

“Solidarity Marches” continue across city

Club makes inclusive toys



KATIA FAROUN / PHOTO EDITOR

Police were present to guide protestors through the city after the verdict of the Rosfeld trial was announced on March 22. Here, an organizer marched with a group of peaceful demonstrators through Downtown on Saturday, March 23. A subsequent protest occurred the following Monday, and most statistics state that nearly 1,000 students showed up to demonstrate and make their voices heard in what they are called a “solidarity march.”

LUKE SCHRUM
staff writer

The importance of playing with toys as a kid cannot be understated. Childhood experiences often give children the opportunity to realize their future potential, but not all children have the same capabilities. Though everyone is unique, mass market toys do not always reflect it. Many don’t have features that are supportive of children with disabilities.

Students have realized the need for inclusive, easily available toys and are taking action to create them. Start PLAY – Hackers, a Duquesne club, has started improving toys to make them available to children with disabilities according to club president Nicole Lucente.

“The goal of Start PLAY – Hackers is to adapt, fix or create toys that children with impairments can play with,” Lucente said.

While toys are available that already have modifications, most are prohibitively expensive and not durable enough for long-term use.

see TOYS — page 3

Verdict announced in Rosfeld trial, protesters take to streets

KAILEY LOVE
editor-in-chief

The trial of Michael Rosfeld, a former East Pittsburgh police officer charged with one count of criminal homicide for the fatal shooting of unarmed black teenager Antwon Rose II in June 2018, ended late Friday night in a not guilty verdict and a string of protests throughout the city.

With the options of not guilty or guilty of first-degree murder, third-degree murder, voluntary manslaughter or in-voluntary manslaughter, the jury deliberated for about three and a half hours, coming to their decision around 8 p.m.

The jury in Rosfeld’s trial, selected in Harrisburg a week earlier, originally consisted of six men and six women,



three of whom were African-American. On March 22, one of the original jurors was dismissed by presiding Common Pleas Judge Alexander Bicket for undisclosed reasons, and replaced with an alternate.

Preparations for possible protests upon announcement of the verdict were released several days before the trial began. As a “safety precaution,” the Pittsburgh Public Safety Department announced that they would be closing sections of Grant and Ross Streets and Forbes and Fifth Avenues while the trial was in session. An additional increase in law enforcement presence Downtown and in various designated zones was also planned, according to

see TRIAL — page 2

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opinions	features	sports	a & e
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PAGE 5	PAGE 6	PAGE 7	PAGE 10

POLICE BRIEFS

Sister PB hates to be blunt, but you guys caused quite the blaze this week with criminal activity. Here are the reports, freshly baked and ready for you to enjoy!

On March 19, Duquesne Police were sent to St. Martin's Hall in response to a report of students smoking marijuana in the bathroom. They were referred to the Office of Student Conduct, while a student was charged by summons with delivering marijuana. Other charges filed include possession with intent to deliver, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On March 21, a student and two non-affiliates were found to be in the possession of a small amount of marijuana and paraphernalia. One of the non-affiliates was issued a non-traffic citation and the student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Also on March 21, an odor of marijuana permeated through Vickroy Hall. An administrative search was conducted and the source was found, the perpetrators were a Duquesne student and their guest. Subsequently, the student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On March 23, a report was made that a Duquesne student was being harassed by a University of Pittsburgh student. The case is still active. C'mon guys, the city game was months ago, and you won!

On March 25, a vehicle parked in the Locust Street Garage was broken into and a portable speaker was stolen from the glove box.

Also on March 25, a Duquesne employee reported damage to her car while it was parked on campus.

There seems to be a theme in the crime reports this week, I just can't put my finger on it though ... Oh well! We'll just keep on rolling by, and Sister PB will see you back here next week!

EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

The Duke's news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn't make sense? You can send your tips and story ideas to News Editor Hallie Lauer at hallielauer18@gmail.com.

Alum receives lifetime achievement award

KELLEN STEPLER
staff writer

Everyone has a personal goal that they hope to achieve. For some, it is passing a big exam, others it's graduating college. For Duquesne University alumni LaVerne VanDeWall, it's receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Samaritan Medical Center (SMC) in Watertown, New York.

On Thursday, April 4, the SMC will be hosting its seventh annual physician recognition dinner. Hosted by the SMC Medical Executive Committee and Foundation, the event recognizes active and retired physicians for their dedication. As part of the event, one physician is chosen to receive the lifetime achievement award, recognizing them for their leadership and service to the health and well-being of the northern New York area.

VanDeWall is being recognized for his 27 years of dedication to the SMC.

"This event has been established to offer the entire community an opportunity to recognize and thank our physicians for their time, talent and commitment," Thomas H. Carman,

President and CEO of Samaritan Medical Center, said in a news release.

The SMC is a 290-bed not-for-profit community medical center. According to their mission statement, "Samaritan Medical Center and its team of healthcare professionals proudly serves the medical needs of our civilian and military community. Quality, compassion and safety are the basic principles by which exceptional care is delivered at Samaritan."

A Rochester, New York native, VanDeWall attended Albany College of Pharmacy where he earned his Bachelor's of Science in Pharmacy degree in 1975, and then received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Duquesne in 1977.

"The School of Pharmacy wishes to acknowledge the accomplishments of Dr. LaVerne VanDeWall," J. Douglas Bricker, dean of the pharmacy school said. "He was among those who pioneered the clinical pharmacy movement while receiving his Post-Baccalaureate Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Duquesne. Duquesne was one of the very few schools of pharmacy who offered this degree and this

program played a pivotal role in how clinical pharmacy has expanded throughout the country."

After practicing pharmacy for a few years, VanDeWall went back to school in 1981 and attended Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, in which he received his doctorate of osteopathic medicine in 1985.

"In 2000, all schools of pharmacy were required to convert to the entry level Doctor of Pharmacy degree. We were ahead of the curve and Dr. VanDeWall helped us to get there," Bricker said.



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"Whether in their private practice, hospital duties, board or medical staff leadership positions or volunteer work, Samaritan's physicians dedicate their time and talent to making the community a better place to live," the news release said.

Since then, VanDeWall has been involved in the Watertown medical community for the past 27 years. He has provided care at SMC, Samaritan Summit Village and the Samaritan Keep Home. He also served as the medical director for the Mercy of Northern New York.

According to the press release, VanDeWall has been involved in several committees at SMC, such as medical management, antibiotic stewardship, and graduate medical education. He also served as president of the medical staff in 2003, 2010 and 2015, and served on the Credentials and medical executive committees.

VanDeWall and his wife live in Watertown, New York, and have four adult daughters and six grandchildren.

The awards dinner for VanDeWall's lifetime achievement award will be on Thursday, April 4.

Students continue march days after verdict

TRIAL — from page 1

their statement.

With its close proximity to the Allegheny County Courthouse, Duquesne also made preparations in the event of demonstrations.

Through an email alert on Wednesday, March 20, Duquesne Police Chief Tom Hart notified students of the anticipated demonstrations in the area surrounding the courthouse. Even though he said that "we don't expect any disruptions," he notified students of the precautionary measure taken to make Libermann, Fisher and Rockwell Halls swipe-accessible until further notice. At time of print, the skywalks will remain open.

"At Duquesne, the safety of every student, faculty and staff member is of the greatest importance. We have long been aware of the Michael Rosfeld trial date and have worked together on organized, thoughtful preparation to uphold the welfare of everybody on campus," said Gabe Welsch, Duquesne vice president for marketing and communications.

Also stressing that the university "does not expect any disruptions," Welsch said that "the University is

monitoring the situation carefully ... In the case of any major adjustment to ongoing campus operations, we will quickly inform students, faculty and staff via the DU Alert system, campus email, the Duquesne University home page, social media posts and other communication methods."

Welsch also stated that Duquesne Public Safety is in "constant contact with and cooperating with Pittsburgh Police" in monitoring the situation close to campus.

Hours after the verdict, Duquesne President Ken Gormley released a statement regarding the trial via an email to students, stating that "It is important to allow the system of justice to move forward in the aftermath of this decision."

"I want our campus community to know the outcome and to understand that many throughout the Duquesne community will have a variety of opinions and reactions to the verdict. Our duty to one another is to create respectful space and time for discussion, prayer and reflection," he said. "As trying as this moment may be for those who have followed this tragic event in our community, we should all reflect on ways we can commit to a more just nation and world."

Shortly after, Vice President for Student Life Douglas Frizzell also sent out an email to students, stating, "I recognize that this has been and may continue to be a very challenging time for many as this has been a very emotionally charged case. Please know that there are many resources at Duquesne University that are available for those who wish support."

Lawyers for Rosfeld argued that the shooting of 17-year-old Rose was justified, based on the events that preceded the shooting. According to police reports, the incident occurred at a traffic stop, where the vehicle Rose was in was pulled over because it matched the description of a car that had been involved in a drive-by shooting earlier that night. Rose and the backseat passenger, Zaijuan Hester, fled as Rosfeld ordered the driver down on the ground.

Rosfeld was captured on video by bystanders shooting a retreating Rose three times. One shot hit him in the back and went through his heart and lung; he was pronounced dead at the hospital soon after.

Earlier this month, 18-year-old Hester pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and firearms violations for the aforementioned drive-by shooting. On the night in question, two handguns had been found in the vehicle, and an ammunition clip was discovered in Rose's pocket, but he was not in physical possession of a weapon when he was shot.

Following Rose's death last summer, protesters took to the streets in locations ranging from the East Pittsburgh police station to the streets of Downtown. One of these protests even shut down Interstate 376. Following the not guilty verdict, protesters gathered outside of the courthouse, and demonstrations also

occurred late into the night throughout East Liberty.

A statement released by the Public Safety Department shortly after the verdict said, "If demonstrations occur, Pittsburgh Police will be present to assure safety from everyone — including demonstrators, residents, business owners and visitors to our city. We know from experience that when Pittsburgh experiences hardships, we come together as a community."

Following a number of inquiries "about safety on campus given some of the activity in the city following the verdict," Frizzell released an additional email to students on Saturday afternoon regarding safety precautions.

"We planned to enhance the number of police patrols on the campus and lock down all Living Learning Centers 24 hours a day following the verdict, which are in place," Frizzell said. "We are unaware of any threat to student safety on campus. If that changes in any way we will alert students and provide updated information immediately."

Several hours after Frizzell's email, a peaceful demonstration, referred to as a "solidarity march," made its way throughout Downtown's main roads for over two and a half hours. Chants such as "Whose streets? Our streets!" and "Which side are you on? Freedom side!" rang out, as well as a song with the lyrics such as "Antwon Rose was a freedom fighter and he taught us how to fight / what side are you on, my people, what side are you on?" The protesters briefly marched alongside Duquesne's campus on Forbes Avenue, and the protest eventually dissipated after marchers reached Market Square. They later reassem-



KATIA FAROUN / PHOTO EDITOR

see TRIAL — page 3

DU club design suitable toys for children with disabilities

TOYS — from page 1

"The toys that are suitable for [children with impairments] are extremely overpriced and break easily," Lucente said.

To overcome challenges that families face to find suitable toys for their children, the club modifies toys in specific ways based on need.

"Toys that require a child to press down hard to activate it can often be difficult for a child who doesn't have great muscle strength. PLAY – Hackers re-configure the toy to put a more sensitive button on it so the child can play, despite their limitations," Lucente said.

Projects the PLAY – Hackers work on are designed and configured based on needs expressed to the club through Regina Harbourne, an advisor to the club and assistant professor in the Rangos School of Health Sciences.

"The toys we complete are given to children as we become aware of need. If [Harbourne] is working with a child who could benefit from one of our toys, she will give them one," Lucente said. "I have also brought toys to my nursing facility for medically complex children

in Massachusetts, and we also give toys to local schools like the Western PA School for the Blind."

Each toy project is unique in both its goals and the length of time it takes to complete. While some toys are small and simple enough to complete in one meeting, others take significantly longer.

"We have larger projects that can take up to a whole year. The project I have been working on is an adaptive car for a young boy," Lucente said.

PLAY – Hackers have the ability to experience new opportunities related to their major or minor areas of study through the club while also volunteering their time. Sophomore occupational therapy major Olivia Shope is helping to make a difference through her work while the club is also shaping her time at Duquesne.

"Start PLAY – Hackers played a role in deciding my second minor. The assistive technology minor is relatively new, and this club goes along with it very well," Shope said.

While the technologies used by students to modify toys can be intimidating, prior experience with them are not required to join.

"I'm someone who has never been very adept with electronics or engineering, but Play – Hack-

ers allows for a really nice learning environment to get accustomed to it. Even if you're a person who has little interest in the technology part of it, it's a nice way to make a difference by helping to adapt or fix toys for children with disabilities," Shope said.

The PLAY – Hackers recently participated in an event to display their projects to a large audience. The event was one of many they attend to display their work to audiences of varying ages.

"We recently participated in Winter Hack, which is a fair for 'hackers' to showcase their work. PLAY – Hackers also visit local schools and programs to teach school-aged kids how to make some of our projects, as well as teach them about some of the science behind how they work," Lucente said.

New students are always welcome to join the club if they wish to get involved with the cause.

"Students can join our roster on CampusLink to be added to our email list. We meet every other Wednesday in Libermann Hall at 4 p.m. Students can reach out to me or any of the advisors to find out when our next meeting is. Our doors are always open," Lucente said.

DU takes precautions in light of protests

TRIAL — from page 2

bled at Schenley Plaza and continued their protest in Oakland.

Another protest occurred on Monday on Grant Street Downtown, driven by student participation. A planned student "walk out" that converged at the City-County building was organized through a Facebook event, and described as a "peaceful protest to celebrate the life of Antwon and the justice he deserved." Hundreds of local high school and university students marched down the Boulevard of the Allies.

Prior to the protest, handwritten notes were seen on glass doors and

windows at the entrances to College Hall on campus which read "Walkout 12 p.m. City County #JusticeforAntwon." The messages were washed away by late afternoon on Monday.

Per Frizzell's initial email, there are several locations on campus that will provide support to students that are seeking it in the wake of the trial, including: Center for Student Wellbeing – Counseling Services; Office of Diversity and Inclusion; Campus Ministry; Residence Life and Public Safety – in the event you have an immediate need after University office hours or an emergency, call 412-396-6002.



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EDITORIAL
POLICY

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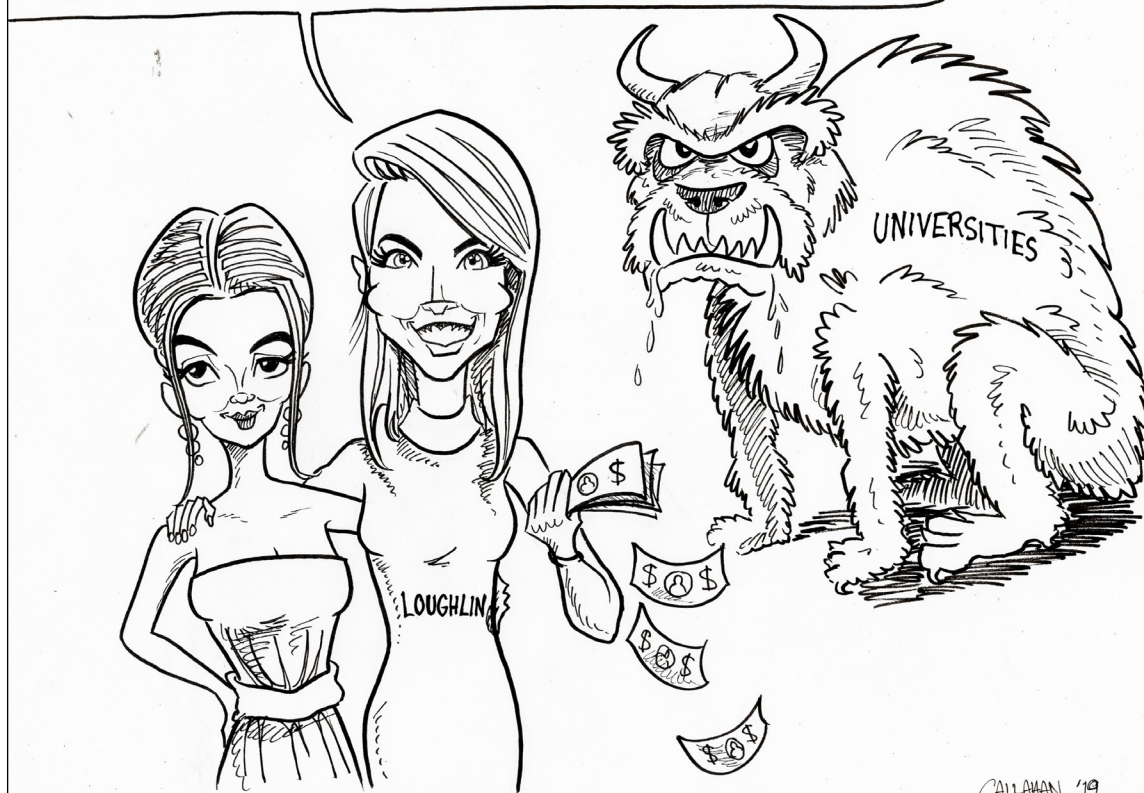
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OH, HE'S HARMLESS, REALLY! I JUST FEED HIM THESE...
THAT'S ALL HE REALLY WANTS ANYWAYS!



CARTOON BY JORDAN CALLAHAN

in focus...

Chick-fil-A continues to financially support anti-LGBTQ+ organizations

OLLIE GRATZINGER

opinions editor

It turns out that your spicy chicken sandwich still comes with a side of homophobia: In a less-than-shocking report by ThinkProgress, it was revealed that Chick-fil-A has continued to donate to anti-LGBTQ+ causes despite claiming otherwise in 2016.

The company had vowed to cut donations with all "contributions that could be deemed offensive," aside from the Salvation Army, according to ThinkProgress. But the numbers from 2017 show continued donations to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), which prohibits its employees from engaging in homosexual acts and imposes upon them a "sexual purity policy." In 2015, the FCA released an article comparing homosexuality to the unhealthy habit of smoking cigarettes. In 2017, Chick-fil-A donated more than \$1 million to the organization.

When the Chick-fil-A first came to Duquesne's campus last year, student advocates for the queer community voiced concern regarding the university's choice to include an organization that knowingly supports exclusionary groups. Their concern was met with harsh criticism and public censure. Apprehension existed because Chick-fil-A financially supported — and continues to support — organizations that deny LGBTQ+ individuals' right

to exist authentically. As far as I'm concerned, that apprehension still exists, even if it was snubbed, belittled and reduced by the folks who controlled the narrative.

Chick-fil-A denies claims of homophobia, purporting that they have no policy of discrimination.

"We have never donated with the purpose of supporting a social or political agenda. There are 140,000 people — black, white; gay, straight; Christian, non-Christian — who represent Chick-fil-A," the company said in a statement to ThinkProgress. "We are the sum of many experiences, but what we all have in common is a commitment to providing great food, genuine hospitality and a welcoming environment to all of our guests."

It's a nice thought. The words are pacifying and pretty. But if they're true, Chick-fil-A ought to put its money where its mouth is.

There are tons of Christian organizations that are affirming of everyone, regardless of sexual orientation. Q Christian Fellowship, for instance, works toward encouraging a world to embrace the Christian principle of unconditional love.

"By gathering together, embracing our differences, and celebrating our shared trust in God's love in Christ, we seek to point toward the full inclusivity to which God is calling us," its website reads. "Just as Jesus led by example in his life on earth,

we are dedicated to living out a transformative example of fellowship in the world."

The Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN), too, aims to include all people in its creed.

According to its website, "Reconciling Ministries Network believes that human sexuality is a good gift from God. RMN is committed to supporting the integration of healthy, loving expressions of sexuality and spirituality for everyone. We celebrate the sexuality and spirituality of same and opposite gender loving persons and pledge to provide resources that lead to a deeper understanding of God's precious gift."

Homophobia is not a Christian value. These organizations and the countless others like them prove that Chick-fil-A can maintain its spiritual base without endorsing exclusionary ideas. Besides, wouldn't it be more Christian to donate to organizations that help the marginalized than to one that tells student athletes it's not okay to be gay?

I've eaten at Duquesne's Chick-fil-A, even after the initial controversy. As a queer person and activist, I'd convinced myself that there were bigger battles to fight, and I've fought them with a belly full of nuggets. It sometimes feels like there's no such thing as ethical consumption when so many organizations hand off checks to corporations that support one evil or another, but it doesn't hurt to try. Maybe the \$7 I'd shell out for lunch won't make a difference in the long run, but now, it's a matter of principle. It feels healthier — morally and probably physically, too — to go elsewhere, and elsewhere is exactly where I'll be going from now on.

STAFF
EDITORIAL

Release the Mueller report!

The anticipated end to the "Mueller report," which has grabbed headlines and reigned over cable news chyrons for the 22 month span of the investigation, dominated national attention on Sunday afternoon. All of this attention, and we haven't even seen it yet.

If for some reason you have been living under a rock and this is all news to you, here is a quick recap: Robert Mueller, the special counsel appointed after President Trump fired his FBI Director James Comey, was assigned to look into the wrongdoings and potential crimes committed by President Trump and his campaign team. Since 2017, Mueller has been in charge of investigating potential ties between the Trump team and Russia, looking for instances of collusion or obstruction of justice. Following Russia's hacking of the 2016 election, there were suspicious activities on the part of Trump campaign officials that indicated that there may have been a conspiracy to "steal the election."

Fast forward to Friday, March 22, it was announced that Mueller had concluded his investigation and was delivering his full report to the Justice Department. The debate currently raging in the Capitol and across the country is whether the Mueller report should be made public in its entirety (while leaving out the highly sensitive or classified bits), or if we should settle for what we were provided instead: a CliffNotes version of the investigation by Attorney General William Barr.

Perhaps intended as a compromise, Barr delivered a four page summary to reporters on Sunday in which he concluded that the President did not "collude" with Russia, based on Mueller's findings. However, the report left the question of obstruction of justice wide open.

The exact words were, "While this report does not conclude that the president committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him."

Maybe Trump didn't read that part, or was too busy doing victory laps around the Twitter-sphere, because he tweeted, "No Collusion, No Obstruction, Complete and Total EXONERATION. KEEP AMERICA GREAT!" on Sunday following the release of Barr's summary.

Close, but no cigar, Mr. President.

Let us not forget that the Mueller probe indicted 34 individuals over its 22 month span, including Michael Cohen (Trump's former lawyer), Roger Stone (Trump's former advisor), Paul Manafort (Trump's former campaign chair), George Papadopoulos (a former Trump campaign aid), Michael Flynn (Trump's former national secu-

see STAFF ED— page 11

OPINIONS

Political tensions heat up in U.K. as Brexit deadline nears

COLLEEN HAMMOND
staff columnist

In the summer of 2016, former United Kingdom Prime Minister David Cameron proposed a referendum to leave the European Union. By an exceedingly narrow margin, the people voted to remove themselves from the EU. Thus began the downward spiral of failed bureaucratic deliberations and political polarization. While Parliament assured citizens three years would be enough time to properly negotiate a fair and comprehensive deal with the EU, these promises have been broken by current Prime Minister Theresa May's inability to unify Parliament and solidify the terms of Brexit.

In plainest terms, Brexit is a nightmare. The majority of the Brexit campaign was built on a series of propagated lies and factual inaccuracies. In 2016, the mayor of London, Boris Johnson, endorsed a pro-Brexit ad campaign on buses across the city, falsely claiming, "We send the EU £350 million a week." While it is not entirely free for the U.K. to be a part of the EU, this number fails to take into account rebates the U.K. receives from the EU. These rebates lower

that figure to around £190 million per week.

Although this may seem offensively expensive to some, it will be inherently more expensive to trade with Europe while outside the EU as the U.K. will face very high taxes and sanctions. This all depends, of course, on the type of trade deal the British can achieve. To prevent more countries from leaving the EU, many predict that England will face extreme trade restrictions. If the EU shows mercy, this will set a legal precedent that powerful nations can leave the EU without repercussion, leaving the Union weaker and non-EU countries stronger.

On top of the economic turmoil awaiting the U.K. should a Brexit deal go through, many Brits have ignored another major downside to this referendum. If Brexit occurs, free travel throughout Europe will not be possible for British citizens. While this may seem a minor inconvenience to families on vacation, it has the potential to reignite violent tensions. The removal of the U.K. from the EU will force Britain to put a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Historically, this has been a site

for frequent shootings, bombings and radical attacks. Due to the historical violence in this region, a hard border across Northern Ireland will likely be misconstrued as cultural division and has the potential to reignite old tensions. The tumultuous past of this region will likely resort to its old way of religious, regional, national and ethnic tensions in the form of frequent attacks and civilian armament. This problem has often been overlooked by British voters and lawmakers alike, making it more obvious that very few have thought out this decision.

Although the initial date for Brexit was intended for Friday, March 29, a happy accident has occurred from May's incompetency. Because Parliament voted down May's proposed Brexit plan, the EU has granted the U.K. an extension on the Brexit deadline. Parliament now has until May 22 of this year to sort matters out. However, this delay leaves a unique opportunity for Britain to escape its impending doom. To avoid total economic collapse and impending violence, Parliament should hold a second referendum asking if after nearly three years of failure, British citizens still



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Protests erupt in London. Brexit opposers are calling for a second EU referendum.

want to leave the EU.

Unfortunately, the fastest time the U.K. could arrange such a vote is 22 weeks. While this would occur far past the May 22 date, it is not unreasonable to think the EU will provide more extensions to Parliament.

Brexit does not benefit the EU. In fact, it weakens them to lose such a wealthy and powerful nation. While the EU will enforce strict sanctions on the U.K. if they choose to leave, it can be assumed they will do what they can to allow the U.K. to stay. They want Brexit to serve as an example of what will happen if other nations at-

tempt to remove themselves from the Union. If one of the strongest nations in the Union cannot figure out how to remove themselves without an economic catastrophe, how could weaker nations expect to survive outside the EU?

While Brexit proves a highly complicated political and economic transaction, it remains a blatant display of Parliament's lack of foresight and desire to serve its people. Despite the countless imminent problems Brexit raises for ordinary British citizens, Parliament continues to charge ahead into the abyss of their own looming destruction.

Women's sports ought to have same following, appreciation as men's

ZOE STRATOS
staff columnist

With March Madness in full swing as of March 21, the worldwide obsession with NCAA men's basketball began again with the number 10 seed Minnesota Golden Gophers upsetting the number 7 seed Louisville Cardinals 86-76.

Shortly after the men, on March 22, NCAA women's basketball began with the number 1 seed Louisville Cardinals beating the number 16 seed Robert Morris Colonials 69-34.

Along with me, many of the

people who watched the men's opening game definitely didn't watch the women's game and probably had no idea who was even playing in the first place. Last year, around 13 million people tuned into the men's final four games whereas around only 7 million tuned into the women's final four games, according to the NCAA.

So, why is it that men's basketball is more "hyped up" than women's basketball?

I'm no exception to the problem. Ever since high school, I, and most other students, have mostly attended men's games even when the women's teams have proven

to be more successful.

It often seems as if the women's games are less "exciting" to viewers. In men's games, the players always have fancy tricks and shots followed by celebration and screaming in support of one another.

The thought usually is that women can't compare to the "hype."

On the contrary, at least at my high school, the women's games were far more exciting, and they won, too. I realized this and started attending women's games as well as men's games. The difference in women's games were that the scores were close, the players communicated and the game was about the game, not about who was the best.

When I came to college, I expected the environment to change; however, that held not to be true. Duquesne student-athletes have voiced their disappointment in low attendance at women's sports events, as well as the stark difference between men and women's attendance rates.

With that said, the men's basketball team ended their 2018-2019 season with an overall 19-13 record; the women's basketball team ended theirs the same way. With teams equal in strength and wins, attendance and support should be equal, too.

The trend seems to carry over across other sports as well. In 2014, the men's FIFA World Cup was viewed by around three billion people worldwide, whereas the women's 2015 FIFA World Cup final was viewed by only around 750 million, according to FIFA.

With Duquesne soccer, the men's team ended its 2018 season with a 4-9-3 record; the women's team ended its with a 6-9-2 record. Both very close to one another, but the men's team again attracted more viewers. One of the women's team players even voiced to me that the women's team themselves went to the men's games all the time, but the men's team didn't always attend theirs.

The answer to the phenomenon is not exactly clear. Women are just as (if not more) talented than men, so viewership should not differ so much.

Even gathering statistics and information for this article proved difficult. In a Google search for NCAA basketball standings, records, viewership, etc., men's information immediately came up. Meanwhile, I had to specifically search "women's NCAA" to get the results I needed.

Not only this, but on NCAA's website, the men's and women's basketball infographics for the 2018 championships differed greatly on how they presented their information.

On the men's infographic, the broadcast section included viewership numbers from the start of the tournament until the end and the total number of countries that viewed the tournament. On the other hand, the women's infographic only included the final four viewership numbers and a fact that stated it was voted the number one sports event on "Nielsen Social Top 5 ratings by interactions."

The most frustrating fact is that viewers can only watch and make brackets for the men's teams on the NCAA March Madness Live app and it's evident on the same infographic. On the men's, it shows the percentage of increase in streams and hours watched on the app, and on the women's, the info graph only shows the amount of views they received on social media.

Even if viewers wanted to watch the women's games, the differences in advertisement make it difficult for that even to happen. The low viewing availability is discouraging and unfair for the players, and it needs to be fixed.

Maybe if the media and colleges advertised women's sports the same way they do men's sports, viewership would be different. The "hype" can be just as great for women if it were shown off and appreciated more.



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH SPORTS NOW

De Fer Coffee & Tea: Cute, cozy, caffeine

KATIA FAROUN
photo editor

Hidden in the Strip District on Smallman Street is a cozy European-style coffee shop that'll melt any coffee lover's heart. From its delicious lattes and lavender grey tea to its local art and dried flower centerpieces, De Fer Coffee & Tea hits all the bases of what qualifies a coffee shop as cute, warm and cozy.

Located in the same space as what was previously 21st Street Coffee and Tea, De Fer came to Pittsburgh in December 2017. It won over the hearts of locals by boasting its intentions to not only be a small coffee roaster, but also a cafe that sells wine, beer and cocktails. Since its open-

ing, De Fer has become a staple coffee shop in the Strip.

Before even taking a sip of De Fer's coffee, customers find themselves in love. The antique ceiling lights, hardwood floors and vintage wallpaper that fades into brick walls immediately give the atmosphere a warm vibe. As customers walk further into the shop, they come across walls decorated with art made by local artists, with pieces available for purchase.

What makes De Fer different from most local coffee shops is its variety of coffees and teas. De Fer provides coffee from countries such as Ethiopia, Brazil, Sumatra and Colombia and offers different ways to brew the coffee. De Fer also sells your everyday cappuccinos, lattes and macchia-

tos, and even makes cute spice art on their lattes. The shop's tea selection varies from classics like Earl Grey and breakfast, but also includes some unique styles such as Lavender Grey and Vanilla Rooibos.

Besides coffee, tea and alcohol, De Fer serves a variety of breakfast foods, pastries and sandwiches. During all hours, customers can purchase typical cafe breakfast foods, such as quiches, oatmeal and parfaits, but can also treat themselves to some simple cereal and toast. De Fer offers fresh pastries baked each morning, delivered from Pittsburgh's famous La Gourmandine Bakery. Here's a tip: Order their almond croissant. You won't regret it — unless you have a nut allergy. And if you're not in the mood for breakfast or pastries, you can order one of De Fer's warm and cheesy paninis, a meat and cheese plate and even some hummus.

After ordering, customers can seat themselves in the front of the shop, where they can find tables topped with vases of dried flowers and benches lined with comfortable pillows. Workers serve customers at their seats and serve all food and beverages (besides those ordered to-go) with reusable dishes. Parents with young children can find some time to relax while they let their kids play in a corner filled with toys, children's books and a play kitchen. The calming music and large windows facing Smallman Street allow coffee lovers to work, read or just relax while enjoying delicious cafe snacks and beverages.

Lined along the back wall are shelves full of goodies. Local teas, ground coffee, jams and honey, stationary, snacks and



KATIA FAROUN / PHOTO EDITOR

A vanilla latte with custom spice art.

more can be bought as gifts or for customers who want to keep a part of De Fer in their own homes.

De Fer also hosts classes and events, including private classes on roasting, tasting and home-brewing for novices or coffee professionals. The shop also invites local artists to perform and it organizes events, such as happy hour and latte art competitions.

It's obvious that De Fer has everything a coffee lover wants, so be sure to stop by 2002 Smallman Street in the Strip (a block southwest of Pamela's Diner) for your coffee shop dreams to come true.



COURTESY OF YELP

De Fer Coffee & Tea sells breakfasts foods as well as coffee sourced from all over the world.

Duquesne professor's lecture on his newest book

ASHLEY NEWMAN
staff writer

When a government passes legislation giving more rights to its citizens, the decision is often celebrated. Rights are usually viewed in a positive light as giving citizens more freedom than they had before. Duquesne professor Clifford Bob took an atypical approach to rights in his new book, *Rights as Weapons: Instruments of Conflict, Tools of Power*. In this book, published by Princeton University Press, Bob explains that rights can be used in more malicious ways: They can be weaponized and used by countries for purposes other than to give their citizens more freedoms.

About the book, Bob said, "Overall, one of the key points I make in the book is that rights are tools or weapons that political groups of any ideology can pick up and use to advance their goals."

On Thursday, March 21, Bob gave a lecture open to students and faculty as a book launch. After giving a bit of background on his book, Bob opened the lecture for questions from fellow professors and then students to elaborate on his new work.

Bob began the lecture by explaining the odd story about how he came up with the idea for the book on a family trip in Barcelona, hearing that Catalonia had banned bullfighting. This seemed like a huge win for animal rights, until it became clear that Catalonia was not exactly a stickler for animal rights, and the ban was more of a nationalist agenda

**RIGHTS AS
WEAPONS:
INSTRUMENTS
OF CONFLICT,
TOOLS OF
POWER
CLIFFORD BOB**

COURTESY OF AMAZON

The Cover for Clifford Bob's newest book.

against the Spanish Government than a decree to save animals. This made Bob realize that sometimes rights are not necessarily used to improve lives and can be used for more selfish reasons on the part of legislators.

"Rights become weapons when political forces use them aggressively to advance their goals and attack other groups, institutions, and customs," Bob said.

After telling his unique story, Bob explained the different types of weapons that he uses in the book to describe rights: camouflage, spears, dynamite, crowbars and blockades.

Using rights as camouflage is to use rights to conceal agendas, like the bullfighting in Catalonia example.

As spears, rights are used to overturn laws, like the end of segregation and the allowance of same-sex marriage.

Rights as dynamite is equivalent to using rights to destroy cultures. Bob uses the example of France trying to ban the hijab through legislation.

Using rights as crowbars is to use rights to break coalitions; for this, the example was of an actor lying about his experience with an organization that claimed to be inclusive being friendly with a very homophobic regime. While what he was saying had truth to it and the organization was friendly with the regime, his exact experience was not true.

Finally, Bob explained how rights can be used as blockades, meaning to suppress subordinates. This example was the fight for voting rights and how African Americans, women and non-property owners fought each other and tried to suppress the other groups from gaining voting rights before them.

While this view on rights is pretty negative, Bob explained that he does not think



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

rights are a bad thing at all. He just believes that they are not always passed for the right reason, and people need to keep that in mind.

"It is true that the right and its underlying content are often discussed interchangeably, but analyzing them in isolation from one another, as I do, makes it possible to see how rights can be used in multiple ways, as various types of political tools or weapons," Bob said.

Bob's book brings on a new perspective of rights that is often overlooked. Rather than always viewing rights as a positive, people should be more skeptical of legislation that appears to come out of nowhere, giving new rights that the government did not care about the day before.

Rights as Weapons: Instruments of Conflict, Tools of Power can be purchased from Princeton University Press, Amazon and Google.

Duke editors try hand with NCAA Tournament brackets

ADAM LINDNER
sports editor

Each March, the NCAA Tournament demands the nation's attention, decreasing work productivity in the process. Besides, who has time for anything else when there are games to catch, brackets to complete and madness to witness?

In the friendly confines of *The Duke's* newsroom, things are no different. In keeping with an annual tradition, each of *The Duke's* editors completed March Madness brackets. This year, however, we've decided to share bracket pool updates with readers.

While some are faring a bit better than others, it's important to remember that each bracket is beautiful in its own right. No bracket is ever perfect, so instead of critiquing entries based off of overall success, try to appreciate the individuality of each bracket.

Following the tournament's first weekend, News Editor Hallie Lauer currently leads the newsroom's bracket pool, followed closely by Editor-in-Chief Kailey Love. Last year's champion, A&E Editor Josiah Martin, and Sports Editor Adam Lindner slot in behind leaders Lauer and Love, respectively.

Photo Editor Katia Faroun and Layout Editor Madison Pastrick had solid first weekends, but both selected teams to advance to their bracket's championship that have since been eliminated from the tournament.

Opinions Editor Ollie Gratzinger's bracket got off to a bit rough start, but he still has three of his Final Four teams remaining (Duke, Gonzaga, Houston).

Features Editor Griffin Sendek wasn't quite as lucky. Boasting what's assuredly the newsroom's most distinctive bracket, Sendek chose No. 8 seed VCU, No. 13 Vermont, No. 7 Cincinnati and No. 9 Washington to advance to his Final Four. VCU, Vermont and Cincinnati went a collective 0-3 in the tourney, while Washington topped No. 8 seed Utah State before falling to UNC, the Midwest region's top seed, days later.

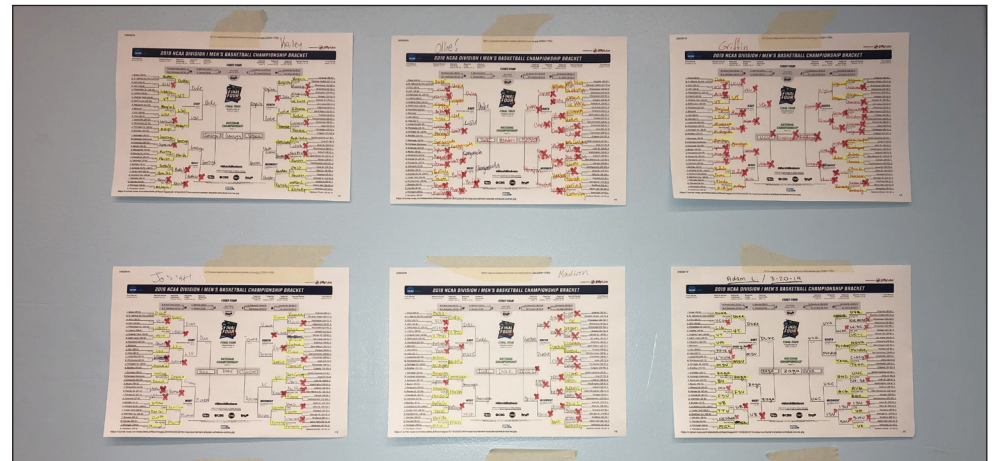
Lauer, Love, Martin and Lindner each have their Final Fours intact. Pastrick (Duke, Gonzaga, Purdue) and Faroun (LSU, Gonzaga, Houston) each have three of their four final teams remaining. Faroun, however, selected since-eliminated UC Irvine to win the tournament. Pastrick's champion, Duke, is still alive.

Overall, three people picked Gonzaga to win the championship (Lauer, Love, Lindner), while two others selected Duke (Martin, Pastrick). Gratzinger picked Houston, while Sendek went with Washington.

Duke and Gonzaga were the newsroom's most popular Final Four selections. Six people penciled in either the Blue Devils or the Bulldogs to advance to the tournament's final weekend.

The South region saw the most parity amongst Final Four picks. Lauer and Martin selected No. 2 seed Tennessee to advance out of the region, while Love and Lindner picked top-seeded Virginia. Pastrick has No. 3 Purdue in the final weekend, while both Faroun and Gratzinger picked No. 13 UC Irvine. Sendek had No. 7 Cincinnati to advance.

With Sweet 16 play set to begin today, Lauer leads all brackets with 13 of her



ADAM LINDNER / SPORTS EDITOR

Six of *The Duke's* bracket entries for the 2019 NCAA Tournament, taped to the newsroom's wall.

Sweet 16 remaining. Lauer's only misses came on Michigan State, Virginia and Purdue. Love still has 12 of her final 16 teams remaining, missing on Texas Tech, Michigan, Oregon and Auburn.

Lindner and Faroun each have 11 of their final 16 teams remaining. Martin follows with 10, then Pastrick with eight, Sendek with seven and Gratzinger with six.

With only two teams seeded lower than No. 4 advancing beyond the first weekend (No. 5 Auburn and No. 12 Oregon), the tournament's higher seeds have largely prevailed so far this year.

Nevertheless, each editor possesses at least one stellar upset pick.

Perhaps the most notable selections were Lauer and Sendek's Oregon picks. The Ducks were the only double-digit seeded team to advance beyond the first weekend, yet Lauer and Sendek managed

to predict the Ducks' run.

Here are some other notable selections and trends seen in *The Duke's* bracket pool.

— Outstandingly, six of the *Duke's* eight editors correctly predicted the UC Irvine upset win over No. 4 seed Kansas State. Sendek and Pastrick were the only two editors that had picked the Wildcats to prevail. However, four editors had Irvine advancing beyond the first weekend. Following the Anteaters' triumph over K-State, Irvine fell to No. 12 Oregon in the second round.

— Faroun was the only editor that correctly picked No. 9 UCF over No. 8 VCU.

— Lauer and Lindner are the only two editors that have No. 5 Auburn in the Sweet 16. After a close win over No. 12 New Mexico State in the first round,

see BRACKETS — page 11

DU, Pitt call off City Game for 2019-20 season

JACOB HEBDA
staff writer

After much speculation, it was officially announced last Thursday that the City Game will not be played in 2019, but will resume in 2020.

The annual matchup between Duquesne and Pitt was cancelled for this upcoming year due to alleged scheduling issues for the Panthers.

In preparation for the upcoming year, the Panthers faced a variety of obstacles that would have made coordinating the game difficult.

Pitt will be playing 20 Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) basketball games rather than the customary 18. Its season kicks off Nov. 6 against ACC opponent Florida State. That makes for an unusually early conference matchup. For reference, Pitt did not play its first ACC game of the 2018-19 season until Jan. 5.

Additionally, Pitt will be participating in the Fort Myers Tip-Off from Nov. 25-27, as well as the annual ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

The Panthers will also face another Pittsburgh basketball program when they travel to Moon Township to play Robert Morris in the inaugural game at the Colonials' soon-to-be-completed UPMC

Events Center. The Colonials and Panthers are scheduled to face off Nov. 12.

With all those factors considered, Pitt did not feel the traditional game would be feasible for its team. Pitt Athletic Director Heather Lyke reiterated that sentiment in a statement.

"Unfortunately, our men's basketball scheduling dynamics will not allow us to play the game in 2019. We look forward to resuming the game with great anticipation in 2020 and 2021," Lyke said.

Duquesne Athletic Director Dave Harper also released a statement.

"We are pleased to work with the University of Pittsburgh and our valued partners at PPG Paints Arena to continue the City Game in 2020 and 2021," Harper said.

"The very title 'City Game' is profound. This is a game for the city of Pittsburgh and its sports fans. It is an event circled on calendars each year. Duquesne is fully committed to participating in this game long term and honored to be part of this event for the city. We look forward to building the stature of the game and continuing to intensify the game as both programs continue on an upward trajectory," Harper said.

Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot seemed dissatisfied with a break from the series. Before the official announcement

was made, Dambrot told Paul Zeise on 93.7 The Fan that, "[the City Game] is a great event for this city and it's a great event for the kids and the students. I'd be opposed to [a cancellation], but it's not up to me."

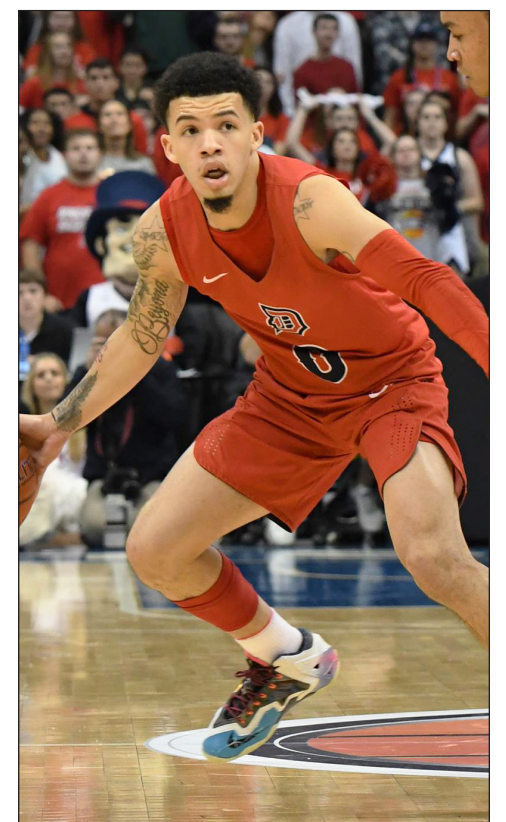
Pitt has dominated the series in recent history, winning all but two games since 2000. That includes the most recent iteration of the City Game, which saw the Panthers defeat the Dukes handily, 74-53.

Despite the lack of parity, it is nonetheless a disappointing announcement for many local basketball fans. Duquesne and Pitt have met on 87 occasions, and it will be the first time since 1969 that the two teams will not play each other.

Despite recent struggles for both programs, there were still 12,246 fans in attendance at PPG Paints Arena for November's showdown.

With the City Game taking a hiatus this upcoming season, the uncertainty surrounding the 2019-20 Duquesne schedule grows. The Dukes are still yet to officially announce where they will play their home games next season.

Duquesne's old venue, A.J. Palumbo Center, will be still undergoing extensive renovations as it set to become the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Tavian Dunn-Martin handles the ball against Pitt's Trey McGowens during the 2018 City Game.

City Game is fun, but don't hold decision against Pitt

DAVID BORNE
staff writer

When the news broke about Pitt's decision to not play the annual City Game next season, I was disappointed. The City Game is a fun, great way to celebrate basketball in Western Pennsylvania.

With that being said, I can fully understand why Pitt doesn't want to play it. If I were in charge of things over there, I wouldn't think it was worth playing, either. Sorry to play devil's advocate, Duquesne fans.

On the men's side of things, the City Game is almost meaningless unless Pitt loses. Pitt beating Duquesne repeatedly isn't a storyline, and it hasn't even been a good win for the Panthers to put on their resume come March.

The game hasn't garnered enough attention or relevance outside of the city of Pittsburgh to earn a spot on ESPN's television channels or any other major sports networks in recent years.

Under the new ACC scheduling format, teams will no longer play 18 conference games, but 20. That effectively takes away two non-conference matchups for each ACC school. That complicates the way the school can go about playing these matchups.

If Pitt doesn't want to play a game that they don't gain much from winning, but losing leads to an embarrassing headline, then how can I blame them for choosing to skip out on it for a year?

With the upward trajectory that Duquesne's program seems to be on, obviously that could change in years to come. Until then, it's worth almost nothing for an ACC school to play an Atlantic 10 team that they've beaten 18 out of the last 20 times they've played.

Pitt's replacement for the City Game will be a trip to Robert Morris to take on the Colonials in the first game at the brand new UPMC Events Center. The arena will be packed, both sides will be into it and I imagine Pitt will get a pretty nice paycheck as an incentive for taking the short drive to Moon. Not a bad way to fill the gap left by not playing the City Game.

Running with the topic of the Colonials, Pitt choosing to dump the City Game should remind Duquesne supporters of a similar situation that happened last year. Duquesne decided to not throw Robert Morris on their schedule for the 2018-19 campaign.

The Dukes don't really get anything out of beating RMU, but it definitely looks bad when they lose. If Duquesne didn't want to

"waste" a non-conference spot on an NEC program like Robert Morris, who they have had plenty of recent trouble with, that makes full sense.

It's hard to be mad at Pitt for making a move that's pretty similar to the one that Duquesne made just a year ago.

Reports from both Duquesne and Pitt's athletic departments seem to suggest that the City Game will return following the one-year gap. If that is indeed the case, I would love to see it happen.

Maybe by then, Duquesne will be a legitimate mainstay at the top of the Atlantic 10

standings. With Pitt's fresh look and young core, perhaps their team will be back in a respectable spot again as well.

Not having the City Game is a bummer, for sure, but maybe when it returns the game will hold more weight. It could be something more than two teams just playing each other because they're both in Pittsburgh, but rather a game that both teams value greatly as a way to boost their chances at the big dance.

Until Duquesne can prove that it's worth scheduling, Pitt is not in the wrong by not playing them.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne and Pitt's men's basketball teams will not play each other in 2019-20, effectively ending a 48-year streak of the City Game. Pitt leads the all-time series, 55-32, and has lost only once since 2001.

DeVos defends plan to eliminate Special Olympics funding

(AP) — Education Secretary Betsy DeVos on Wednesday defended a proposal to eliminate funding for the Special Olympics, pushing back against a storm of criticism from athletes, celebrities and politicians who rallied to support the organization.

DeVos became a target on social media after Democrats slammed her plan to remove the group's funding as part of \$7 billion in budget cuts for next year. The Special Olympics received \$17.6 million from the Education Department this year, roughly 10 percent of its overall revenue.

In a statement responding to criticism, DeVos said she "loves" the organization's work and has "personally supported its mission." But she also noted that it's a private nonprofit that raises \$100 million a year on its own. Ultimately, she argued, her agency can't afford to continue backing it.

"There are dozens of worthy nonprofits that support students and adults with disabilities that don't get a dime of federal grant money," she said. "Given our current budget realities, the federal government cannot fund every worthy program, particularly ones that enjoy robust support from private donations."

Special Olympics Chairman Tim Shriver on Wednesday pushed back against the proposed cut.

"This is not the old Special Olympics, it's not my mom's Special Olympics in some ways," he said on MSNBC. "This is a new Special Olympics. We are actively engaged in the educational purposes that the country has articulated at the federal level."

DeVos is facing sharp pushback over a proposal to cut federal funding to the Special Olympics.

cial Olympics.

House Democrats grilled DeVos at a budget hearing Tuesday, asking how she could cut the group's funding while calling for a \$60 million increase in charter school funding, which has been a signature issue for DeVos.

"Once again, I still can't understand why you would go after disabled children in your budget. You've zeroed that out. It's appalling," Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., said at the hearing.

DeVos replied that she thinks the group is "awesome" but should be supported by philanthropy.

Following the budget hearing, Twitter was alight with comments from parents, advocates and celebrities who slammed DeVos and voiced support for the Special Olympics.

Joe Haden, an NFL player on the Pittsburgh Steelers who works as an ambassador for the Special Olympics, said he was sickened by the proposed cut.

"This is so wrong on so many Levels!" he said on Twitter, adding that he would continue to spend time with the organization.

Former Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican, called the proposal outrageous. Kasich, who also represented Ohio in the U.S. House, said that when he was on the budget committee, "these types of programs were off limits — for good reason."

Others who spoke out included Julie Foudy, former captain of the U.S. women's soccer team, and actress Marlee Matlin, who said the benefits of the Special Olympics are "immeasurable."

Some Special Olympics athletes joined in supporting the group, including Derek

"Tank" Schottle, who posted a video that had been viewed more than 100,000 times by Wednesday.

"Win or lose, we're all winners in our hearts," he said. "What warms people's hearts is we're all humans, just like everybody else."

The Special Olympics' 2017 annual report, the latest available on its website, says the group received a total of \$148 million in revenue that year, including \$15.5 million from federal grants.

More than three quarters of the group's revenue comes from individual and corporate contributions and other fundraising efforts.

DeVos' budget places the Special Olympics funding among 29 programs up for elimination in 2020, arguing that they have achieved their purpose or that they are ineffective, don't meet national needs

or are better funded from other sources.

The proposal separately calls for \$13.2 billion in federal grants awarded to states for special education, the same amount that was granted for this year.

In her statement, DeVos said it was "shameful" that the media and members of Congress "spun up falsehoods and fully misrepresented the facts." She drew attention to the \$13.2 billion in state grants, along with an additional \$226 million for grants supporting teacher training and research to support students with disabilities.

"Make no mistake," she added, "we are focused every day on raising expectations and improving outcomes for infants and toddlers, children and youth with disabilities, and are committed to confronting and addressing anything that stands in the way of their success."



AP PHOTO

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, pictured on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, March 26.

Hulu's *Shrill* is powerful, empowering

HALLIE LAUER
news editor

I'm going to be honest with you. I haven't finished the entire first season of *Shrill* yet. Granted, there are only six episodes which are each about 24 minutes, and if I were the type of girl that had the time to sit down and binge the entire season in one sitting, I would. Unfortunately, I am not that type of girl.

However, I have this wonderful platform where I get to rave about a show unlike any other I've seen in my 21 years of living.

Shrill is a Hulu original TV show about Annie, played by SNL's Aidy Bryant, a plus-sized aspiring magazine journalist. But this isn't a show about her journey to lose the weight and become the top writer where she works. This is a story about a real person, and it mostly is real. *Shrill* is based off the 2016 memoir of the same name written by Lindy West.

The first episode dives right into the ups and downs of life when Annie realized her morning-after pill has failed because she is over 175 pounds. We spend the rest of the first episode watching Annie handle that par-

ticular situation.

Throughout the rest of the episodes, Annie deals with a sick parent, an over-the-top jerk of a boss, a less-than-stellar "boy-friend" and an internet troll that harasses her about her weight. The audience gets to share all those highs and lows with Annie.

A lot of what this show is about is small victories. Annie in one episode attends a "Fat Babe Pool Party" and gains confidence in herself. In another, she tells off a personal trainer who keeps harassing her by saying, "There's a small person in there just dying to get out."

I don't know that there has ever been a show about a plus-sized character who is well-dressed and isn't dying to change their shape — despite the majority of the characters, including her mother, trying to get her to. It's a nice change of pace from watching the Kardashians work out and eat salads all the time.

It loosely takes what Lena Dunham did with the show *Girls* and builds upon it. But I hate even making that comparison because *Shrill* is 10 times better than *Girls* ever was. They both tackle really relevant issues, but they do it in completely different



COURTESY OF ALLYSON RIGGS/HULU
Aidy Bryant plays Annie Easton, based on the original *Shrill* book's author, Lindy West.

manners. *Shrill* feels like I know these people; their issues are real and relatable.

There is no word on whether or not *Shrill* will get a second season, but if I had to bet one way or another, my guess would be that they are going to.

Another plus, this show is actually funny. I found myself laughing out loud, and not that laugh where you actually just blow air out your nose, but a real laugh.

Not only is this show funny,

but it does a decent job with representation. Annie's best friend and roommate Fran is a black lesbian and carries a storyline of her own, rather than just being there to move Annie's along.

I highly recommend this show. It's funny, it's empowering and the episodes are only 24 minutes, give or take. But you don't have to take my word for it; Rotten Tomatoes gave the show a 90 percent, and you know how stingy they can be.

WEEK'S EVENTS

Make Your Own
Ice Cream Sundae
April 1 @ 9 p.m.

The name says it all! Hosted by the Center for Student Involvement, this event is open to everyone for free in the NiteSpot.

Undergraduate Research &
Scholarship Symposium
April 3 @ 9 a.m.

Undergraduate students from programs accross Duquesne's campus will present the products of their research in the Power Center Ballroom.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Dumbo
Friday, March 29

Part of Disney's series of recent partially-live action remakes of its classic animated films, *Dumbo* stars big-name actors such as Danny DeVito and Pittsburgh-area native, Michael Keaton.

*When We All Fall Asleep,
Where Do We Go?*
Billie Eilish
Friday, March 29

The popular pop artist's debut LP will feature singles such as "Bury a Friend," which reached No. 14 on Billboard's Hot 100.

MICRO REVIEW

Bad Habits
Nav

After his debut studio album *Reckless* underwhelmed fans in 2018, Toronto rapper Nav knew he had to deliver with his sophomore project. He did just that with *Bad Habits*, released last week. The record may sound a bit repetitive at certain points, but Nav deserves credit for getting back to the sound that he exemplified on earlier mixtapes — the same one that originally endeared listeners to him in the first place. Essential tracks include "Price on My Head," "Know Me" and "8 to a 4," the latter of which was released as a deluxe bonus track days after the album's original release.

-Adam Lindner

HOROSCOPES



Aries

(March 21-April 19)

Celebrate the beautiful Pittsburgh spring weather by buying snow boots and an umbrella!



Taurus

(April 20-May 20)

If you're nervous about ending your last semester at DU, remember, there's still time to flunk!



Gemini

(May 21-June 20)

You will be chased by a minotaur through the labyrinthian corridors of Fisher Hall.



Cancer

(June 21-July 22)

This week, someone will eat the plums in your icebox you had been saving for breakfast.



Leo

(July 23-August 22)

Life is on the upswing, and everything's looking great for you! Time to make some self-destructive decisions!



Virgo

(August 23-September 22)

"Everything's fine!" This phrase shall become your mantra as everything falls apart.



Libra

(September 23-October 22)

This is a week of bold choices and fresh starts. Dye your hair a bright color, then shave your head.



Scorpio

(October 23-November 22)

People come and go, fading in and out like ships in the distance. There is only one constant — quiche! The delicious French egg pie.



Sagittarius

(November 23-December 22)

Stop looking at your ex's Insta, and start looking at his Facebook. Once you see how he looked in high school, you'll be fine.



Capricorn

(December 22-January 19)

Start a new book this week. Try something on your intellectual level, like *Twilight* or *Hop on Pop*.



Aquarius

(January 20-February 18)

Stop it!



Pisces

(February 19-March 20)

Spring is not a time for regret and reflection. Have your memory erased by an evil doctor.

Peele's second thriller *Us* exceeds high expectations

SALENA MORAN & EVAN PENROD
staff writers

Following the success of his thriller *Get Out* (2017), director Jordan Peele's sophomore film *Us* (2019) debuts an original horror story combining the best of slasher movies with a deeper psychological twist.

Us begins with the backstory of Adelaide Wilson (Lupita Nyong'o) and her traumatizing experience as a child who gets lost while on a family vacation in Santa Cruz. Now an adult with her own family, Adelaide is uneasy about returning to her childhood vacation home. One night, an intrusion of four individuals on their property reveals their grotesque and eerie doppelgangers who are out for blood, unveiling a spiral of much darker secrets.

After winning the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay in 2018, Jordan Peele needed to ensure that his next feature film was another true-to-form story that would solidify his skills as an up-and-coming director. Peele delivers a breath of fresh air, showing his love for the craft and daring to tell a thought-provoking story with such ingenuity. He harnesses his love for the horror genre in subtly paying homage to the greats of horror/thriller movies past through various shots and set pieces.

Us maintains intensity from start to finish, fostering an overall sense of unease in even the most peaceful, lighthearted shots. The film manages to escalate fear, even with the pres-

ence of humorous dialogue. Some of the interjected humor may not have struck the right chord, but the inclusion of these elements creates a very believable family and world where the characters are real and genuine.

Nyong'o undoubtedly carried this film with her superb acting. As one woman playing two different characters edited in the same shot, the dynamic shift between scared, fragile mother and demented, tortured doppelganger revealed her impressive ability to heighten the movie experience. Nyong'o's eerie, raspy voice even played off a real vocal condition present in individuals who were extremely traumatized. One can only hope Lupita receives an Oscar nod for this role.

While *Get Out* was a thriller focused on poignant social commentary, *Us* more closely aligns with a traditional horror movie. The classic horror aspects include the weapon-wielding villains wreaking gory havoc on the scene, chase sequences and the "final girl" trope. However, Peele sheds new light and intensity on these typically cliché elements through intelligent writing and a distinctive touch.

Us provides a very engrossing and memorable score that is equal parts playful and creepy. The score composed by Michael Abels combines strings and upbeat rhythms that seem to balance terror and joy into one package. The score only enhances the movie through enveloping the audience into the storyline. There are also some pieces within the



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Lupita Nyong'o has received critical acclaim for her dual performance as Adelaide and doppelganger Red.

score that play upon the characters and their wicked counterparts, as the "normal" characters' score becomes an eerie call and response in moments of apprehension.

The strength of *Us* is that it entices audiences to rewatch it after the secrets are revealed to look for aspects missed on the first viewing. The hidden meanings and room for interpretation and discussion prevent this movie from being a one-and-done venture. A movie's ability to leave a lasting impression allows for a new and different experience with each new watch.

Jordan Peele ultimately stresses the importance of representation in the horror genre. He defies stereotypes that pigeonhole African-Americans in comedic roles. His organic writing and cinematography are absolutely fantastic, original and engrossing. Peele has definitely found his footing in understanding what makes horror a unique and versatile genre, and his ability to dive right in and commit himself fully to the craft is very admirable. *Us* is a testament to Peele's work in inspiring the next generation of filmmakers and for all of the right reasons.

The Roommate triumphs in story and set despite rocky start

GRIFFIN SENDEK
features editor

The moment I took my seat in the City Theater for the performance of *The Roommate*, I was utterly dumbfounded at how immaculate and expertly-crafted the set was.

The set for the show was meant to replicate the look of an Iowa home, and designer Tony Ferrieri could not have done a better job creating that homely Midwestern feel. The longer I was able to look at the stage, the more details I found. There was the assorted pottery lining the wooden beams, picture frames next to the stairs, pots and pans hanging from a chandelier, refrigerator magnets, plants behind the sink and a gigantic window dominating the back wall.

The list could go on and on; every prop and piece of set dressing was deliberately chosen to help further the particular tone and mood of the setting and serve as a window into the life of the character that lived in the house.

The craftsmanship involved in bringing this set to life is some of the best I have ever seen, in line with some of the scenic design found on Broadway. Not a single detail was missed; had it not been for the light fixtures hanging above, I would have believed someone could actually live there.

This all went through my head before the play even began. I was more than excited to find out if the play itself could match the quality of the set it took place on.

The Roommate, written by Jen Silverman, tells the story of Sharon (Tamara Tunie), a woman in her 50s, now divorced and who put an ad out for a roommate to help fill her big house in Iowa City. The play opens with Robyn (Laurie Klatscher), a woman from the Bronx that is about as different from Sharon as can be, moving in and slowly getting to know one other.

At the opening of the show, the odd couple dynamic between Sharon and Robyn is entertaining and hilarious. The skillful writing of the show is brought to the forefront as both characters share a very awkward introduction to one another.

Early on, Tunie said her lines in a fashion that exaggerated how uncomfortable the situation between her and her new roommate was. I understood what she was going for with her line delivery, but it made the dialogue feel awfully stunted and unnatural, which overall hurt my early impressions of the show. I had a similar feeling with Klatscher's line delivery, but it was nowhere near as noticeable or distracting as her scene partner.

These opening scenes are an example of how far good writing can help carry a show when the acting isn't at its perfection. For every moment that the performances took me slightly out of the show, the fantastic and absolutely hilarious writing dragged me right back in.

Already not fully enjoying one member of the two-person cast, I was a little worried for the rest of the 100-minute run of *The Roommate*. But as the show continued and the characters got closer and more comfortable with one another the stilted, awkward dialogue lifted. The full extent of Tunie and Klatscher wonderful acting abilities are featured in all their glory.

Phone calls are central to the story of *The Roommate*, and every moment a character picks up a phone is excellently done. The person on the other end of the line is never heard, but the audience can still fully understand the conversation without a second of confusion. As the story unfolds, it is revealed that Robyn isn't exactly who she said she was, and is escaping a life of crime. In a desire to have a little more excitement in her life, Sharon begs Robyn to teach her some of her ways, which creates one of my favorite scenes in the entire play. Robyn teaches Sharon how to run a



GRIFFIN SENDEK / FEATURES EDITOR

The set for *The Roommate* by Jen Silverman, described by the program as "a big old house in Iowa City."

phone scam in the most comical fashion, that is as well a masterful combination of writing, acting and staging.

Director Reginald L. Douglas utilized the entirety of the large stage, effectively filling the space with only two people. Never once when watching the show did I witness any movement that felt unmotivated or out of place. Everything that happened in the show felt completely natural as if they were really two people that shared the house. Douglas's work and commitment to making this show the best it could be was present in every facet of the production.

Behind the set was a cyc (a large white curtain that changes color based on the lights shined upon it) that transitioned in color to convey the different times of day. The cyc was best utilized during nighttime scenes where the dark blue shade of light can be seen through the large on set windows. A full blackout was only used once near the end of the show, with the purpose of

going completely dark, only to shine warm orange lights through the side window replicating the look of a sunrise. With the shadows from the windows slowly making their way across the stage as the light moved, it was one of the most beautiful, almost cinematic, depictions of a sunrise on stage that I have ever seen.

The Roommate did not go crazy with its lighting, focusing more on the story between two women, but when lighting designer Andrew David Ostrowski was able to let his creative juices flow, he produced some truly breathtaking sites.

All in all, *The Roommate* was a fantastic piece of theater that I thoroughly enjoyed, and laughed all the way through. The bumpy start had me worried, but it more than redeemed itself in the end. Everyone involved in this production should be proud of the work they produced. In the future, I am looking forward to seeing more plays from the creative minds at City Theater.

Mueller investigation should be public

STAFF ED — from page 4

Flynn (Trump's former national security advisor) and many more. There is far more to this story than Barr's micro review of Mueller's report lets on.

It is important to realize that the Barr summary is not the Mueller report, and cannot take its place in determining what Trump and his associates are truly responsible for. Though Republicans and even news outlets are counting this as a win for Trump entirely, (the New York Times chose to phrase it as "a significant political victory for Mr. Trump, and lifted a cloud that has hung over his presidency since before he took the oath of office...") that could not be further from the truth.

Just because many in the media and government have significantly lowered the bar for the standard we should hold the president to does not mean that the rest of us are required to. The public deserves to know the details of the investigation that was paid for with taxpayer money, especially when there are so many questions left unanswered regarding obstruction of justice.

Duke editors have fun with brackets

STAFF ED — from page 4

Auburn dominated No. 4 Kansas to advance to the Sweet 16.

— No editor correctly predicted No. 10 Iowa's win over No. 7 Cincinnati.

— Only Martin and Lindner correctly picked No. 9 Baylor over No. 8 Syracuse.

— The majority of editors correctly predicted No. 12 Liberty's win over No. 5 Mississippi State. Lauer, Love, Martin, Lindner and Faroun picked the Flames over the Bulldogs.



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Thursday

62°  Increasing cloudiness

Friday

59°  Cloudy, brief showers

Saturday

63°  Mostly cloudy, showers around

Sunday

45°  Sun and clouds

Monday

50°  Plenty of sunshine

Tuesday

56°  Mostly cloudy

Wednesday

58°  Clouds and sunshine

Courtesy of AccuWeather

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