



Suicide Awareness exhibit at DU tells victims' stories

COLLEEN HAMMOND

opinions editor

Students made the somber walk to Fisher Hall this Tuesday as more than 1000 backpacks adorned the Brottier Commons in remembrance of college students across the country who lost their lives to suicide.

The display was arranged by the Duquesne chapter of Active Minds, an organization specializing in mental health awareness on college campuses. Their mission is to destigmatize mental illness and change public perception of mental health treatment.

The entrance of the exhibit was marked by trigger warning signs that read, "this program includes personal stories from individuals that have lost a loved one to suicide. We recommend making an informed decision about your participation in this event."

By including this warning, Active Minds respected those who still grapple with the lasting effects of suicide while simultaneously inviting other members of the community to join the conversation on mental health.

Each backpack featured the biography and picture of a college student who died by suicide. Nearly every state, race, religion, and creed was represented in the

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GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

The Duquesne chapter of Active Minds held a demonstration called #SendSilencePacking on Sept. 17. The group put out backpacks representing college students who committed suicide. The backpacks were accompanied by a biography of the student.

Duquesne professor designs app to improve mental health

KELLEN STEPLER

staff writer

In today's world, there are apps for virtually everything.

And now, Duquesne professor John Pollock and his team aim to develop an app to improve mental health.

The app's objective is to help pre-teens develop coping skills to manage stress and anxiety. A 2019 report published in the Journal of the American Medical Association claims that the teen suicide rate has reached its highest level in nearly two decades. Pollock is a professor of biological sciences and co-director of

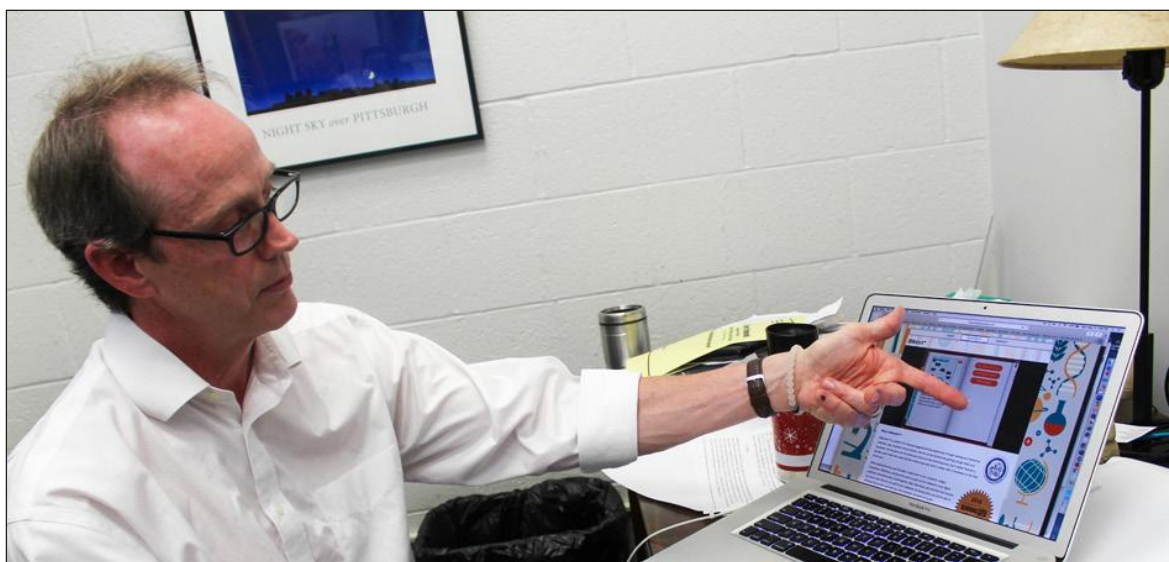


PHOTO BY SYDNEY BAUER

the Chronic Pain Research Consortium at Duquesne. An active neuroscientist researching the biology of pain, Pollock has created an Emmy award-winning television program and educational apps as the director of The Partnership of Education at Duquesne.

Pollock and his team are using storytelling through 21st century technology that address both the biology of the nervous system and healthy management techniques for dealing with pain, anxiety and stress for school-age kids.

The new digital media stories will explore common day-to-day stress experienced by children.

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POLICE BRIEFS

Ah, another week, another police brief to bring all you lovely humans. Let's just get into it shall we?

On Sept. 11, police were called to assist Residence Life in Student Conduct violations in Des Places Hall. The violations were drug and alcohol related, as well as the use of a false identification. The students involved were referred to the Office of Student Conduct and one was cited for the use of a fake ID.

On Sept. 12, a resident student reported that her vehicle was damaged while parked on Locust Street.

On Sept. 13, Duquesne Police received a call for a person yelling inside Towers LLC. The person was located and then involuntarily committed to UPMC. Police found drugs and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Sept. 14, a Duquesne student was found to be under the influence of alcohol. They were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Sept. 15, a student was found unresponsive and vomiting. They appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and were transported to UPMC Mercy.

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App to teach teens to manage stress, anxiety

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With discovery and problem-solving, the app will let children learn research-based, non-pharmacological pain relief and coping strategies for dealing with stress and anxiety.

Pollock notes that stress is something people of all ages experience.

"The world of a pre-teen has real-world stress and anxious situations, but the scale and scope is a different dimension compared to what adults carry as concerns," Pollock said.

He also mentioned the lack of education in schools regarding coping skills to manage stress and anxiety.

"Rarely are any stress management and coping skills taught in school and if they are, it's usually in a high school health class. High school stresses are very real and very real world," Pollock said.

Pollock said that it is important to teach pre-teens to develop coping skills to manage stress and anxiety, because developing these skills at a younger age can help kids be prepared for different challenges later in life.

The stories will be produced for iOS/Android devices with a simi-

lar format to Pollock's award-winning Biblio-Tech series. The earlier stories titled "CITY-HACKS: In Search of Sleep" and "REBOUND: Beating Concussion," involve characters facing a challenge and then go about finding the facts and resources to solve the problem. Through a build-your-own-adventure style format, the narratives involve graphics, games, videos and other interactive features to keep kids engaged.

One of the features in CITY-HACKS and REBOUND is called Adaptive Reader, which lets the user decide the reading level.

"The Adaptive Reader is important because it empowers the kids and makes the story accessible to a broad age range and broad range of reading proficiency," Pollock said.

This current project is still in the works, just the beginning of five-years of funding. Right now, Pollock's team is gearing up to run surveys and focus groups with kids in late elementary and middle school, and then separately with parents and teachers. The survey to kids will focus on situations where they have ex-



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perienced stressful situations, anxiety and pain.

"The survey results and the story lines that emerge from the kids as well as the parent's perspective and the teachers insight will give us a starting point for developing a collection of narratives," Pollock said.

The team also intends on asking experts in the field what they see as important, such as experts in mindfulness, critical evaluation, the health department, pediatricians and scientists.

"We'll bring in their perspec-

tive and use that as guidance. We'll also be adding in aspects of the underlying neurobiology and physiology of stress, anxiety and pain," Pollock said.

When the research and surveys are completed, Pollock and his team will be ready to start developing narratives that will be relevant and interesting to the kids. Pollock notes three outcomes for the project: that the kids read them and have fun with them, that the kids relate to some of the characters and learn more about the biology of their own body in response to the challenges of stress, anxiety and minor pain, and that the kids learn that there are a range of things that they can actually do to help them take control and manage how they feel.

The project is supported by a \$1.3 million Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, a component of the National Institutes of Health. The award is Pollock's fourth SEPA since 2000 for developing health literacy multimedia and STEM educational tools, representing NIH grants totaling more than \$6.4 million.

Active Minds works to remove mental illness stigma

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display, further illustrating the indiscriminate nature of mental health issues and suicide.

Active Minds orchestrated the backpack display as part of their Send Silence Packing initiative. This program seeks to start a campus wide conversation about the epidemic of suicide on college campuses around the U.S.

"I think Send Silence Packing allowed us to reach a large portion of Duquesne students and make them more aware of the resources available to them on campus," said Maura Fleming, Active Minds chapter president.

Active Minds reports suicide as the second leading cause of death

in college students. Despite its prevalence on campuses nationwide, many individuals struggle to ask for help when dealing with a mental health illness or crisis. Active Minds also notes that two-thirds of students with anxiety or anxiety don't seek treatment. They hope this display will start mental health related conversations among students across campus and let students know they are not alone in their struggles.

"I think it was an excellent first step in changing campus attitudes towards having a conversation about mental health," said Nikki Purwin, an Active Minds chapter member.

In addition to the display, Active Minds teamed up with the



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

The backpacks lined Brottier Commons and were accompanied by biographies of students lost to suicide.

Counseling and Wellbeing Center to promote mental health treatments and services on campus. Staff and volunteers remained present for the duration of the exhibit to discuss treatment options and support systems available to students. Their collective work encourages students to find the help they desperately need.

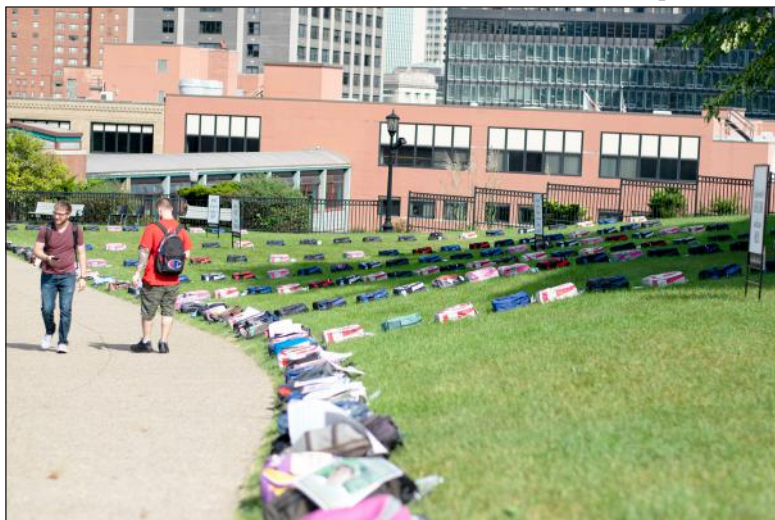
"The scale of the event forces bystanders to acknowledge how big of an impact mental health has on so many Americans and hopefully make them consider reaching out to someone they see struggling, or reaching out for help themselves," Fleming said.

As students and faculty hon-

ored the young men and women lost to suicide, Fleming shared her hopes for its greater impact.

"We are hoping this event can snowball a larger open conversation about mental health on campus," Fleming said.

If you or someone you know is contemplating suicide, please contact the National Suicide Hotline 1-800-273-8255 or the Crisis Text Line at 714-714. On campus resources also include the Counseling and Wellbeing Center. The center is located on the sixth floor of Fisher Hall and can be contacted at 412-396-6204.



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

Internal audit course certified at Duquesne, first in PA

HANNAH BOUCHER

staff writer

After two long years full of proposal paperwork, board approvals and curriculum changes Duquesne University becomes one of 30 colleges in the nation to receive accreditation from the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA). This achievement increases the credibility of the Master of Accounting program, along with improving job placement and student recruitment. At the head of this massive “multi-step” accomplishment was the Director of Accounting Honors Institute, Professor Valerie Williams.

“Before you even [would] consider having an external, like the institute, evaluate the program and the outcomes, you have to have the right classes...From an Institute of Internal Auditors perspective, they’d like to see certain classes. But of course, we’re going to design our master’s program the way we think it should be,” Williams said.

Prior to Williams’s decision to apply for an IIA certification, Duquesne already had a master accounting program. The origi-

nal curriculum has been around since 2005, the only issue was not all of the classes met IIA standards.

“When the institute says you have to have a certain curriculum for them to even consider [certification], when I first reviewed this, we didn’t even have an internal audit class...I’ve run it now for two years. I developed the course probably in 2017. I had to design it, develop it and take it through the various approval channels. Once that big heavy lift was done, I felt comfortable going to the IIA.” Williams began to teach the first round of students in the new internal audit class in the spring semester of 2018.

After establishing a curriculum within the master’s program that would meet the criteria of the IIA, Williams then had to go through a three-tier approval process. In February of 2019, she took her application to Local Pittsburgh Internal Audit Educational Partnership (IEAP).

A committee comprised of companies from throughout Pittsburgh reviewed William’s proposal and provided feedback. Williams was then given the

green-light to proceed.

Following this, she then took the application to the Board of Directors in April of 2019. After they approved it, she was finally able to send her proposal to the IIA, that same month. The review process took about four months, but the news of the certification finally came in August.

Even though the recent students that went through this program are unable to claim this certification on their resume, the effects of taking the internal audit class has proven to help the graduates in their professional endeavors.

“I really enjoyed the [internal] audit class. The class involved learning different audit techniques and procedures. This benefits all the students that go out into the accounting profession, not just the ones that take an audit path,” said Kasimir Reeves, a 2018 graduate from the program. “There are a lot of people in the professional world that do not understand the role of internal audit. They think that internal audit is out there to find mistakes and tell everyone what they did wrong. By Duquesne’s



KAITLYN HOLTZ / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

[Master of Science in Accountancy] students having studied internal audit, they can help change the culture.”

Another recent graduate, Brandon Lohr, said “I think what I liked most about the class were the case studies that were assigned throughout the semester. These cases were real-life cases that added a tremendous perspective on the importance of the internal auditing role for a firm.”

Both of these graduates have

gone onto having professional careers in the world of accounting, using their auditing skills to help further their successes.

“I have people say to me that went through our program four years ago say they wish they went through this internal audit class,” Williams said.

The course is only offered to graduate students pursuing a career in the accounting profession. As of this year there are currently 24 students enrolled.

Trump bars California from setting stricter fuel standards

(AP) — President Donald Trump announced Wednesday that his administration is revoking California’s authority to set auto mileage standards stricter than those issued by federal regulators, a move critics said would result in less fuel-efficient cars that create more planet-warming pollution.

In a tweet, Trump said his action would result in less expensive, safer cars. He also predicted Americans would purchase more new cars, which would result in cleaner air as older models are taken off the roads.

“Many more cars will be produced under the new and uniform standard, meaning significantly more JOBS, JOBS, JOBS! Automakers should seize this opportunity because without this alternative to California, you will be out of business,” Trump tweeted.

U.S. automakers contend that without year-over-year increases in fuel efficiency that align with global market realities their vehicles could be less competitive, potentially resulting in job losses. However, most of the industry favors increases in standards that are less than the Obama-era requirements, saying their consumers are gravitating to SUVs and trucks rather than buying more efficient cars.

Top California officials and environmental groups pledged legal action on Wednesday to stop the rollback, potentially tying up the issue for years in federal courts. The U.S. transportation sector is the nation’s biggest single source of greenhouse gasses.

“You can’t get serious about climate change unless you are serious about vehicle emissions, said California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat. “This is such a pivotal moment in the

history of the climate change debate.”

It’s not clear yet what the Trump administration will propose as its final fuel-efficiency rules, but in the past it has favored freezing Obama-era mileage standards at 2021 levels. Under the Obama administration requirements, the fleet of new vehicles would have to average 30 mpg in real-world driving by 2021, rising to 36 mpg in 2025. Currently the standard is 26 mpg.

Under Trump, the Environmental Protection Agency contends that freezing the fuel economy standards will reduce the average sticker price of new vehicles by about \$2,700 by 2025, though that predicted savings is disputed by environmental groups and is more than double the EPA estimates from the prior administration.

Trump’s tweet does not address the money consumers would save at the gas pump if cars got better mileage. A study released by Consumer Reports in August found that the owner of a 2026 vehicle will pay over \$3,300 more for gasoline during the life of a vehicle if the standards are frozen at 2021 levels.

Trump’s claim that his proposal would result in a cleaner environment is contrary to his own administration’s estimate that by freezing economy standards U.S. fuel consumption would increase by about 500,000 barrels per day, a 2% to 3% increase. Environmental groups predict even more fuel consumed, resulting in higher pollution.

The administration argues that lower-cost vehicles would allow more people to buy new ones that are safer, cutting roadway deaths by 12,700 lives through the 2029 model year. But The Associated Press reported

last year that internal EPA emails show senior career officials privately questioned the administration’s calculations, saying the proposed freeze would actually modestly increase highway fatalities, by about 17 deaths annually.

Trump traveled to California for GOP fundraising events Tuesday and Wednesday near San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego.

California’s authority to set its own, tougher emissions standards goes back to a waiver issued by Congress during passage of the Clean Air Act in 1970. In 2007, when Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger was governor, President George W. Bush’s administration denied California’s bid to place first-in-the-nation greenhouse gas limits on cars and trucks. But the state asked the EPA to reconsider its decision, and in 2009 — when Democratic President Barack Obama took office — the feds granted California’s request.

California has 35 million registered vehicles, the most of any state. A dozen other states and the District of Columbia also follow California’s fuel economy standards.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said the Trump administration’s action will hurt both U.S. automakers and American families. He said California would fight the administration in federal court.

“You have no basis and no authority to pull this waiver,” Becerra, a Democrat, said in a statement, referring to Trump. “We’re ready to fight for a future that you seem unable to comprehend.”

Trump’s Justice Department recently opened an antitrust investigation into a deal between Califor-



AP NEWS

nia and four major automakers for tougher pollution and related mileage requirements than those sought by the Trump administration.

The deal struck in July between California and four of the world’s largest automakers — Ford, Honda, BMW and Volkswagen — bypassed the Trump administration’s plan to freeze emissions and fuel economy standards adopted under Obama at 2021 levels.

The four automakers agreed with California to reduce emissions by 3.7% per year starting with the 2022 model year, through 2026. That compares with 4.7% yearly reductions through 2025 under the Obama standards. Emissions standards are closely linked with fuel economy requirements because vehicles pollute less if they burn fewer gallons of fuel.

In a speech to the National Automobile Dealers Association on Tuesday, EPA Administrator An-

drew Wheeler, a former fossil fuels lobbyist, said California will be able to keep in place and enforce programs to address smog and other forms of air pollution caused by motor vehicles. But fuel economy has been one of the key regulatory tools the state has used to reduce harmful emissions.

Environmentalists and former EPA officials condemned the Trump administration’s move, which comes as gasoline prices have crept higher following a weekend drone attack that hobbled Saudi Arabian oil output.

“If the courts allow this unprecedented reversal, and the Trump EPA massively rolls back the federal clean car standards, then President Trump will have done more to destroy the planet than any other president in history,” said Jeff Alson, a former EPA senior environmental engineer and policy adviser who recently retired after 40 years at the agency.

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EDITORIAL

POLICY

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CARTOON BY JORDAN CALLAHAN

British tabloids unfairly attack newest royal

It's no secret that the British royal family holds more social than political power these days. Each day brings a new media circus around the latest royal wedding, baby or fashion trend.

British celebrity gossip magazines are notorious for their scathing treatment of women who marry into the line of succession. While Princess Diana and Duchess Kate of Windsor have often been attacked in British media for their varying birth statuses and tumultuous marriages, Meghan Markle's life seems to receive much more scrutiny than her counterparts.

Since the Duchess of Sussex joined the Windsor family in May 2018, British tabloids have sunk their teeth into the new royal's personal life.

Although both Markle and Middleton were born as commoners, Markle is frequently held to much higher standards. Both women have worn shoulderless dresses to public functions, but received opposite reactions.

The Sun, a British tabloid, ran the headline “Meghan Markle breaks Royal rules at Trooping the Colour with off-the-shoulder dress by Carolina Herrera,” in the aftermath of Markle's June 2018 fashion choice. However, Middleton was spotted wearing a similar dress this sum-

mer and was regaled by The Sun for her glamour and elegance.

The reality is that neither woman broke royal protocol by exposing their shoulders, but British media tried to demonize Duchess Meghan on a perceived and unwritten rule.



COLLEEN HAMMOND
opinions editor

In addition to their attacks of Duchess Meghan's style choices, many tabloids attempted to perpetuate the bizarre social media conspiracy that Markle was faking her recent pregnancy. While they eventually dispelled the rumors, their continued coverage of this insane allegation elevated fringe internet conjecture to front page news.

Needless to say, Kate Middleton has never been accused of falsifying any of her three pregnancies.

After Markle gave birth to Prince Archie in April, she continued

to be the victim of intense public criticism. Many Brits complained the Duke and Duchess of Sussex were not making their son's early days accessible to the public. Markle and her husband decided not to expose their newborn son to the public eye.

However, Brits were outraged by this privacy and argued that since the young prince's life-style is funded by public dollars, he is not entitled to the rights of a private citizen. Prince Archie's lack of a public persona was heavily blamed on Markle's inability to adjust to royal life in the public eye.

These unfair standards and labels such as “rule-breaker,” “liar” or “unfit for royalty” likely stem from British perception of Markle's background.

Along with being the first American to join the royal family in over

80 years, Markle is the first person of color to ever marry into the royal family. While one would hope this media bias is not racially motivated, it cannot be overlooked that Markle's white peers do not receive this gross level of mistreatment.

Markle is also a divorcee. Her marital status has been the subject of much scrutiny, but commonplace western divorce originated in the British monarchy. The Church of England, the official state sponsored religion, was founded by King Henry VIII as a result of the Vatican's denial of his request for an annulment. Because the monarchy has been familiar with divorce for hundreds of years, there is no reason to call it a scandal now.

Unfortunately, the British media seems to be searching for any and all reasons to dislike the new duchess. While it is a human reaction to be uncomfortable with change, fear of the unknown cannot stand as defense for Markle's treatment in the media.

Markle's diverse background should be embraced as a true reflection of the diversity within the British Commonwealth. If British tabloids and citizens refuse to celebrate the Duchess's differences, they must, at least, hold her to fair public standards.

STAFF
EDITORIAL

Good riddance Purdue Pharma

According to a Gallup poll from earlier this month, the pharmaceutical industry is now the most poorly regarded institution in the country, ranking last on a list of 25 industries including the restaurant industry, retail industry and more. In previous years, the federal government had been the most negatively regarded, but this year, the government was rated 4 points higher than big pharma, which had a net positive rating of -31.

The cost of prescription drugs has skyrocketed in recent years. It's pulled the price of general health-care up, too, and compared to folks in nine other wealthy nations — Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom — Americans pay more per capita for prescription drugs.

While prices could be brought down by an increased prevalence of generic variants and biosimilars, defined by CNN business as “drugs that are identical to branded drugs but distributed by another company after the original patent expires,” large pharmaceutical firms do their best to diminish competition. Because, of course, the more competition, the less freedom they have to hike their prices up until only the wealthiest market can readily afford them.

But high prices are only the tip of the iceberg in the nefarious nature of the pharmaceutical industry.

This week, Purdue Pharma, the creator and mass distributor of OxyContin, filed for bankruptcy. The company negotiated a multi-million dollar settlement that would help resolve the thousands of lawsuits pending against it, which claim its painkillers and illegal opioids — heroin, for example — have resulted in the deaths of more than 400,000 people. Upward of 20 states have participated in the suit, and the general public consensus has identified the company as a key player in the creation of the nation's opioid crisis.

Purdue has long since been accused of aggressively marketing opioid painkillers like OxyContin, and it was only in the last year that it announced it would stop marketing that pill to doctors. Until then, sales representatives would routinely visit the offices of medical practitioners to promote the prescription of the highly addictive drug. It was also sued in 2007 for allegedly marketing OxyContin as less addictive than competing products, which was as untrue as it was lethal.

Widespread abuse of opioids killed more than 40,000 people in 2016 alone, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The role of the pharmaceutical industry in the manufacturing of this crisis is undeniable, and probably a large part of why Americans rated it so poorly on the Gallup poll.

The issues with pharmaceuticals are numerous and deep. The radically

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OPINIONS

Yang shakes up democratic debate with give-away

TIMOTHY RUSH
staff columnist

If you thought those surprise television giveaways were only on Oprah or Ellen, the Sept. 12 Democratic Debate in Houston proved you wrong. Hosted and aired by ABC, the most recent Democratic debate fielded 10 of the candidates, including long-time underdog Andrew Yang.

Yang, the business-casual candidate that turned heads at the first debate by opting not to wear a tie has a new thing that is pulling attention.

"It's time to trust ourselves more than our politicians. That's why I'm going to do something unprecedented tonight. My campaign will now give a Freedom Dividend of \$1,000 a month for an entire year to 10 American families," Andrew Yang said Thursday night, to the applause of the audience and chuckles from fellow candidates.

This action has brought about various questions of legality and how gimmicky it is, but the most shocking thing seems to be that it worked. Viewers of the debate overall seemed to be pleased or intrigued by Yang's debate stunt, and it has proven to be a bold and productive one.

"All-time traffic high on <http://yang2020.com> last night. Must have been something I said," Yang said Friday morning on Twitter. His Twitter also had the biggest overall growth, with Yang gaining 7,566 followers during the debate, the highest of any of the candidates on stage as reported by Politico's Dan Diamond.



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In charts published by FiveThirtyEight regarding debate performance, Yang showed a net positive change in favorability of 2.6% for debate audiences. Yang also had the third biggest improvement in terms of chances against Trump, achieving a 2.4% increase between pre and post-debate polling.

This increasing popularity is occurring despite Yang's ill-received attempts at self-imposed racial humor. "I'm Asian so I know a lot of doctors," Yang said on the debate stage while weighing in on healthcare. This joke fell flat with audiences and earned widespread scorn on social media.

The announcement earned praise from other candidates. Pete Buttigieg, mayor of South Bend, Indiana, had to take a moment to compose himself after Yang's opening statement before stating, "That's original, I'll give you that."

California junior Sen. Kamala Harris, who couldn't contain her laughter on the debate stage following Yang, said in a CNN post-debate interview regarding the announcement, "One of the things I like about Andrew Yang is he is constantly raising ideas and approaches that have not typically been on that debate stage. And I think he is challenging us to think about how we can be more innovative. And I admire that."

Outside of politics, Alexis Ohanian, co-founder and executive chairman of Reddit, tweeted "Hey @AndrewYang I like this idea so much I'll do it personally for those 10 people if you can't." Alluding to the questions of the legality of the giveaway, there is currently much debate in the legal realm.

Yang said he had a lawyer confirm that the stunt was legal. Adav Noti, former Federal Election Commission

lawyer and litigator for the Campaign Legal Center, said in a CNN interview, "Although it's hard to say with 100% certainty until we know the details of the payouts, on its face Yang's proposal to use campaign money to help pay the day-to-day expenses of selected people appears to violate the law... An anti-tax candidate couldn't use campaign money to pay people's taxes, and a pro-income candidate can't use campaign money to give people cash."

While the debate of legality will likely continue, it's obvious that this was an effective move on Yang's part. Earning praise from other candidates and being the top earner of internet traffic, it's sufficient to say that Yang was a spotlight candidate despite his limited speaking time and news coverage focusing on the big three of Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. Yang increased his brand awareness through his Oprah-like giveaway, and his innovative approach has resonated with a lot of people.

That being said, Yang still has far to go before becoming a top candidate. He has come far, but not far enough to compete with heavy hitters like Warren and Biden. While his momentum is carrying him and he is showing improvement, we will see how long that'll last as the campaign season continues and becomes more competitive as the field narrows.

If Yang wants to continue making big gains, he's going to have come up with other creative ways to grab people's attention. Given how Yang has handled it so far, we likely have more to see from this creative entrepreneur.

Juuling remains a disgusting and dangerous habit

ALYSE KAMINSKI
staff columnist

I leave my comfy apartment in the morning to head to class, and on my peaceful walk to College Hall, I am attacked by a familiar smell that gives flashbacks to standing awkwardly at parties as a freshman in college. What a way to wake up in the morning.

I first remember hearing about Juuls and seeing them my first semester of college. Back then, I went to Penn State University. Not many people I talked to had them, but one of my friends at the time did. He constantly had it with him and before anyone knew it, it was a new fad.

I always thought they looked kind of stupid, to be honest. Juuls look like flash drives and something about smoking a USB doesn't look attractive. However, I will admit that I tried it a few times, especially in social situations. Personally, I never got the big deal about it, and once I transferred to Duquesne, I never did it again. And I'm glad I didn't.

In recent weeks, news reports have emerged about teens getting sick from vape-related causes. I always thought that putting anything into your lungs would have consequences, but Juul and other vapes are marketed to be a healthy alternative to cigarettes. So even though I figured it was unhealthy, it is almost

surprising and definitely alarming that youths are already seeing the effects of Juuling.

The New York Post reported on Sept. 5 that an 18 year-old from Illinois was hospitalized due to constant and uncontrollable vomiting from the effects of Juuling. The teen disclosed that his lungs look like those of a 50 year old, despite his young age. Fortunately, the teen is doing better, but there have been multiple cases just like this one, including those resulting in death.

Teens are not the ones to be blamed or scrutinized in this situation. Although the developers of Juul claim that the product is aimed at adults who smoke cigarettes, this does not seem to be the reality. There are many marketing techniques Juul employs to make the product appeal to the younger generation.

First, think about the flavor pods. Mint, mango, and fruit are just three. Others like it have been banned (thankfully), but even flavors such as these ones are obviously going to catch the attention of young people. I mean, being able to smoke something that is going to have "flavor" or taste good sounds like a good deal on the surface. And if it is marketed to be safe, well then just about anyone is going to be inclined to at least try it.

So, they try it once. And they try it again and again, until the nicotine in a



COURTESY OF METRO NEWS

Juul makes most of its users come back for more. It's exactly how cigarettes used to be marketed back in the day - appealing to the youth so they keep buying it for years to come.

Juul not only is marketed to be tasty and healthy, but it is apparently affordable. If you go on to Juul's website, there is a "Savings Calculator" tab. Click on it and you'll find out that by Juuling, you can save over \$1,000 a year using this as an alternative to cigarettes.

Now, I will say that our generation is not too big on smoking cigarettes. I know some people that do it as a habit and some that may smoke a cigarette at a party, but things have definitely

changed for the cigarette industry since our parents were kids. However, seeing that Juul is not as financially and physically costly as cigarettes will make anyone want to do it. Everyone loves a good bargain that you just can't pass up.

So, my point here is that if you have a Juul, you may want to rethink that purchase. You could spend your money on better things such as a slick new pair of Crocs, a slice or two of pizza from Benny's, or your Spotify Premium payment for the year. And to top it all off, you won't have the lungs of a 50 year old at age 20 just from habitually smoking a device that literally looks like a flash drive.

Spiritan Mission Experience lends helping hand across the country

MADISON PASTRICK
layout & ad manager

Madison Pastrick (layout & ad manager) took part in one of the trips mentioned.

Most Duquesne students have heard the story of the Spiritans, whether it was from Adam Wasilko's presentation freshman year, or on A-Walk during Heritage Week. But how many students feel that the Spiritan mission has truly impacted their experiences here at Duquesne University?

The general knowledge is typically that the Spiritans were Catholic immigrants that settled in Pittsburgh because they saw a need for education and opportunity amongst the city's poor immigrant families. This missionary endeavor is right in-line with the Spiritan way of life, which focuses on leaving worldly possessions behind in order to become one with communities in need, all of which is guided by faith, of course.

It's an inspiring life that our Spiritan founders led, but their story does not end here. There are students right here at Duquesne that are living out the mission of the Spiritans through their involvement with the Spiritan Campus Ministry (SCM). One of the most immersive ways students are doing this is by participating in a Spiritan Mission Experience (SME), formerly named Cross Cultural Mission Experience (CCME). SCM hosts these trips and formats them



COURTESY SPIRITAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
Duquesne students get in a paint battle with Dominican teens during SME summer camp.

in a way that allows students to learn about the Spiritan mission by traveling to deprived communities and learning about these areas through faith-based engagement in which students participate in service activities, cultural immersion and spiritual growth.

These groups of students go to a variety of locations across the U.S. and other countries, including Baltimore, Md; Chicago, Ill; Mullens, W. Va; Immokalee, Fla. and San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic (DR).

As described on their website, "SME's are an opportunity for people from a variety of backgrounds, faiths and majors to come together for a common mission of service and to learn and share our faith and stories with each other and the communities where we work."

The activities within these trips are completely contingent on the

community which is being visited. For instance, those traveling to Chicago will focus their service efforts on the city's homeless community, while those travelling to Immokalee are working with immigrant farmers and laborers.

On the Mullens trip, Rachel Wentz, a junior biomedical engineering and nursing major, describes her services as such. "The community that we worked with was struggling with establishing new ways to create jobs and boost their economy. In West Virginia, lumber is readily available, so the new way they thought of was to build log cabins out of the lumber and sell them. During our days there, we aided in the building of their first log cabin."

The service aspect of these trips goes far beyond its physical implications, however. "There's a whole different part of what we do which is social justice, which is like the con-

tinuation of charity," Campus Minister, Brenda Merrick said. "Charity is feeding mouths when they're hungry. Social justice looks for the deeper issues and fights for change."

That's why these trips also have a heavy emphasis on cultural immersion. By exposing students to very humble backgrounds, and engaging them in vulnerable conversations with the people within these communities, students are able to see these areas for more than just their struggle, but their humanity.

"They don't go to change the community, they go to become one with the people there," Merrick said.

These authentic interactions lead to authentic relationships. Describing the relationships she formed during her trip to the Dominican Republic, senior elementary education major, Bella Guzzi said, "I am still in touch with many of the people from the DR that I met on the trip. I plan on keeping in touch with them and hopefully, returning eventually to visit them."

I think of each of their positive attitudes, their willingness to share and give anything they could and their kind hearts, that were so full of joy. I will carry that with me as a reminder of who I hope to always be. San Juan de la Maguana and its people has a piece of my heart."

These trips are also a great way to meet other Duquesne students who have a similar passion for service.

"As with every service trip, you walk into a week knowing almost nobody, but you come out of that week feeling like you have eight new best friends," said Duquesne alumna Rachael Reiner, describing her trip to Baltimore/Dayton. "This group of students were complete strangers to

me in January. Now, we have inside jokes and a week's worth of memories to share for the rest of our lives."

Merrick believes that a strong aspect of these trips is that they allow a diverse group of students to come together to apply different backgrounds and experiences of faith to a singular cause.

"The trip itself, you come into it with whatever faith background you have, and you serve from that faith background," Merrick said.

Above all, SME's are meant to leave a lasting impact on students. Unique to many other opportunities on Duquesne's campus, these trips allow students to learn about other cultures through personal and authentic interactions.

"There's always a reluctance to go outside of what is familiar and comfortable to venture into the unknown; but past that unknown usually lies a reward," said supply chain management major, Lance Robertson, describing his trip to Immokalee. "For us, that reward was being humbled by first-hand experiences of the plight that immigrants in this country go through in hopes of pursuing a better life. No news article or presentation would do that justice."

Through service, solidarity, education and lasting relationships – all led by your own personal faith – these trips fully embody what it means to be a Spiritan.

Applications for SME's are currently open for submission. They will be accepted until Sept. 30 and can be found on Spiritan Campus Ministry's page of the Duquesne University website. The cost of each trip is only \$100, and each student is asked to fundraise for supplies prior to their trip. This year, SCM is hosting four trips during Spring Break, and one over the summer.

Horoscopes



Virgo

(August 23-September 22)

The plot against your roommate continues into the final stages.



Libra

(September 23 - October 22)

But professor! I took notes in color, how could I be failing?

Scorpio

(October 23-November 22)

Your boyfriend is as fickle as the library printers.



Sagittarius

(November 23-December 22)

You couldn't keep a succulent alive, but sure, you're ready for adult life.



Capricorn

(December 23-January 19)

You stole my scrunchy, for this you will pay.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 18)

The phrase "Did you order Milano's? I am outside," rings in your nightmares.



Pisces

(February 19-March 20)

The stars say to ask a scorpio out, but you might want to wear a helmet.



Aries

(March 21-April 19)

Took a DNA test, turns out you're 100% alone.

Taurus

(April 20-May 20)

Attending the career expo gave the shocking revelation that you have no future.



Gemini

(May 21-June 20)

Goose!

Cancer

(June 21-July 22)

Today is just a 4 shots of espresso kind of day.



Leo

(July 23-August 22)

Spice up your life a little. Text your ex.



WSOC routs YSU in final non-conference game

JAMES LEO
staff writer

The Duquesne women's soccer team (2-2-2) looked to gain positive momentum heading into the start of conference play. They got that and more in their last non-conference matchup against Youngstown State (2-5-1) on Sunday afternoon.

Duquesne and Youngstown State have met on 10 previous occasions. In those games,



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETIC
The Dukes are undefeated at home this season. So far, the Red and Blue have a 2-0-1 record at Rooney Field.

The Red and Blue had a record of 7-1-2, and a goal differential of 32-4. The Dukes continued their dominance of Youngstown State on Sunday.

Duquesne played a very defensive first half of soccer; they allowed only two Youngstown shots, only one of which was on target.

Duquesne's offense played just as stellar, even if it didn't show on the scoreboard. They'd tallied 14 total shots in the first half, with several great opportunities. One shot from Deena Debaldo narrowly missed in the 9th minute, and another one grazed the crossbar in the 28th minute.

The Dukes broke through with a goal in the 38th minute from freshman Natalie Bell. This was the first goal of her Duquesne career.

With a 1-0 lead at half, coach

Al Alvine was proud of his team's performance.

"I told them that these opportunities would eventually turn into goals," Alvine said. "But in the meantime, we needed to keep creating great opportunities."

The team definitely took his advice to heart. The second half of action saw more tenacious defense from the Dukes, allowing a total of four shots (zero goals) in the entire second half.

Their play started to show on the scoreboard, too. A second-half scoring onslaught started with a goal from Dabaldo in the 46th minute (assist to Sarah Wilkinson) to make the score 2-0 in favor of the Dukes.

Another goal came in the 47th minute from freshman Jaimi Araujo off of a penalty kick. This goal, the first of Araujo's Duquesne career, made the score 3-0.

The goal was followed by Debaldo's second of the day in the 59th minute, and an unassisted goal by Tori Kopchak almost immediately after in the 61st minute. Debaldo then completed the hat trick with her third goal in the 78th minute, assisted by fellow junior Lauren Bell.

When all was said and done, the final score was 6-0 Duquesne. Coach Alvine said was impressed by the way his team played in the second half.

"I was proud of the way they took my halftime talk to heart," he said. "We kept fighting to create more opportunities in the second half, and we truly played until the final whistle."

Alvine stressed the importance of carrying the momentum from Sunday's game into the start of conference play.

"This game, with all of the momentum we currently have, is all part of the bigger picture," Alvine said. "We want to carry this momentum through the rest of the year, into conference play and eventually the



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
A group of Duquesne players celebrate following one of the six goals on Sunday.

A-10 Championship."

Despite tough losses to No. 14 North Carolina State and No. 11 West Virginia earlier in the year, Alvine said his team learned a lot from those games.

"Playing against those teams allowed us to play against a caliber of athleticism that we aren't used to," he explained. "Although we lost, it was great exposure to a higher level of competition."

Although Duquesne played some of the top 25 teams in the nation, they held their own: they lost by two goals against West Virginia, and by three goals against North Carolina State.

The Dukes will play in their first conference game of the

season vs. VCU at 1 p.m. on Sunday, September 22 at Arthur J. Rooney Field. The Dukes look to get their revenge, as they narrowly lost to VCU on the road last year. Nevertheless, this game will be a test for the Dukes, as VCU has been a top team in the A-10 for a handful of years.

Duquesne struggled against A-10 opponents last season, posting just a 2-6-2 record in conference play. The team managed to score just six goals against its A-10 opponents, and allowed 13.

With a more experienced roster this season, the Dukes should be able to find more success in 2019.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Duquesne's Deena DeBaldo taking a penalty kick earlier this season. For her three-goal performance against Youngstown State, DeBaldo earned Atlantic 10 Co-Offensive Player of the Week honors. Debaldo leads Duquesne in goals (5).

Upcoming Events

The following events are all of Duquesne's varsity athletic contests for the next several weeks.

— **Sept. 20, 7 p.m.**
Women's Volleyball at West Virginia (Mountaineer Invitational; Morgantown)

— **Sept. 21, 12 p.m.**
Women's Volleyball vs. Navy (Mountaineer Invitational; Morgantown)

— **Sept. 21, 1 p.m.**
Football at Dayton

— **Sept. 21, 5 p.m.**
Women's Volleyball vs. Eastern Kentucky (Mountaineer Invitational; Morgantown)

— **Sept. 21, 7 p.m.**
Men's Soccer at Saint Joseph's

— **Sept. 22, 1 p.m.**
Women's Soccer vs. VCU

— **Sept. 24, 4 p.m.**
Men's Soccer at Saint Francis U

— **Sept. 26, 7 p.m.**
Women's Soccer at Davidson

— **Sept. 27, TBA**
Men's Tennis (Carnegie Mellon Invitational)

— **Sept. 27, 7 p.m.**
Women's Volleyball at Davidson

— **Sept. 28, 1 p.m.**
Football at New Hampshire

— **Sept. 28, 7 p.m.**
Men's Soccer at La Salle

— **Sept. 29, 1 p.m.**
Women's Volleyball at VCU

— **Sept. 29, 1 p.m.**
Women's Soccer at La Salle

— **Oct. 1, 7 p.m.**
Men's Soccer at Liberty

— **Oct. 3, 7 p.m.**
Women's Soccer vs. Richmond

— **Oct. 4, 7 p.m.**
Women's Volleyball vs. George Washington

Fact of the Week

Duquesne football's A.J. Hines is just 48 yards short of becoming the third player in program history to rush for 4,000 yards.

NCAA CFP Rankings — Week 4

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Clemson	2-0	3-0	w3	9/21 vs. Charlotte
2.	Alabama	1-0	3-0	w3	9/21 vs. Southern Miss.
3.	Georgia	1-0	3-0	w3	9/21 vs. Notre Dame
4.	LSU	0-0	3-0	w3	9/21 at Vanderbilt
5.	Oklahoma	0-0	3-0	w3	9/28 vs. Texas Tech
6.	Ohio State	1-0	3-0	w3	9/21 vs. Miami (OH)
7.	Notre Dame	N/A	2-0	w2	9/21 vs. Georgia
8.	Auburn	0-0	3-0	w3	9/21 at Texas A&M
9.	Florida	1-0	3-0	w3	9/21 vs. Tennessee
10.	Utah	0-0	3-0	w3	9/20 at USC

NCAA FCS NEC Standings — Week 4

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Cen. Conn. St.	0-0	3-0	W3	9/21 at Eastern Michigan
2.	Sacred Heart	0-0	2-1	W2	9/21 vs. Bryant
3.	Saint Francis U	0-0	2-1	L1	9/21 vs. Columbia
4.	Duquesne	0-0	1-1	L1	9/21 vs. Dayton
5.	Bryant	0-0	0-2	L2	9/21 at Sacred Heart
6.	Robert Morris	0-0	0-3	L3	9/21 at VMI
7.	Wagner	0-0	0-3	L3	9/21 at Florida Atlantic

Looking Down the Lines: CFB and NFL predictions

ANDREW WHITE
staff writer

Last time out: 1-4-1 overall, 0-3-1 CFB, 1-1 NFL.

Season record: 3-8-1 overall, 2-6-1 CFB, 1-2 NFL.

I need to turn this around. The issue, you see, isn't that I'm losing a bunch of games, I'm just losing the games that I pick in here, and some of them are stupid. Maryland, you have to be kidding me. The Terps had the ball starting inside Temple's 20-yard line twice last week and both times managed not to score, including on two 1st and goals. Then the Chargers... Really? Showing up to a game without a kicker? That isn't a good recipe to win. Had I known they were going to use their punter to kick field goals I would have stayed far away from that game.

Back to work now, please let this be a good week. Here's a couple of winners (hopefully).

College Football Picks:

#10 Utah vs. USC (+4) Friday, 9 p.m.

Here is the thing, Friday night games in the PAC-12 terrify me. You never know what can go down, upsets happen almost weekly it seems on the West Coast on Friday nights. The games are always bizarre. What I do know is, both of these teams went to BYU early on in the season. Utah handled the Cougars very easily while the Trojans lost in OT last week. Utah has a very good defense and USC has looked inconsistent with a freshman at quarterback. I love the Utes in this game, even though it falls on a Friday night.

The Pick: Utah -4
#4 LSU vs. Vanderbilt (+24) Saturday, 12 p.m.

Vandy has not looked great coming out of the gate 0-2, but they have played a tough schedule. LSU meanwhile has looked sharp for the most part, especially in its road win over Texas two weeks ago. This isn't your classic LSU team either that grinds it out. LSU has opened the playbook and has let Joe Burrow sling it so far this season, and the Tigers have looked great. This is quite the spread, we are talking three touchdowns and a field goal here, but I am not a fan of the Vanderbilt offense and I don't think the defense can slow Burrow and the air attack down.

The Pick: LSU -24
#10 Oregon vs. Stanford (+10) Saturday 7 p.m.

Oregon has been a mixed bag so far this year, but so has Stanford. Oregon probably should be 3-0 at this point, but they blew their opening game against Auburn late. Stanford, meanwhile, looked like it had one of the top defenses in the country to open the year but has looked abysmal since in back-to-back losses against the aforementioned USC and UCF.

The Pick: Oregon -10
#7 Notre Dame vs. #3 Georgia (-14) Saturday 8 p.m.

Talk about a big-time game. This is going to be a good one, or at least that's what most think. There is a reason that spread is this far apart for these two top 10 teams, Georgia can flat out ball, but the jury is still out on the Irish. Georgia has had a pretty easy schedule so far, so

this is going to be a good test for them, but the defense looks good and it looks like it can be elevated to another level if needed. Meanwhile the Dawgs running game looks dangerous lead by D'Andre Swift and last week Jake Fromm looked to get in a rhythm throwing the ball. Notre Dame, by the looks of their schedule, should not have been tested, but they were in Week One by Louisville where they were helped out a lot by turnovers and sloppy play. Don't expect Georgia to give away free points. This will be a good one in Athens and I think most of the game will be close, but the Bulldogs will tire the Irish out by the time the fourth quarter rolls around and blow it open late. (I also suspect we might see this line drop at least 1/2 a point.)

The Pick: Georgia -14

NFL Picks:

There aren't too many lines that jump out at me this week. A lot of injuries have caused some interesting lines and most, including myself, have no idea what to expect. However, there is one game that catches my eye.

Los Angeles Rams vs. Cleveland (+3) Sunday 8:20 p.m.

Yes, the Browns blew out the Jets last week on Monday night, but they only put up 23 points against the depleted Jets defense who were using at least three or four backups for most of the game. Outside of one chunk play touchdown, the Browns struggled to move the ball down the field. The O-Line has also looked like a problem to start the year. I like the Rams in this one who have looked good on both offense and defense.

The Pick: LA Rams -3



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA'S ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Police: Pirates' Vázquez attempted to have sex with minor

(AP) — Pittsburgh Pirates closer Felipe Vázquez was being held Wednesday in a Pennsylvania jail on multiple felony charges after allegedly telling investigators he attempted to have sex with an underage girl during a meeting at her house in 2017.

The charges are related to Vázquez's alleged encounters with a girl starting in 2017, when she was 13.

Vázquez is charged with statutory sexual assault, unlawful contact with a minor and corruption of minors, all felonies, and a misdemeanor count of indecent assault of

a person under 16 years old.

Vázquez was expected to be arraigned Wednesday in Westmoreland County, though it was uncertain whether he would attend the hearing in person or do it via video from the Allegheny County Jail. Vázquez has been in the jail since surrendering to authorities Tuesday on a felony warrant issued in Florida stemming from illicit electronic communication with the same girl.

Vázquez began talking to the girl on social media in 2017 before driving to her

house in Westmoreland County, a state police trooper wrote in court papers.

In an interview with troopers last month, she said she got in Vázquez's car, he removed her pants and tried to have sex with her.

On Tuesday, troopers interviewed Vázquez at his residence and wrote that he admitted to driving to the girl's house and trying to have sex with her. Troopers also said Vázquez admitted receiving explicit photos of the girl by cellphone and texting her explicit messages as recently as July.

Pennsylvania authorities began investigating the 28-year-old Vázquez in August after being contacted by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The victim's mother contacted Florida officials after learning of an alleged sexual relationship between Vázquez and a teenage girl living in Lee County, Florida.

The arrest warrant from Florida accuses Vázquez of one count of computer pornography/solicitation of a child and one count of providing obscene material to minors. Florida officials do not plan to pursue extradition until their investigation is completed.

Vázquez was denied bond during a hearing Tuesday on the Florida charges, with the judge saying the Venezuelan-born Vázquez was a flight risk.

Major League Baseball placed Vázquez on administrative leave under its agree-



AP PHOTO

Banner brackets are empty after the banner of Felipe Vazquez was taken down Tuesday.



AP PHOTO

In this February photo, Pirates closer Felipe Vazquez takes a break during a spring baseball workout at Pirate City in Bradenton, Fla. Vázquez was arrested Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019 on multiple felony charges, including soliciting a child and statutory sexual assault.

September 19, 2019

SPORTS

Lumineers' lyricism shines on newest album, *III*

CLAIRE NEIBERG
staff writer

From dancing to “Ho Hey” at my eighth-grade formal to singing along to “Cleopatra” at my high school coffeehouses, I have always been a fan of The Lumineers’ hit songs, as they bring back joyful memories of growing up.

I had high expectations for the Sept. 13 release of their third studio album, *III*, and needless to say, it exceeded all of my expectations while showcasing another side of The Lumineers’ music.

Since I have only listened to their previous, most popular songs one-at-a-time in social situations, I did not realize the importance of listening to this album chronologically or understand its impact at first. I also did not see the dark picture of addiction they were trying to illustrate.

The folk-rock band has been advertising their album since April when they began to release the songs in chapters leading up to the final product. Chapter I includes, “Donna,” “Life in the City,” and “Gloria” and introduces the Sparks family.

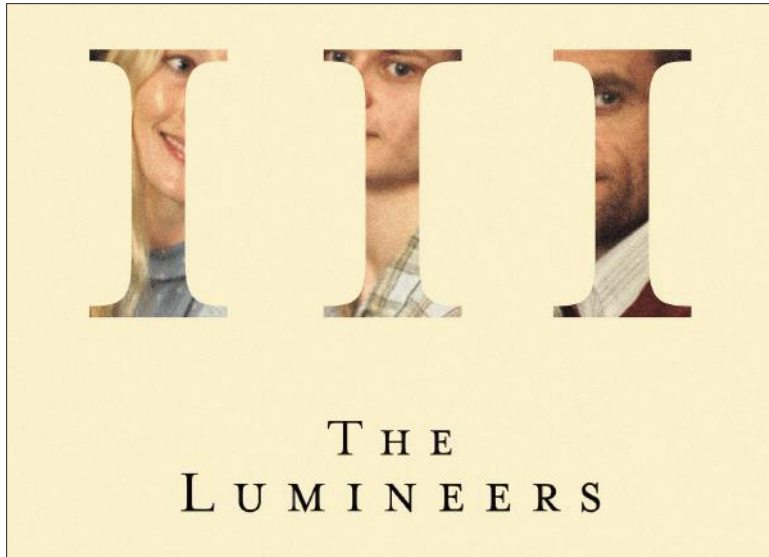
While fictionalized, the Sparks family represents an average Amer-

ican family that is struggling with addiction to alcohol. The founding and lead members of the band, Wesley Schultz and Jeremiah Fraites, crafted the family and their story to reflect their own experiences that were affected by addiction.

The release of the album in chapters not only served as creative marketing but symbolized that recovering from addiction is a process. When listened to in chronological order, the songs tell the story of the Sparks family whose lives have been torn apart by alcohol abuse.

In the first song, “Donna,” a woman (Gloria) is reflecting on her mother (Donna) and how she left her to raise her own family, as she left her with very little guidance and had a strained relationship with her own mother growing up. “Life in the City” is more upbeat compared to the other two tracks in the first chapter but explains Gloria’s rocky background and how she ends up spiraling into drinking away her problems. In the last song of the chapter, “Gloria,” the listener learns about Gloria’s abusive nature to her own child.

There is also a series of 10 music videos that have been released



COURTESY OF DUALTONE MUSIC GROUP, INC.

III is the first Lumineers album not to feature former cellist Neyla Pekarek.

periodically as well. I recommend watching the videos alongside listening to the album, as they bring the songs to life and give insight to who the characters in the songs are. Addiction is one of the hardest trials a family can go through. The music videos reinforce the idea that addiction is a cycle that spans several generations.

Similar to other songs by The Lumineers, all of the songs on the al-

bum have a calming, acoustic aura to them that is pleasant to listen to, despite the melancholy lyrics.

One will simply take from this album what they put into it. Alone, all of the songs are enjoyable, but they are difficult to understand since they are part of an intricate story of a family. I highly recommend giving *III* a listen because it paints the ugliest situations ordinary people go through in beautiful colors.

WEEK'S EVENTS

Stress Relief Activities
Sept. 23 @ 9 p.m.

The BSNES Multicultural STEM Group is offering a chance to make stress balls, slime and face masks in the Union NiteSpot.

Pizza Pandemonium
Sept. 24 @ 5 p.m.

Commuter Affairs, the Commuter Council and the Duquesne Video Game Club host this pizza-making competition for teams of three in the Union NiteSpot.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Nine
Blink-182
Friday, Sept. 20

Blink-182's ninth studio album, counting the demo *Buddha*, features the Mark Hoppus-led pop punk group on their first LP since 2016's *California*.

Rambo: Last Blood
Friday, Sept. 20

The fifth entry in the series that began with 1982's *First Blood* finds John Rambo fighting a Mexican drug cartel.

MICRO REVIEW

"Everyone Hides"
Wilco

Catchy, exciting, nostalgic and organic. I'm not a huge Wilco fan, but that's how I would describe most of their popular tracks. This new single is no exception, and is perhaps one of the best examples of their style I've heard so far.

-Josiah Martin

The Goldfinch is a mess, in spite of great cast

GRIFFIN SENDEK
photography editor

Never before have I witnessed a film so desperately try to be meaningful only to result in something vapid and astonishingly empty.

The Goldfinch, directed by John Crowley, is a film adaptation of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name that tells the fictional story of a young Theo Decker (Oakes Fegley) whose life profoundly changes after his mother is killed in a bombing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and within the heat of the moment, he steals the priceless artwork aptly titled *The Goldfinch*.

The story is told non-linearly transitioning back-and-forth between Fegley and Theo's adult self, played by Ansel Elgort.

Unfortunately, *The Goldfinch* is yet another example of a loss in translation from book to screen.

The original novel's whopping 771 pages did no favors to ease the adaptation, resulting in a bulbous two hour 20-minute run time. Watching *The Goldfinch* all the way through feels like a journey that will never end. When the credits finally roll across the screen it is cause for celebration; not due to wonderment caused by a moving piece of cinema, but rather for the fact that it is now time to leave.

Attempting to describe the plot of *The Goldfinch* is a lesson in frustration because there is hardly any narrative throughline or thematic consistency. The story can be best described as a series of subplots con-



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

The Goldfinch has not been received as well as its award-winning source material.

tinuously piled on one another.

Having multiple subplots in a film is not always a bad thing. It has been done very well in many instances. For the case of *The Goldfinch*, the central plot of Theo and the painting hardly takes priority over the others, and new subplots are constantly introduced without resolving any of the previous.

This form of storytelling might have worked well within a book format, broken up into clearly defined chapters, but on screen, it creates a muddled film with a highly inconsistent tone.

The Goldfinch appears to be in the midst of an identity crisis, unable to decide what it wants to be or even keep to the confines of a single genre. This film is a tale of loss and redemption, a romance, a coming-of-age story, and in the final moments mor-

phing into an action-thriller. Choosing any one of these story conventions and running with it might have produced a work with more coherency but as is, *The Goldfinch* is an ununified mess.

Watching *The Goldfinch* has one questioning what it is really trying to say.

The Goldfinch is an illustration of how good performances from award-winning actors are unable to save a deeply flawed film. Giving credit where credit is due, everyone in this film does an impeccable job.

Nicole Kidman does a marvelous job as Mrs. Barbour, leaving by far the biggest lasting impression upon exiting the theater. Jeffery Wright plays his character to absolute perfection and Sarah Paulson gives it her all. Both Fegley and Elgort help drive the story forward, although

We Have Always Lived in the Castle worth a watch on Netflix

NEIL RUNGE
staff writer

The 2018 adaptation of the gothic novel *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* by Shirley Jackson is now on Netflix and ready for new eyes. It first premiered at the LA Film Festival, then earlier this year, it was shown in a limited number of theaters. A streaming platform is the perfect place for a movie like this to thrive.

The novel, published in 1962, seems to have a cult following, and since its original release at the LA Film Festival in 2018, so does the movie. Jackson is a popular author within the mystery and gothic writing style. She set an uneasy tone to her stories and it gained her a following, but that cult of die-hard fans is spread far and wide. So, with the movie's limited release and smaller fanbase it was destined for low box office numbers. Now, on Netflix, all fans of Jackson's novel can see the story come to life.

That's exactly what this film does — come to life. The film shines in terms of the actual look of it. The costumes, set pieces and filming locations all beautifully match the eerie and mysterious feel of the novel. It's a feeling that something is seriously wrong with the Blackwoods but it's

been normalized that this odd and tragic family is around to stay. The film score is icing on the cake. It decorates each scene with a creepy feeling that builds and builds until the true horrors are exposed.

The shine of this movie starts to dull with the dialogue. At times the way the characters speak can be clunky. The actors could have made a mistake. Either way, it can bring a viewer out of the vibe of the movie. Like a fourth wall break in the comedy, these bits and pieces of dialogue that land wrong remind the audience that they are indeed, watching a tale unfold. The goal to build a solid world that people can escape into momentarily fails each time a character says a line that falls into the uncanny valley of human speech. The breaks are remedied by everything else being amazing, but the breaks are still glaring.

The cast list isn't short of well known actors. *American Horror Story: Murder House*, Taissa Farmiga plays the main character, Merricat Blackwood, and Marvel star Sebastian Stan in a supporting role as cousin Charles. These two popular actors, along with the rest of the cast give wonderful performances.

Farmiga brings a different type of character to the big screen. It was a departure from her more known role in *AHS*:



COURTESY OF BRAINSTORM MEDIA

The film adaptation of Jackson's classic novel had been in development hell since 2009.

Murder House. She leaves behind a loud rebellious daughter in the show to play someone more devious. Merricat is quiet and hides more than a few skeletons in her closet, and Farmiga plays it surprisingly well.

Sebastian Stan brings his usual award deserving acting skills to the table. He busts his acting chops playing the not so secretly dubious cousin of Merricat and her sister Constance. Stan was a joy to watch; he be-

came famous for his role as Bucky Barnes and the Winter Soldier; Bucky being a loyal and funny best friend, then Winter Soldier being a silent killer. To see him play a role that was manipulative and charming was a breath of fresh air.

We Have Always Lived in the Castle is close enough adaptation to the gothic novel from the 60's. It's good to watch on a night where someone wants something spooky but not too scary.

Friday the 13th a lucky day at Pittsburgh Tattoo Company

OLLIE GRATZINGER
editor-in-chief

Among Pittsburgh's thrill seekers and body modification fanatics, Friday the 13th is known for more than bad luck and spooky vibes: It's the day that tattoo parlors and piercing studios mix things up with special deals and designs.

Pittsburgh Tattoo Company, for instance, is perhaps the best known of the bunch, with \$40 tattoos and \$20 piercings. The catch is that you've got to pick a design from their preset flash sheets, and that only select piercings are part of the special — nostril, ear, naval and lip — but the tattoo designs are quirky and cool, and the piercings are pretty neat, too.

There's another Friday the 13th coming up in December, and if you're thinking about going out to enjoy one of the parlors' promotions, read on; here's everything you need to know — and then some.

The Tattoo Experience

This wasn't my first rodeo; I made the pilgrimage once before, the last time I was in town for a Friday the 13th in April. I'd gotten a small sunrise — or sunset, depending on who you ask — on my upper arm. This time, I went for something a bit more eclectic; a cartoon plague doctor.

There were a few things that were different about the tattoo experience this time around; the most noticeable change was the fact that the price of tattoos had gone up from the typical \$20 of years past to \$40 — an adjustment that the artists said just made sense.

The size of the tattoos reflected the cost increase. There were 1-2 inches larger than



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH TATTOO COMPANY

Customers chose from grids of pre-determined designs, a few of which are pictured above.

last time, and even though the smaller designs took much less time to complete, thus making the hilariously long line move faster, efficiency isn't always synonymous with convenience. With the smaller designs, it took more time for the artist to get set up with the needle and ink than it took to actually put the tattoo on someone, and as my artist said, it just didn't seem as worthwhile.

For me, these tattoos can be a fun conversation starter; I've run into folks who have the same tattoos as me — they'd gotten them at Pittsburgh Tattoo Company's

flash events, too — and it's like automatically having something in common with a stranger. I think that's pretty cool.

The Piercing Experience

I hadn't known until I got to the shop that you could get both a tattoo and a piercing, or as many tattoos as your heart desired. I thought it was more of a pick-one-or-the-other kind of deal, but when I learned that wasn't the case, I made the impromptu decision to get a nostril piercing, too.

I've had my septum pierced for almost

two years, and a friend I'd bumped into in line said there wasn't as much of a wait for piercings as tattoos, so it would be a nifty way to kill some time while waiting to get inked. So I filled out two forms at the front desk, got two numbers, and made my way over to take a seat.

The piercer was neat and professional and exceptionally friendly. There was a choice between a gemstone stud or a steel ball for the ring, and I chose the latter. This part was quick and easy.

An Overall Good Time

The wait was long, but everyone was in such good spirits. I'm pretty patient, but I've only waited in such a long line for two things in my life; the first was to meet the Cake Boss when I was 14, and the second was to get a Friday the 13th tat. Both, of course, were well worth it.

There was also a cooler in the front of the shop with free water and juice, which was a thoughtful surprise considering how hot it had gotten outside. One of the women working the front of the shop, taking names down and distributing numbered tickets, also handed out some fun size candy bars.

I got in line at Pittsburgh Tattoo Company around 11:30 a.m., half an hour before the shop opened, and was done with everything around 3 p.m. It took up a good chunk of the day, but a sense of community formed; I ran into people I knew and hadn't seen in ages, and met some new people I hope I'll see again.

Pittsburgh Tattoo Company has become something of a thrill-seeker's Mecca, and Friday the 13th, a cult holiday. It's an experience I look forward to every time it comes around, and I'll be at the one in December, too. Maybe I'll see you there.

Big Pharma negatively affects public health

STAFF ED — from page 4

overpriced cost prohibits some people who need medication from getting it. Likewise, the aggressive marketing campaigns have, until very recently, landed it in the hands of some people who didn't need it at all. It's dangerous, and it ought to be kept in check and held responsible for the domino effect it has on public health.

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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER

Thursday

79° Sunny; beautiful

Friday

82° Plenty of sunshine; very warm

Saturday

84° Partly sunny; very warm

Sunday

85° Clouds and sun; warm

Monday

78° A p.m. shower in places

Tuesday

75° Clouds and sun; comfortable

Wednesday

77° Mostly sunny

Courtesy of AccuWeather



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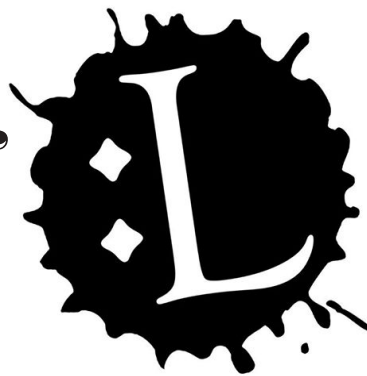


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