A history of bad air makes itself present again in Pittsburgh

Katia Faroun / Photo Editor

Welcome to Pittsburgh: the city of bridges, champions and some of the worst air quality in the nation. The American Lung Association released its annual State of the Air report for 2019, evaluating the air quality of the majority of cities and counties throughout the U.S. from 2015 to 2017. It conducted measurements on ozone levels and particle pollution, commonly referred to as "smog" and "soot," respectively. The report studied annual averages and 24-hour levels of particle pollution. In all three areas, Allegheny County received failing grades. The county moved up two spots from its 2018 ranking to become the tenth-most polluted county in the U.S. based on year-round particle pollution. Its ranking for 24-hour particle pollution decreased four spots from the 2018 report to 24th, and it did not rank within the top 25 for high ozone levels in either report. However, Allegheny County had four more high ozone days and six more high particle pollution days in the 2019 report than in the 2018 one.

The city of Pittsburgh itself claimed the seventh spot on the list of cities most polluted by year-round particle pollution. Its ranking for 24-hour particle pollution decreased four spots from the 2018 report to 24th, and it did not rank within the top 25 for high ozone levels in either report. However, Allegheny County had four more high ozone days and six more high particle pollution days in the 2019 report than in the 2018 one.

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Pittsburgh fails 2019 air quality evaluation

Lt. Gov. seeks opinions on legalizing marijuana

**CLIMATE — from page 1**

Pittsburgh’s history as an industrial center has contributed to its poor air quality. Steel-producing companies in the Mon Valley, including the U.S. Steel-owned Clairton Coke Works, Irvin Plant and Edgar Thomson Plant, have been major contributors to Allegheny County’s air pollution for decades. These companies have not been in compliance with regulations, according to David Smith, outreach coordinator for the Clean Air Council.

“They’re old factories,” Smith said. “They need updates, specifically equipment updates.”

U.S. Steel was sued by PennEnvironment and the Clean Air Council on April 29 for violating the Clean Air Act at all three of these locations. It had been operating its plants for more than three months without critical pollution control equipment. Without pollution control, these plants have been emitting high levels of sulfur dioxide and likely benzene, both harmful to public health, according to the Clean Air Council.

“Environmental groups, community people, U.S. Steel and the health department need to come together and have meetings and discuss this, because this has been going on for decades,” Smith said. High levels of air pollutants, specifically ozone and particle pollution, are harmful to personal health, according to the State of the Air 2019 report. Individuals exposed to high ozone levels can suffer from immediate breathing problems such as shortness of breath, wheezing and coughing. Asthma attacks and increased risk of respiratory problems. Exposure can also lead to the development of cardiovascular diseases, and strong evidence shows that breathing air with high ozone levels can lead to premature death. Long-term exposure can cause health problems such as the development of asthma, risk of death due to respiratory infections and decreased lung function in newborns, according to studies referenced in the report.

Exposure to particle pollution can have similar results. Short-term exposure to particle pollution can result in increased risk of premature death due to strokes, heart attacks, inflammation of lung tissue, asthma attacks and other respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses. Studies referenced in the report also show evidence of an increased likelihood of preterm birth in pregnant women exposed to particle pollution, and reveal limitations in lung growth of children exposed to air pollution.

The report lists ways for individuals to minimize their exposure to ozone and particle pollution, such as paying attention to forecasts for high air pollution days and avoiding exercising near high-traffic areas or outdoors when air pollution levels are high.

The Allegheny County Health Department plans on addressing the problems presented in the report in the county by updating the Liberty monitor, which measures sulfur dioxide and particle pollution levels, to current EPA standards. It also intends to submit a new sulfur dioxide state implementation plan to the EPA that would address the failure to reach federal standards for particle pollution, according to Hacker.

“We all want and deserve clean air,” Hacker said. “And we will continue to use all of our tools to improve the air that we all breathe.”

**PA — from page 1**

Pennsylvanians have a say,” said Fetterman.

There is an online form Pennsylvanians can fill out to state their opinion on the issue if they are unable to attend the town-hall style meetings in person.

He has visited 52 counties so far, but it hasn’t been without controversy.

Fetterman invites all state reps and other elected officials to attend these meetings, but some state reps have called the tour a “sham,” while others agree with Fetterman’s idea.

John Hershey, Rob Kauffman, Paul Schemel and Jesse Topper, the GOP state reps that make up the Franklin County delegation, are boycotting the Franklin County stop, scheduled for May 2.

“We believe this tour is a sham and we decline to be a part of it,” they said in a joint press statement.

Schemel agrees that the tour is not evidence based, and believes the tour is a bad idea.

“Sure, as a listening tour of people who have opinions, but maybe not evidence, why not a genuine investigation by an independent commission which issues a truly independent report,” Schemel said.

Schemel and Kauffman note Fetterman’s background regarding marijuana.

“Lt. Gov Fetterman is a marijuana legalization advocate and an admitted user. Citizens know this. So thus far, this tour has simply been a cheering session in every county for marijuana legalization,” Kauffman said.

“The Lt. Gov has already stated his support for legalizing mari- juana, he is not looking to be convinced of anything. This tour is just about giving the appearance of strong support from the public, nothing more and nothing less,” Schemel said.

Schemel also asked if citizens know that Fetterman is a “staunch advocate” for marijuana legalization, then why would those who oppose it show up, because the official is already convinced of his own opinion.

“Ever wonder why the Lt. Gov’s meetings seem to show such enthusiastic support? It’s because supporters are primarily the ones who attend,” Schemel said.

Kauffman thinks that there is a political motive behind Fetterman’s tour, and that the tour is to build momentum to try to legal- ize marijuana in Pennsylvania.

“Does the Lt. Gov allow oppos- ing viewpoints to speak? Yes, of course he does. But he and the advocacy community make cer- tain that the marijuana opposition appears to be a minority viewpoint,” said Kauffman.

Schemel and Fetterman all plan to boycott the Franklin County stop, but Hershey, who serves Juniata, Mifflin and Franklin counties, attended the earlier stop in Juniata Coun- ty on Feb. 24. It was reported in the Franklin County delegation states, “We recognize this event for what it is: cover to push an agenda of legalizing drugs. Rep. Hershey already experienced this firsthand when he attended Fetterman’s ‘tening’ tour in Juniata County at the lieutenant governor’s invitation.”

“Franklin County legislators have chosen to turn a blind eye to call [Fetterman] out on his disinguennous tour, and to boycott his marijuana tour,” Kauffman said.

Not all state reps feel this way, however. Jim Rigby, who serves Cambria County, attended Fetterman’s Feb. 26th tour stop at Penn Highlands Community College. Rigby, who is a Repub- lican, went with his counterpart Frank Burns, who is a Demo- crat. Rigby was impressed with how Fetterman conducted the 90-minute meeting.

Rigby said that Fetterman did not answer any questions and lis- tened to speakers’ thoughts.

Rigby thinks the tour is a good idea, whether someone is for or against legalized recreational marijuana. He encourages people to go in with an open mind.

A 2017 Franklin & Marshall poll found that 56% of registered vots- terd in 2016 would support the legalization of recreational marijuana. Out of 52 counties visited, Fetter- man has tweeted that almost while both pro and con sides are represented at meetings, the majority of PA counties are for the legalization of recreational marijuana.
I write to commend the Duke for reporting on the recent unilateral imposition of a higher teaching load on faculty in the McAnulty College, in contravention of the faculty work-load policy as outlined in the Faculty Handbook. It is noteworthy that not a single professor quoted in the piece felt comfortable being named. That tells you everything you need to know about the current atmosphere in the college. Faculty fear retaliation from the administration for speaking out and are in despair that the award-winning scholarship and teaching they perform is not sufficiently valued by senior leadership.

To be clear: virtually no other university in the United States requires five courses per year of Liberal Arts faculty in Ph.D. granting departments; many only require four courses, as is the case at Pitt and CMU. Why does this matter? If faculty are not given sufficient time out of the classroom to keep up with their scholarship, attend conferences, and publish at the cutting-edge of their disciplines, students cannot benefit from that knowledge in the classroom. Without sufficient time to mentor our Ph.D. students as they write their dissertations, those students suffer. Duquesne’s stated mission is to serve God by serving students. I implore senior leadership to take heed of that noble mission, to take seriously Duquesne’s national status as a research university, and to reverse this calamitous decision.

Tom Eyres, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Duquesne University

Gun violence, bigotry must not define our generation. We must condemn it.

——— FRANK HERBERT

Letter to the Editor...

STAFF EDITORIAL
Editors reflect on year

Ollie: My favorite memory from this year is the time the entire editorial staff went to Baltimore together. It’s so rare that we can coordinate something that everyone can go to, and I think the baseball game was the first time the whole staff was able to hang out together outside of the newspaper office. I love the sense of friendship and adventure that radiates when we’re all together.

Adam: I have a bevy of great memories from the past year with The Duke’s staff, and it’s hard to pick my singular favorite. Overall, the late nights I’ve spent with my friends here in the newsroom are invaluable. Individually, however, I’d have to go with the Pittsburgh Pirates game that we attended together last week. Not only was the entire staff present, but we all had a blast enjoying PNC Park and the Pirates. The Bucs may have lost to the Diamondbacks by eight runs, but I really enjoyed our night together.

Josiah: I’m still going to Baltimore with some of the other staff members, renting a small motorized paddle boat for $30, aggressively deeming myself Captain and naming it the SS Adam Lindner — which I promptly smashed and scraped on the harbor while trying to dock. I’ll also never forget the late Wednesday nights I’ve had with this amazing staff, as well as the countless goods, gaffs and escapades I enjoyed with editors-in-chief Raymond Arke and Kailey Love, whom I will miss dearly.

Katie: This was my first year as part of The Duke staff, and boy, I had no idea what I was getting into. But every single experience we had as part of the staff has been simply incredible. Besides the conversations that come out of our sleepy a.m. conversations and countless pranks that we’ve pulled, I’d have to say that our staff trip to Baltimore was my favorite memory. Getting to enjoy each other’s company in a small house while eating pizza, drinking tea and watching MASH. day and night was definitely a time I will never forget.

Kailey: There are so many memories I have had with Duke staff members this year, so it is extremely difficult to pick just one. From attending the Duquesne Christmas Ball together to the first day of classes, it has been one of the most memorable years of my life. A time that I will never forget.

——— THE DUQUESNE DUKE
KAILEY LOVE
editor-in-chief

“No matter what anybody tells you, words and ideas can change the world.”

In mulling over all the ways I could write the introduction for my long-dreaded Duke farewell column, I found that there was no better way to begin than by giving the quote that started it all. Passed onto me by Robin Williams in Dead Poets Society, a film that I still hold near to my heart, this is what sent me on the storytelling quest. Though it may be considered overly optimistic and altruistic, it is what has guided me through my academic career and continues to propel me forward. It is also ultimately what led me to choose Duquesne after one visit to College Hall 113 on my very first college tour.

As a Duquesne college freshman, I didn’t have many goals outside of eventually becoming an editor at The Duke. I stumbled through the same awkward beginning that is apparently commonplace for all first time Duke writers: an initial and unexplainable fear of the newsroom. Mine was particularly funny, looking back on it — the first time I ventured to College Hall to copy edit and begin my much anticipated tenure as a Duke staff writer, I was so intimidated just looking in the newsroom window on a Tuesday night that I turned right back around and power walked my pathetic self back to my dorm room. The aspiring journalist who couldn’t even enter a newsroom, can you imagine?!

Eventually, my ambitions overshadowed my awkwardness and I made my way down to 113 on a weekly basis. My occasional appearance at copy-editing sessions or budget meetings quickly turned into countless naps on the couch and a messy desk full of coffee mugs, broken pens and crumpled papers. If my friends go looking for me, nine times out of ten they always knew exactly where to find me. However, as time passed, most of my friends were already in the room with me.

My time at The Duke has given me a lot of things: Countless words written, pictures taken, interviews conducted and weird story assignments that turned into adventures. The most cherished part of my time as an editor, however, is the people I had the honor to work with. I am so lucky to have been able to work alongside some of the funniest, most talented and kindest friends I have ever known. They have made even the most unbearable weeks well worth my while, and I am so grateful for their good humor and support throughout the years.

Though the newsroom has proved to be a warm and welcoming environment (we all joke that it is our “second home”), outside its walls I have found a bit of a harsher reality. During my four years at the paper, whether a staff writer or editor, I have often run into unkindness or preconceived dislike from peers solely based on my association with The Duke. I don’t believe it ever pertained to anyting particular I wrote, but the simple fact that I was a Duke staffer allowed people to pass unkind judgment on me or other writers without ever having spoken to us.

This never upset or bothered me, as I always felt it was mostly a testament to the importance of the hard work we put in each week. Even though it may have irritated some on campus, I could always find supportive voices in the Duquesne community that believed in the work we did and encouraged us to keep going. To go back to that Dead Poets Society quote, the good our work can accomplish far outweighs a few bad reviews or unfounded negative views of my character.

However, if I had to leave the student body with any sort of advice on this subject, it is to take a step back and recognize that Duke writers don’t work for themselves. They work for you. The countless hours we spend writing, editing and creating this paper each week is to keep you informed about the good work done by your professors or student organizations. If we print stories that are perceived as “negative,” it is usually because something is being done that may hinder your Duquesne experience, and we want to call attention to it to spark necessary change.

To continue working toward these goals, in my stead I leave Ollie Gratzing and Hallie Lauer, who will succeed me as our Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor. I could not be more proud to be followed by two of the most gifted writers I know, whose ambitions and abilities will lead The Duke into another productive year. With the support of our incredible staff, I have no doubt that I am leaving the paper in the most capable hands possible.

Photo by Cameron Semide

The Duke editors I have worked with over the years, and especially those I work with now, have pushed me to become the best version of myself. I can be, both as a writer and a person. My wish for them is that they receive the recognition they deserve for the fantastic work they do. Keep your nose to the grindstone and continue fighting the good fight, guys. I can’t wait to see what you will all accomplish.

Before I end this disgustingly long column (sorry, Ollie!), I would just like to extend a few more thanks to those who have supported and encouraged me throughout my time at Duquesne.

To my many mentors — Professor Maggie Patterson, Dr. Jennie Schulze, Dr. Kathleen Roberts, Father John Sawicki and our very own Duke advisor Paula Ward, to name a few — thank you for providing excellent advice and guidance to me throughout the years. I admire each of you more than you know, and I consider myself very lucky to have been able to learn from you all.

And of course, to my friends and family who have been a source of unwavering support and love throughout my time at Duquesne, none of my successes would be possible without you.

As I prepare to don my cap and gown next week, a line from Semisonic’s “Closing Time,” an enduring newsroom favorite, comes to mind: “Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.” The Duke will always be my favorite beginning, and the most difficult to see end.
Elsinore Bennu Think Tank: A beacon of restorative justice

KATIA FAROUN & GRIFFIN SENDEK

The Duquesne Duke

Standing on the Bluff facing west, students have a striking view of Pittsburgh’s historical South Side, Mount Washington and the majestic Ohio River, with the Allegheny County Jail prevailing in the foreground. A mere stone’s throw away from Duquesne’s campus and close enough for students to catch glimpses of figures moving in the windows, the County Jail goes by unnoticed and unthought of, blending in with the backdrop of the city. Yet inside, it houses over 2,000 men and women whose stories and histories contrast greatly from those of the students right across the street.

Our proximity to those who are incarcerated couldn’t be any closer, but the lives of those inside and those out rarely intersect. Once men and women are sent away to jails and prisons, they are often-times dehumanized and forgotten, negatively labeled by those on the outside as “criminals” and once they return, “ex-cons.” Prejudice outside as “criminals” and once negatively labeled by those on the outside, they are often dehumanized and forgotten, once they return, “ex-cons.”

The Elsinore Bennu Think Tank for Restorative Justice (EBTT) aims to break these barriers, working from right here on campus.

EBTT started in the now-closed State Correctional Institution (SCI) Pittsburgh, created by six incarcerated individuals inside the facility. The group started meeting in 2013 with the intention to talk about their different experiences inside. Once SCI Pittsburgh closed in June 2017, the original six members disbanded and were moved to various facilities. However, they had dreams to keep the think tank alive, and outside members involved in the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program that had been present in the early days of think tank discussions continued the think tank in various Pittsburgh locations. It now meets weekly in Canevin Hall on campus.

The EBTT meetings usually begin with a synopsis of EBTT’s history, the day’s meeting schedule and goals, as well as short introductions from everyone in the room. Each meeting, EBTT leaders introduce newcomers to the idea of gracious space, the idea that the think tank is not only a space to learn, but a space to grow. Gracious space allows for first-timers to ask questions without hesitation or fear of judgment. It also allows for long-time members to hear the perspectives of individuals unacquainted or unfamiliar with restorative justice.

The meetings have a revolving four-week schedule, with each consecutive meeting having a different objective or theme. The last meeting of every month is a time for returning citizens upon re-entry to smaller, more personal endeavors, such as working to obtain housing for a newly returning citizen.

For those who attend, EBTT can be an eye opening experience as it offers diverse perspectives not only on social justice, but life experiences. The exchange of information and personal knowledge encourages open-mindedness and leaves attendees with new understandings.

"It becomes a space for learning, and learning in public,” McCown said. "It really is a way of providing pathways for learning and I think that’s its biggest impact.”

The think tank meets at 8:30 a.m. every Friday in Canevin 108. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings to learn more about the work EBTT members are doing in the community and how to get involved.

Horoscopes

Taurus

(April 20-May 20)

Your relationship was just like finals — you gave it your all, but it still wasn’t enough.

Virgo

(August 23-September 22)

Werner Herzog, famous Virgo and film director, dropped out of Duquesne, and he turned out fine. You should too!

Capricorn

(December 23-January 19)

Whoa there, buddy! Don’t study too hard! Stop lying to yourself! It’s over!

Gemini

(May 21-June 20)

Spoiler Alert! You die in Endgame.

Libra

(September 23 - October 22)

Always remember that grades don’t really matter, only the stars. RELINQUISH YOURSELF TO THE STARS.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 22)

Finals week? More like Finals WEAK! Destroy finals with your beefy summer bod!

Aries

(March 21-April 19)

Last horoscope of the year, better make it a good one! Uhh... Big week, chief! Good luck!
Crawford, Fitzpatrick sign mini-camp deals

Jacob Hebda
staff writer

Duquesne football's season may have ended in December, but the program continues to enjoy an unprecedented season on the Bluff.

A year after a crushing loss to Central Connecticut State in the de facto NEC Championship game in 2017, the program responded with a dramatic victory over the Blue Devils to reclaim the championship honor this past year. The Dukes proceeded to defeat Towson in the first round of the NCAA FCS Playoffs, marking the program's first FCS postseason victory ever.

Now, two Duquesne football alumni have the opportunity of a lifetime — the shot to play in the NFL. This week, Nehari Crawford and Matt Fitzpatrick accepted mini-camp offers from NFL teams. Crawford and Fitzpatrick are both expected to be selected in the upcoming NFL Draft.

Crawford, a 5-foot-11 wide receiver from Fort Pierce, Fla., was a two-time First Team All-NEC selection. He garnered 1,000 receiving yards in each of the last two seasons, including 71 receptions for 1,048 yards in his senior year.

In addition to his impressive numbers, Crawford was on the receiving end of the 56-yard Daniel Parr touchdown pass that all but clinched the NEC Championship for the Dukes. He totaled 10 receptions for 154 yards in that critical game.

Crawford's stellar play on the Bluff earned him a trip to the NFLPA Collegiate Bowl in Pasadena, California. He is the second-consecutive Duke to play in the annual event, as offensive lineman Ben Huss participated last year.

Fitzpatrick is a 6-foot-3 offensive lineman from Pennsauken, N.J. Unlike Crawford, his position is not conducive to gaudy stats. However, similar to his former teammate, he was a key member of Duquesne's recent success on the field, starting 35 consecutive games. He was chosen for the All-NEC Second Team in 2016 and 2017.

His blocking also helped the Dukes' rushing attack lead the NEC in 2016 and 2017. In 2017, he was a part of an offensive line that ranked 10th nationally in tackles for loss allowed and 28th in sacks allowed.

Fitzpatrick also excelled off the field during his time at Duquesne. He was selected for the 2017 Co-sida Academic All-District team.

Golden State controls its own destiny

Adam Lindner
sports editor

Game 5 of last season’s Western Conference Finals, as well as the series’ ensuing games, were a monumental moment in the Golden State Warriors’ current dynastical run. Tied 2-2 in the series’ ensuing games, were the Houston Rockets, Golden State entered the decisive Game 5 of last season’s West Finals with the defending champs. Unlike last season, when the Warriors were set to face the Oklahoma City Thunder in the Western Conference Finals, the Rockets were facing the defending champions.

Eric Gordon proceeded to nail two free throws for Houston, icing the game and putting the Rockets up by four. At long last, the Kevin Durant-era Warriors appeared truly falible. It was polarizing, fresh and fun.

Paul ended up injuring his groin toward the end of Game 5, however, ending his season. The Rockets would lose the series as Golden State would go on to win its third NBA title in four seasons.

Within six years, Sheets had made it possible. Tradition, it is extremely difficult to be competitive without a diving team contributing points. Last year, the diving team was brought back for the first time since the 1980s, and ironically, the women won their first A-10 Conference title.

What makes all of this so remarkable is that Coach Sheets was able to do this with the same undersized, unappealing and barely adequate facilities that existed in the 1970s; the same pool with basically just a swimming facilities, but academic appeal. These students are a testament to Dave’s talent and the hard work and commitment the university’s pool. It is extremely difficult to be competitive without a diving team contributing points.

The diving team needs to train off-campus because the pool is not deep enough. Imagine how difficult it must be to recruit divers knowing that. In spite of these restrictions, Coach Sheets (and Diving Coach Charlie Hauser) have consistently been able to recruit top student-athletes that could easily be scholarship swimmers for Division I schools. This is a testament to Dave’s talent as an innovative, cutting-edge coach and to the university’s academic appeal. These student-athletes choose Duquesne University, not because of the swimming facilities, but...

See LETTER — page 8
Endgame wraps up a generation’s favorite films

Griffin Sendek & Josiah Martin

duquesne duke

It is near-impossible to think of a film series as expansive and long-lasting as the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Nobody could have predicted 11 years ago that the franchise would grow to include 23 films, or that its flagship actors and actresses would become household names.

Endgame, the 23rd chapter, is the perfect conclusion to a generation of favorite films. From Thanos’ snap in Infinity War to the nearly every-thing changes in Endgame, much more is revealed about the characters and their journeys.

“Emotionally stirring” is an under-statement for every second of this film. The opening minutes show how fans felt about the conclusion of the MCU. The emotions ran high as the credits began to roll. The audience was invested in the fate of the characters and the outcome of the battle.

The first act of Endgame takes it slow and gives the story time to breathe. The film is chock-full of intense, high-octane superhero action, but the opening sequences focus primarily on the characters and plot. Making a three-hour movie not feel exhausting or exhausting action-packed is no easy feat, but the Russo brothers pulled it off beautifully.

The Russo brothers deserve tremendous credit for creating action and fight scenes that do not feel monotonous or redundant. Every fight in the film plays to the diverse strengths and abilities of the heroes involved, flows smoothly and is intensely suspenseful. Many of these scenes, particularly those featuring Hawkeye, are beautifully choreographed. One of Hawkeye’s major lights is reminiscent of a Japanese action film — right down to the setting — and is emotionally heavy-hitting to boot.

After the sense of Infinity War, something even darker and more depressing was expected for this film. Surprising though the humor runs throughout, and is some of the best the series has ever seen. Marvel movies have many times been criticized for their implementation of jokes and humor, but an even balance of serious and comic moments is seen in this film.

The MCU has defined a generation of fans, and the end of this era is the perfect time to reflect on the journey. The Russo brothers and the Marvel Cinematic Universe have created a world that has become a part of our daily lives.

Endgame is a masterpiece and a fitting conclusion to what has been built up to for so long. It is a true testament to the power of storytelling and the impact it can have on audiences.

Josiah Martin
NBA — from page 6

That’s what allowed Los Angeles to win Game 2 at Oracle after trailing by 31 points at one point. Once again, it showed the almighty Warriors in a vulnerable light, though it was ultimately inconsequential.

Unfortunately for the rest of the NBA, it seems as though the Warriors are truly the only ones capable of dethroning themselves. Houston had its best shot last season, and gave the Warriors one hell of a series. It’s a shame that that’s likely the closest anyone will ever come to beating this iteration of the Dubs. Paul’s groin injury will live in infamy for that reason alone.

If Golden State overcomes Houston, it’ll face the winner of the Denver-Portland series in the Western Conference Finals. Then, assuming the Warriors don’t self-destruct, they’ll face one of Milwaukee, Toronto, Philadelphia or Boston in the NBA Finals.

Milwaukee is intriguing because of MVP candidate Giannis Antetokounmpo & Co. Toronto boasts an impressive core of Kawhi Leonard, rising star Pascal Siakam, Marc Gasol and Kyle Lowry. Philadelphia could be dangerous if Joel Embiid can remain healthy. Boston is perhaps the East’s deepest team, but has little top-level talent other than All-Star guard Kyrie Irving.

It’s reasonable for NBA fans to hope and wish for a competitive NBA Finals, but anything beyond that will be because of the Warriors’ own doing. If the unit stays healthy and engaged, the Larry O’Brien Trophy will almost assuredly return to the Bay Area for the fourth time in the past five years.

As a fan, I hope I’m wrong.
Both my brain and my gut tell me otherwise. These Warriors, with Curry, Green, Kevin Durant, Klay Thompson, Andre Iguodala & Co., are simply too good.

The Duke tells their favorite memories from the past year

STAFF ED — from page 3

when we are all together, and it is extremely difficult to be anything but happy here in College Hall 113. I will miss this more than words can say.

Griffin: My favorite part of this year was the Duke staff road trip to Baltimore, singing at the top of our lungs to every single song on the radio.

Madison: It’s been an incredible year with The Duke. Every semester that I’ve been a part of this staff, it seems that our bond only grows. Even as staff members come and go, there really is no leaving this family once you’ve joined, so each transition just brings upon a new member to share these inherited memories with, enriching our group even more. I may be off prompt with my answer since it is not a single memory, but my favorite moment from this past year is every Wednesday night spent in the newsroom, where jokes are told and memories are made. It’s also the only time I see all 33 of us in the same place at the same time.

Halle: I was not at all prepared to be sentimental today … however I can’t nail down a single favorite moment at The Duke. This is mainly because at least once a Wednesday night with my fellow editors I laugh so hard I can’t breathe. I’m so thankful for all these small moments that allow me to get outside of my head and just enjoy this time.

Have A Great Summer!