinian territory. Israel is not an inherently “evil” state as Ms. Omar tweeted in 2019, but actions of its government and its treatment of Palestinians demand an investigation.
A man wearing a blue coat, maroon hat and black sweatpants slowly made his way up and down the median on Washington Pl. at the intersection of Washington and Center Ave. Holding out a sign to vehicles stopped at the light, he shuffled along the small patch of concrete, patiently keeping his eye out for any generous drivers.

We approached the man from behind and accidentally startled him. He didn’t seem accustomed to others walking up to him and started a conversation. We introduced ourselves and he began sharing his story with us and briefly acknowledged the challenges he faces being homeless in Pittsburgh.

Jacob had lost his apartment in North Carolina during Hurricane Florence. He returned home, only to find his apartment destroyed. He lived in an apartment, and in the fall of 2017, suffered a severe spinal infection. He was hospitalized, and most of his savings went into paying off medical bills.

As soon as Jacob was released from the hospital in September, Hurricane Florence hit the coast. He immediately started to tell us his story.

Jacob explained that he had been living in North Carolina before he came to Pittsburgh. He lived in an apartment, and in the fall of 2017, suffered a severe spinal infection. He was hospitalized, and most of his savings went into paying off medical bills.

As soon as Jacob was released from the hospital in September, Hurricane Florence hit the coast. He returned home, only to find his apartment destroyed. Jacob gathered up all the money he had left and purchased a bus ticket to Pittsburgh, a city he had lived in before. He had faith in the opportunities it would offer him, and for the past few months, he’s been trying to pick himself back up again.

We asked him where he was staying, and in between mouthfuls, he explained how he was staying on-and-off at Light of Life. He mentioned the help it has offered him: food, warmth and a place to stay. In order to get a bed for the night, Jacob has to show up at check-in, where the volunteers take his name and assign him a ticket for the night.

A couple days a week, Jacob works cleaning buildings, and gets paid under the table. Sometimes he doesn’t get back to the North Side until late at night, missing check-in.

“If you’re not there, you don’t have a bed,” he explained. When he’s unable to stay the night at Light of Life, Jacob has to find other options. Sometimes he goes back Downtown, where there’s a warming shelter.

“If it’s gross, it’s just a gym floor,” he said. “They give you a little mat and you have to be up at 5:30 a.m.”

It’s hard for Jacob to sleep on the floor and then spend his days bent over cleaning with his back still in rough shape. It’s not a lot of money, so he has to work a little extra to get enough money to find a place to stay permanently.

Jacob spends a majority of his afternoons where we found him, holding up a sign asking for some cash and mentioning that he was a previously a Marine.

He cut our conversation short, saying he needed to take advantage of the traffic. Before saying goodbye, he assured us that though people often don’t have a lot to give, every little bit helps.

“Anything is enough.”

This is the start of a new series titled “Faces of Homelessness,” where Duke writers go into the community and ask people without homes about their stories. We aim to focus specifically on their opinions and perspectives on social and political issues, locally and nationally. We believe that every opinion matters, and that theirs should be told. We hope this series will impact the Duquesne and Pittsburgh communities positively, offering those without a home the chance to have their voices heard. Hopefully, we all will listen.

Jacob usually stands on the intersection of Washington Pl. and Center Ave.
Season’s final stretch vital for Duquesne’s hopes

At long last, the Atlantic 10 men’s basketball standings are finally beginning to take shape. Surprises and disappointments abound, and Duquesne finds itself right in the middle of it all.

Duquesne is one of the conference’s biggest surprises, as the A-10’s preseason poll had the Dukes slotted to finish eleventh in the 14-team league. VCU, picked to finish No. 7, is currently first in the league’s standings at 11-2 and 20-6 overall. Perhaps the A-10’s biggest disappointment this season was Saint Joseph’s. Coach Phil Martelli’s Hawks were picked to finish second in the conference in the preseason poll, but sit at an eye-opening twelfth place in the standings.

Misfortune continues as the league’s standings are tied with Duquesne in the league’s top half. Duquesne fans, plus Mike Hughes’ already cause for worry amongst Duquesne fans, plus Mike Hughes’ (knee) and Tavian Dunn-Martin’s (ankle) discomforts. Duquesne’s performance over its next five games will largely dictate its postseason positioning within the A-10 tournament. The Dukes travel to face fourth-place George Mason Feb. 23 and will face St. Bonaventure on the road on Feb. 27. The Dukes’ next home game falls on Saturday, March 2, versus UMass.

Three of the Dukes’ five remaining games are against teams currently above them in the standings, plus a fourth game versus No. 7 Saint Louis on March 6. The only opponent Duquesne has left that isn’t in the league’s top-half of the standings is UMass.

Duquesne’s last game of the regular season falls on March 9 versus Dayton. If Duquesne hopes to find itself with a double-bye in the conference tournament, it will need to secure a spot in the standings’ top four slots. To do so, topping George Mason on Saturday would be a good start. Dropping the decision against the Patriots would make for an uphill battle in Duquesne’s quest for a double-bye.

Games against St. Bonaventure and Saint Louis are of the utmost importance, as well, as both the Bonnies and the Billikens are tied with Duquesne in the league’s standings.

St. Bonaventure topped Duquesne on Feb. 6, giving the Bonnies the tiebreaker over the Dukes for the time being. Dropping another game to St. Bonaventure would not only drop Duquesne one game further in the standings, but would also give the Bonnies complete ownership of the tiebreaker between the two squads.

Once the regular season is complete, the conference’s 14 teams will be set for Brooklyn, New York, where the A-10 Championship Tournament begins on March 13. Until then, Dukes fans should be watching for several things — chief among them being the team’s overall health. Freshman guard Sincere Carry’s well-documented knee troubles are already cause for worry amongst Duquesne fans, plus Mike Hughes’ (knee) and Tavian Dunn-Martin’s (ankle) discomforts. All three benefited from an idle week that hasn’t seen DU play since a Feb. 16 win over George Washington.}

**Men’s Basketball A-10 Standings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Streak</th>
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<td>11-2</td>
<td>20-6</td>
<td>W7</td>
<td>2/23 vs. G. Washington</td>
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<td>10-3</td>
<td>19-7</td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>2/22 vs. Rhode Island</td>
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<td>9-4</td>
<td>17-9</td>
<td>W1</td>
<td>2/23 vs. Saint Louis</td>
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<td>George Mason</td>
<td>9-4</td>
<td>15-11</td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>2/23 vs. Duquesne</td>
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<td>8-5</td>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>2/23 vs. Fordham</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Duquesne</td>
<td>8-5</td>
<td>17-9</td>
<td>W1</td>
<td>2/23 vs. George Mason</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Saint Louis</td>
<td>8-5</td>
<td>17-9</td>
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<td>2/23 vs. Dayton</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>La Salle</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>8-17</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>2/23 vs. Richmond</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>L4</td>
<td>2/22 vs. Davidson</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>G. Washington</td>
<td>4-9</td>
<td>8-18</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Saint Joseph’s</td>
<td>4-9</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>2/23 @ UMass</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>UMass</td>
<td>2-11</td>
<td>9-17</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>2/23 vs. Saint Joseph’s</td>
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**Women’s Basketball A-10 Standings**

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<td>14-1</td>
<td>20-6</td>
<td>W7</td>
<td>2/23 @ Duquesne</td>
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<td>10-3</td>
<td>19-7</td>
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<td>2/22 vs. Rhode Island</td>
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<td>Davidson</td>
<td>9-4</td>
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<td>4.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
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<td>9-17</td>
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PITTSBURGH (AP) — Le’Veon Bell is free to go. Antonio Brown, maybe not so much.

The Pittsburgh Steelers have no plans to place a transition tag on Bell, allowing the star running back to reach the open market when free agency begins next month. And while the team will explore moving Brown, general manager Kevin Colbert stressed Wednesday the Steelers will not cut the talented but turbulent star wide receiver just to appease him.

“By no means are we going to make a trade or any type of move that will not be beneficial to the Pittsburgh Steelers organization,” Colbert said. “We will not be discounting (Brown) on the trade market and we certainly will not be releasing (him).”

Brown began openly campaigning for a new team shortly after Pittsburgh finished 9-6-1, upset after being made inac

Colbert allowed Brown could remain in Pittsburgh if the asking price isn’t met, and doesn’t seem too concerned about Brown’s recent antics making it impos

Colbert said the team would rather use in other areas the salary cap space created by not tagg

Bell. The Steelers appear set at running back with James Conner and Jaylen Samuels but could need help at wide re

ceiver if Brown is traded. Inside lineback

er and defensive back are both filled with question marks after a 2-4 slide to end the regular season.

“We’re still a great player but we can’t afford to use any type of tag with other needs that we have,” Colbert said.

The team does plan to bring back kicker Chris Boswell, who converted just 13 of 20 field goals in 2018 after being a Pro Bowler in 2017. Boswell is expected to face competition in training camp. The team also plans to work on a contract extension for the 36-year-old Roethlis

berger, though Colbert said he wants some of Roethlisberger’s veteran teammates to take on more ownership of the club’s performance.

“I honestly believe (leadership) can be (more of) a burden on Roethlisberger than he may like to admit,” Colbert said.

“He’s got 52 kids under him, honestly, and I want them to step up and say, ‘Hey Ben, what do I have to do?’”

Steelers won’t tag Bell; will explore trade for Brown

I know we didn’t play well, and I underst

standing if people remember us as a ter

able team engulfed in chaos. But from my

While the story itself is one of a franchise’s

wacky misfortunes over the course of a

multi-year period, Hirshon acknowledged

What “satisfy” means is up to the Steel

ers and not Brown, who along with agent

Drew Rosenhaus will be kept in the loop

but will not be given freedom to go see

their own deal. Colbert declined to get

into specifics on what the team is looking

for, pointing out it could be a draft pick

or an established player or perhaps some

combination.

The Dallas Cowboys gave the Oakland Raiders a 2019 first-round pick for Amari Cooper last fall. Pittsburgh even snagged a third-rounder from the Raiders last spring for Martavis Bryant.

Neither Cooper nor Bryant has any

where near Brown’s resume, but they also

don’t have his contract. Brown, who turns

31 in July, has three years left on the $68

million extension he signed in the spring of

2017. Though he’s cryptically mentioned “new demands” in various social media posts, if traded he would be tied to that deal with his new team.

Colbert allowed Brown could remain in Pittsburgh if the asking price isn’t met, and doesn’t seem too concerned about Brown’s recent antics making it impos

sible for him to assimilate back into the locker room.

“I’ve seen players change perspectives from beginning of a game to the end of the game to the following week, let alone a season to an offseason to a new season,” he said. “I don’t think any relationship is irreparable.”

At least when it comes to Brown. Mending fences with Bell isn’t a priority because there aren’t any to fix. Rather than engage in another standoff with Bell — who sat out all of 2018 after declining to sign his one-

year, $14.4 million franchise tender — the Steelers will let him go via free agency.

Pittsburgh had the option of placing the transition tag on Bell, but the machina

tions involved and the money and time it would take to pursuing the early days of free agency proved prohibitive. Colbert said the team would rather use in other areas the salary cap space created by not tagg

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The Umbrella Academy a fresh take on hero genre

Neil Runge  
staff writer

Gothic and superhero aesthetics are usually on either side of a spectrum, but in the middle is Netflix's newest show, The Umbrella Academy. Based on the comic book series written by former My Chemical Romance lead singer Gerard Way and illustrated by Gabriel Bá, this show brings something new to the ensemble superhero genre. It brings interesting characters with even more interesting powers together in a setting that is something else entirely than what is normally seen in superhero shows.

The premise of the show is that seven super-powered children, all born at the exact time, are adopted by billionaire Reginald Hargreeves. The children were given numbers by Hargreeves, but given names by their robot caretaker, Mom. In order of their numbers, there's Luther, Diego, Allison, Klaus, Five, Ben and Vanya. After Ben's death, the six remaining children, now adults, reunite for the funeral, but also to solve the mystery of their father's death and to deal with the imminent apocalypse. They don't know how the end of the world will come about, all they know is that it happens in eight days.

The cast includes Ellen Page, Mary J. Blige, Aidan Gallagher and Robert Sheehan, who all bring astounding performances to the show.

It's their powers that set these heroes apart from others — classic powers that are given a new twist by Way. Luther has a monkey-like body that gives him resistance to harm on top of superhuman strength. Diego has knife-throwing skills so powerful that he can curve blades so they always strike exactly where he aims. Allison can control people with the phrase "I heard a rumor." Klaus speaks to the dead and has telekinesis. Ben can make children growth tentacles come from his chest. The outlier is Vanya, who's seemingly ordinary.

The use of music also makes The Umbrella Academy special. Each song, from the Doors' "Soul Kitchen" to "Sunshine, Lollipops and Rainbows" by Leslie Gore is used to enhance the scene they're used in. It doesn't feel like the crew just picked a song at random. The songs are integrated into each scene, whether they're playing from a radio or in headphones. It helps the audience be immersed even further into the story.

It's not just the songs though; it's the set pieces and actors that build the world of the show beautifully. The diverse cast gives astounding performances that bring Way and Bá's characters to life.

The sibling dynamic between Gallagher and Sheehan's characters Five and Klaus is enjoyable and relatable. With the script written with how siblings act in mind and their acting skills, it isn't hard to imagine viewers and their siblings speaking the same way. The dialogue doesn't feel generic or fake.

Though based on the comic, there are a lot of differences between it and the show. Major differences in the show seem to be for the sake of diversity. In the books, all members of the academy are white; when it comes to the show a large portion of the cast and diverse. There's also the change in Klaus' sexuality. Comic Klaus was straight, had a kid and wife, the whole nine yards. They were traded out to make Klaus gay, and it worked beautifully. His identity wasn't mocked and when he spoke about it, it was casual, like he had been out and proud his whole life. It's comforting to see a gay character be supported and do something more than just come out.

There are other little differences, that, when totaled, make it obvious that the comic books are far weirder than the show. This doesn't mean one is better than the other. Every change made for the show allows the plot and characters to shine. The changes make it easier to understand and make sure that people who've never heard of the comic enjoy the show.

The Umbrella Academy is something new while not deviating from what's expected from the superhero genre.

Miss Bala remake well-done and action-packed

Natalie Schroeder  
staff writer

Action-thriller Miss Bala premiered this month, up against many other high-anticipated films. Directed by Catherine Hardwicke and written by Gareth Dunnet-Alcocer, Miss Bala is a remake of the 2011 Mexican film of the same name. The film follows a Latin-American woman named Gloria Fuentes (Gina Rodríguez) as she visits her best friend Suzu (Christina Rodlo) in Tijuana, Mexico to help her prepare for a pageant. Because this is a remake, the plot remains relatively similar to the original — while Gloria and Suzu have downtime, they head to a club where things go awry very quickly.

As the Las Estrellas gang opens fire in the club, Suzu and Gloria get separated, which forces Gloria to seek help from the police since she saw what these men looked like. However, the police officer informs the gang instead, and Gloria is abducted.

After being separated from Suzu, Gloria consistently has one goal: To find Suzu and take her back home to her family. From the heartbreaking separation to the happy reunion, many people are caught in the crosshairs between the police and the Las Estrellas gang.

Being a character that needs to survive in order to find Suzu, the decisions she makes in order to stay alive are bound to get someone else killed eventually. While Gloria performs the tasks she is told to do by the gang, she is pulled aside by the DEA that agrees to help her if she helps them catch Lino Esparza (Ismael Cruz Cordova), the gang's leader.

Rodriguez has a solid performance from opening to closing credits, which are enough to make Klaus and Five is enjoyable and relatable. With the script written with how siblings act in mind and their acting skills, it isn't hard to imagine viewers and their siblings speaking the same way. The dialogue doesn't feel generic or fake.

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The Umbrella Academy is something new while not deviating from what's expected from the superhero genre.

This third and final film in the franchise has already received positive reviews from critics, currently holding a 95% "Certified Fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

This Land by Gary Clark Jr.  
Friday, Feb. 22

This album was led by the acclaimed titular single, a song about racism in America, borrowing from Woody Guthrie's immortal protest song "This Land is Your Land."
A look into Academy Award best picture nominees

Oscar season will once again highlight various aspects of the movie industry for its cinematic excellence at the 91st annual Academy Awards. The ceremony, set to air without a host following Kevin Hart’s controversial tweets, rewards hardworking production staff/actors in several categories including best costume design, lead actor/actress, cinematography, animated feature film, and, of course, best picture. After viewing all eight nominated movies, we have explored the intricacies of each film and pondered the ultimate contenders for the famous gold statuette.

**Black Panther**

The film truly embellishes 18th century Britain and revels in the bold and unsavory side of royal life. The film’s set is simply dripping with a rustic design and excellent camera shots as well as exquisite costumes. Many scenes are not spelled out but are heavily implied, trusting that the viewers are smart enough to connect the pieces. This film knows how to have fun with its subject genre while also tackling serious and sentimental plot points.

**Green Book**

This film takes place in the 1960s and follows Dr. Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali), an African-American classical pianist, and Tony Lip (Viggo Mortensen), an Italian-American bouncer enlisted as Shirley’s cab driver. The events take both characters into the deep South for Shirley’s U.S. tour and reveal the complications associated with a budding interracial friendship in the era of segregation. The excellent plot reveals a dynamic shift between both characters in what it means to be a loyal friend and to speak out for change.

**Roma**

Roma is the first ever Netflix movie to be nominated for an Oscar. Loosely based on the life of the director Alfonso Cuarón, Roma tells the story of a Mexican domestic worker, Cleo (Yalitza Aparicio), and the family she cares for during politically-charged riots in the 1970s. This film has plenty of heart and emotion in both its writing and performance. Although the movie lags on for a majority of its duration, the last 45 minutes are probably the most heart-wrenching parts of any movie nominated for best picture this year. This film features expert cinematography that utilizes the camera’s personality to its fullest extent, almost making the camera feel like a cast member watching the entire scene take place.

**A Star Is Born**

In the third (and hopefully last) remake of A Star Is Born, Bradley Cooper takes on directing and acting, earning nominations for best actor and best picture. The film highlights rock star Jackson Maine (Cooper) as he falls in love with aspiring singer Ally (Lady Gaga) and helps her rise to fame. A Star Is Born puts mental illness at the forefront, revealing the harsh truths of finding ways to support loved ones silently suffering. Cooper opted for interesting artistic cinematography and, of course, cast the ever-talented Lady Gaga. Unfortunately, the movie did not take time to develop Ally’s journey to stardom and seemed corny at times. At one point, it was frustrating to watch Ally convince herself to hold back from her potential because of feeling pity for Jackson’s situation.

**Vice**

Vice details the political life and rise to power of Vice President Dick Cheney (Christian Bale) in a pseudo-biopic. The movie primarily focuses on the events surrounding the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and their outcome in the ensuing years. This film feels as if it is trying to be a political comedy; However, the black humor does not come across as cartoonishly humorous and the intricacies of Cheney’s character are not completely evident. Throughout the eight nominated movies that highlight various social, racial, and sexual subjects, the Academy will certainly have its hands full discerning which film reigns supreme. Several of the best picture nominees also hold nominations in other categories, including best actor/actress and best cinematography. In terms of the movie that carries the whole package of cinematic, costuming, editing and acting excellence, The Favourite and Green Book are two very strong contenders for the award.

Director Spike Lee’s film, based on true events, introduces the story of the Colorado Police Force’s investigation of their local Ku Klux Klan in the early 1970s with help of the force’s first African-American Detective Ron Stallworth (John David Washington). While Stallworth operates over the phone, he enlists the help of white Jewish officer, Flip Zimmerman (Adam Driver) to meet the Klan in person. This film has all the trademarks of a traditional Spike Lee film with the addition of cinematic style, creative character dialogue and a good sense of humor. Beneath the surface, BlacKkKlansman reveals scarier truths about the racial prejudice and brutality that still exists today.

In another film based on true events, Green Book takes place in the 1960s and follows Dr. Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali), an African-American classical pianist, and Tony Lip (Viggo Mortensen), an Italian-American bouncer enlisted as Shirley’s cab driver. The events take both characters into the deep South for Shirley’s U.S. tour and reveal the complications associated with a budding interracial friendship in the era of segregation. The excellent plot reveals a dynamic shift between both characters in what it means to be a loyal friend and to speak out for change.

**The Favourite**

The Favourite takes place in 18th Century England during the rule of Queen Anne and tells the story of two cousins (Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz) vying to be the Queen’s favorite.
Editorial writers must be responsible

Free speech and hate speech must occupy different parts of our discourse; the two have been intertwined for far too long. Free speech ensures the right of individuals to express their opinions whether or not the governing bodies, from the White House to the editorial page of a small newspaper, agree. Hate speech, though, goes beyond the well-intentioned and delves deeply into dangerous waters. Editorials like the one ran in the Democrat-Reporter prey upon historical horrors and serve no purpose other than to give hate a platform it doesn’t need. We, as journalists, must be responsible when we exercise our right to write.
For Hire

Fiction Editor
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:lexicon is interviewing for open Fiction and Poetry Editor positions for the Spring 2020. Position duties will begin with shadowing of the current editor in Fall of 2019. To apply please visit our website lexiconjournal.org or email us at lexicon@duq.edu

Editor-in-Chief
L’Esprit du Duc

This paid position is open to anyone on campus with relevant skills and/or experience. The position would start in the 2019-2020 academic year. A resume and a cover letter can be emailed to Selfridgej@duq.edu by February 28 for consideration for an interview.

Editor-in-Chief
The Duquesne Duke

The Duke is currently looking for a new Editor-in-Chief starting in the Fall 2019 semester. This is a paid position that is open to any full-time Duquesne student, but candidates with journalism experience are preferred. For those looking to apply, resumes and cover letters should be sent to theduqduke@gmail.com by March 11.

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