



Stuffing (pillows) isn't just for Thanksgiving



JOSIAH MARTIN / A&E EDITOR

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul hosted an event where students could cut T-shirts and stuffed them with polyester filling to make pillows for homeless veterans in the city of Pittsburgh.

Changes come to univeristy core

JESSICA LINCOLN

staff writer

Two years into the three-year revision process, Duquesne now has a draft in development for a revamped university core curriculum.

The new draft is called the Bridges Common Learning Experience, and the process of designing it has involved the work of hundreds of faculty, staff and students, as well as cooperation with the Student Government Association (SGA).

"The Bridges program will provide students with significantly more flexibility when choosing courses for their general education," said Darlene Weaver, the associate provost for academic affairs, who directs the core curriculum program.

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Dean for the School of Osteopathic Medicine announced

HALLIE LAUER

news editor

Dr. John M. Kauffman has officially been announced as the founding dean for the Duquesne University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Kauffman, a New Castle native, comes to Duquesne from Campbell University Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine in North Carolina. He was the founding dean for that school when it opened in 2011.

"[Kauffman] is an individual of impeccable credentials and background," President Ken Gormley said. "He knows what it takes to build an osteopathic school from the ground up."

Kauffman received his Bachelor's of Science in biology and

psychology from Allegheny College and his doctor of osteopathic medicine from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He also currently serves on the accreditation board, however will not be included in any talks about Duquesne's osteopathic school become accredited.

The current plan is for construction to be finished on the school in the summer of 2023 and the first class of 75 students will be matriculated that fall.

"The fact that he is a western Pennsylvania native makes him a particularly good fit to work with our community partners," Gormley said. "We are thrilled to have attracted a medical professional with John's significant network and experience as we continue the next steps to open the Col-



HALLIE LAUER / NEWS EDITOR

President Ken Gormley and the new dean of the Osteopathic School of Medicine, John Kauffman, shake hands as his title is announced for the first time.

lege of Osteopathic Medicine at Duquesne University, a move that will benefit the entire region."

The Duquesne College of Osteopathic Medicine will be the newest medical school in Pennsylvania.

"In a city and region facing a shortage of physicians, Duquesne has the potential to meet those needs, and to do so by educating physicians who want to practice medicine in an environment which considers the whole person, mind, body and spirit, while providing state-of-the-art medical care," Kauffman said.

Kauffman went on to recognize that 1 in 4 medical students goes to an osteopathic school and that educators need to focus on training

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POLICE BRIEFS

Not a busy week in crime, but we have the old standbys: underage drinking and damaged vehicles as well as some new crimes.

On Nov. 12, a student had laundry items taken from the laundry room in Brottier Hall.

Also on Nov. 12, a student parked their vehicle on the sixth floor of the Locust garage where it was struck by another vehicle. There was minor damage.

On Nov. 12, campus police responded to a report of an odor of marijuana in St. Martin Hall. The case was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Nov. 14, campus police were dispatched to check on the health of an underage, intoxicated female student in St. Martin Hall. She was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Nov. 16, a student was found outside St. Ann Hall intoxicated. They were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Nov. 17, an unknown person(s) defaced a stairwell door inside the Forbes Avenue parking garage with a marker pen.

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

Debate society hosts Electoral College event

KELLEN STEPLER

assistant features editor

One could argue countless reasons why you should go out and vote. Voting can be an opportunity for change; you can speak about issues you care about, and it gives citizens a say.

But with the Electoral College, does one vote actually make a difference?

On Monday, Nov. 11, the Duquesne Debating Society held a discussion in Wolfe Lecture Hall about the merits of abolishing the electoral college. The event was part of the group's British debate tour.

Sarah DeIuliis, Duquesne professor and faculty advisor to the Duquesne Debating Society, explained that the British debate tour consists of two college students from the United Kingdom who come to the United States and debate American students on topics across the country.

The tour is organized by the National Communication Association's Committee on International Discussion and Debate (CIDD). CIDD's goal is to foster deliberation on issues and ideas between and

among students in the United States along with other countries.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to learn from one another, regardless of our differences," DeIuliis said.

Duquesne students Kolten Hilterman and Vincent Carrola argued for the proposition, that the electoral college should be eliminated. British students Niamh Thompson and Dan Scanio argued in opposition, to keep the electoral college.

The 42-minute debate was structured to give each speaker six minutes to argue their case. After all four speakers went, a 10-minute audience question and answer session was held. Following questions, the opposition and proposition had four minutes for rebuttal.

After the debate, audience members had to vote for who they felt won.

Carrola spoke first on behalf of the proposition. Carrola said that the electoral college is an attempt to solve a problem that no longer exists, and the equality of votes is harmed by the electoral college.

"When the existence of the electoral college seems to harm society, we should look toward its removal," Carrola said.

He also said that the electoral

college is not representative of individuals, and it gives some individuals more power than others just because of where they live. He used an example of Wyoming voters and California voters, voters that live in Wyoming have more of a say than voters in California because the population of Wyoming is smaller than California.

Carrola said that mathematically, Wyoming voters are "worth" four more votes than a Pennsylvania voter because of the electoral college.

Following Carrola, Thompson began her argument for the opposition. She argued that not only is the electoral college more democratic, it's also a system of checks and balances.

Thompson argued that with the electoral college, most presidential candidates stop in swing states. Conversely, without the electoral college, candidates would just campaign in urban areas and pay no attention to rural voters. Thompson also said that now is the worst time to abolish the electoral college.

After the first opposition given by Thompson, Hilterman began the second proposition, calling the electoral college "an unnecessary middle man."

Hilterman said that eliminating

the electoral college would ensure equality, equity, fairness and accuracy in American voting. He said that when people cast a vote, they should be treated equally and in today's society, people are more educated and interested in politics.

He also said that Donald Trump won the election due to the electoral college, as candidate Hillary Clinton received more votes.

Since the inception of the electoral college in 1804, only twice did the winner of the electoral college not have the majority vote – the 2000 election, and the 2016 election.

The last argument was for the opposition. Scanio said that there were two reasons to keep the electoral college – to safeguard the uneducated and misinformed, and to ensure fair representation of the whole country.

"[The electoral college] is a fair and equal representation of the public," Scanio said.

After the question and answer debate and rebuttal, the audience voted 25-19 to keep the electoral college.

DeIuliis hoped that attendees enjoyed the unique opportunity to learn from and engage with students from around the world.

Group tells the stories of sexual assault survivors

GRIFFIN SENDEK

features & photo editor

Sexual violence occurs on college campuses across the nation, and Duquesne University is no exception.

Students Against Sexual Violence (SASV) hosted an event entitled *It Happens Here* on Nov. 18, at the Genesis Theater. The primary goal of the event was to inform students that sexual assault and rape are a reality on Duquesne campus, as well as to educate on all the options available to students.

"[It's] not just a Pittsburgh or college issue, but a Duquesne university issue," SASV member Olivia Scherer said in the opening statements.

The members of SASV sought to be as raw and brutally honest as possible with the *It Happens Here* event. The event recounted three stories of Duquesne students who experienced sexual violence on campus, as performed by actors. Only one of the three stories were ever reported to the university.

The names of the actual survivors were not disclosed to the audience. Actors Liviu Reynolds, Erin Lexner and Mikayla Gilmer performed readings of the survivor accounts of living after experiencing rape.

"Simply knowing he's here puts me on edge," said Reynolds, in character as an anonymous survivor.

The stories, while being uniquely different situations, all tread similar ground: the immense sense of discomfort and danger the students would feel seeing their perpetrator on campus.

"Now I have to see him on campus all of the time and I have to live with

it," said Lexner in character. "I hate that I see him around."

Through the survivor recounts, it was evident that these memories still haunt them and have placed a significant impact on their life.

"Still hurts me to look back on this moment," said Gilmer's character.

Between each of the actors reciting the accounts of survivors, SASV additionally hosted Ryan Sabokik, a prevention educator from Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) and Lee Robbins, the Title IX coordinator for the university.

Sabokik spoke to how PAAR seeks to highlight the voices of people who experienced sexual violence and provide the most help and assistance in every way it can.

Sabokik told the audience about PAAR's legal advocacy programs. PAAR will walk sexual violence victims through the legal process so they can make an informed decision on whether or not they wish to report to the authorities.

Sabokik believes that a lot needs to be done to educate the public to prevent the continuation of rape culture.

Robbins outlined the vast extent of what Title IX is able to do for students, such as changing classes and living situations, and confidential services to keep students' identities private throughout the reporting process.

"As Title IX coordinator, I want you to be aware that there are many people at the university and resources that are here to support you and those around you if situations like this arise," said Robbins.

President of SASV, Vanessa Llewellyn also spoke.



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

Lee Robbins, the Title IX coordinator at Duquesne, gave a speech about the options available to students through the Title IX Office.

"We wanted to do something like this because it's easy for survivors to feel stigmatized or silenced by how difficult the reporting process can be," Llewellyn said.

She continued to drive home the point that sexual violence isn't something isolated outside of the university but is something to always be aware of.

"So we wanted to raise awareness to the fact that it happens here, which is where the title comes from," Llewellyn said, "that it isn't just like this vague college issue that we hear stats about, but it's something that happens right here in our own dorm rooms and our own campus."

Llewellyn hopes that spreading the word of the resources available for survivors will encourage people to be

more confident and report sexual violence incidents.

On-campus resources.

1. Spiritan Campus Ministry, 412-396-6020
2. University Counseling, 412-396-6204
3. University Psychology Clinic, 412-396-6562
4. Health Services, 412-396-1650
5. DUPO 412-396-COPS (2677)

Off-campus confidential resources include:

1. Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR): 24 hour helpline: 1-866-END-RAPE
2. Center for Victims of Violence and Crime (CVVC): 24 hour helpline: 1-866-644-2882
3. Resolve Crisis Network: 24 hour helpline: 1-888-YOU-CAN

Student feedback encouraged in UCOR changes

UCOR — *from page 1*

"It will be simpler and easier for students to understand than the current core. It is also designed to make it easier for students to connect general education with their majors and to articulate the value of general education for prospective employers or graduate programs. The Bridges program will make it easier for students to pick up certificates minors or secondary majors."

Justin Filbert, SGA's vice president of academic affairs, notes that the draft includes six new competency areas: communication and creative expression, intercultural competency and responsibility, scientific and computational reasoning, critical thinking and problem solving, social and historical reasoning and ethical reasoning and responsible leadership.

The Bridges program is also set to include other new features, including a life skills management course, opportunities for students to develop a portfolio and a university-wide small seminar course.

The program, which is set to

go into effect in the fall of 2021, started out with a series of events designed to gather input from faculty and current students who wished to contribute. This culminated in a Design Day event last spring, in which teams of faculty, staff, and students developed prototypes for new classes. Over the summer, the Design Day ideas with the most support were integrated into the Bridges program draft.

In order to keep the feedback process going, the new President's Committee on Curriculum Re-design is being established by President Gormley and Charles Megginson IV, the current SGA president. The group will meet throughout the spring semester to advise the administration as it begins the process of implementing the curriculum.

"Our goal is to share our experiences and feedback with the administration, so that we might learn from the flaws in our old curriculum, and use that information to help develop a stronger, more diverse and innovative curriculum for the future," Megginson said.

The new curriculum is meant to adapt the core curriculum to the demands of the 21st century while also maintaining a commitment to Duquesne's values.

"The old UCOR has done a good job of introducing students to unfamiliar subjects, ideas, and areas of study, but it hasn't given students, or faculty for that matter, many choices in the courses they take or the courses they teach," Megginson said.

"This hasn't been great for either party — many faculty are forced to teach courses outside of their areas of specialty or interest, and students have, in many cases, been jammed into these 'UCOR mills,' which a lot of people regard as obstacles or hurdles that they just have to 'get through' in order to move on and graduate."

The Bridges program, Megginson says, will be different, addressing the concerns of students and faculty and providing access to concepts not covered by the previous curriculum.

As it heads into its third year, which will involve ensuring a smooth transition for students and faculty, Weaver says that the pro-

cess has been very productive so far.

"Revising a core curriculum is a complex process and is often fraught, because it affects so many different stakeholders and because there are so many divergent needs to balance, such as allowing flexibility while also promoting a coherent learning experience."

Megginson declined to comment on whether he has faced any roadblocks in the process. He said that his priority continues to be making sure that students remain central to any conversation on the subject of the redesign.

"We've done a lot of work and still have a lot to do, but I am confident we will meet our goals," Weaver said.

For students who have questions on the new core curriculum or wish to provide feedback, Megginson will be moderating a town hall discussion on Nov. 21 with President Gormley and Provost Dausey. The event will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Wolfe Lecture Hall in Bayer Hall. A mock class selection will also be offered next semester in order to gather student input.

Founding dean for osteopath school decided

OSTEO — *from page 1*

future doctors for what they will need to know down the road.

"Medicine is changing so much, and we've done a very good job in the 21st century training doctors for the 20th century. It behooves us to really think long and hard 20 years, 50 years from now what doctors need to know," Kauffman said.

"The opportunity to build a medical school at this level is very exciting," he said. "I really like the idea of starting with a blank sheet of paper. I am very excited to join the Duquesne family."

Kauffman will officially assume the position on Jan. 1.

Last campus protesters hold out as Hong Kong schools reopen

(AP) — Hong Kong schools reopened Wednesday after a six-day shutdown, but students and commuters faced transit disruptions as the last anti-government protesters remained holed up on a university campus, surrounded by police.

City officials tried to restore a sense of normalcy as primary and secondary classes resumed. Workers began cleaning up debris blocking a major road tunnel, but it was unclear when it would reopen. Officials warned protesters not to disrupt elections scheduled for the weekend.

A small group of protesters refused to leave Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the remnants of hundreds who took over the campus for several days. They won't leave because they would face arrest, and police have set up a cordon around the area to prevent anyone from escaping.

The occupation of Polytechnic capped more than a week of intense protests, the latest flareup in the often-violent unrest that has gripped the semi-autonomous Chinese city for more than five months.

Also Wednesday, a former British Consulate employee said he was detained in mainland China and tortured by secret police trying to extract information about activists involved in the movement — revelations sure to add to protesters' fears about Beijing's tightening grip.

Since a police siege of the campus began Sunday, police have arrested 700 people who left campus to surrender, while another 300 minors were allowed to go home but may still face prosecution, Chief Super-

intendent Ricky Ho told reporters.

Among those arrested were people involved in an apparent escape attempt through a sewer. Ho said officers saw four people remove a manhole cover and lower a rope into the drain to help two others climb out. Ho said all were arrested but did not give further details.

It was unclear how many protesters remained on campus, but they appeared to number fewer than 100. About two dozen scrounged through supplies in the cafeteria looking for food in the morning. Trash littered public areas, and a stench permeated the campus.

One protester, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he fears arrest, remained adamant.

"I think if you go out and surrender, it just shows you agree with what the police and that government are doing or have given up the fight," he said.

There were scattered incidents of protesters stopping trains by opening emergency doors and blocking traffic, but on a much smaller scale than last week.

Television footage showed long lines at some stations because of train delays. A few stations remained shut by damage from earlier protests.

A group of protesters, joined by students in uniform, blocked traffic at one intersection. Others in the area argued with them, removing some of the metal barriers that protesters carried into the street.

Even as the latest violence wound down, a fundamental divide suggested the protests in the former British colony are far from over.

Office workers joined protesters at lunch time in the central business district to show support for the movement, as they have every day since last week. Police kept the crowds on the sidewalks, so they wouldn't block traffic.

Hong Kong's protests began in June over an extradition bill that would have allowed suspects to be sent to China to face trial. Opponents saw it as a threat to the "one country, two systems" framework that gives Hong Kong its relative autonomy.

The bill has been withdrawn, but protesters now demand fully democratic elections and an independent investigation into police actions in suppressing the protests. City leaders have rejected these demands and said violence must stop before meaningful dialogue can begin.

Protesters also have called on the government not to cancel Sunday's neighborhood council elections. Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung, Hong Kong's No. 2 official, said officials are "extremely keen" to hold the vote.

"But much depends on the cooperation of violent protesters. It takes two to tango," he said, adding that blocking roads and disrupting traffic will make it hard for people to vote and "then it will really ruin this election."

The city sent inspectors to examine the damage to the city's Cross-Harbour Tunnel, as workers used heavy equipment to remove the debris left on the approach road.

Protesters set fire to the toll booths during their occupation of Polytechnic University that over-



COURTESY AP NEWS

Belongings of protesters are left in the campus of the Polytechnic University in Hong Kong, Wednesday, Nov. 20. A small group of protesters refused to leave Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the remnants of hundreds who took over the campus for several days. They won't leave because they would face arrest. Police have set up a cordon around the area to prevent anyone from escaping.

looks the approach to the tunnel, one of three connecting Hong Kong Island with the rest of the city.

The Hong Kong government joined China in condemning passage of legislation by the U.S. Senate that mandates sanctions on Chinese and Hong Kong officials who commit human rights abuses and requires an annual review of the favorable trade status that the U.S. grants Hong Kong.

"The passage of this bill is an important step in holding accountable those Chinese and Hong Kong government officials responsible for Hong Kong's eroding autonomy and human rights violations," said Sen. Marco Rubio.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in a statement that the aim of the bill

was to "bolster anti-China, extremist and violent radicals who attempt to disrupt Hong Kong (and) damage Hong Kong's prosperity and stability" as part of a plot to contain China's development.

A Hong Kong government statement called the legislation "unnecessary and unwarranted" and said it would "harm the relations and common interests between Hong Kong and the U.S."

Organizers said they've postponed the Hong Kong Open golf tournament because of the unrest, the latest in a string of disrupted public events. But in a rare boost for the economy, Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba raised at least \$11 billion in the city's biggest share offering since 2010.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

113 College Hall
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

editorial staff

editor-in-chief	Ollie Gratzinger
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administrative staff

adviser	Paula Reed Ward
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social media manager	Claire Neiberg
email us: theduquduke@gmail.com	

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EDITORIAL

POLICY

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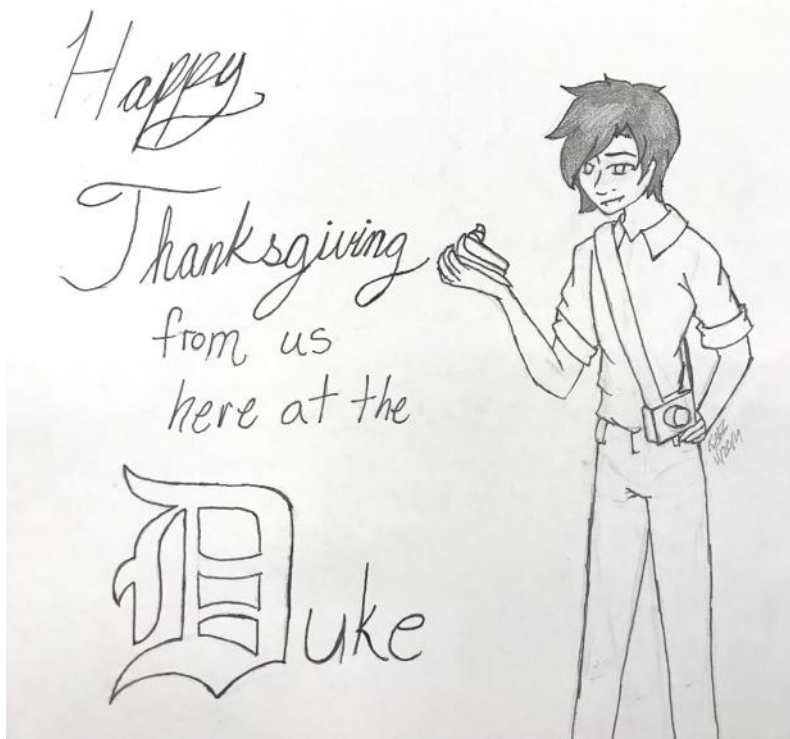
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CARTOON BY KATIE SECAUR

Adult hobbies and playtime benefit health

In the rat race to pass every class, get a degree and sprint toward a career path, it is all too easy to overlook the fundamentals of education.

As children, the first ways humans learn about their surroundings is through play, but somewhere on the road to adulthood that need for play gets thrown away by most people.

While play is often viewed with a childish connotation, the vital role it plays in shaping mental health and brain development are undeniable. Play and recreation open the human brain to a new world of problem solving opportunities. They are the core factors of learning. As children, many encountered their first and most basic economic, cultural and social lessons from playtime.

In reference to the evolution of play, Peter Gray, a research professor of psychology at Boston College, says, “Play primarily evolved to teach children all kinds of skills, and its extension into adulthood may have helped to build cooperation and sharing among hunter-gathers beyond the level that would naturally exist in a dominance-seeking species.”

Unfortunately, as the years go by, play takes on less and less of a role in teenage and adult life. For some reason, adults frequently view their learning process as finished and therefore cannot benefit from recreation time.

However, this could not be farther from the truth. Play is essential for health and devel-

opment at all ages and serves as a primary defense against degenerative brain disorders, but it is not a part of most American’s lives.

With the technological boom, physical activity and non-digital pastimes have taken a drastic dip. Although there is nothing inherently evil about digital games and activ-



COLLEEN HAMMOND
opinions editor

ities, analog hobbies provide the most brain health benefits. Along with their foundation in sensorimotor skills, many analog activities encourage, and even require, physical activity, promoting overall health and wellbeing.

Aside from physical health, play and recreation have proven to increase effectiveness in the workplace.

Lynn Barnett, a professor of recreation, sports and tourism at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign stated, “At work, play has been found to speed up learning, enhance productivity and increase job satisfaction; and at home, playing together, like going to a

movie or a concert, can enhance bonding and communication.”

Her words demonstrate the necessity if integrating adult play into modern society.

As crucial and beneficial as play is to adults, most workplaces and higher education programs neglect the importance of play. American society has chosen to ignore recreation for adults. The most socially acceptable forms of recreation for adults are competitive sporting events, but that is not play.

Play is done for its own sake and enjoyment, not for competition or victory. It has become too easy as a culture to let a competitive edge slip into every aspect of life.

Furthermore, adult play goes beyond the colorful blocks and Fisher Price toys of childhood. It is a collection of hobbies and activities that relieve stress and promote creativity.

Play is different for each person and can be unique as a fingerprint. The most important factor is to find it.

This fundamental health component cannot be ignored anymore. Play is one of the very few ways people can combat America’s sixth leading cause of death: Alzheimer’s.

Play and recreation are not just for children’s development. They must be used as tools for the future that allow adults to maintain their health, prevent stress and open themselves up at a world of creativity.

STAFF
EDITORIAL

Consumerism dominates Thanksgiving

Every year it seems as if Christmas starts earlier than it did the year before. Holiday season displays come up as soon as Halloween decorations are taken down. In the retail world, once Nov. 1 hits, it’s already Christmas time.

Thanksgiving Day has fallen victim to the season of spending. The importance of taking a day to be around those we care about and being grateful for what we have has been lost. Stores open up on Thanksgiving Day and employees are forced to spend the day at work.

A good number of big name stores have already announced that they will not open on Thanksgiving, and those stores are making the right call. Others should follow suit and keep the day as a special one.

Not too long ago, the idea of opening on Thanksgiving seemed unheard of. The trend of opening on Thanksgiving day is one that began rather recently and it would be best if cut that off.

Retailers worth millions of dollars can afford to take the day off. There is no reason why store clerks need to be dragged out of family gatherings so they can stand behind a counter and ring up sales for a few hours.

It’s fair to assume that the CEO’s of companies like Target and Walmart, two stores that will be open on Thanksgiving, won’t be spending the day in one of the stores. Their employees shouldn’t have to either.

A list of stores that have announced they will not be opening doors on Turkey Day includes Nordstrom, T.J. Maxx, Lowe’s and Marshalls. Based on trends from previous years, stores including Barnes & Noble, AT&T and Staples will likely be closed as well.

There is enough chaos in retail stores the day after Thanksgiving. Shoppers will begin to form lines at the crack of dawn and will rush through entrances as soon as they get the okay.

That’s fine, as long as it remains safe and somewhat orderly. Black Friday is a tradition that was pretty much created to create retail store chaos, and that type of behavior is to be expected.

But retailers should leave Thanksgiving alone. Everybody needs a day to relax, eat some good food and spend quality time with their friends and family. That is what Thanksgiving is all about. It’s not supposed to be a day devoted to jumping on sales and trying to land the biggest bargain that one can.

The whole point of the day is to be thankful for everything we have. It’d be a shame to waste it standing in a department store just to buy everything that we don’t.

OPINIONS

Chick-fil-A strays from traditional Christian philanthropy

NICOLETTA VENEZIANO
staff columnist

Chick-fil-A holds the reigning title of a superior “fast food” chain all around America. Not many people consider anything less than the reliable taste of their 8-count nugget meal and salty waffle fries when stopping at their local Chick-fil-A. However, the company has been known for supporting and funding several Christian charities in the past. This may not seem controversial at first, but these charities carry an ongoing history of opposing homosexuality, which brought an extremely contentious and negative light to the Chick-fil-A company.

After donating to more than 300 of these charitable yet homophobic organizations, Chick-fil-A has received tons of backlash. LGBTQ+ activist, as well as political and celebri-

ty figures, participated in protests and boycotts in that past few years in which they spoke out about these inhumane ties with the restaurant chain. In 2012, Chick-fil-A made a statement stating, “Going forward, our intent is to leave the policy debate over same-sex marriage to the government and political arena.”

In contrast with its 2012 statement, Chick-fil-A has recently announced that it would no longer donate to the Salvation Army, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and several other groups that have been criticized for their stances on LGBTQ+ issues. The company made it evident that its new motive for donation is to only give to charities involved in “education, homelessness and hunger,” with \$9



COURTESY OF THE DAILY WIRE

Chick-fil-A, run by fundamentalist Christian family, has decided to stop their donations to certain Christian organizations.

million assigned to each new community.”

“When there is a tension, we want to make sure we’re being clear. We think this is going to be helpful,” said Tim Tassopoulos, Chick-fil-A president and chief operating officer. “It’s just the right thing to do; to be clear, caring and supportive, and to do it in the

Although these statements validate Chick-fil-A’s attempt to “mend the community” by avoiding homophobic relationships to its company, how are its consumers certain that this move was not made to simply boost popularity and sales? This idea streams from not only the past boycotts and

protests, but also from the aspect of expansion of the company. In the U.K., for example, the country’s first Chick-fil-A announced eight days into its lease that the venue would not be welcomed to extend due to the company’s perceived LGBTQ+ opinions.

The first Chick-fil-A in Boston, Massachusetts

School lunches cannot be a luxury reserved for the wealthy

CHARLES VOGEL
staff columnist

Forty students at a Richfield High School in Minnesota had their hot lunches thrown away and replaced by cold lunches by cafeteria staff after it was found out that these students were more than \$15 in lunch debt.

The school district came under fire soon after a student recorded the incident and posted the video on social media. The word rapidly spread and the school district quickly apologized.

Richfield released a statement saying that they deeply regret their actions and have personally apologized to the students involved for the embarrassment they have caused them. Richfield’s superintendent Steven Unowsky called the actions of the cafeteria staff “inappropriate.”

But, as we all know, it all starts at the top. The whole story is unsettling; this is ridiculous. Imagine the embarrassment of the students who had their lunches taken away because they owed money. The embarrassment is not the point though, it is just a part of something that has been a

problem for a long time.

School lunch debt has been something that schools have tried to solve for a long time. Many parents will be in hundreds — and sometimes even thousands — of dollars worth of debt by the time their children graduate high school.

Recently, there has been an influx of stories similar to that of what happened at Richfield High this past week. Richfield High is just an extreme example. Parents have been taken to court by school districts for lunch debt, with some even facing jail time and hefty fines. That is not the solution to the problem. Parents going to jail and paying large fines for lunch debt will critically hurt their children’s wellbeing. Emotionally scarring a kid over a mediocre lunch is shameful.

The problem is that these parents should not even have to worry about lunch debt, and the kids especially shouldn’t. There have been cases recently where philanthropists have offered to pay off schools’ lunch debts. Some schools accept the offer, while in a recent case, a New Jersey school rejected a businessman’s offer to pay off school lunch debt.



COURTESY OF DAVID OLSON REAL ESTATE

Richfield High School in Richfield, MN has changed its lunch debt policy after public outcry.

There have also been fundraisers for school debt as well. It should not come to the point where private citizens start paying lunch debt or that we have to start fundraisers for lunch debt. They can donate their money to much more important causes than that.

School lunch should be free for all students in the U.S. at public schools. This is not a ludicrous proposal. A whopping 75% of parents are in debt for school lunches. Some can afford to pay the debt, and some can’t.

But that doesn’t matter.

If by law children are required to go to

school until the age of 16, all kids should be provided a free hot lunch. Kids who do receive hot lunch for free because of their parent’s money can sometimes be embarrassed by that. A kid should never have to feel embarrassed because of how little money their family has.

Free lunches would get rid of that problem, and every kid would be able to not worry about lunch debt no longer. Free school lunches for everyone is something that should have taken place years ago. It solves a bunch of unnecessary problems and is something that can be afforded, because it should be a priority.

Eating, shopping and schoolwork: How to do Thanksgiving Break

HANNAH RAUH
staff writer

Just imagine a picturesque Thanksgiving dinner — turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes steaming on the table while everyone is busy catching up with each other and telling stories about their past few months. It's a great thing to come home for the holidays, and especially Thanksgiving considering the nature of the holiday itself. A whole day dedicated to gratitude and celebration of family, friends and loved ones is a day well spent.

Students at Duquesne should not only be thankful for the blessings in their lives but should also be grateful for the week off of school. While Thanksgiving break might seemingly be a week of mindlessly consuming the assortment of pies and baked goods readily available, students should realize that it is a great opportunity to make some progress on schoolwork before heading back to campus for the last few weeks of the semester.

Thanksgiving break is prime time for catching up on schoolwork, especially because of the

close proximity of the break to the many final exams coming up in December. Although many students may have jobs at home and work during break, there is more than enough time to read over notes and prepare to do well on finals. A few students have shared some helpful tips for those who are struggling to find the most effective ways of studying.

"To succeed, group study with people. It doesn't matter if it's over FaceTime or in person," said pharmacy student James Sanchioli.

Many students may find it helpful to FaceTime other students in the same classes and just focus on schoolwork for a bit of time each day, even if it's not for long.

Sanchioli also encourages other students to read and reread their notes, and never be afraid to ask for help when necessary. Although professors will also be enjoying their own Thanksgiving break, most are receptive to students with questions when they take the initiative to reach out and ask for help.

"Find a quiet place to study where you can think, and if it helps you, listen to classical music," said psychology major Alexa Bruno.



COURTESY OF FOOD NETWORK

Turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes are part of the picturesque Thanksgiving dinner.

At home, there are definitely plenty of distractions like pets, Netflix or chores but it is essential for students to dedicate a little bit of time to schoolwork each day.

Not only is this break a great time to catch up on studying, but it is also a fantastic opportunity for students to catch up with family members they haven't seen in a while, perhaps not even seen since they've left for school in August. Although younger siblings may be annoying or that one quirky aunt may pester you with questions, it's important to cherish the time that you get to spend with family members. After all, family is family. Although not many other colleges are on break quite as early as Duquesne, eventually all the friends that you've missed from home will be ready to grab coffee if the family does become a little too much.

On a completely different note, students can make the most of their free time over Thanksgiving break by shopping on the infamous Black Friday. This is a great opportunity for students without cars and limited access to malls during the month of December, to get a head start on Christmas shopping for this year. After all, there are about three weeks left in the semester

after students return to Duquesne until Christmas break actually begins. Many local students prefer to shop at Ross Park Mall, which has an extensive selection of high-end stores including Vineyard Vines, Lululemon, American Eagle, Victoria's Secret and Louis Vuitton.

Emma Bogdon, a freshman marketing major, has a very different Black Friday tradition. Instead of shopping, Emma and her family devote their Black Friday to preparing meals for the homeless and needy. Through the group "Amen to Action," over 1 million meals are prepared and packed for the hungry. This is a unique opportunity that Duquesne students can partake in if they desire to help others in need around the holiday season.

Besides catching up with family, studying and Black Friday shopping, students should make sure to catch up on sleep and take the time to relax at home. It's easy to get into the holiday spirit at home just relaxing by the fireplace with a good book and a cup of coffee. Duquesne students should remember to work hard and prepare for exams, but also enjoy their Thanksgiving break too.



COURTESY OF TARGET CORPORATION

HOROSCOPES

Scorpio

(October 23-November 22)



You only like turkeys for their breasts.



Sagittarius

(November 23-December 22)

Don't forget to set your scale back 10 lbs. this week.



Capricorn

(December 23-January 19)

Your fear has come true: you're running the Turkey Trot.



Aquarius

(January 20-February 18)

Why was the Thanksgiving soup so expensive? It had 24 carrots.

Pisces

(February 19-March 20)



If you can avoid your family like you've been avoiding that essay due next week, you'll be in good shape.



Aries

(March 21-April 19)

Make sure your phone is horizontal before recording Black Friday fights.

Taurus

(April 20-May 20)



Cyber Monday: Black Friday without human interaction.



Gemini

(May 21-June 20)

Thanksgiving - being thankful you only see your crazy family once a year.

Cancer

(June 21-July 22)



Roses are red, violets are blue, your man likes football more than he likes you.

Leo

(July 23-August 22)



Be thankful for good grades (or lack thereof.)



Virgo

(August 23-September 22)

How to profit on Black Friday? Stay home.



Libra

(September 23 - October 22)

First rule for Black Friday shopping: there are no rules.

Men's basketball taking 3-0 record to Bahamas

JACOB HEBDA
staff writer

Year three of the Keith Dambrot era is off to a promising start. After a win against Lipscomb, the Dukes stand at 3-0.

It was an ugly affair, as the teams went a combined 1 for 40 on three-pointers.

Nevertheless, Dambrot's team pulled away in the second half for a comfortable 58-36 victory.

Marcus Weathers was arguably the best player on the court, scoring 13 points and grabbing 12 rebounds.

Fellow big men Baylee Steele and Mike Hughes played well too, scoring 13 and 10 points, respectively.

The trio's collective play was crucial considering the struggles of the Duquesne guards.

Not a single member of the backcourt made more than two buckets.

While the offense struggled, the Dukes' defense was staunch, holding opponents

to a dismal 29.2% shooting percentage. Ahsan Asadullah, who had 14 points, was the only Lipscomb player to reach double digits.

Dambrot's team also out-rebounded the visiting Bison, 42-33, and forced 23 turnovers.

Redshirt freshman James Ellis made his much-anticipated debut. In three minutes of action, he tallied two points and one rebound.

It was the second of Duquesne's first two games at La Roche University in nearby McCandless.

The first was a far more exciting contest, as the Dukes grabbed a tough 66-56 victory over Lamar.

Duquesne maintained a slim lead throughout much of the game but could not pull away. It wasn't until the 3:40 mark of the second half that they took control for good.

After two free throws from Redbird V.J. Holmes cut the deficit to two, Carry nailed a three-pointer. Moments later, a dunk by Hughes extended the lead to seven.

Steele and Dunn-Martin subsequently iced the game from the free throw line.

Maceo Austin shone in his second collegiate outing. With 15 points on 6-for-12 shooting, he showed why he is one of the most highly touted Duquesne recruits in recent memory.

With 17 points and ten boards, Hughes led the Dukes in both scoring and rebounding.

Despite seven turnovers, Carry provided some necessary offense with 16 points on 5-for-9 shooting. He was a perfect 3-for-3 on three-point attempts.

With this pair of victories, Duquesne has started 3-0 for the second consecutive year.

While the schedule has been relatively light thus far, the Dukes have looked good in action.

Carry has led the team in scoring average with 15 points per game. He's received solid



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Freshman guard Maceo Austin is averaging 9 points per game to start the year.

support from the frontcourt as Hughes, Steele and Weathers, have all averaged over 10 points per game.

Austin has flashed his potential in spurts. It's fair to believe that as he gains experience, performances like his against Lamar will become more common.

But Dunn-Martin and Lamar Norman Jr. may be the X-factors moving forward. With sharpshooter Frankie Hughes out for the season, this duo is critical to the backcourt depth.

They're capable of breaking open games when they're hot, but they haven't been consis-

tent so far.

The good news is there's still 27 games remaining, so there's plenty of time to find rhythm.

On slate for the Dukes is a trip to the Bahamas for the Junkanoo Jam Tournament from Nov. 21-24.

There, Duquesne will take on Indiana State, Air Force and Loyola Marymount.

After its conclusion, the Dukes will return to Pittsburgh in December for the other half of its four games at La Roche.

They'll take on VMI on Dec. 4 before hosting Columbia on Dec. 9 in the team's final non-conference game in Pittsburgh.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne's Marcus Weathers attempts to win a loose ball on Friday, Nov. 15 against Lipscomb at La Roche University. Weathers finished the night tied for the team lead in points (13) and pulled down a team-high 13 rebounds.

Upcoming Events

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

— **Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m.**

Men's Basketball vs. Indiana State

— **Nov. 22, 10 a.m.**

Women's Swimming and Diving at Liberty TYR '85 Invitational

— **Nov. 22, 6:30 p.m.**

Men's Basketball vs. Air Force

— **Nov. 23, 12 p.m.**

Football vs. Central Connecticut

— **Nov. 23, 2 p.m.**

Women's Basketball at Pitt

— **Nov. 24, 6:30 p.m.**

Men's Basketball vs. Loyola Marymount

— **Nov. 26, 7 p.m.**

Women's Basketball vs. Central Connecticut State

— **Dec. 4, 10:30 a.m.**

Women's Basketball at Akron

— **Dec. 4, 7 p.m.**

Men's Basketball vs. VMI

— **Dec. 5, TBD**

Women's Swimming and Diving at USA Winter Nationals

— **Dec. 6, TBD**

Women's Track and Field at Youngstown State Icebreaker

— **Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.**

Women's Basketball vs. Toledo

— **Dec. 9, 7 p.m.**

Men's Basketball vs. Columbia

— **Dec. 10, 7 p.m.**

Women's Basketball at Cornell

— **Dec. 14, 2 p.m.**

Men's Basketball vs. Radford

— **Dec. 15, 2 p.m.**

Women's Basketball vs. Saint Francis

Fact of the Week

Duquesne football's A.J. Hines became the program's all-time leading rusher last weekend at Bryant

NCAA Football AP Top 10 — Week 13 NCAA FCS NEC Standings — Week 13

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	LSU (54)	6-0	10-0	W10	11/23 vs. Arkansas
2.	Ohio State (5)	7-0	10-0	W10	11/23 vs. Penn State
3.	Clemson (3)	8-0	11-0	W11	11/30 at South Carolina
4.	Georgia	6-1	9-1	W4	11/23 vs. Texas A&M
5.	Alabama	6-1	9-1	W1	11/23 vs. Western Carolina
6.	Oregon	7-0	9-1	W9	11/23 at Arizona State
7.	Utah	6-1	9-1	W6	11/23 at Arizona
8.	Oklahoma	6-1	9-1	W2	11/23 vs. TCU
9.	Penn State	6-1	9-1	W1	11/23 at Ohio State
10.	Florida	6-2	9-2	W2	11/30 vs. Florida State

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Cen. Conn. St.	6-0	10-1	W7	11/23 at Duquesne
2.	Robert Morris	5-1	6-5	L1	11/23 vs. Sacred Heart
3.	Sacred Heart	4-2	7-4	W4	11/23 at Robert Morris
4.	Duquesne	4-2	6-4	L2	11/23 vs. Cen. Conn. St.
5.	Saint Francis U	3-4	5-6	W1	11/23 at Delaware State
6.	Bryant	2-4	3-8	W1	11/23 at Wagner
7.	Wagner	1-5	1-10	L6	11/23 vs. Bryant
8.	LIU	0-8	0-8	L8	11/23 vs. Merrimack

Appropriate action taken after Steelers, Browns brawl

JASON MIGNANELLI
staff writer

If you actually watched the entire Steelers game on Thursday night and did not shut the TV off in disgust, then you were treated to one of the most bizarre fights in the history of the NFL.

With approximately eight seconds remaining in the game, the Steelers were losing to the Cleveland Browns 21-7. Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph released a pass and was brought down to the ground by Cleveland's defensive lineman, Myles Garrett. Not liking the manner in which he was tackled, Rudolph began to squabble with Garrett.

While engaging in perfectly normal football roughness after the whistle, Garrett took things to a whole other level. Garrett removed Rudolph's helmet and then whacked him right on the head with his own helmet.

A football helmet weighs roughly six to eight pounds. A football helmet used as a weapon could have caused serious damage to Rudolph's head and face. Not to mention, Rudolph is just returning from a serious concussion.

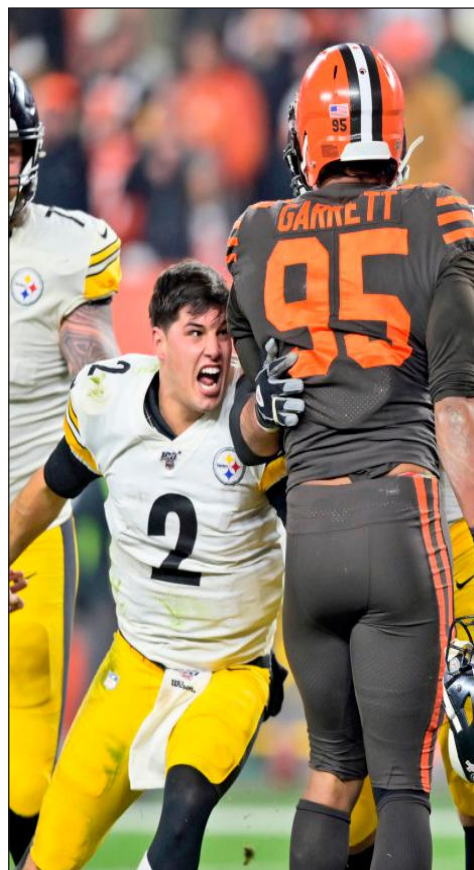
Fortunately for Rudolph, Garrett only got one swing in before Steelers players, including Maurkice Pouncey, rushed Garrett and took him to the ground.

Pouncey is known for defending his teammates on the field and watching what he did to Myles Garrett Thursday night shows just how serious he takes it.

Pouncey rushed Garrett and threw

him to the ground, then began kicking him and jumped on top of him throwing punches. The caveat here is that Garrett still had all of his protective gear on and was not hurt in the slightest by the melee of kicks and punches.

However, the most troubling thing



AP PHOTO
Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph (2) goes after Cleveland Browns defensive end Myles Garrett (95) during the second half of an NFL game Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019, in Cleveland. Garrett was suspended indefinitely for his role in the brawl.

about the whole situation was the response by national pundits such as Max Kellerman of ESPN's First Take.

Kellerman actually blamed Rudolph on his Monday morning television show. Kellerman said that Rudolph instigated it and that Rudolph should be suspended.

After a foolish statement like this, how does Max Kellerman still have a job?

It doesn't matter if Mason Rudolph did the most despicable thing on earth to Garrett.

There is no excuse for a player to hit another player across the head with a helmet.

Kellerman is completely off base here and he should be shunned by Pittsburgh Steelers fans.

Considering that Kellerman's comments came prior to knowing what the suspensions would be, we can rest easy knowing that Rudolph was not suspended for his actions and that Myles Garrett was suspended indefinitely for his. Once again Max Kellerman, you are wrong.

Furthermore, there was some talk on national broadcasts about Garrett possibly facing criminal charges for his actions.

I disagree that Garrett should be found criminally liable for something that happened in a football fight. Although, my feelings would have been different had Rudolph been crippled or seriously injured as a result of the blow.

Criminal charges are a bit harsh for this situation, although it wasn't long ago when NHL player Todd Bertuzzi was charged criminally for an inci-

dent that occurred during a hockey game in 2004.

Then playing for the Vancouver Canucks, Bertuzzi skated over and grabbed Steve Moore of the Colorado Avalanche by the jersey and viciously assaulted him in the back of the head.

Moore could not defend himself and fell to the ice under Bertuzzi. Moore's head and face smashed off of the surface and it caused serious damage to his neck and face. Moore would never play hockey again. For his actions, Bertuzzi was charged criminally and also faced a civil lawsuit.

The parties would eventually settle outside of court but this is one of the only examples of an incident happening during a professional sporting event that would lead to criminal charges. In the case with Garrett and Rudolph, those who are griping about criminal charges should really re-evaluate their stance on the issue.

Moving forward, the Steelers will be without Pouncey for four games as he was suspended for his actions in retaliating against Garrett.

The hope is that Pouncey's suspension will be reduced. As the Steelers fight for a long shot chance at the playoffs, they can't afford to be without their All-Pro center for four games.

If you were to ask Pouncey, I'm sure he would do it all over again to protect his teammate.

Pouncey is an example of a true teammate and his actions on Thursday night are yet another reason why he is one of the most popular Steelers in the locker room.

MLB offseason rumors overshadowed by Astros scandal

JACK BREEN
staff writer

It has been a rough start to the offseason for the Houston Astros. It began by losing the championship when Daniel Hudson struck out Michael Brantley in Game 7 of the World Series.

Since then, it has all gone downhill throughout the organization.

Houston had already been battling with controversy earlier in the series. This arose when Astros' Assistant General Manager Brandon Taubman was accused of yelling towards female reporters during the team's celebration following Game 6 of the ALCS when the team clinched the AL pennant.

Taubman shouted, "Thank God we got Osuna! I'm so [expletive] glad we got Osuna!"

This was in reference to Houston's closer, Roberto Osuna, who was acquired in a trade after being suspended for breaking the league's domestic violence policy in 2018 when he pitched for the Toronto Blue Jays.

Taubman was fired in the middle of the World Series.

After the series, Houston's top pitcher,

Gerrit Cole, declined the Astros qualifying offer of \$17.8 million. This made Cole a free agent and a deal Houston does not seem plausible at this time.

Most importantly, a new scandal has



AP PHOTO/DAVID J. PHILLIP
Astros' second baseman Jose Altuve celebrates during the team's World Series championship parade in 2017.

risen throughout the organization. Astros ex-pitcher Mike Fiers came out to the public and reported that the team used illegal cameras in center field to steal signs from other teams during their 2017 championship run.

The 2017 World Series is the franchise's lone World Series. Videos from 2017 have come to light on Twitter of how the team cheated during the greater portion of the season. These clips showed that when an opposing catcher gave a sign for an offspeed pitch, a member of the Astros would see the pitch call through a camera and would hit a garbage can to signal to the hitter what the pitch was going to be.

In other news relating to the scandal, Astros Special Assistant to the General Manager, Kevin Goldstein, has been accused of emailing scouts asking for their help to steal signs.

Major League Baseball has begun an investigation and is planning to conduct interviews throughout the coaching staff, as well as players from the 2017 season.

This includes high-profile names such as A.J. Hinch, Alex Cora and Carlos Beltran who will all be major league managers in 2020.

The league may conduct a league-wide

investigation that could lead to many, many scandals.

On Tuesday, MLB commissioner Rob Manfred released a number of comments. In his statement, he explained that he believes the Houston Astros is the only ball club with this issue. Manfred may go beyond the typical fine and draft-pick penalties if he thinks it is necessary after an investigation.

During the 2017 offseason, Manfred issued out a \$2 million fine to the St. Louis Cardinals and they lost two first-round picks after an investigation. This penalty was the heaviest Manfred has given out in his time as the commissioner. Manfred stated, "it relates to the integrity of the sport" and promised "a really, really, thorough investigation."

There are still many questions that still need to be answered on the situation, but it sure is a shock to the baseball community. Many are wondering who will be punished, how will they be punished, and to what extent.

No matter the outcome, this will make for an interesting, yet busy offseason for Major League Baseball and the Houston Astros before they report to West Palm Beach in February for Spring Training.

Duquesne Jazz performers put on impressive show

JESSICA FORTUNATO
staff writer

On Sunday, Nov. 17, the Duquesne Jazz ensembles performed a powerful, yet intimate concert featuring Max Jazz recording artist David Budway.

The Jazz Workshop and the Jazz Ensemble performed several individual pieces, with Budway serving as a guest soloist for the final scores. The concert showcased the talent of many jazz musicians at Duquesne, while incorporating professors and professionals as well.

The Jazz Workshop's first piece, "Easy Money," made good use of the muted trumpet, featuring soloists Alyssa Bozym and Josh Branker. Conductor Jeff Bush performed a melodious trombone solo, transitioning the group into an energized forte that filled the room.

"A Child is Born" featured Mila Shadel on the guitar instead of the originally written piano introduction. Her relaxed melody

and use of dissonance made for a hauntingly beautiful interpretation. This was followed by a brush of the drums, and a vigorous note on the piano played by Bush, to end the song.

The Jazz Ensemble premiered student piano player Alex Luketich's composition "When I Awoke." The ensemble's nicely blended portrayal gave the piece a regal, cloud-like sound. The countermelody between the saxophone section and guitar really breathed life into Luketich's work, but the lower brass could have demonstrated a better tone.

"Mel" started somber and built into a crescendo, consistently layering instruments. Spencer McNeil's tenor saxophone solo was a highlight of this piece. You could hear the passion in the improvisation; the music possessed him.

Roy Mitchel, a graduate student, composed a piece in the program. "Eleventh Heaven" started with a bang, and incorporated yelling "Huh!" in the piece's middle. Luketich made an amazingly quick switch from



JESSICA FORTUNATO | STAFF WRITER

Mary Pappert School of Music senior Bill McDonald plays the bass.

the piano to the bongos, and then back again. The whole song was performed with ease, even though it warranted dedication.

David Budway was reunited with the stage, playing piano alongside the Jazz Ensemble for the song "Tones for Joan's Bones." Budway used his whole body when playing, and he showed the audience that he was

there for a reason.

Gaining control of the microphone, Budway sprung an impromptu piece that personally impacted him, "Jazz Piano Man." Budway entertained the audience with charismatic lyrics about being a background jazz pianist and spewed skillful riffs on the piano, initiating the conclusion of the night.

Disney+ a fine investment for hardcore fans

HANNAH BOUCHER
staff writer

With finals week approaching quickly, students must resist a new temptation—Disney+. It has been a little over a week since the media behemoth, Disney, launched its brand new streaming service.

Nostalgic fans of old Disney Channel originals or classic films that have quite some time in the infamous vault have been streaming non-stop since Nov. 12 — myself included.

While the company failed to anticipate the insane demand for its new service upon its launch in the United States, after resolving a few hiccups, Disney+ has not disappointed. As promised, the content available to customers spans over many decades, going back to the animated short that started it all, *Steamboat Willie*. There are still some missing shows and films, but Disney has informed customers that within the year, more content will be added.

Among this extensive catalogue of entertainment are new original shows. Personally, I have not had the opportunity to sample all of these originals. I did, however, skip around the first episode of *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* — definitely not my favorite.

While I see the appeal of this show with younger audiences, the



COURTESY OF THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY

Despite technical hiccups and security concerns, Disney's new streaming service has amassed over 10 million subscribers.

series has failed to captivate audiences of an older generation—the one that grew up with *High School Musical*. The only benefit of this show is that younger children today may decide to look back and enjoy the original film, creating a new fanbase for the Disney Channel classic.

This just proves that so much of what Disney puts out is timeless. The quality of what they produce is impressive, no matter what era it's from—another great reason to invest in this brand new streaming service.

As many know, an additional bonus of the service is the inclusion of some 20th Century Fox content, including *The Simpsons*,

Never Been Kissed and *10 Things I Hate About You*. This provides adults with more mature content and adds more variety for the viewers overall.

The wide range of shows and movies available to stream means that audiences of all ages will be able to find something that they enjoy.

Although Disney+ has successfully provided the general public — well, anyone willing to pay the \$6.99 a month — with everything they could have ever wanted, it definitely has proven itself to be quite distracting. This is probably due to my horrible lack of self-control when it comes to Disney. A fair warning to any-

one considering paying for this service—prepare to become addicted.

In all seriousness though, Disney+ is a great investment for someone who wants access to all sorts of Disney content. While not everything available is shown on the home page, the search feature may introduce you to shows or movies you may have never even heard of.

Disney also offers a deal that includes Hulu and ESPN+ for \$12.99 a month. Each account is allowed up to four devices at a time, meaning that students can even split the cost amongst each other to save money.

WEEK'S EVENTS

Homelessness Documentary
Nov. 21 @ 7:30 p.m.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul will host a viewing of "Shelter: America's Homeless Veterans" in College Hall room 105.

Student Town Hall
Nov. 21 @ 7 p.m.

President Ken Gormley will be part of a town hall for students to discuss the Strategic Plan and changes to the curriculum.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Frozen II
Thursday, Nov. 21

The characters from 2013's *Frozen* return in another animated adventure from Disney.

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood
Friday, Nov. 22

Tom Hanks portrays local legend Fred Rogers in this drama based loosely on a 1998 profile article about the children's television pioneer.

MICRO REVIEW

Senior Wine Tasting

The Student Alumni Association hosted a wine tasting event in the Africa Room on Wednesday night, where seniors were invited to sample six different wines from The Pittsburgh Winery. With a wide variety of reds, whites and rose, all paired with complimentary dishes, there was something for everyone to enjoy. My personal favorite was a 2017 Chardonnay from Suisun Valley, CA that was described as having a toasty like marshmallow taste and paired surprisingly well with chips and guacamole.

-Madison Pastrick

Man in the High Castle season 4 pales compared to predecessors

OLLIE GRATZINGER
editor-in-chief

Amazon Studios' flagship sci-fi thriller, *The Man in the High Castle* has raised the stakes once again in its fourth and final season, which hit the streaming platform on Nov. 15. Some storylines reached their conclusions with an eloquence that neatly wrapped up four years of production, while others struggled to find footing amid increasingly complex plotlines and character arcs. But overall, the Emmy-nominated series offered viewers a bittersweet ending with no real winners and no sweet victories — which is really the only way a series based on a Phillip K. Dick novel could end.

Season 4 introduces a handful of new characters and organizations, including the titular Black Communist Rebellion (BCR), fronted by charismatic and kind-hearted Equiano Hampton (David Harewood). With every other character lamenting the loss of freedom after the Nazis occupied the U.S. in 1946, the BCR's characters remind that not everyone was free to begin with. Protagonists Bell (Frances Turner) and Elijah (Clé Bennett) are a wonderful and important addition to the show, and their acting is phenomenal.

As much as I like the BCR plotline, it feels like something that should've been introduced sooner, because so much happens so quickly that one season simply isn't enough to do it justice; there isn't enough time to fall in love with the characters and see them through the same ups and downs that other protagonists were granted. It all just...happens, and the rest of the season seems to follow suit.

Lead protagonist Juliana Crain (Alexa Davalos) finds herself in the Alt-World, a realm of existence in which

the Allies won World War II after all and life had progressed accordingly. She was nursed back to health by an alternate version of John and Helen Smith (Rufus Sewell and Chelah Horsdal), along with their son, Thomas (Quinn Lord). In Juliana's reality, John Smith is a high-ranking, cold and calculating Nazi Reichsmarschall, and Helen, his faithful Reichsfrau. Thomas had been killed off in the second season, but in the Alt-World, he's very much alive. Alt-Smith is a traveling salesman who hates war, and Helen is a churchgoing woman with a heart of gold.

But a series of events remind Juliana that she can't run forever; she has business to tend to in her world. Someone has to kill Reichsmarschall John Smith, and she knows it has to be her.

Juliana's character is somewhat arid and incomplete; her goal in seasons past had been to avenge the death of her sister. Once that fell through, her mission was to defend the enigmatic films produced by Hawthorne Abendsen, *The Man in the High Castle* (Stephen Root). But with no further mention of her sister, Abendsen in Nazi custody and the majority of the films destroyed, it feels like Juliana has lost her purpose, as well as her empathy, which was a large part of what made her character so compelling.

Understandably, she's traumatized and embittered by an overwhelming sense of loss, after the death of basically everyone she's ever loved, often by her own hand. But her character feels like just that: a character, somewhat lacking in depth.

Oddly, there was no sign of Ed McCarthy (DJ Qualls), Juliana's best friend who had run off with his cowboy lover Jack (James Neate) at the end of Season 3. He isn't mentioned and he gets no screen time; it's im-



COURTESY OF AMAZON STUDIOS

Rufus Sewell stars as John Smith, a reichsmarschall for the American Reich.

plied that he stayed in the Neutral Zone with Jack after his traveling companion Robert (Brennan Brown) returned to San Francisco, but did he live happily ever after? As the Reich advanced into the Neutral Zone throughout Season 4, is Ed safe?

He was one of the only openly queer characters on the show — the other had no season 4 appearances, either — and in not following his story through to the end, it sort of felt like Amazon was pandering to LGBTQ+ fans, showing them that yes, the studio is inclusive and progressive for having a gay character in one of their most popular shows, but they still aren't willing to give him the time of day.

Moving on, in the Pacific States, controlled by fascist Japan, Chief-Inspector Kido (Joel de la Fuente) is tasked with solving the murder of Trade Minister Tagomi (Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa), whose death takes place in a flashback. Killing off Tagomi felt like a rushed and impulsive decision, too, with no real build-up or come-down; his death doesn't motivate the protagonists; it just gives Kido something to do while he battles with his shell-shocked son, Toru (Sen Mitsuji).

Toru's storyline was one of the strongest parts of Season 4, however; it was the first time in the show that we really see a character actively struggling to cope with what they've done in the name of war. Toru, while hailed as a war hero, exhibits all the obvious signs of PTSD, and he can't seem to shake the ghosts of the battlefield. It adds a layer of realism to the show, and a layer of humanity to the cold-hearted chief inspector.

The Smith family, too, continues to cope with the aftereffects of a different kind of battle; after living in the Neutral Zone for a year to mourn the loss of her and John's son, Helen returns with their daughters, Jennifer (Genea Cherpentier) and Amy (Gracy Shinyei), and a handful of radical ideas; Jennifer, a young teenager, has learned that the Nazi world she grew up in is guilty and complicit in horror, while her younger sister further embraces fascist ideology. John and Helen have also grown to hate the regime, but a set of dangerous social conventions bar them from being able to do anything about it.

The young actresses are talented and incredible in their roles, and Sewell and Horsdal really deliver in the portrayal of broken and trapped

people who once loved each other beyond words, and now, can't see past the crimes each had been complicit in. The Smith family redefines to the viewer what it means to have sympathy for the devil.

John's character arc has been one of the most interesting as it unfolds; he goes from loyal soldier to grieving father to shattered man, and many viewers had hoped for some sort of redemption. This, of course, wasn't possible; it was right of High Castle to avoid the challenge of redeeming a man who committed crimes against humanity. To do so incorrectly would diminish the horrors of what he'd done, so instead, the writer's room did the next best thing: they made him suffer. A lot. After traveling to the Alt-World himself and discovering what almost was but very suddenly was not, John learns how easy it is to get lost on the road not taken.

The Man in the High Castle was, since its inception, and ambitious show laden with powerful messages and timely societal critiques. None of that has changed with Season 4. The writing was strong and the performances were brilliant, but the show seemed to bite off more than it could chew.

It was good, but it wasn't great. A few loose ends remained untethered, and answers to questions posed in earlier seasons got lost in the rapid influx of new characters and information. It would've been better if they'd just stuck to seeing the arcs they'd started through to the end rather than introducing new plotlines and trying to tie everything together in 10 episodes or less.

Casual watchers will be intrigued by the depth of the story, but for fans who had been on board since the beginning back in 2015, you might be left wanting more — and not in a good way.

'NSP' returns with slightly homogenous third cover album

JOSEPH PHILLIPPI
staff writer

Ninja Sex Party (NSP) is a mostly comedic band centered around a man named Danny Sexbang and his murderous best friend Ninja Brian, the stage names of musicians Dan Avidan and Brian Wecht. Most of their songs are centered around their escapades to rock and seduce the general population of the world. In the past few years however, they have dipped their toes into cover songs and have just recently released their third cover album, the aptly titled *Under the Covers, Volume III*, accompanied by the wonderful synth backing band Tupperware Remix Party or TWRP.

Fans have been eagerly awaiting their latest cover album since Avidan had announced it on his Instagram in May of this year. Each album they have released has gotten exponentially better

each time.

Their last album, *Attitude City*, is perhaps my favorite they have released thus far, the added backing accompaniment along with overall quality improvements to not only the songs themselves, but with the added variety of instrumentation sets it higher above their other efforts. *Under the Covers, Volume III* sets itself apart by leaning heavily into the 80's pop aesthetic they have had since their inception. Their cover of "We Built this City" by Starship is perhaps the best example of this in the entire album.

Nearly 90% of the songs are centered and composed around the idea of the 80's pop aesthetic to almost the point of repetition, for example, the songs "We Built This City" by Starship and "The Land Down Under" by Men at Work are composed like they were taken right out of the 80's. The provide unique and refreshing instrumentation, although lacking in terms

of variety, comparatively to *Under the Covers, Volume I*, where they had presented a cover of "Rock with You" by Michael Jackson in a completely different style.

Typically the songs are poppy and rocky, but there have typically also been ballads or melancholy songs, along with different instrumentations of songs you've heard before. Here, however, it's almost all one-note, poppy 80's rock, but that is not necessarily bad. Quite the contrary — the music, vocals and composition are all brilliant and beautiful as per usual. They are all just very similar to each other. The only song that sets itself apart would be their cover of "Don't Fear the Reaper" by Blue Oyster Cult, taking an orchestral approach with Danny's harmonious voice backed by the shredding mandolin and weeping violin. It's beautiful, truly, and after each listen I'm left wondering why the rest of the album was so samey.

Again, the album is fantastic



COURTESY OF NINJA SEX PARTY

Wecht and Avidan on the album cover for *Under The Covers, Volume III*.

and really I'm complaining when given cake, but golly, I'm left wanting more soothing tones and calm instrumentation from the combined bands. I'm left wondering how beautiful it would be if, say, "Won't Back Down" got the

same treatment as "Don't Fear the Reaper" or "Madrigal." In conclusion, if you are a major fan of funky 80's pop, then *Under the Covers, Volume III* is for you, and even if you are not, I still recommend it nonetheless.

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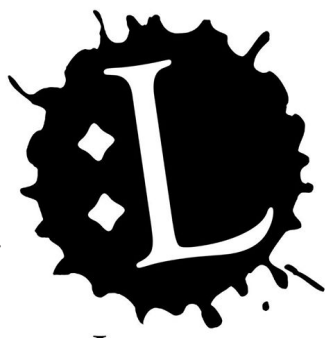
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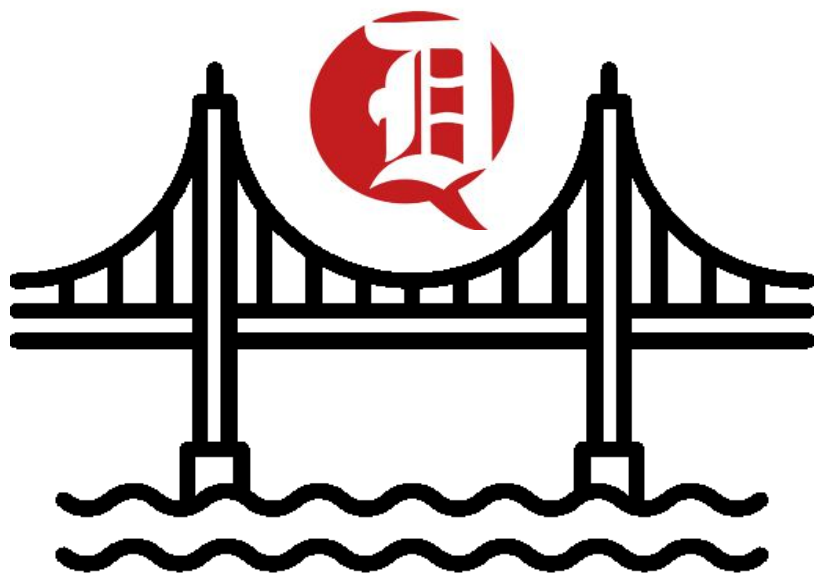
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