



Get lit with Gormley at Night of Lights



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

In his statements during the Night of Lights celebration at Duquesne, President Kenneth Gormley (center) said that the campus is adorned with five times as many lights as last year.

Nursing professor receives award

JESSICA LINCOLN

staff writer

This year, Duquesne professor Patricia Watts Kelley has been honored by Pittsburgh Magazine as one of seven Excellence in Nursing award winners.

Now in her fifth year at Duquesne, Kelley acts as both a professor in the nursing school and the director of the Veterans to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. She was this year's winner in the academic category of the awards, in which she was given an honorable mention last year.

"I am very honored to receive the academic excellence award for my teaching and research with veterans and military service members," Kelley said.

Kelley is not the first Duquesne professor to receive an award in the category. Since Pittsburgh Magazine began the awards in 2016, four have received

see NURSING — page 2

Downtown market back for its eighth holiday season

JOSEPH PHILLIPPI

staff writer

As students return from a much needed Thanksgiving break, the holiday season kicks itself into full swing with many of the events featured at this time of year, whether it be the "Christmas at Duquesne" concert on Sunday Dec. 8, the lighting of the beautiful Christmas tree in the middle of the enchanting ice skating rink or the wonderfully charming "People's Gas Holiday Market" right in Market Square

The "People's Gas Holiday Market" otherwise known as the Christmas Market is celebrating its eighth annual appearance this year. The market boasts a wide variety of vendors and products themed mostly around the holiday season, the



JOSEPH PHILLIPPI / STAFF WRITER

stands all range from pictures, to Pittsburgh themed merchandise, to wine, to a variety of foreign ornaments, jewelry, candy and toys, almost, if not, all, handmade.

"[The Christmas Market] is found all across the country, inspired by markets found in Germany," said Colten Gill, marketing manager for downtown Pittsburgh.

He spoke about the market, what kind of products people could find there, and what they are bringing to the table this year for the citizens of Pittsburgh.

"We always try to bring in new vendors every year, but we also like to keep some of the old favorites," Gill said

One of the newest vendors Mick Joseph, sells handmade home

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HOLIDAY EVENTS

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, there are no police briefs to report this week! Instead, here is a schedule of the holiday events happening in Pittsburgh through the month of December.

Throughout the month, Phipps Conservatory will be featuring their Winter Flower Show and Light Garden.

On Dec. 7, there will be a holiday walking tour through Downtown Pittsburgh.

Also on, Dec. 7 there is a breakfast or lunch with Santa at the Pittsburgh Zoo

On Dec. 17, "A Benedum Christmas - Home for the Holidays" showcases local talents.

On Dec. 22, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra will be performing at the PPG Paints Arena.

JOKE CORNER!

Q: Why do mummies like Christmas so much?

A: Because of all the wrapping!

Q: Why was the little boy so cold on Christmas morning?

A: Because it was Decembrrrrr!

Q: What is a cow's favorite holiday?

A: Moo-years Day.

Q: What do you call a snowman with a six-pack?

A: The abdominal snowman.

EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

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

Holiday market returns to Pittsburgh

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decor items and ornaments. The first thing customers will notice about her stand is the bouncing ornaments and glimmering silverware coupled with the multiple foreign objects on display. Joseph said that all of her products come from Bali, Indonesia.

Her company, Balimade LLC, running for about 20 years now, comes from New York City — despite this they often work hands on with the families who craft their ornaments and products. This year was her first as a vendor for the Christmas Market. She described the Christmas Market as a wonderful place where people can pick up unique and festive products for families and friends, she spoke about how she loved the area and the people.

"The people here have been really nice," Mick said.

A notable example of one of the older vendor shacks is the stand run by Alison Broagudr who hails from New Township. She specializes in jewelry, Christmas accessories and foreign objects from all over Europe, the Czech Republic, Greece, Russia and Scotland, as well as others.

The stand features scarves and hats, Matryoshka dolls (sometimes referred to as Russian nesting or stacking dolls), plates with intricate designs and jewelry. Broadgur has been running her shack for all eight years the Christmas Market has been in existence.

Her stand had many customers who had approached to buy some of the unique products that were dis-



JOSEPH PHILLIPPI / STAFF WRITER

played. As she was finishing up helping a family, she spoke about what her favorite part of the Christmas Market experience was.

"It's rewarding to sell items that have meaning to someone, whether it's the hats or the dolls or the jewelry, they have meaning to someone," Broadgur said.

The items she sells are all handmade and she said it is meaningful to receive a product like that from a

loved one during the holiday season.

"If you don't have time to come down, make time," Broadgur said.

The Christmas Market has something for everyone, whether you are young or old, have a family or don't make time to come down to this enchanting little germanic inspired village, in Downtown Pittsburgh, Market Square until Dec. 23.

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER

Thursday

39 Clouds break for sun

Friday

43 Mostly cloudy

Saturday

38 Mostly sunny

Sunday

48 Mainly cloudy

Monday

53 Mild with rain

Tuesday

55 Chance of a little AM rain

Wednesday

28 Much colder Evening flurries

Courtesy of AccuWeather

Nursing Excellence Award given to DU professor

NURSING — from page 1

honorable mentions and professor Kathleen Sekula won the award in 2018.

A former Navy Nurse Corps captain, Kelley specializes in caring for military personnel, veterans, victims of war and their families. Her research deals with the effects of war on veterans and their caregivers.

Having entered the Navy in 1990, she held several nursing research and leadership positions until her retirement from service in 2011. She was given a variety of military and civilian honors for her work, and in 2016, she was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

She continues to be interested in military and veterans' affairs, conducting lectures on military and veteran culture and incorporating veterans' concerns into her courses.

She considers directing the Veterans to BSN program, which

is meant to encourage veterans and military personnel to enter the nursing profession, an important part of that work.

The program provides three pathways for military members to earn their bachelor of science degrees in nursing: a traditional four-year program, a 12-month second degree program, and an online program. Scholarships and other resources are also available to those interested.

For Kelley, the program is especially valuable in its ability to train a new generation of nurses who understand the needs and concerns of those who have been involved in military service.

She says that directing the program has afforded her "the opportunity to continue to work with novice nurses and nurse scientists who will continue to advance the field."

"It is exciting to grow the next generation of nurses and instill in them their responsibility to the profession and to the patients



COURTESY PATRICIA KELLEY

they will care for," she said.

Pittsburgh Magazine called Kelley and the other award winners "the unsung heroes of the health care field," adding that they have been "setting the example of how to make the future of this field bright in a wide variety of settings and disciplines."

According to Mary Ellen Glasgow, the dean of the nursing school, such praise is well-

deserved.

"I am immensely proud to have a nursing faculty member be selected for the Pittsburgh Magazine Nursing Excellence Award," she said.

"Dr. Kelley is most deserving and admired by students, including our military and veteran students, for her mentorship, knowledge and distinguished military career."

In an article for the magazine, Kelley was asked to look toward the future of nursing.

"There are many jobs in nursing that are creative and innovative, and there are surely enough patients to care for," she said. With this award, she has been marked as one of the leaders in that innovation.

Kelley and the other award winners were honored at a reception at the Omni William Penn on Dec. 4, as well as being featured in the December issue of the magazine.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

113 College Hall
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

editorial staff

editor-in-chief	Ollie Gratzinger
managing editor	Hallie Lauer
news editor	Hallie Lauer
opinions editor	Colleen Hammond
features editor	Griffin Sendek
asst. features editor	Kellen Stepler
a&e editor	Josiah Martin
sports editor	David Borne
layout editor	Madison Pastrick
photo editor	Griffin Sendek

administrative staff

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

"It's not how much
we give but how
much love we put
into giving."
MOTHER THERESA

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

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

Corrections/clarifications

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

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CARTOON BY KELSEY BURTNER

A Duke farewell from Madison Pastrick

Journalism has always played an important role in my life. Ever since I was a little girl, my father has worked for The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review and I have watched as both his job and the newspaper industry have drastically changed throughout my lifetime. I remember receiving tours at his office of the giant printing presses that would fly paper around the room as if it were part of some intricate dance, until it would finally slow its roll and find a place within a skinny plastic bag and make its way to my front door. At 10 years-old, my dad had the coolest job. And he still does.

Ever since this experience, I've always had a unique appreciation for journalism. I was editor-in-chief of my high school newspaper, which we printed on computer paper and passed out ourselves once a month during lunch. I wasn't sure if anyone read what we were writing, but the satisfaction of seeing my name printed under an article that I was proud of was just the same. I saved up for my first camera in 11th grade and it became my favorite accessory as it found a permanent place hanging from my neck, hoping that opportunity would allow for a good candid. Even after all my friends began getting their news online, I maintained that the daily paper wore it best. I was

a true advocate for old-fashioned journalism, even when the world did not agree.

This passion continued as I came to Duquesne. Though I wasn't a journalism major, I still wanted to be a part of the magic that I had experienced growing up. So, I joined *The Duquesne Duke* as a staff writer my first semester freshman year. I remember the excitement I felt when



MADISON PASTRICK
layout editor & ad manager

I first saw my name published in the paper and then the disappointment after, when I realized how many changes they'd made to my article. But that only allowed me to grow as a journalist and my persistence paid off. Later that year, someone decided to take a chance on a quiet freshman to fill the position of advertising sales manager – I had no idea what I was signing up for.

Walking into the newsroom, I felt extremely awkward—a freshman. All of the other editors were so much older and more knowl-

edgeable than me, and I felt like I stood out. But I saw the way the newspaper had brought them together and knew that this is what I wanted, and so I stuck with it. After a couple years, I had developed my own friendships within the newsroom, which traveled with me to new cities, as well as sketchy apartments in Uptown. Some of the funniest people I've ever met still work there today, livening up that dusty old room and making it feel like home.

Since I will not be pursuing a career in journalism, I think the saddest part about graduating is that there will no longer be a newsroom for me to call home.

I have so many memories of me scribbling in the puzzle section of the newspaper, as my dad would read the sports section and my mom would sift through Sunday morning coupons. Something about that newspaper brought my family together, just as it brought me to so many of the friends that I have now. After graduation, similar memories of sitting around a table to look at the newspaper will come to mind when I reminisce about my time spent at Duquesne. I'm so appreciative of these experiences and the many editors and friends that have helped make these past few years so cherished. And for anyone that is reading this, please, I implore you, don't forget to read the newspaper.

STAFF EDITORIAL

A failed twist on a holiday classic

We've all heard the phrase, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Well, maybe John Legend and Kelly Clarkson haven't heard the phrase. Recently, Legend and Clarkson covered "Baby, It's Cold Outside" but made it a little more "woke."

By making it "woke," the duo changed some of the original lyrics. In this version, Legend respects Clarkson's company, understands the concept of consent and gets her an Uber to go home. Some changes include, "If I have one more drink? (It's your body and your choice)" and "Don't you see? (I want you to stay, it's not up to me)."

Seriously?

Naturally, this sent the Twitter-sphere into a fury and Legend and Clarkson received some cold backlash online. But others appreciated the PC version.

It's understandable as to why they changed it. Last year, the original version was scrutinized for subliminally promoting date rape, with the man trying to get the woman to stay at his apartment after she repeatedly says no. The song was banned from radio stations in San Francisco and Cleveland.

However, the 2019 version took some of the changes just a little too far. Sure, the original lyrics are flirty, but they're innocent, and shouldn't be changed.

Numerous artists have covered the holiday classic, including Lady Gaga and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Rod Stewart and Dolly Parton, Idina Menzel and Michael Buble and even Kelly Clarkson and Ronnie Dunn have covered the song without the revised lyrics.

"Leave a tender moment alone," Deana Martin, daughter of Dean Martin, who sang the original, said.

Art and music are supposed to be thought provoking -- that's the fun of it. But we can't read too much into songs, particularly fun, innocent holiday classics. With this logic, what's the true meaning of "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer?"

And if Legend and Clarkson didn't like the lyrics to the song, why not just cover a different song?

"Baby It's Cold Outside" debuted in 1944, a completely different time period and era than today. But in no way is it "creepy" or "rapey."

The 2019 version is self-aware, and does keep the song light-hearted. When Clarkson says that if she doesn't get home, her mom will start to worry, Legend responds by telling her that her ride is on its way. Following that, Clarkson says that her dad will start pacing the floor, and Legend asks why she is still living at home.

But in cases like this, sometimes being too politically correct is going overboard. While Legend and Clarkson had good intentions with the changing the lyrics, they would have been better off keeping them the same. And it's also a lesson to society, don't read too much into something, because the grass isn't always greener on the other side.

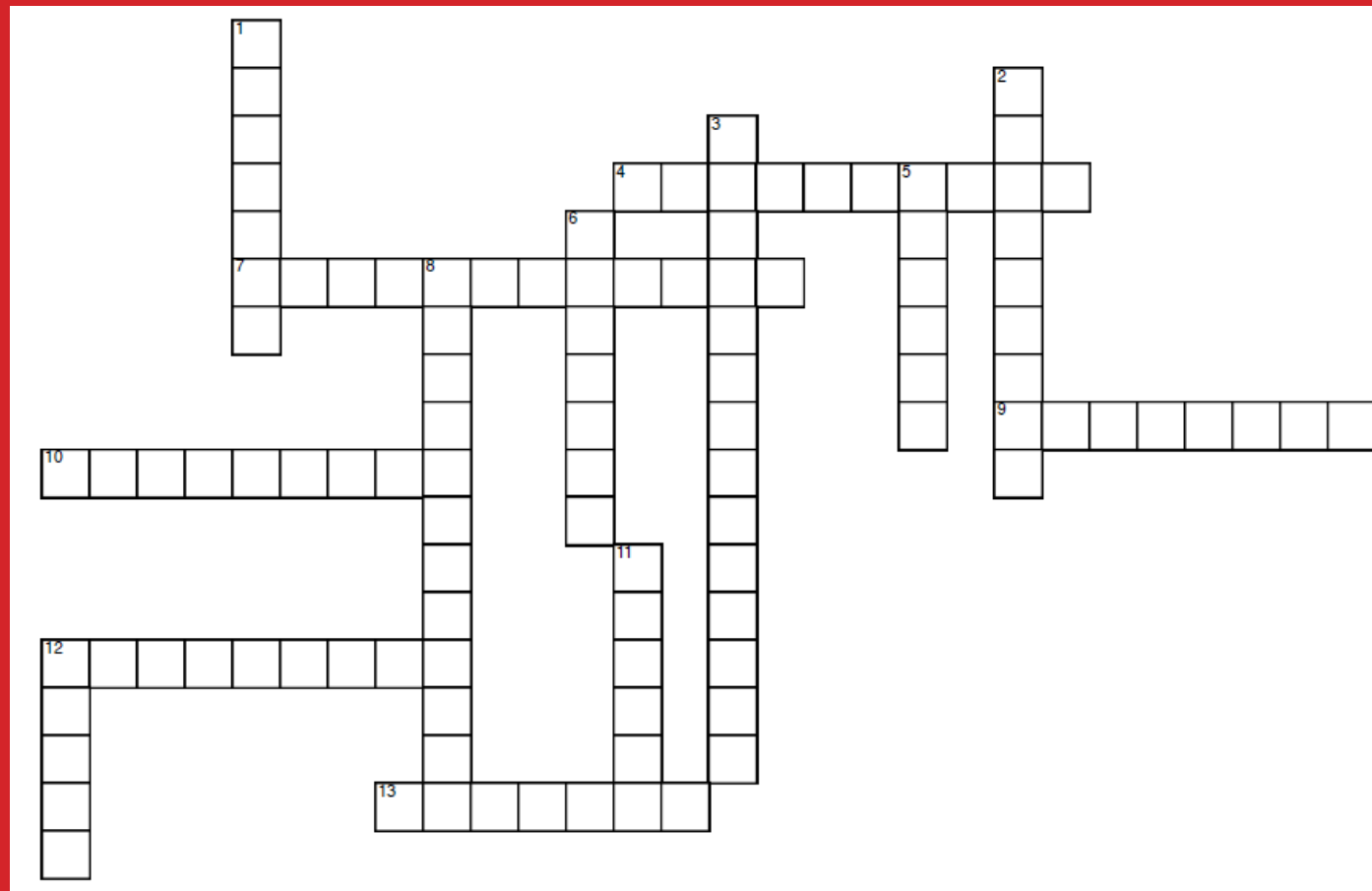
DUKE HOLIDAY CROSSWORD

Across

- 4 2019 Sexiest Man Alive
 7 Three purple candles and one pink one
 9 On your Christian neighbors' lawn
 10 meet me under
 12 so tender and mild
 13 Light candles at sunset

Down

- 1 Olaf the talking
 2 peppermint hook
 3 I'm dreaming of a...
 5 His heart was two sizes too small
 6 I made it out of clay
 8 Kiss at midnight
 11 pan-African celebration
 12 Dora's sidekick



Kanye West's deep dive into Christianity is publicity stunt

ERIN CARBONE

contributing columnist

In recent years, rapper Kanye West has taken very public steps toward Christianity. West, the winner of 21 Grammy Awards, recently released the gospel album *Jesus is King* on Oct. 25, 2019. This latest release gave West the best streaming week of his career and debuted at the top of the Billboard 200 album chart. These numbers are not because West produced a fantastic or groundbreaking album but because of the public fascination surrounding the man and his numerous attempts to obtain power, and his cultish tendencies.

Christianity is not new to West. He said that during his childhood in inner-city Chicago that it “wasn’t an option,” to not be Christian. West has also opened up about how the Christian ideals are strongly implanted in him.

Jesus is King is not the first time West has produced songs with Christian themes to the public. In 2004, West released “Jesus Walks” and was revered for being one of the first mainstream rappers to rap about religion.

Since 2004, West has taken major steps in publicly showing off his Christians roots. In early 2019 West began operating “Sunday Services.” These private gatherings are open to a select few, who

are required to sign a non-disclosure agreement before entering the service. It is unclear exactly what is practiced at these gatherings. From what the public is privy to, via Instagram posts from celebrities and members of the Kardashian-West family, it seems that the majority of the event is West performing his own songs with a gospel choir, who are often clothed in matching apparel from the rapper’s own fashion line, Yeezy.

These “Sunday Services” have garnered massive attention from the public and have left many people wondering if West will one day start his very own church. Reportedly, West is thinking about this idea.

If West was to start a church, it would just be another one of his attempts to grab power. Remember West’s public declaration in 2016 that he would be running for president? I believe that this was his first attempt of surrounding himself with supporters in order to gain traction and power. When his candidacy was not met with the eagerness he was expecting, West switched his focus to religion.

“Sunday Services” have allowed Kanye to gain a religious following, on top of his already fanatic fanbase. As mentioned before, the gospel choir at the services are dressed completely in Yeezy, almost as if West is enforcing a dress code. West wants to uniform and control the people around him.

On a recent episode of “Keeping Up



COURTESY OF NPR

Kanye West's latest album *Jesus is King* explores the rapper's gospel side and Christian roots.

With the Kardashians,” which West’s wife Kim Kardashian stars on, West is seen telling his wife that the way she dresses is “disrespectful to him.” Kardashian, who has built her career on being a sex symbol, announced a few weeks after the episode aired that she would start to dress more conservatively.

Most recently West has claimed that he will be changing his name to “Christian Genius Billionaire Kanye West.” This a bright flashing sign that West is getting too pompous with his following and his power.

The power that West has accrued should frighten people. He has a growing following in entertainment, fashion and now, religion. His recent announcement for a planned run in the 2024 presidential elections should be a red flag to the

public. West is getting his hands into everything he can in an attempt to control it all. The amount of power that West has is dangerous and can be used to brainwash the youth of America. That is where his behavior becomes cultish.

West is regarded as one of the best rappers and he has undoubtedly made some amazing records. Additionally, I think it is great that he has had a spiritual awakening and follows a religion. That is where the praise should stop. If his fans continue to endorse the idea that he is “Christian Genius Billionaire Kanye West,” he will take the power that comes with that title and run with it. He’s already proven that he’s able to accomplish a lot with the power he has, and who can say what he’ll do?

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree at Duquesne's Christmas Ball

HANNAH RAUH
staff writer

Students at Duquesne have the opportunity to really get into the Christmas spirit this week by attending the 39th annual Christmas Ball this coming Thursday, Dec. 5. The dance will be taking place at the Omni William Penn Hotel, which will provide a wonderful atmosphere to relax and enjoy a night of food and dancing before finals begin next week.

The Omni has plenty of old-fashioned charm, especially around Christmas time. The hotel itself was built in March 1916, costing \$6 million to complete. The hotel boasts a speakeasy, a sprawling ballroom with chandeliers and ceiling to floor windows, and a beautiful dining room encircled by red velvet curtains.

The building was designed by Pittsburgh philanthropist Henry Clay Frick, and at the time was unmatched by other hotels because it had electricity and a bathroom in each guest room. Frick played an essential role in the development of the steel industry in Pittsburgh.

Students can be sure they are getting a luxurious experience when visiting for the evening, because presidents, including but not limited to Theodore Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Ronald Reagan have all paid a visit to the hotel during their terms.

The Christmas Ball is run by the Duquesne Program Council (DPC), which coordinates events both on and off campus for students. They coordinate ticket sales and provide transportation to and from the event for students. Buses will be available at 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to get to the



GRIFFIN SENDEK | PHOTO EDITOR

The historic Omni William Penn Hotel will host Duquesne's 39th Annual Christmas Ball.

event, and then will run from 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. to return students back to campus.

"DPC does the Christmas Ball because it is a Duquesne tradition," said Emily Krieger, events director for DPC. "It is one of the few student Duquesne traditions that is still being held each year. It is a great way for students to end the semester on a good note before finals start. Students, alumni and faculty come together to enjoy a nice holiday meal and have some fun prior to the start of winter break."

This year marks the 39th anniversary for the Christmas Ball. It hasn't always been held at the Omni William Penn Hotel though, for many years the dance was held at the Sheraton Hotel at Station Square. It was decided in the last year that the dance should be moved so that it was in a more convenient and accessible location for students.

Tickets for the event are \$25 individually and \$200 per person for a table of 10 and can be purchased in the Center

for Student Involvement, located at the Student Union in room 305. The price includes dinner, dancing and transportation to and from the hotel.

Student Taylor McClure has already purchased her ticket to the Christmas Ball, and is prepared to enjoy her night out.

"The dance is right before finals and it is a good opportunity to have fun with friends before break," McClure said.

If students are looking to get into the Christmas spirit but don't want to attend the Christmas Ball, there is a plethora of other options to choose from, including the Holiday Cookie Decorating event at Hogan Dining Hall on Dec. 5. Also, Duquesne is sponsoring an ice-skating night this coming Sunday, Dec. 8 at the PPG ice rink.

No matter what event, students should definitely try to get involved with some holiday themed activities before it's time to go home again for break.



COURTESY OF TRIPADVISOR

The Omni lobby is decorated with a festive Christmas tree.

HO-HO-HOROSCOPES



Sagittarius

(November 23-December 22)

Brace yourself: Finals are coming.



Capricorn

(December 23-January 19)

I've seen your Snapchat stories - you're getting a Dictionary for Christmas.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 18)



Go to a Christmas party, they said...it'll be fun, they said...

Pisces

(February 19-March 20)



Dashing through the halls, because you forgot about your 8:30 a.m. final.



Aries

(March 21-April 19)

You're the Secret Santa who spends the least on gifts.

Taurus

(April 20-May 20)



You're the mean one, Mr. Grinch.



Gemini

(May 21-June 20)

The weather outside is frightful, like your soul.

Cancer

(June 21-July 22)



Oh, go have yourself a merry little Christmas.

Leo

(July 23-August 22)



If you like Christmas so much, why don't you merry it?



Virgo

(August 23-September 22)

You at Christmas: Ho Ho Ho
Your bank account: Oh oh oh



Libra

(September 23 - October 22)

Happy holidays? How dare you assume I want to be happy.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 22)



We owe this time of year. (Noel)

WBB tops Akron, unbeaten in last six games

DAVID BORNE
sports editor

Just over a minute into Wednesday afternoon's game against Akron, Duquesne guard Nina Aho buried a three-point jumper to get the Dukes on the board.

The deep-ball from Aho was the first of many for her squad. The Dukes would go on to knock down a program-record tying 14 3-pointers en route to a 88-63 victory over the Zips.

The record was set on Feb. 25, 2009 in Philadelphia against La Salle. Wednesday's 14 3-points marked the most in a non-conference game in

program history.

With the win, the Dukes improved their record to 6-2 on the year. Duquesne's five road mark is tied with Loyola Chicago for the most in NCAA Division I women's basketball.

Duquesne's high octane offense was on display right from the start of Wednesday's contest.

The Red and Blue held and commanding 24-15 lead after the first period of play and Akron was never able to overcome the early deficit it faced.

By halftime, the Dukes led by 21 and never took their foot off the gas.

Redshirt senior Paige Cannon posted a team-leading and career high 21

points in the win. Cannon spearheaded Duquesne's 3-pointer barrage, netting five of her six attempts from beyond the arc.

The guard trio of Kiersten Elliott, Libby Bazalak and Nina Aho each added a pair of threes as well. In total, the group combined for 33 points and shot just over 56% from the floor.

Duquesne was able to strike gold below the basket against Akron as well. Redshirt junior forward Laia Sole finished the day with 14 points and six rebounds. The Dukes dominated the boards, pulling down 44 rebounds compared to Akron's 31.

Effort on the offensive glass paid off for the Dukes, as they were rewarded with 12 second chance points.

A phenomenal showing on the offensive end of the floor was backed up with a great defensive performance.

The Dukes forced 12 Akron turnovers and limited the opposition to just a 41.5% shooting day from the floor.

Additionally, Duquesne locked down the three-point arc and Akron finished the day shooting a measly 27.8% from downtown.

Coach Burt and his squad will have a few days to rest before getting back into action. Duquesne will host Toledo at La Roche University at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

This weekend's game will be the first of nine that the women's basketball team plays at La Roche this season.

Saturday will mark the third time in

as many seasons that Duquesne will face Toledo. The Dukes grabbed a win in 2017-18, but dropped a 65-52 result in Ohio last year.

So far this season, Toledo has a 2-4 record. The Rockets are coming off of a 53-48 overtime win against Belmont on Tuesday.

Toledo has limited opponents to just 59 points per game this year, so Duquesne's offense will need to stay hot in order to find similar success against the Rockets.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Duquesne forward Paige Cannon shoots a three during the second half of Wednesday's game against Akron. Cannon notched a career-high 21 points while hitting five 3-pointers. Cannon is averaging 9.4 points and 4.8 rebounds per game so far this season.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Duquesne women's basketball gathers for a huddle before the start of Wednesday afternoon's game vs. Akron at James A. Rhodes Arena.

New leadership looks to bring Pirates back to relevance

JASON MIGNANELLI
staff writer

As the Pittsburgh Steelers are enjoying one of their most exciting seasons to date and Mike Tomlin is arguably the NFL's coach of the year, it is difficult to care about what is happening in the other stadium over on the North Shore.

Only the truest and most loyal baseball fans are following the Pittsburgh Pirates this off-season. If you are one of those loyal fans, then you already know that the Pirates are back at it again, cleaning house and starting over from the top down within the organization.

The only problem is that the actual top (Bob Nutting) is still in place as the team's owner. However, he has made whole sale changes again and after firing Neil Huntington and Clint Hurdle this off-season he has hired Ben Cherington as General Manager and Derek Shelton as the club's manager.

So, what do we need to know about both of these names? First, Ben Cherington previously served as the vice-president of baseball operations for the Toronto Blue Jays. Prior to working for the Blue Jays, he was the executive vice president and general manager of the Boston Red Sox from 2011 to 2015.

Looking at his resume, he seems to have all of the qualities needed to succeed in Pittsburgh. Anyone who has worked for a team like the Boston Red Sox should be a pretty accomplished and intelligent baseball mind. Cherington is best known for constructing the 2013 Boston Red Sox

roster that won the World Series. However, things did not end well in Boston for Cherington. After a couple of really bad contracts, Boston brought in Dave Dombrowski as the President of Baseball



COURTESY OF PIRATES TWITTER
New Pirates' manager Derek Shelton addresses the media during his introductory press conference at PNC Park on Wednesday afternoon. Shelton spent the last two seasons with the Minnesota Twins' staff.

Operations which was essentially the end for Cherington.

Most recently, things were on the upswing in Toronto under Cherington. One of his latest moves after hiring Shelton as Manager was to hire Steve Sanders as his Assistant General Manager. Sanders was the Scouting Director for the Toronto Blue Jays under Cherington and has a pretty good reputation for spotting young talent.

As many Pirates fans can acknowledge, it isn't so much of the lack of spotting young talent that has haunted this franchise as much as the inability to mesh that young talent with some substantial veterans and free agent pitcher signings.

The Pirates have a solid young core to work with and Cherington actually has a decent team to begin his tenure. Players like Josh Bell, Adam Frazier, Kevin Newman, Bryan Reynolds, Jose Osuna and a list of other young guys that can contribute right away next year.

Not to mention, the team still has some veteran guys like Starling Marte, Gregory Polanco and Jung Ho Kang as a foundation. It will surely be interesting if nothing else to see what Cherington plans to do with this roster before next season.

Mission number one should be pitching and mission number two should be find better pitching. This team is lacking legitimate starting pitchers. Gerrit Cole is a faded memory and now it is time to rebuild that pitching staff from the ground up.

Rebuilding the roster will be primarily Cherington's responsibility but getting these guys to play well on the field will be the responsibility of newly hired Manager

Derek Shelton.

Shelton is a former catcher in the major leagues and has operated as a hitting coach for the Cleveland Indians and Tampa Bay Rays. Most recently, Shelton was on the staff in Minnesota as the Twins' bench coach, but he worked under Cherington in Toronto in 2017.

It seems as though Cherington has great faith in his previous employees and Pirates fans will be intrigued to see the many new faces at PNC Park.

Hopefully, it all comes together this year. There is nothing better than playoff baseball in Pittsburgh.

Despite all of the changes, the big question remains, will Bob Nutting give Cherington the money needed to put a competitive team on the field? Or, will we again see a few season of mediocrity followed by another wholesale house cleaning.

Many of the loyal Pirates fans are just about out of patience with Bob Nutting and if something does not look better this year, things may boil over here in Pittsburgh.

This is a sports town with a great tradition of winning. Teams like the Penguins and Steelers regularly field competitive teams. There is no excuse for the Pirates to be so terrible.

The fans in this town would once again go crazy for baseball if the Pirates were actually in a pennant race again come September of next year.

Let this be a call to action from all of us loyal Pirates fans, help this team Mr. Nutting. Let the young children in this town experience a winning baseball team and hopefully another World Series.

Les Misérables' touring cast dazzles downtown

OLLIE GRATZINGER
editor-in-chief

On Friday, Nov. 29, the Benedum Theatre downtown was filled to the brim as a story of love, loss, revolution and redemption came center-stage.

Les Misérables, Boublil & Schönberg's musical magnum opus, is based on the 1862 novel of the same name by Victor Hugo. It follows the story of ex-con-turned-man-of-God Jean Valjean, his surrogate daughter Cosette, the dutiful officer Javert and the rag-tag group of student revolutionaries who almost made history.

Boasting an impressive three-hour runtime with a single intermission, sitting through the show may warrant a trip to the theatre bar before settling in. But *Les Mis* engages the audience with timeless music, stunning sets and a high-energy intensity bound to keep you on the edge of your seat.

What struck me most about this production of *Les Mis* was the staging and set design. It was beautiful and intricate, making good use of the space and tools at hand. Projected images gave the illusion of water crashing at the bow of a ship in the opening scene, and later, it looked as though runoff from a sewer was trickling down into the orchestra pit. From workyards and bridges to the

barricade and streets of France, the sets were among the most captivating I've seen in any show, period.

Most impressive was the scene of Javert's suicide, in which the set changed mid-segment to shift from showing Javert standing on the bridge to his fall down into the murky waters below; it's hard to describe how they did it, but the audience was given an aeral view of Javert's descent, which the actor (Josh Davis) played beautifully. Computer graphics and projected images mingled with the analogue movements of individuals pieces of the set, giving the scene -- and the whole show -- a fluidity more reminiscent of film than a stage production.

Les Mis is heavy on the singing, even for a musical, and so liking the way the actors play the parts is even more central to enjoying the production. This cast was particularly impressive, with a passionate Valjean (Nick Cartell) in the leading role, comedic physical actors in the roles of the absurd and boorish Thénardiens (Jimmy Smagula and Allison Guinn) and a heartbreaking Fantine (Mary Kate Moore) who played the part of a grieving and desperate mother with elegance and grace.

Cartell stood out, with a dynamic range and a penchant for jumping octaves for emphasis. His rendition of "Bring Him Home," sung with a



COURTESY OF TRUSTARTS

The touring cast of *Les Mis*, led in this photo by Matt Shingledecker as Enjolras.

chilling falsetto, earned a standing ovation from a full-house crowd.

I was taken aback at first; however, when I heard the lines sung with an American accent. It was an interesting stylistic choice and it was done well, reminding me of the 1987 Broadway recording (without the funky disco bits that were, for the most part, left in the 80s where they belong).

Most fans are more familiar with the Original London Cast recording, though, and when the on-screen ad-

aptation released on Christmas Day 2012, the actors used British accents, too. It was different hearing "Master of the House" sung without an over-the-top Cockney English dialect, but it was still very well done. It all boils down to a simple preference.

Les Mis dazzles wherever it goes, and the Benedum was no exception. This touring cast was wonderful and unique, with memorable sets and passionate performances that really brought a new dimension to a timeless classic.

Frozen 2 a well-crafted next chapter for franchise

KATIE SECAUR
staff writer

On Nov. 22, Disney's much anticipated *Frozen 2*, hit the silver screen in theaters worldwide, sending many parents and their little ones to the theater to see the latest adventure of Anna and Elsa. The early box office receipts have been staggering, with a global box office take of \$742 million in the film's first two weeks of release, including a record-setting \$125 million holiday weekend. It seems likely that the sequel will bypass the original's box office take of about \$1.275 billion. While not necessarily living up to what came from the original, I do believe that this film lives up to the hype the trailers caused.

Frozen was released in 2013 and took the world by storm with its soundtrack, especially the smash hit "Let It Go," contributing to its success. The movie introduced us to princesses Anna and Elsa, their soon-to-be dearly departed parents, along with a number of other citizens of Arendelle and several visiting dignitaries. For *Frozen 2*, all the primary roles were reprised by the original cast: Kristen Bell as Princess Anna, Tony-award winning Broadway actress Idina Menzel as the ice queen Elsa, Josh Gad as the loveable Olaf,

and Jonathan Goff as Kristoff.

Frozen 2 begins with some cute interactions between the young princesses and their parents. It introduces the backstory that points the direction of the film, including an enchanted forest and elemental spirits. It then picks up with Elsa as the reigning Queen of Arendelle, and Kristoff and Anna beginning their happily ever after. But trouble arises and our heroes take off on their daring adventure. Where *Frozen* was more of a hero vehicle for Anna, both Anna and Elsa exhibit their heroic qualities in the sequel.

As with most recently released animated movies from the house of mouse, this is a musical. This time around though, all four major characters got a song of their own. These vary from the peppy opening number "Some Things Never Change," to Anna's solemn "The Next Right Thing," and Kristoff's "Lost in the Woods" which is reminiscent of boy band love songs. Olaf's song, "When I am Older," is the only number that really doesn't match the standards of the original, and felt like it was shoved in so that there was something similar to "In Summer" for Josh Gad to sing.

We all remember the phenomenon that was "Let it Go" from the original — now there are two powerful ballads



COURTESY OF THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY

Anna and Olaf return, portrayed by Kristen Bell and Josh Gadd respectively.

to take the spot of annoying earworm. "Show Yourself," and more notably "Into the Unknown," will undoubtedly have little kids singing them on a near-constant loop. The songs are great, but if you have little siblings, be prepared to get tired of them fast.

As a solo film, *Frozen 2* can definitely stand on its own, and as a sequel, it moves the stories of Anna and Elsa along and it has merit in the Disney canon. The film does its job to entertain, but it was still obvious that the main goal was to capitalize on

the popularity of the franchise and to reignite the sale of *Frozen* princess dresses and stuffed animals of Olaf and Sven, along with the incredibly cute fire spirit, Bruni.

All in all, *Frozen 2* is a beautiful film with a great cast and score. It is worth spending the money to see it in theaters but with no great rush. Eventually, it will make its way to Disney+, so in the end, does it matter when you are spending the money to see it? Do stick around for the end credits scene, though.

WEEK'S EVENTS

Hot Chocolate Night
Dec. 5 @ 9 p.m.

The center for student involvement will provide free hot chocolate in the NiteSpot in this holiday-themed stress relief event.

One Acts for Charity
Dec. 5-7 @ 8 p.m.

The Red Masquers present plays both produced and directed by DU students. Donations at the door go to Jewish Family and Children Services Pittsburgh.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker
Friday, Dec. 20

Concluding the franchise's epic "sequel" trilogy, Rey, Poe, Finn and others return as the surviving members of the Resistance continue their fight against the evil First Order.

Cats
Friday, Dec. 20

Based on the long-running musical, this film's trailer reveied some backlash for its visual effects, but boasts and all-star cast.

MICRO REVIEW

No Time to Die Trailer

Bond, yes, James Bond, is back.

The trailer for the new bond movie *No Time to Die* dropped Wednesday, Dec. 4, and once again I am in awe. Daniel Craig is back, the suit is back, Q and MoneyPenny are back. Some familiar faces from *Specter* are back. Does the plot really matter? No. It's a Bond movie, things are going to blow up, people are going to die and fast cars are going to be driven. It's everything I want in a Bond film (unless he drinks another Heineken, that's blasphemy).

- Hallie Lauer



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