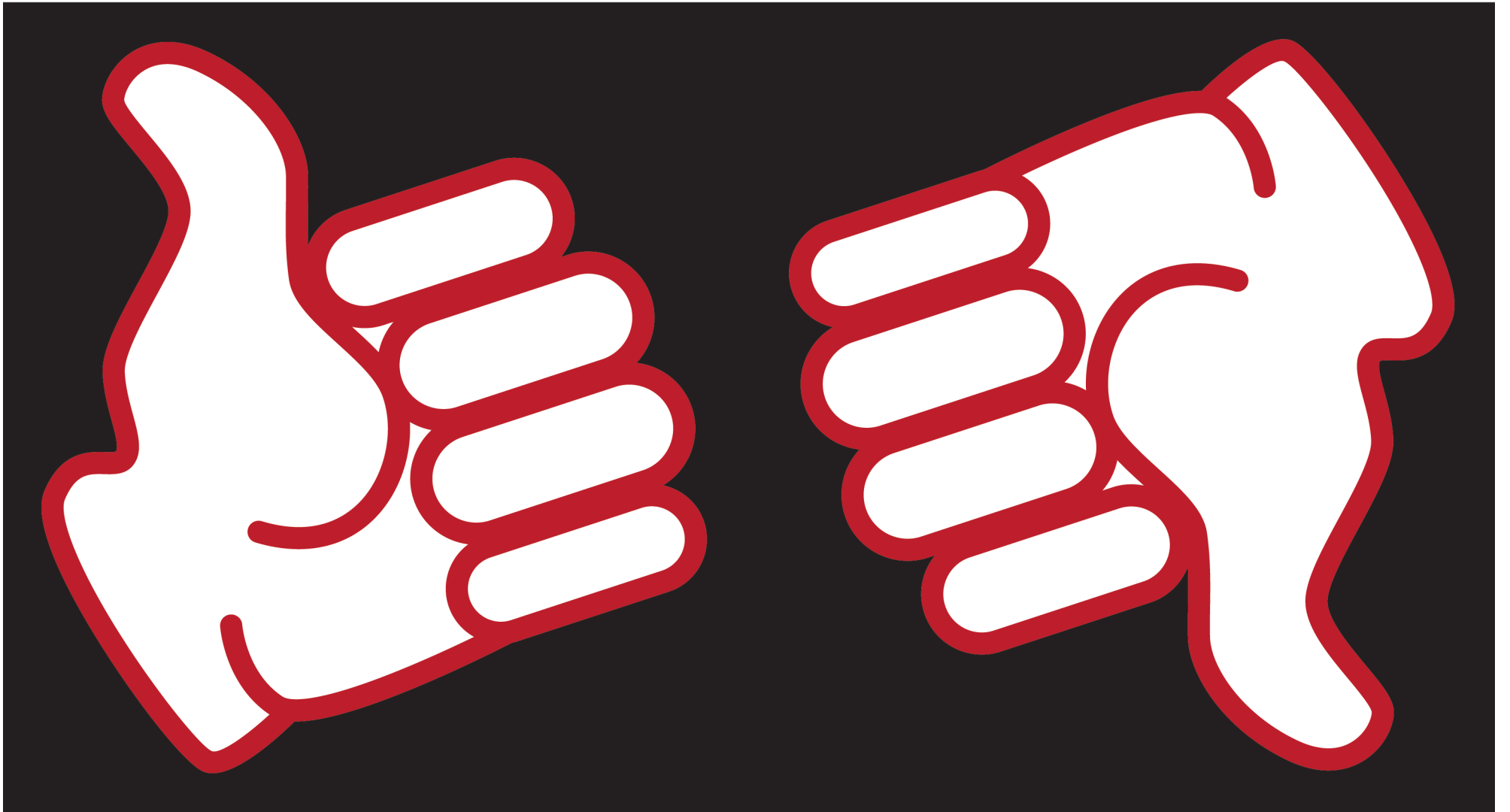


the **duquesne** duke
arts & entertainment
best & **worst** of 2019



Read our staff's picks
for the best music, films,
television and video games
of 2019.

A2

A4

Then, read what we consider
the entertainment world's
worst releases of the year.

regular issue inside 

We asked our staff to pick their favorite entertainment media from 2019. Some pieces were loved by many, but a few picks surprised us! Check them out below



COURTESY OF AMAZON STUDIOS / BBC STUDIOS

Good Omens Miniseries

Ollie Gratzinger, Editor-in-Chief

The on-screen adaptation of Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaimen's 1990 dark comedy novel *Good Omens* came to Amazon Prime Video on May 31. Chronicling the exploits of an unlikely duo — angel Aziraphale (Michael Sheen) and demon Crowley (David Tennant) — *Good Omens* is all about self-determinism and defying expectations.

With Armageddon just days away, Aziraphale and Crowley privately decide they aren't quite ready for the world to end, and Adam (Sam Taylor), the young antichrist tasked with bringing it about, would really rather just play in the woods with his friends. With Frances McDormand's narration as the voice of God, the show retains the comedic voices of Pratchett and Gaimen, all while reinventing itself for a 21st-century audience; a diverse cast and a modern romance supplement the original storyline and plot, making *Good Omens* an all-around good watch.

Metro Exodus Video Game

Joseph Phillippi, Staff Writer

Metro Exodus is the third installment in the *Metro* video game series, inspired by the *Metro* book series written by Dmitry Glukhovsky. It was released on Feb. 15, and is an



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

absolute achievement in the art of video games and media in general. The gameplay has been refined to a degree where the story and game blend together seamlessly, culminating in the richest and most fulfilling gameplay experience I have had to date. This is likely because the direction it has gone is the best possible evolution for the *Metro* game series, going from the perspective of a boy trying to save his home station to a man trying to find a home for his family.

The characters are more organic than ever, with each and every member of the crew getting



COURTESY OF HBO

a chance to speak and a chance for you to learn about them. Artyom, the protagonist, is utilized just as well. The main cast having such depth makes the world seem to be more alive than ever. Even in unsavory places such as bandit camps, there are guitars and musical instruments you can give to your train-bound family. One of my personal favorite

moments is when Artyom sits with his Spartan brother Stepan and they play the guitar. It takes my breath away everytime. I have no complaints for *Exodus* other than not showing Artyom's face. An absolute masterpiece that everyone should experience.

Euphoria, Season 1 Television Series

Sean Armstrong, Staff Writer

When I saw the trailer for *Euphoria*, I instantly knew I wanted to see it because the cinematography was gripping. I anticipated it having a sub-par story, but the way the videography team used lighting manages to contrast the darkest parts of the frame with some of the brightest shades of color on the spectrum. The sharp contrast conveys disharmony and is what drew me in. This visual representation is a fantastic clue to what the show is about. A bunch of teenagers getting into reckless situations is a classic American story, but how

the plot focused on fleshing out every character is what makes the show exceptional. Couple that with the lighting techniques the staff use, and this show is a unique spectacle.

While some of the things depicted on the show are blown out of proportion and exaggerated, many of the circumstances these teens find themselves in, are issues that should not be ignored. I know plenty of parents found the show shocking, and some people even claimed that this generation of teenagers is less reckless than previous generations. Yet *Euphoria* shows the dark side of what can happen to some otherwise mostly good kids when they are exposed to toxic living conditions. While some of those toxic conditions were

almost entirely unavoidable, like Rue's father dying from cancer, giving her access to painkillers at a young age, it also shows the humanity in the people that are often dismissed by society.

10,000 Hours

**Dan + Shay, Justin Bieber
Song
Kellen Stepler, Features
Editor**

I probably wouldn't have believed you if you would have told me that I would like a country song with Justin Bieber in it, but here we are. I'm not a big fan of the Biebs, but his voice gels with Dan + Shay and the song has a



COURTESY OF NEW YORK REVIEW COMICS

fun, flowy nature to it. I'm not alone with liking this song, as it reached no. 1 on the country chart in October.

Us

Film

Hallie Lauer, News Editor

Us was the best movie I saw in 2019, and honestly, maybe 2018 as well. Jordan Peele is a genius, and I spent days after watching it reading critical analyses of the movie. It is so uncommon for a thriller to be this engaging — most these days rely heavily on jump scares to keep the audience going, but not *Us*. With a great cast and a great original horror story, I can't praise this movie enough. I am eagerly awaiting Peele's next film.

This comic has a drawing style that likely did not look pretty until photocopied for print. Some drawings were so good that it would not be unthinkable that Santoro sketched over a photograph, specifically in the faces of his family members. The art style is unconventional and the storyline is anything but neat, jumping around from memory to memory without any sort of mind for pacing. Yet, there is something so raw about it that compels you to finish the book. I cannot speak to everyone from Pittsburgh, but I can say that Santoro, despite being a few decades older than me, captures a Pittsburgh that I find familiar even though so much has changed in the time between our childhoods. Something about his book, for me, feels exactly like how I picture Pittsburgh: oddly compelling and community-oriented, but lacking opportunity.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Greek out at Meet the Fraternities



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

From left to right: (Jarret Klunk, Michael Buskirk, John Cantwell and Riley Perchinsky). Gamma Phi, the oldest and smallest fraternity on campus, is seeking to gain new members.

Social media flurries over a “draft:” could it happen?

KELLEN STEPLER
features editor

If you’ve consumed any form of social media this past month, chances are you’ve seen #WorldWar3 or #Draft trending and an abundance of memes, gifs and even TikToks. After the killing of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani by an American airstrike on Jan. 3, concerns began to sky rocket over the possibility of World War III and even the return of a draft. The attack threw social media into a frenzy, and sent unverified, false and bogus information all over the Internet. In fact, web traffic caused the U.S. Selective Service to crash on Jan. 3. The Selective Service then said in a tweet that the traffic was due to “the spread of misinformation.” But, what are the chances of

see DRAFT — page 2

Duquesne business school earns another high ranking

LUKE SCHRUM
staff writer

Being ranked with the best is a feat every school works to achieve. Through continued effort and evolution in programs and learning spaces, the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business has recently earned another nod on the list of the nation’s best undergraduate business programs by Poets & Quants. Each ranking system focuses on different facets of the schools ranked. Admissions standards, academic experience and employment factor most into the Poets & Quants ranking and are a particular point of pride, according to Dean McFarlin, dean of the School of Business.



OLIVIA HIGGINS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

“Poets & Quants relies on hard evidence such as placement outcomes, so it’s not based on perceptions of faculty or university administrators. To that extent, I think it has more validity than purely opinion-based rankings ... [and] Poets & Quants is arguably the top platform for information about undergraduate business programs,” McFarlin said. Students have also noticed how their classes reflect the ranking, said sophomore business management major Megan Ashliman. “Between our very relevant projects and the level of detail we are expected to know about our classes, the professors are very

see BUSINESS — page 3

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Pandemics on the rise	Beets and Beats	MBB wins again	New Mac Miller Single
A global public health crisis is on the horizon	DU professor creates music with plants	Dukes escape Fordham in overtime	The late artist's family announces new album
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POLICE briefs

This past week was syllabus week, so you know what that means: a crime report full of drugs and alcohol and a busy week for the student conduct office.

On Jan. 10, a female, underage student was found intoxicated in St. Martin Hall. She was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Jan. 11, campus police transported two intoxicated resident students to UPMC Mercy to detoxify. Both students are under the age of 21, and their case has been referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Also on Jan. 11, several Duquesne students were found to be in possession of marijuana. The students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Jan. 12, a student from St. Ann Hall was found to be highly intoxicated. They were transported to UPMC Mercy and were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Jan. 13, three students were found to be in possession of a small amount of marijuana and paraphernalia. They were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

JOIN THE DUKE!

Writing for *The Duke* is a great way to get involved with everything going down on campus. Whether you like to write, draw, take photos, play video games, listen to music or are just looking for a new way to make friends, *The Duke* is a great place to start!

Being on the staff of *The Duke* looks great on a resume, no matter what your major is, and it involves a lot of free pizza.

If you're interested, email Editor-in-Chief Ollie Gratzinger at olliegratz@gmail.com or stop by our newsroom located in the basement of College Hall (Room 113).

EmailTips

We want your input!

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

Draft unlikely despite heavy online discussion

DRAFT—from page 1

there actually being a draft?

Currently, there is no chance of there actually being a draft, because the draft has been abolished for 47 years. The last men to be drafted were those drafted in December 1972 for the Vietnam War.

According to the Selective Service website, if the draft would be reinstated, the Selective Service would conduct a National Draft Lottery to determine the order in which young men would be drafted. The lottery would establish the priority of call based on participants' birth dates.

"In order to reinstate the draft, Congress would have to pass legislation, and the president would have to sign off on it," said Kristen Coopie, Duquesne political science professor.

Once the bill is signed into law, the Selective Service would have to conduct a lottery to determine who would actually be drafted. Even though there is no active draft, all men between the ages of 18 to 25 must register for the Selective Service.

"By making all eligible men register, the Selective Service claims that this would lead us to be ready for a draft, if need be, and to make that draft more fair," Coopie said.

According to the Selective Service's website, their mission is "to serve the emergency manpower needs of the military by conscript-

ing untrained manpower, or personnel with professional health care skills, if directed by Congress and the President in a national crisis."

Coopie explained that if you are over the age of 18 and plan on filling out a FAFSA, the U.S. Department of Education requires you to be registered. She also noted that in a lot of states, registering for the Selective Service is also a requirement to obtain a driver's license.

Failure to register for Selective Service can lead to felonies and fines; however, no one has been prosecuted for failure to comply since 1986.

Mark Haas, another political science professor at Duquesne, notes that the chances of a draft actually happening are slim.

"It would take a great war; a World War II type," Haas said. "It would have to have significantly more conflict than what we are seeing in Iran."

Despite the memes and tweets, the public consensus is not supportive of a draft.

"Even after 9/11 and the ramp up to the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, we did not conduct a draft," Coopie said. "In fact, public opinion was strongly against holding a draft then, and opinion today isn't much more supportive. There aren't really any politicians out there advocating to bring the draft back."

Haas noted that it would take a great power war, and still the chances of a draft would be small.

"It would have to be a long,



COURTESY OF BAIN NEWS SERVICE
Men registering for the draft in 1917, during World War I.

drawn-out war, like in China or Russia," Haas said.

The draft, also known as conscription, has been instituted by the U.S. federal government in five conflicts: the Revolutionary War, the American Civil War, World Wars I and II and the Cold War, including both the Korean War and Vietnam War. From 1940 until 1973, during both free times and periods of conflict, men were drafted to fill the vacancies in the U.S. Armed Forces due to a lack of volunteers. The draft eventually came to an end once the U.S. Armed Forces moved to an all-volunteer

military.

Currently, the United States has about 1.3 million active-duty troops, with about 865,000 in reserve.

"Our current military is so large," Haas said, "For a draft to happen, we would have to have a need of more than what we already have."

Even with rising tensions in the Middle East, the idea of a draft is unlikely.

"While we technically could have a draft, the likelihood is very small," Coopie said.

"I wouldn't worry about it," Haas said.

SGA changes eligibility rules for election

KELLEN STEPLER
features editor

One of the basic goals of a successful democracy are to give everyone a voice and a vote.

Now, with new rules, anyone can run for Duquesne's Student Government Association (SGA).

SGA President Charles Megginson IV noted that elections are coming up soon for the executive board. This year, any student can run, regardless of whether or not they have served in SGA before. Previously, candidates had to sit on the Senate for at least 15 weeks before being eligible to run for executive board.

"Now, every student is eligible," Megginson said.

A responsibility of SGA is to inform Duquesne administration about student concerns and opinions, and this duty falls on the SGA's executive board. The five members that make up the executive board are elected in a campus-wide election each year. The executive board consists of a president, a vice president of student life, a vice president of finance, a vice president of academics and a vice president of

communications.

The current terms began in March 2019, and will expire in February 2020.

SGA also consists of five general committees to target the needs of students and student organizations. These committees are the communications and public relations committee, a government operations committee, an organization oversight committee, a student life committee and a finance committee.

Previous finance Committee Chair James Kariss resigned from his position last year, and his successor is nursing major Zach Dainton. Dainton was nominated by Megginson, and ran unopposed.

"Dainton has an abundant experience in student government," Megginson said. "He has the knowledge to lead the committee effectively."

"Finance chair is a position that I have had my eyes on for a while, so I was proud of Megginson's decision to nominate me for this position," Dainton said.

According to the SGA website, the Finance committee is tasked with distributing thousands of dollars in direct or indirect funds to organizations through such

programs as Conference Appropriations and service grants. The committee also monitors and reviews the budget of the SGA and makes recommendations to the VP of Finance and the Senate regarding the creation and execution of the budget.

Dainton plans to simplify the process and make it easier for organizations to apply for funding, and wants to continue the transparency of SGA's budget in collaboration with *The Duke*.

"I will participate in the creation of the budget for next school year to make sure the students' voices are heard," Dainton said.

Previously, Dainton was the co-chair of the Communications and Public Relations committee.

Additionally, Dainton also will be the chair of the Senior Awards committee. He nominated himself, and ran unopposed. The chair of the Senior Awards committee works with the Center of Student Involvement and is tasked to oversee and organize the annual SGA awards.

Dainton said that he had no plans of becoming Senior Awards chair, but due to his experience as a nursing student, he has to "learn how to do and find the good in a

Upcoming SGA Meetings

January 26
February 9
February 23
March 8
March 22
April 5
April 19

****all meetings are located in the Law School in room no. 203**

difficult job that others may not want to do."

"I will begin by redesigning the application process to make it less intimidating, as well as amending the system in which the winners are chosen through the creation of a well-balanced and diverse committee," Dainton said.

The SGA Awards are presented each May to graduating seniors who have expressed leadership and service during their time at Duquesne.

The next SGA meeting will take place Sunday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. in room 203 of the Law School.

Rankings help to bring new students to DU

BUSINESS — from page 1

good and hold us to high standards,” Ashliman said.

Despite the different focuses of the various rankings, they are an important source of guidance for prospective students and families when evaluating schools to apply and commit to, according to McFarlin.

“All rankings are flawed to some extent, but they serve a valuable purpose nonetheless in helping guide prospective students and their parents when it comes to college choices. There are more than 10,000 business schools worldwide and rankings can help people winnow their choices to a more manageable number to investigate,” McFarlin said.

In addition to bringing in new students to Duquesne, rankings like Poets & Quants factor into donations and other opportunities for organizations and alumni to get involved. Both are critical to ensure current students receive opportunities in the classroom and experientially through internships.

“Rankings can help elevate the value of the programs we offer in the eyes of alums and external partners, something that can in

turn enhance our ability to engage these key constituencies” McFarlin said.

Driving the rise in rankings are changes in curriculum and continued work by faculty and administrators to improve the offerings in the School of Business according to McFarlin.

“I think our redesigned undergraduate business core as well as our redesigned majors are major contributors. So, too, is our faculty’s willingness to be innovative, our ability to bring in new resources, and our willingness to engage over a dozen new executives-in-residence to support student learning,” McFarlin said.

Underpinning the redesigned curriculum are newly renovated spaces throughout Rockwell Hall. The new areas were created with a focus on collaboration and application of concepts, according to McFarlin.

“Our new learning spaces were designed with our strategic goals in mind. Business education is less about information acquisition today than about showing what you can do with information to make excellent business decisions and solve problems.” McFarlin said.



OLIVIA HIGGINS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Many of the new spaces reflect the real world and oftentimes hands-on classes taught in them.

“We have a much stronger emphasis now on providing students with transformational experiences inside and outside of our curricula – experiences where they can work with client firms to solve important business problems, start businesses or invest real money,” McFarlin said.

Traditional lecture-style rooms are no longer suitable for the new and redesigned programs offered

by the School of Business. The renovated spaces reflect the collaboration promoted in the constantly evolving classes.

“Classrooms with rows and rows of fixed seats don’t align with this well ... all our new spaces are designed to support project-based work in a high-tech, yet flexible environment,” McFarlin said. “This is critical for bringing life to curricula aimed at instilling practical wisdom along with theories and concepts.”

House leaders march Trump impeachment articles to the Senate

(AP) — In a dramatic procession across the U.S. Capitol, House Democrats carried the formal articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump to the Senate late Wednesday, setting the stage for only the third trial to remove a president in American history.

Trump complained anew it was all a “hoax,” even as fresh details emerged about his efforts in Ukraine.

The ceremonial pomp and protocol by the lawmakers prosecuting the case against Trump moved the impeachment out of Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s Democratic-run House to the Republican-majority Senate, where the president’s team is mounting a defense aiming for swift acquittal.

“Today we will make history,” Pelosi said as she signed the documents, using multiple pens to hand out and mark the moment. “This president will be held accountable.”

Moments later the prosecutors walked solemnly through the stately hall, filing into the Senate back row as the Clerk of the House announced the arrival: “The House has passed House Resolution 798, a resolution appointing and authorizing managers of the impeachment trial of Donald John Trump, President of United States.”

The Senate will transform itself into an impeachment court at noon Thursday. The Constitution calls for Chief Justice John Roberts to preside at the trial, administering the oath to senators who will serve as jurors and swear to deliver “impartial justice.”

The trial will play out before a deeply divided nation at the start of this election year as Trump seeks a second term and voters review his presidency. Three senators are running for the Democratic nomination.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell pledged to have the Senate

“rise above the petty factionalism” and “factional fervor and serve the long-term, best interests of our nation.” He called it “a difficult time for our country.”

Technically, the House was simply notifying the Senate of its delivery of the articles, with a more formal presentation Thursday. Opening arguments are to begin next Tuesday after the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Earlier Wednesday, the House voted 228-193, almost entirely along party lines, ending a weeks-long delay to deliver the charges with a tally reflecting the nation’s split.

The House impeached Trump last month alleging he abused his presidential power by pressuring Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden, using military aid to the country as leverage. Trump was also charged with obstructing Congress’ ensuing probe.

“This is what an impeachment is about,” Pelosi said before the vote. “The president violated his oath of office, undermined our national security, jeopardized the integrity of our elections.”

Trump’s political campaign dismissed the House effort as “just a failed attempt to politically damage President Trump leading up to his reelection.”

The top Republican in the House, Kevin McCarthy of California, said Americans will look back on this “sad saga” that tried to remove the president from office with the “weakest case.”

The president’s team expects acquittal with a Senate trial lasting no more than two weeks, according to senior administration officials unauthorized to discuss the matter and granted anonymity.

That’s far shorter than the last

presidential impeachment trial, of Bill Clinton, in 1999, or the first one, of Andrew Johnson, in 1868.

As McConnell sets the rules for the trial, Trump has given mixed messages about whether he prefers lengthy or swift proceeding, and senators are under pressure with the emerging new evidence to call more witnesses for testimony.

The seven-member prosecution team was led by the chairmen of the House impeachment proceedings, Reps. Adam Schiff of the Intelligence Committee and Jerry Nadler of the Judiciary Committee, two of Pelosi’s top lieutenants.

“The president gravely abused the power of his office,” Nadler said. “He did all this for his personal political gain.”

Ahead of Wednesday’s session, Schiff released new records from Lev Parnas, an associate of Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, about the Ukraine strategy, including an exchange with another man about surveilling later-fired Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch.

Schiff said the new evidence should bring more pressure on McConnell, who is reluctant to allow witnesses to testify and prefers swift acquittal. The White House has instructed officials not to comply with House subpoenas for testimony and documents.

“The challenge is to get a fair trial,” Schiff said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The managers are a diverse group with legal, law enforcement and military experience, including Hakeem Jeffries of New York, Sylvia Garcia of Texas, Val Demings of Florida, Jason Crow of Colorado and Zoe Lofgren of California.

Two are freshmen lawmakers — Crow a former Army Ranger who served in Iraq and Afghanistan,

Garcia a former judge in Houston. Demings is the former police chief of Orlando and Jeffries is a lawyer and member of party leadership. Lofgren has the rare credential of having worked on the congressional staff investigation of then-President Richard Nixon’s impeachment — he resigned before the full House voted on the charges — and then being an elected lawmaker during Bill Clinton’s.

For the roll call, all but one Democrat, Rep. Collin Peterson of Minnesota, voted to transmit the articles. All Republicans voted against.

McConnell faces competing interests from his party for more witnesses, from centrists who are siding with Democrats on the need to hear testimony and conservatives mounting Trump’s defense.

Senate Republicans signaled they

would reject the idea of simply voting to dismiss the articles of impeachment against Trump, as Trump himself has suggested. McConnell agreed he does not have the votes to do that.

Sen. Susan Collins of Maine is leading an effort among some Republicans, including Mitt Romney of Utah, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Lamar Alexander of Tennessee to consider Senate witnesses. She told reporters she was satisfied the rules will allow votes on that.

Those or any four senators could force an outcome. Republicans control the chamber, 53-47, and are all but certain to acquit Trump. But it takes just 51 votes during the trial to approve rules or call witnesses. It also would take only 51 senators to vote to dismiss the charges against Trump.



COURTESY OF APNEWS

House Sergeant at Arms Paul Irving and Clerk of the House Cheryl Johnson carry the articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump to Secretary of the Senate Julie Adams on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Duquesne events celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Friday, Jan. 17 — MLK Day Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Africa Room

Monday, Jan. 20 MLK Day Prayer Breakfast and Program from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at the Ebenezer Baptist Church on Wylie Ave.

Monday, Jan. 20, MLK Day Athletic Challenge from 1 -2:30 p.m. in the Power Center Ballroom (registration required)

Wednesday, Jan. 22, — “I Have a Dream” Flag Placement from 12 - 2 p.m. in the 3rd floor atrium of the Union

Wednesday, Jan. 29, — Inspire Initiative Reception from 3-5 p.m. in the Africa Room

March 2020 — Sacred Conversations on Race for Students

THE DUKESNE 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	Kellen Stepler
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administrative staff

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

"Stay wilder than
the wind."

DURAN DURAN

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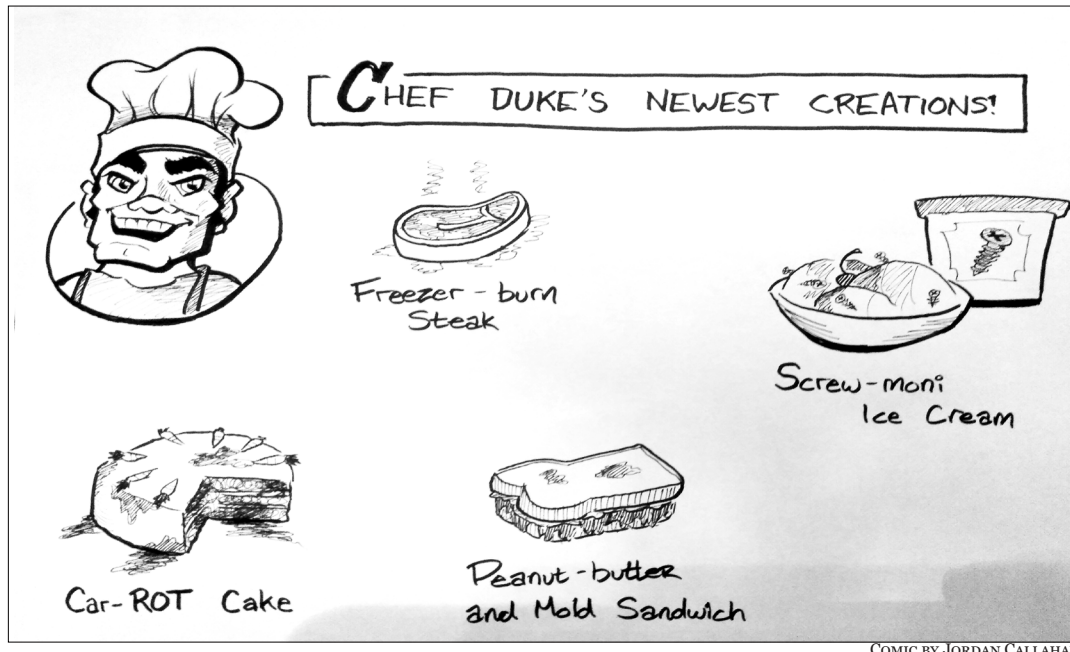
Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer's name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to *The Duke* office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduqduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The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

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

Contact

email: theduqduke@gmail.com



COMIC BY JORDAN CALLAHAN

Bowing out of the monarchy's traditions

In a time of great political upheaval and increasingly complicated international relations, Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle have fanned the flames of discord in the U.K.

In a groundbreaking announcement on social media last week, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex formally declared that they will be "stepping back" from their positions as senior members of the royal family.

The couple stated that they will be splitting their time between the U.K. and Canada while raising their son and attempting to become "financially independent."

For those familiar with the Sussexes, this announcement should not come as a complete shock. In previous interviews, both Duchess Meghan and Prince Harry have commented on the unbearable pressure the British media have placed on the royal family, often demeaning the Duchess for her nationality, race, parenting style and relationship with her parents.

In addition to the couple's sensitivity to media perception of Duchess Meghan, Prince Harry has also expressed his apprehension to paparazzi after his mother, Princess Diana, was tragically killed in a car accident involving an intrusive photographer.

Although the Sussex's desire for more freedom from the public eye is understandable, their withdrawal from the royal spotlight is a deeply complex issue.

This announcement is unprecedented in the royal family, and seems somewhat unplanned by the Sussexes.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are senior members of the royal family, and subsequently, their entire lifestyle is currently funded by British tax-

payers. Their current residence, Frogmore Cottage, was renovated for the couple's use for more than £2.4 million, all of which came from public funds.

While the Sussexes have made it clear that they wish to remove themselves from the public fund, as confirmed by a statement from Queen Elizabeth on Monday, it is deeply unclear how they will make money.

Royals have struggled for decades to maneuver complex laws surrounding their ability to



COLLEEN HAMMOND

opinions editor

work and their royal duties and finances, often abdicating their positions in favor of the pursuit of personal freedom and wealth.

The couple are known as global philanthropists. While their work as advocates for mental health and world education are admirable, it raises concerns as to how they will maintain their lavish lifestyle on a philanthropist salary.

While their decision to leave the spotlight is admirable, modern and understandable, it is somewhat selfish to retain their royal titles and, for the time being, their royal wealth while not performing the duties of the royal family.

The Queen's most recent

statement has made it clear that this is a time of transition for the young royals, but it seems odd that they are currently retaining their royal status.

If the Sussexes truly wanted to escape the public eye and pressures of royalty, they should abdicate their positions in line for the throne. This would remove them from publicly funded life and allow them to become civilians.

Of course, this would complicate their relationship with the other members of the royal family. If the Duke and Duchess of Sussex abdicate their positions in the line of succession, they will still be allowed to interact with the royal relatives, but they will forever more be forced to treat the family like royalty. This means they will have to bow and curtsy before all their relatives who still retain their titles.

Also, abdication would place the infant Prince Archie in a peculiar position. Without his parents keeping their royal stature, Archie may also sacrifice his line to the throne. Although it is wildly unlikely that any Sussex family member will ever reign over the U.K., the future position of Prince Archie cannot be ignored. It is still unclear if he will have the opportunity to rejoin the royal family once he is of age.

Despite the precarious nature of this transition and the dozens of unanswered questions it leaves for the monarchy to sort out, it is clear that the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are taking a modern approach to their royal responsibilities. By prioritizing their mental health and familial well-being, Meghan and Harry have set a new and refreshing example of the role of the monarchy in the 21st century.

staff editorial

Women can't win

As award season rears its head toward another year of red carpet glamour, social media has exploded with its usual outrage over nearly every nomination, or lack thereof. However, one major complaint seems to be a persistent theme of the Academy Awards: the domination of male directors.

In recent years, movie-goers have finally taken notice, and issue, with the disproportionate amount of men nominated for best direction. This year is no exception. All five of the nominees for best director are men.

While all of the nominees are extremely talented and successful filmmakers, it should be noted that men are not the only ones making movies. Other female-directed films were nominated for several awards and received high praise from critics and audiences alike, but the spot of best director seemed to elude all of them.

Movies such as Marielle Heller's *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, Kasi Lemmons's *Harriet*, Lorene Scafaria's *Hustlers* and Greta Gerwig's *Little Women* all received wide acclaim for their unique storytelling tactics, yet they were consistently overshadowed by their male directed counterparts and thus fell short in the nominations.

In the entire 92-year history of the Academy Awards, only five women have ever been nominated for best direction. To make matters worse, only one woman has ever won this category.

Despite a growing audience hunger for female storytellers, award panels consistently ignore female-directed films, making the Academy Awards more like a boy's club than an impartial system of judgment.

Because a film's awards and notoriety are often tied to the actors' and director's later success, the severe lack of awards for female directors suggests that they are less successful when compared to male directors. However, all one would need to do is observe a scene from Gerwig's *Little Women* or Olivia Wilde's directorial debut *Booksmart* to appreciate the visual storytelling choices that should qualify them for an Academy Award nomination at the very least.

Women have proven their directorial abilities time and time again, especially in 2019, but they have not received the recognition they deserve for their revolutionary contributions to the world of film. This does not mean that their work must go in vain; but to make and encourage progress for women filmmakers, society must show support and respect for their achievements.

The current system discourages female excellence. It shows women that no matter how hard they try or how outstanding their work may be, they will never be rewarded at the same level as the men in their field.

By including more women in the best direction category, the Academy would display a new era of filmmaking where all perspectives would not only be respected, but praised. Their current lack of representation of female directors silences the unique stories women have to tell.

Opinions

With global pandemics on the rise, public health is at risk

HANNAH BOUCHER

staff columnist

Disease has been a constant threat to human civilization, whether it be the bubonic plague or a common cold. In a world where we share everything, pathogens are no exception. Germs are everywhere — bathrooms, airplanes, cell phones, even in the “sterilized” doctor’s office. However, with the use of antibiotics, vaccines, hand sanitizers, antibacterial soaps and bleach, we should be safe, right?

According to a study conducted by the University of Washington in 2014, the overall mortality rate from contagious diseases decreased from the year 1980 in the U.S. The data, while not the most recent, can be assumed to represent a trend due to the continuous development of innovative ways to combat viruses and bacteria. Although health care is not identical in every developed nation, the global collaboration of researchers means they are all in a similar spot in terms of medicinal development.

This does not include nations that lack the resources to improve their health care systems for their civilians. As mortality rates continue to fall in countries such as the United States, developing nations see stagnant or increasing rates in disease fatality.

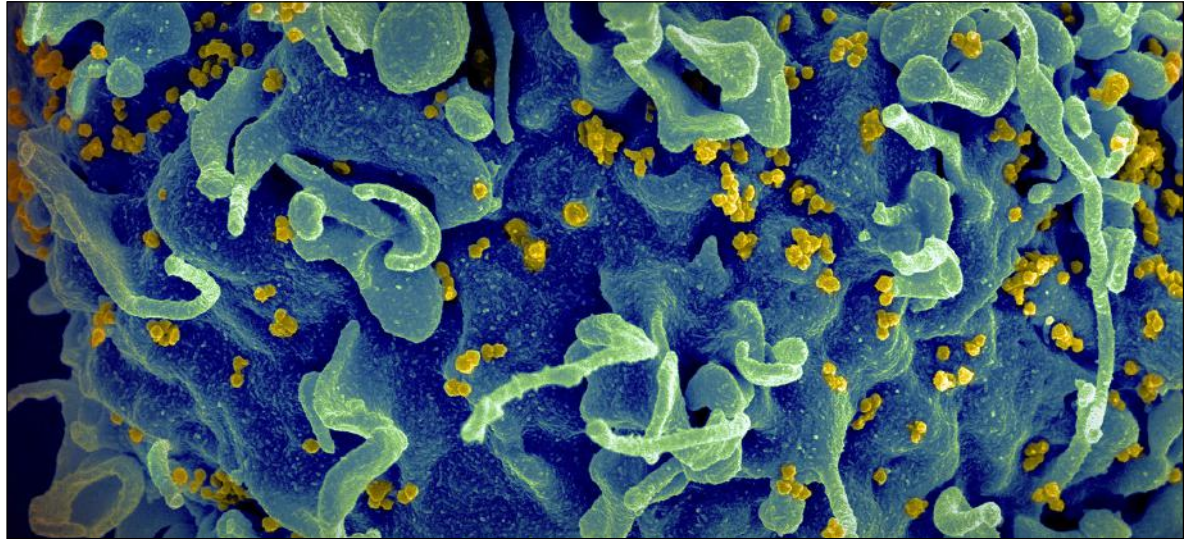
This blindspot in global health-care has opened doors for pan-

demics to occur. For about 300 years, influenza pandemics have taken the lives of over 100 million individuals. The most recent flu pandemic in 2009, caused the deaths of an estimated 450,000 people alone.

Despite the constant fear of a global outbreak, many refuse to protect themselves against viruses as best they can. A key example of this is the 2019 measles outbreak. A disease that should no longer be a concern made a comeback due to misconceptions about vaccinations. Many believe that because a disease is no longer an issue that it has disappeared.

Viruses such as polio and the measles have not fallen off the face of the earth, rather they have become less common due to the development of vaccinations. Some parents have also bought into the myth that vaccinations cause health complications, leading to them not vaccinating their kids.

The number of people misinformed on the importance of vaccinations is alarming. Individuals who are unable to receive vaccinations are put at risk of infection. Quarantining those who become infected may be a possibility, but our globalized society puts the whole world at risk for the spread of deadly disease first. Symptoms may not appear until days after becoming infected, remaining dormant while



COURTESY OF INNOVATION.ORG

Bacteria and viruses threaten the safety of many communities as public health becomes a diminishing priority.

the disease continues to spread from person to person. A simple cough or sneeze, an exchange of fluids or a coming into contact with a contaminated surface is all it takes to share germs. Buses, trains, airplanes — any form of transportation can leave a person vulnerable to infection.

The advancements made that have led to a globalized world have also led to an increase in our carbon footprint. As the Earth’s climate continues to change, environments become breeding grounds for different bacteria and viruses. Still-water ecosystems are home to parasites such as mosquitoes, which are carriers for many different pathogens.

In the Caribbean, there was an

outbreak of Dengue Fever this past year. Due to the rise in temperatures, the mosquito population has increased. This, in turn, increased the likelihood of becoming infected. This most recent outbreak was not easy to contain, with around 3 million Americans contracting the disease. As global warming continues to progress, so does the spread of diseases in warmer areas.

Another disturbing development in the world of epidemiology is the rise of antibiotic resistant bacteria. While many refuse to be vaccinated, it is quite common for antibiotics to be prescribed. However, most people do not finish their dose of antibiotics and just stop taking

their medicine when their symptoms dissipate. The combination of overusing antibiotics and not completing the full dosage prescribed has allowed some bacteria to become resistant to medicine that is supposed to kill it.

There are more pathogens than there are humans on the planet. We are greatly outnumbered by microbes that can easily kill millions of people. Global outbreaks are a real possibility under current conditions. People have become ignorant to the risk of disease because there is a misconception that our technological advancements make us invincible. We are only as healthy as the environment we surround ourselves in.

Fake news breeds danger for the future of democracy

KELLEN STEPLER

features editor

Someone once told me, “Believe none of what you hear, and half of what you see.”

When it comes to social media, that couldn’t be closer to the truth.

Go on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook or whatever, and what do you find? A lot of falsehoods, myths and lies that spread like wildfire.

A team from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said that “falsehood diffused significantly farther, faster, deeper and more broadly than the truth in all categories of information, and the effects were more pronounced for false political news than for false news about terrorism, natural disasters, science, urban legends or financial information.”

“It took the truth about six times as long as falsehood to reach 1,500 people,” the team said.

That’s ridiculous, but true. It’s easy to spread false information nowadays. Technology improves every day. Social media has become one of our main sources of news. But faster doesn’t always mean better.

Johannes Gutenberg invent-

ed the printing press in 1440. His generation longed for new knowledge and information every six months. Our generation gets a new webpage in six seconds. And how is this technology used? Often, to spread rumors and misinformation.

This misinformation is false information and can be spread intentionally or unintentionally. Regardless, this fake news is harmful and even detrimental to real life.

I’ve seen stuff online claiming that the pledge of allegiance has been banned, that Barack Obama is a radical Islamic terrorist and even incorrect sports scores and tweets.

Part of this is a problem because anyone — literally, anyone — can access a social media website and pronounce their knowledge (or lack thereof) and the whole world can have access to it immediately.

The other problem is that people don’t know what to trust, and end up believing the wrong things. I mean, if you saw it on Facebook, then it has to be true, right?

Don’t get me wrong, there are a lot of great things you can find on social media. This isn’t a social



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Factual errors and blatant lies have brought America into an era where fact has become public opinion.

media bash. But we as a society need to fix this epidemic of misinformation and fake news, and it starts with us.

If you see something that you don’t think is right, then don’t retweet it.

According to a study by the Pew Research Center, “fewer rely on or trust social media for political news than say the same of in-person discussions.” And, no country has a majority of participants say social media are very important

for learning about politics.

Ever since the Internet has been around, online hoaxes have always spread. Now granted, bots, algorithms and our current political state have caused it to disperse more, but there’s a couple things we can do to combat “fake news.”

Readers can use fact-checkers. There are dozen of fact-checking websites online; people have jobs to fact check information.

We can also vet their URLs and

follow the links to these sources to dig a little deeper. Sometimes the sources don’t even mean to be misinformation — it’s either satire, like The Onion, or remember *The War of the Worlds*?

We should also be skeptical of data and charts we see on these sites. Often, we assume data to be factual. Ask yourself, are the numbers feasible, are they relevant, is it the best way to get information?

It’s just important to think before you share or retweet news.

Plants: giving us food, medicine, shelter and music?

HALLIE LAUER
news editor

Almost every middle school science fair has the project where a student takes two plants and tries to see how different types of music affect its growth. But picture this instead: Rather than playing music for the plants, the vegetation itself creates the music.

Paul Miller, an assistant professor of musicianship at Duquesne, along with Brian Riordan from the University of Pittsburgh, have been studying ways in which the electrical charges from plants can be turned into music.

"To be clear, the plant is not making music," Miller said. "We're making the music, and the plants provide the raw materials."

Miller uses a synthesizer with a specially-designed interface to transform the small electrical signals from the plants into a level that can be used in music.

Synthesizers work by manipulating electrical voltages to produce a steady pitch that can then be turned into music. Miller helped to build the synthesizer at Duquesne about a year and a half ago. When he found this interface, he decided that it would be an interesting project to work with vegetation.

"The plants, in some way, are controlling the synthesizer," Miller said.

Miller explained that the majority of the time, signals used in the synthesizer are



Duquesne professor Paul Miller is making music with everyday houseplants.

PHOTO BY HALLIE LAUER

periodic, like a sine-wave, or random, like white noise. He said that the best sounds come from signals between periodic and random.

"The plant provides really good semi-random signals," he said.

Miller and Riordan have studied two common houseplants — a jade plant and a cornstalk plant. They attach sensors, similar to the ones used in a lie detector test, to the plants' leaves. This allows the synthesizer to collect the electrical charges and transform them into pitches that can then be translated into music.

Between the two they have studied, both

give off different electric signals. However, those signals are not unlike the electrical signals that the human body also gives off.

The jade plant tends to give a more stable signal, while the cornstalk plant has a more active range. But it also depends on the settings of the synthesizer if those changes can be picked up.

"I don't know that it's helped me to make really good music yet. I'm still working on it," Miller said. "I can, hopefully, in the next year or two make really great music."

The goal of this research is to find a new

way for composers and musicians to collaborate, as well as connecting classical music studies with new electronic music.

"This is reaching across a very wide gap. We talk about gender or wage gaps, but we other plants all the time," Miller said. "When we reach across the plant-animal divide, we are reminded of our place in the cosmos. It gives us a sense of time and a chance to collaborate with a partner that may outlive me."

The plants signal not only to themselves, but other plants as well. When listening to the synth, the listener can hear a change in the electrical charges as something comes near the plant or when the plant is touched.

While the plants cannot think or feel, they can perceive and react to changes in their environment.

"No one realized plants did this until Charles Darwin studied Venus Fly Traps," Miller said. It is the electrical signals that plants send that cause the Venus Fly Trap to close when an insect lands on it.

The next step for Miller and Riordan is to subject the plant to environmental changes, like different soil or burning a leaf on the plant to see what kind of voltage is produced.

"[Our] next stage is to find a cell biologist," Miller said. "And then we want to publish."

Miller and Riordan took their findings to the 2019 Society for Music Theorist annual conference in Columbus.

Duquesne study abroad program to New Delhi returns

JESSICA LINCOLN
staff writer

This year, the Center for Healthcare Ethics is once again offering a summer study abroad course in India. The three-week program, Research Ethics for Global Health, is set to begin on July 6 and will be based in New Delhi, with overnight excursions to Agra and Jaipur.

"In the course, students become aware of the global dimensions of healthcare, how global inequality in healthcare is maintained and what can be done about that within the area of health research,"

said Joris Gielen, the director of the Center for Healthcare Ethics. "The course focus is on India and what these global processes mean to healthcare, healthcare professionals and patients in India."

Students in the course will take classes at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, studying alongside local M.D. students in palliative medicine. They will also visit local hospitals, medical research centers and palliative care programs.

The course can be used to fulfill the Social Justice and Global Diversity theme

area requirements. An additional course, global bioethics, may also be taken in India at additional tuition cost, but it is not required. Global bioethics may also be used to fulfill the Global Diversity theme area requirement.

"The course may be of particular interest to students who are preparing for careers in healthcare or in health research, but is open to all students in the university including graduate students," according to the program's website.

A maximum of 11 students will be allowed to take the course, and they will be

admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. Last year's program admitted a group of five.

Gielen noted that the course may be of interest to any number of students, not just those pursuing careers in healthcare, as it will touch on Indian society, religion and philosophy.

In addition to interacting with local students and healthcare professionals, students will have multiple opportunities to immerse themselves in Indian culture. Sightseeing opportunities will include visits to Hindu temples, Muslim mosques, Sikh gurudwaras and ancient palaces, as well as a visit to the Taj Mahal.

"I feel there are a lot of stereotypes about India," Gielen said. "In my experience, when you go to India, you should try to leave preconceived notions behind, because these notions are often nothing but stereotypical representations that are more burdensome than helpful."

The course will ultimately cost three credits of tuition funds and a study abroad fee, with the tuition cost being applied to the cost of living in India. Students are responsible for the cost of a visitor visa, pocket money, vaccinations and a passport, if needed.

"On the world stage, India's star is rising," Gielen said.

"I will consider the course only successful if, by the end of the three weeks, students feel that they have discovered a country that in all its difference and diversity still feels welcoming and somewhat familiar."



COURTESY DUQUESNE STUDY ABROAD

Men’s basketball beats Fordham, 58-56, in overtime

JAMES LEO
staff writer

Heading into Wednesday’s game, the Dukes were 10th in the nation in opponent 3-point field goal percentage, at just over 27%. This didn’t seem to matter once the game tipped off on Wednesday night.

Duquesne pulled out a 58-56 win over the Fordham Rams on Wednesday Night at PPG Paints Arena, despite the Rams shooting 40% from beyond the arc.

Early on, the Dukes jumped out to a 18-9 lead, thanks in part to 12 quick points from sophomore Lamar Norman Jr.

Their defense was also disruptive. Duquesne entered Wednesday ranked sixth nationally in blocks, at 6.4 per game. Junior Michael Hughes was ranked seventh nationally in blocks, at 3.13 per game. He altered several shots early, and even blocked four.

However, Fordham quickly found their groove, making four of their first six 3-point attempts. So, despite shooting 36% from the field (7-14 from 3-point range) in the first half, the Rams were able to make up ground. By the end of the first half, they held a 30-27 lead.

The start of the second half featured more of the same. Duquesne played stellar defense, but Fordham’s 3-point shooting

kept them in the game. Norman Jr also continued his hot shooting, scoring Duquesne’s first six points of the half.

But, as the skies cleared outside, so too did they in the game. After Norman’s 3-pointer made it 36-33 with 17 minutes left, Duquesne and Fordham would go scoreless for the next six minutes, missing a combined 11 shots.

Fordham’s once stellar 3-point shooting had turned cold; they missed five of their first six 3-point attempts to start the half.

A dunk by Hughes with eleven minutes left in the game broke the cold streak, making it 36-35 Rams.

However, Hughes was whistled for a technical foul on the dunk (for hanging on the rim), and the ensuing free throws gave the Rams a 37-35 lead.

About a minute later, Hughes converted a timely 3-point play to give Duquesne their first lead of the second half.

From this point, the lead was as ever-changing as the possession arrow. They would trade the lead six times in a matter of five minutes. A Marcus Weathers 3-point play late in the half extended Duquesne’s lead to five.

It seemed as though Duquesne was pulling away — until they weren’t. A 3-pointer by Ty Perry brought the Rams within two (51-

49) with just over a minute left. Then, a jumper from Fordham’s Onyi Eyisi tied the game at 51 with 23 seconds left.

With a chance to take the lead, the Dukes turned the ball over with four seconds remaining. Thankfully, a Jalen Cobb miss at the buzzer sent the game into overtime.

The lead continued to flip-flop throughout overtime. A layup from Baylee Steele with a minute to play put Duquesne up 56-53.

Then, with 40 seconds left, Perry tied the game at 56 with a highly-contested 3-pointer. After a Fordham foul, Baylee Steele made one of two free throws to give Duquesne a slim lead.

The Rams, with a chance to take the lead late, turned the ball over. An intentional foul put Sincere Carry on the line; he would make one of two. Fordham’s last-second heave was no good, and Duquesne left with a win.

This game may seem familiar to avid fans of Duquesne. Last year, Duquesne lost a sloppy game to another A-10 opponent, St. Bonaventure. In that contest, both teams struggled to get going, just like in Wednesday’s contest.

Despite the close finish, coach Keith Dambrot was not disappointed with his team’s performance.

“At the end of the day, a win’s a win’s a win,” he said. “It doesn’t matter how you win at the end of the year; nobody cares about that.”

Weathers was just as enthusiastic about his team’s performance. “We weren’t concerned at half-time, and neither was Dambrot,” Weathers said.

“He didn’t yell at us, he just gathered us up and encouraged us. Even though we knew it wasn’t our best performance, he kept us in check.”

Looking ahead, the Dukes have a short road-trip ahead; they travel to Rhode Island on Jan. 22, and



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Tavian Dunn-Martin (left), Mike Hughes (behind), and Maceo Austin (right) celebrate on Duquesne’s bench during a game earlier this season.

then to Massachusetts on the 25. These games can be streamed on ESPN+.

After that, Duquesne arguably faces their toughest competitor yet: Dayton.

Ranked No. 13 nationally, Dayton will come to PPG Paints Arena on January 29. Duquesne will look to show how far they have come this season, by (hopefully) defeating their fellow A-10 rival.



COURTESY OF THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL
URI’s Fatts Russell puts up a shot on Wednesday night against SJU. The Dukes face Russell and the Rams next.

Upcoming Events

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

- **Jan. 17, TBA**
Women’s Track and Field at Youngstown Invntional
- **Jan. 18, noon**
Women’s Basketball at Saint Joseph’s
- **Jan. 18, 1 p.m.**
Women’s Swimming and Diving vs. Saint Francis U (Towers Pool)
- **Jan. 22, 7 p.m.**
Women’s Basketball vs George Mason
- **Jan. 22, 7 p.m.**
Men’s Basketball vs. Rhode Island
- **Jan. 24, 11 a.m.**
Women’s Swimming and Diving at Western PA Invite
- **Jan. 25, 2 p.m.**
Men’s Basketball vs UMass
- **Jan. 22, 7 p.m.**
Men’s Basketball vs. Rhode Island
- **Jan. 25, p.m.**
Men’s Basketball vs UMass
- **Jan. 25, 4 p.m.**
Women’s Tennis vs. Mount St. Mary’s
- **Jan. 25, 4 p.m.**
Men’s Tennis vs. Mount St. Mary’s
- **Jan. 26, 6 p.m.**
Women’s Basketball vs. Saint Louis

Men’s Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Duquesne	5-0	15-2	W5	1/22 at Rhode Island
2.	No. 13 Dayton	4-0	15-2	W6	1/17 at Saint Louis
3.	St. Bonaventure	4-0	12-5	W4	1/18 at VCU
4.	Saint Louis	3-1	14-3	W3	1/17 vs. Dayton
5.	Richmond	3-1	13-4	W1	1/18 at George Mason
6.	Rhode Island	2-1	10-5	W2	1/18 vs. La Salle
7.	VCU	2-2	12-5	L2	1/18 vs. VCU
8.	G. Washington	1-3	7-10	W2	1/18 at UMass
9.	George Mason	1-3	12-5	L1	1/18 vs. Richmond
10.	UMass	1-3	7-10	L2	1/18 vs. G. Washington
11.	La Salle	1-3	10-6	L2	1/18 at Rhode Island
12.	Davidson	1-3	7-9	L1	1/22 vs. Saint Louis
13.	Fordham	0-4	6-10	L4	1/19 vs. Davidson
14.	Saint Joseph’s	0-4	3-13	L4	1/18 vs. Penn

Women’s Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Dayton	4-0	11-7	W6	1/19 vs. Saint Louis
2.	UMass	3-0	13-3	W10	1/19 at Rhode Island
3.	Davidson	3-0	11-6	W4	1/18 vs. G. Washington
4.	VCU	3-0	8-8	W3	1/17 vs. Richmond
5.	Fordham	2-1	10-6	W1	1/19 at George Mason
6.	Rhode Island	2-2	9-7	W1	1/19 vs. UMass
7.	Saint Louis	1-2	9-7	L1	1/15 vs. St. Bonaventure
8.	G. Washington	1-2	7-9	L1	1/18 at Davidson
9.	George Mason	1-2	7-10	L3	1/19 vs. Fordham
10.	St. Bonaventure	1-2	4-12	W1	1/15 vs. Saint Louis
11.	Duquesne	1-3	11-6	L1	1/18 at Saint Joseph’s
12.	Saint Joseph’s	1-3	7-9	L3	1/18 vs. Duquesne
13.	Richmond	0-3	7-10	L3	1/17 at VCU
14.	La Salle	0-3	6-10	L9	1/19 vs. St. Bonaventure

Uneventful winter suggests another disappointing summer for Pirates

DOM FERRO
staff writer

Major changes were made in the Pirates clubhouse immediately after their disappointing conclusion to the 2019 season. The Pirates that we last saw in late September may look much different come Opening Day in the Spring.

Just days prior to their final game of the season, it was confirmed by the Pirates organization that longtime manager Clint

Card won against the Cincinnati Reds and was also awarded NL Manager of the Year that season.

Although Hurdle had managed to find success early in the decade, the team had a slight collapse after 2015. From 2015 to 2019 they had one winning season, and it was only three games above .500.

After four straight seasons of disappointment, all eyes were on owner Bob Nutting. Many were calling for him to sell the team or fire some high ranking employees within the organization.

Nutting was forced to make a change in the weeks following Hurdle's departure. He fired both general manager Neil Huntington and team president Frank Coonelly.

Unfortunately for Neil Huntington, he was only given a certain amount of money to allocate to players. Did the Pirates' problems lie with his questionable signings and trades?

Those definitely played a part in the decline of the Pirates, but with one of the lowest payrolls year after year, it is hard to compete with teams like the Yankees or Dodgers who have all the resources available to them.

Huntington's position was filled a few weeks later by Ben Cherington, the former Red Sox general manager.

"This is an important step forward for our organization," Nutting said in a press release. "Ben has an incredible track record of success, having been a part of three World Championship teams in Boston, one as general manager, and setting the table for a fourth. His passion and ability to identify, infuse and develop talent at every level, including at the Major League level, is exactly what we need to be successful in Pittsburgh."

Nutting also hired former Penguins employee Travis Williams as president. This move was the most obvious of the bunch. Williams is a perfect fit for the team, as he knows about how much pride Pittsburgh has for its teams and additionally brings decades of experience in sports management

for the team.

Lastly, the person to take the position of field manager is Derek Shelton. Shelton brings a complete different energy to the team. He is much younger than Hurdle, and is given his first shot at managing a major league team in 2020.

He has spent the last two decades coaching several teams, most recently as bench coach for the Minnesota Twins.

Following the Pirates last place finish in the NL Central last season, the pressure for the team to succeed is at an all time high.

After giving fans the thrill and joy of baseball being played in Pittsburgh in October, it has been heartbreaking for fans to see them resort back to their below average play seen in the 2000s.

This is not a time for the Pirates to stand still and see what happens with this current roster. They must make moves in the offseason before it is too late and the 2020 season becomes a train wreck.

With the loss of their ace Jameson Taillon, the Pirates pitching staff is weak. To go along with the abysmal rotation, there isn't yet a solid option at catcher.

After choosing to not bring back Elias Diaz, who appeared in 101 games for Pittsburgh last season, the Pirates seem content to use Jacob Stallings as their starter behind the plate.

Stallings primarily served as Diaz's backup in 2018, and has only played in 95 big league games since getting the call to the show in 2016.

As for the rest of the lineup, Bryan Reynolds and Josh Bell could be some of the only stars on the team this year. Starling Marte publicly made comments about his future with the Pirates in November.

Translated from Spanish, Marte said, "They [the Pirates] have the power to decide about my future. If it was for me I will leave for a team that is ready to compete right now on a World Series and that's not our case."

The usual narrative of the Pirates being conservative and not spending money on

star players must change if they want to compete with the other teams in the NL Central, let alone the MLB.

Pirates fans shouldn't expect a playoff appearance in the upcoming season. This team is in serious rebuild mode and they're just getting started. They're one of the only clubs who have yet to spend money on free agency this winter.

Best case scenario this season is fixing the toxic environment in the clubhouse and let the players and fans know that this team is serious about competing for a World Series title in the next few years.

If the new updated clubhouse is a disaster, Nutting should consider selling the team to someone more competent and be willing to spend more money on the payroll. Many fans would do anything to just see "Buctober" one more time.

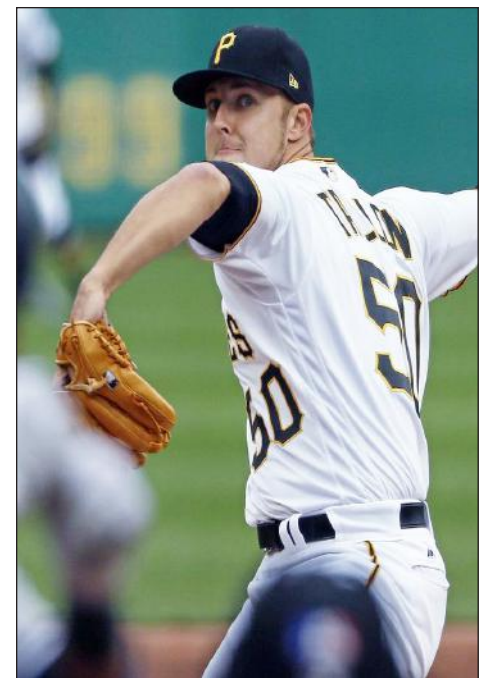


VICTOR DECOLONGON / GETTY IMAGES
Pirates' outfielder Bryan Reynolds is congratulated by his teammates in the dugout. Reynolds finished the 2018 season with 154 hits.

Hurdle would be back for the 2020 season. However, following the 3-1 loss in the final game to the Cincinnati Reds, it was announced that Hurdle and the Pirates had decided to part ways after nine seasons together. His tenure included three straight playoff berths from 2013 to 2015.

Hurdle has been one of the most successful managers for the club in the past several decades.

In 2013, Hurdle led the Pirates to their first winning season and playoff appearance since 1992. Hurdle led the Bucs to a Wild



AP PHOTO
The Pirates will be without Jameson Taillon, the ace of their staff, in 2020. Taillon had his second Tommy John surgery in late August and will miss the entirety of the 2020 season. In seven games in 2019, Taillon recorded a 4.10 ERA.

Basketball teams doing their job, students need to show support

DAVID BORNE
sports editor

Through the first half of the 2019-20 college basketball slate, Duquesne fans have had plenty to cheer about.

Coach Dan Burt and the women's team are piecing together yet another strong year and hold an 11-6 record to start the season. While the women's team has gotten off to a 1-3 start in Atlantic 10 action, their strong showing during their non conference games proved that they can hang with any team out there.

As for the men's basketball squad, the Dukes are off to their best start since the early 1970's. Coach Dambrot's group currently stands at the top of the A-10 leader board with a 5-0 record to kick off conference play.

Both teams have made it very clear that they can make some serious noise this season. Slowly but surely, Duquesne is creeping back into national basketball relevance.

While on-court results are improving dramatically, one thing has remained disappointing: Student attendance at games.

Of course, it's been a bit more difficult for students to get to games this season than usual. "Home" games were scattered all throughout the Pittsburgh area, with the Dukes taking the floor at PPG Paints Arena, La Roche College and the UPMC Events Center at Robert Morris.

Still, students should make an effort to get out and support both teams.

I know that the average student spends a good amount of time working on coursework and doing other class-related things. Between classes, homework and other working commitments, free time can be a bit limited.

But that doesn't stop thousands of other students at schools across the country from showing up to basketball games and other sporting events. Despite all of their schoolwork, they somehow manage to find a way to get to the games.

College basketball games are supposed to

be an event. They are a way for both students and alumni to rally around their school and



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Duquesne's student sections cheering on the Dukes during the 2018 City Game on Nov. 31, 2018 at PPG Paints Arena.

have a good time.

A packed college basketball venue with a rowdy student section making a deafening amount of noise creates arguably the best environment in sports. It's time that the students pitch in and help bring that kind of atmosphere to the Bluff.

The basketball teams are winning. Tickets are free. A good number of games are played at the gorgeous arena that is less than half a mile away from campus. For the games that aren't across the street, the university even provides transportation to help students get there.

There aren't many more excuses and reasons for students not to go.

Duquesne students, get to a basketball game. Put the books down for a few hours. Show up to the house party, bar or wherever else you're headed on a Saturday night a bit later than you usually would.

Support your classmates, have a good time and help put Duquesne back on the national map.

Mac Miller's family announces new album *Circles*

JESSICA FORTUNATO

staff writer

On Jan. 8, the family of deceased Pittsburgh rap artist/producer Mac Miller announced via Instagram that Miller's album, *Circles*, will be released on Jan. 17.

Miller was found dead in September 2018 due to an accidental drug overdose of fentanyl, cocaine and alcohol. The Instagram post was the first report that Miller's career would continue.

Circles was described by the family as a companion to *Swimming*, Miller's 2018 critically acclaimed album that earned a Grammy nomination. The unification of the two albums creates the concept of "swimming in circles."

Miller's family said that record producer and composer, Jon Brion, was a major contributor to the completion of *Circles*. Brion finished the album with Miller's vision in mind.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Brion dedicated himself to finishing *Circles* based on his time and conversations with Miller.

"*Swimming*, though lush and



COURTESY WARNER RECORDS, FROM @MACMILLER ON INSTAGRAM

This photo, posted on Instagram by Miller's family, will serve as the cover of *Circles*.

handsomely performed, was still grounded in Miller's hip-hop roots. So if *Circles* indeed draws more heavily from Brion's talents, it will be a fascinating companion piece in Miller's

catalog, and maybe one that puts his live musicianship and arranging skills front and center," the Los Angeles Times wrote.

The first single from *Circles*, "Good

News," was released with a music video on Jan. 10. It has accumulated more than 8 million views and 40,000 comments from fans.

The song sparked contrasting reviews between fans and critics.

"'Good News' is spiritually in stride with *Swimming*, with a quiet optimism that pierces through the darkness ... Compared to the lo-fi raps and self-production on so much of his best music, it's a little underwhelming," Pitchfork newsletter wrote.

Fans seemed to have disagreed, voting Miller's "Good News" as the most beloved track of this week on Billboard magazine, with the single receiving 86% of the overall vote.

XXL magazine featured the track listing for *Circles* on its Twitter account, and Rolling Stone magazine also promoted the recently released single through social media.

Miller's family started a new Instagram page, @92tilinfinity, to spread information on the new album. The page features artwork by fans, friends and family, as well as pictures of Miller.

The cover art to Miller's first posthumous album was also released in the post.

Week's Events

Student Organization Expo
Jan. 21-24 @ 11 a.m.

Meet members of Duquesne's many student organizations and find out how to get involved in the second floor of the Student Union.

Encore Show Choir Auditions
Jan. 21 @ 5 p.m.

Those interested in the Encore Show Choir can prepare 16-32 bars of a song to audition a capella in room 119 in the Student Union.

upcoming releases

Bad Boys for Life
Friday, Jan. 17

The first new film in the *Bad Boys* series since 2003's *Bad Boys II*, this film sees the return of Will Smith and Martin Lawrence as their characters are caught in one last mission before they retire.

Circles
Mac Miller
Friday, Jan. 17

The late Pittsburgh rap legend's family is releasing his first posthumous album.

HOROSCOPES

Capricorn
(December 22-January 19)

New semester, new you! Spend the rest of your year in a disguise.

Aquarius
(January 20-February 18)

Aquarius, the ocean calls you. Buy a boat and embrace the open sea.

Pisces
(February 19-March 20)

Well Pisces, 2020's shot, but there's always next year.

Aries
(March 21-April 19)

Pick up the phone.

Call your mom.

Ask her if her refrigerator is running.

Taurus
(April 20-May 20)

It's National Fig Newton day! Turn the lights off, put your phone on airplane mode, and tear into a pack of America's cookie!

Gemini
(May 21-June 20)

Three cheers for you, Gemini!

HOO-AH! HOO-AH!
HOOO-AAAAAH!

Cancer
(June 21-July 22)

Your fiancée does NOT want the Monroeville Mall Hot Topic on your wedding registry.

Leo
(July 23-August 22)

Life is Road Runner, Leo, and you're Wile E. Coyote.

Virgo
(August 23-September 22)

Virgo, I just saw the most beautiful thing...

The girl reading this.

Libra
(September 23-October 22)

LIBRA, HOW DO I TURN OFF CAPS LOCK?

Scorpio
(October 23-November 22)

Scorpio, your Neopet is definitely dead by now.

Sagittarius
(November 23-December 22)

Sagittarius, we can't keep our love a secret anymore. I'm just gonna blurt it out. WE LOVE SPIDER-MAN!

Micro review

"You should be sad"
Halsey

At midnight on Thursday, Jan. 9, Halsey released another new single, "You should be sad," and I am obsessed with it. My poor roommate has had to hear it on repeat since the song dropped. The tune is reminiscent of a classic country song — the beginning sounds eerily similar to Dolly Parton's "Jolene." Aside from the beat, the lyrics are just absolutely amazing and bring the listener into a new era of Halsey. Her third album, *Manic*, drops this weekend, and I can't wait to see where this takes listeners.

- Hallie Lauer

Doctor Who season boasts culturally relevant themes

OLLIE GRATZINGER
editor-in-chief

Climate change, evil corporate execs and rumors of governmental corruption — it could be your Twitter feed, or it could be Season 12 of *Doctor Who*.

Jodie Whittaker resumes her role as the approachable yet enigmatic thirteenth Doctor, who, along with her titular trio of companions, travels through space and time saving world after world from threat after threat. But in the Jan. 12 premiere of the season's third episode, "Orphan 55," the Doctor trades in conventional alien villains like Daleks or Cybermen to tackle a much more realistic danger: climate change.

"Orphan 55" finds the Doctor and companions Yaz (Mandip Gill), Graham (Bradley Walsh) and Ryan (Tosin Cole) at a seemingly idyllic resort called Tranquility Spa, but beyond the safety of the vacation spot is a world made barren by nuclear winter. The only thing that can live on the other side of the spa's ionic shield is a species long-mutated from the effects of a climate that changed rapidly, partially due to war and partially due to the many environmental red flags ignored by its original inhabitants.

The episode had aired on a day with record-high temperatures around the U.S., while thousands of miles away, Australia burned. The message was a



COURTESY OF BBC STUDIOS

Pictured, L to R: Ryan (Tosin Cole), The Doctor (Jodie Whittaker), Yaz (Mandip Gill) and Bella (Gia Ré).

hard one to miss.

And it was brilliant. But a lot of people didn't really think so.

Some fans have been hypercritical of the Thirteenth Doctor from the start of her era in 2018, many of whom feared the character's first female incarnation was an act of pandering to a new, "politically correct" audience. To these fans, politically-charged episodes feel like, at best, a deviation from the action-packed, gunfire-and-explosion plots of eras

past — primarily the mid 2000s and early 2010s — and a betrayal of the show's rich history at worst. But they couldn't be more wrong.

Science fiction has never really been about fast-paced action sequences; sci-fi has traditionally been the genre that warned of man-made dystopias, reflected on the deepest faults of humanity and showed us how low we could sink if we weren't careful, or how high we could go if we were. The era of Whittaker's Doctor

has marked a return to these roots, bringing the focus back to the way our decisions shape and influence our collective futures — for better or for worse.

Consider, for example, George Orwell's *1984*, published in the late 1940s. It told of a future wracked by perpetual war. Phillip K. Dick's *The Man in the High Castle* (1962) warns of the dangers of nationalism, Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* (1953) depicts a society entrapped by state-enforced censorship and Frank Herbert's *Dune* (1965) dealt with humanity's relationship to ecology long before climate science was a pop-culture buzzword.

Doctor Who itself has a long history of political themes, too, even in its earlier years; the second serial of the series featured the First Doctor (William Hartnell) stranded on a planet facing radiation sickness. At the time of its original broadcast in 1963, the world was right in the middle of the Cold War. Only the threat of mutually-assured destruction kept the world from becoming much like the one viewers saw on the screen (without the aliens, of course).

The Third Doctor was written into existence in the 1970s — a period that revamped social consciousness — and his episodes reflected this in great detail. "Inferno" (1970) brought up environmentalism and the destruction of resources as a corrupt

professor attempts to drill into the Earth, despite the Doctor's warnings. "The Green Death" advocated largely for vegetarianism in 1973, and "The Monster of Peladon" (1974) features feminist themes as well as a direct allusion to the 1972 miner's strike.

The stories we tell are direct representations of the world we live in, and right now, our world is a little bit uncertain. Whittaker's Doctor is a brilliant character, brilliantly played, and her stories, though more political and less explosive than those of some of her previous modern-era incarnations, say something important about the way we're experiencing existence.

"Orphan 55" shows us the scientific side of science fiction; our world could end if we don't care for it. That's barely a political statement; it's just a fact.

But all isn't lost; in the final minutes of "Orphan 55," the Doctor gives a monologue that rings true.

"The future is not fixed. It depends on billions of decisions and actions, and people stepping up," she said. "Humans — I think you forget how powerful you are. Lives change worlds. People can save planets or wreck them. That's the choice. Be the best of humanity."

Science fiction inspired the invention of cell phones, robots, earbuds, submarines and atomic power. Maybe it can also inspire activism — before it's too late.

Oscar nominees rife with strange choices and poor diversity

GRIFFIN SENDEK
photography editor

Award season is upon us once again, meaning it is the annual time of the year when everyone bickers over who among the most famous movie stars and entertainers do and don't win little gold statues.

The Oscars, as of the last few years, have yet to fail to be the dumbest and most controversy-filled of all the award shows, but it is impossible to deny that they are given the most importance.

The announcement of Oscar nominations have become an event within itself, almost as exciting as the actual award night. The Academy graced us with the long awaited list of nominees on Monday Jan. 13.

A lot of this year's decisions followed predicted expectations — despite your opinion on the films, I doubt anyone was surprised to see Tarantino's *Once Upon A Time...In Hollywood* and Scorsese's *The Irishman* popping up in the Best Picture category. However the 2020 Oscars are not without its share of surprises or questionable choices from the Academy.

Joker, a film that was no stranger to controversy and discourse in the latter half of 2019, came careening back into the public sphere when it was announced Monday

that the Todd Phillips film had been nominated not only for best picture but 10 other award categories as well.

Yes, you heard that right; 2019's *Joker* has been nominated for 11 Oscars. Earning more nominations of any other film, just ahead of *Once Upon A Time...In Hollywood*, *The Irishman* and *1917*.

Another unfortunate, yet completely unsurprising reality of this year's Oscars is the continued trend of a lack of women and people of color nominated for awards.

Greta Gerwig, the director *Little Women* was expected to earn a best directing nomination, only for her name to be noticeably absent. For Best Director, the Academy has nominated entirely men for the second consecutive year. Although this is not surprising knowing that within the Academy awards 92-year history, only five women have ever won for Best Director.

Among the 20 actors and actresses nominated Cynthia Erivo, for the role of Harriet Tubman in *Harriet*, is the only person of color.

Of course not every film and every actor can be nominated, that's what makes these award shows special, but every year there are a handful of names and titles that get completely snubbed.

Lupita Nyong'o, for her role in *Us*, seemed to be a sure shot for a nomination



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Joaquin Phoenix as Arthur Fleck in *Joker*, which swept 11 Academy Award nominations.

but, she didn't receive one.

The Farewell by dir. Lulu Wang and the rest of A24 releases, *Midsommar*, *Uncut Gems* and *The Last Black Man in San*

Francisco are nowhere to be seen at this year's Oscars.

The winners and losers of the 2020 Oscars will be announced Feb. 9, at 8 p.m. on ABC.

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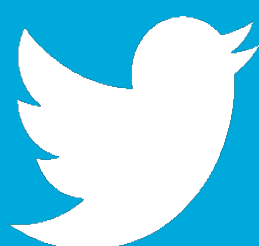


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This Week's Weather


Thursday

39°  Mainly cloudy;
windy, cold


Friday

31°  Partly sunny


Saturday

46°  A little
icy mix;
up to 1 inch

Sunday

26°  Much colder
with snow
showers


Monday

26°  Low clouds
may break;
cold

Tuesday

21°  Cold with
clouds and
sun

Wednesday

34°  Mostly sunny
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as cold

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Continued from A2.



COURTESY OF BBC STUDIOS

**Peaky Blinders
Season 5
Television**

Hallie Lauer, News Editor

I am a sucker for gangsters. Season 5 of *Peaky Blinders* came out this past year, and I watched it in a day and a half. Tommy Shelby is the ultimate boss, somehow always three steps ahead of both his enemies and his family. The fact that I have to wait until 2021 for Season 6 is a tragedy.

**Anima Mysterium
Yugen Blakrok
Album**

Sean Armstrong, Staff Writer

Without listening to this album, the best way to understand how *Anima Mysterium* sounds is to look at the cover: a cloud of blue smoke enveloping a desert cracked floor. For that to make sense, listening is required. Think of any sort of dystopian ecological circumstance and then think of the history of Apartheid in South Africa. These themes are present both lyrically and sonically. One song, “Hydra,” has a horn that almost sounds like some sort of siren as the melody. Still, the best part of the album is how Yugen Blakrok threads her rhymes together to create a rich tapestry of storytelling that is as open to interpretation as it is suggestive of a need for massive systemic change. Yugen depicts the changes needed to help people as so small in practice, yet so large in their impact. In figuratively advocating for societal change, *Anima Mysterium* is like a science fiction novel boiled down into a



COURTESY OF CYLID SARL DBA I.O.T RECORDS

52-minute manifesto. There has never been an album quite like this.

**The Umbrella Academy
Season 1
Television Series**

Ollie Gratzinger, Editor-in-Chief

Based on the 2008 graphic novel by Gerard Way and Gabriel Bá, Netflix’s *The Umbrella Academy* creates an elaborate world on the verge of collapse. It’s a story about an estranged family of superhero siblings who



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

no longer want to be heroes at all, but are forced to reunite at their childhood estate when their adoptive father, the wealthy-albeit-unloving Sir Reginald Hargreeves, mysteriously dies.

Ultimately, *The Umbrella Academy* deals with trauma and the ripple effect it has on all the lives it touches. Its themes and motifs can be dark — Klaus (Robert Sheehan) abuses drugs

to subdue his superhero powers and counter the effects of PTSD, while long-term isolation has turned Five (Aidan Gallagher) into an emotionally cold old soul prone to delusions. But when the siblings put aside the things that made them different, they realize the healing power of family. The hard part is over; now, they just have to save the world.

The graphic novel was good, but it lacked certain elements that could’ve made it great. Netflix takes what was already a firm foundation and builds upon it, creating characters with depth and plots with twists that are sure to have you on the edge of your seat.

**Knives Out
Film**

Griffin Sendek, Photo Editor

Knives Out, written and directed by Rian Johnson, is one of the most fun films of the

year. Wearing the influence on its sleeve, *Knives Out* takes heavy inspiration from classic Agatha Christie-style mysteries. However the film takes the opportunity to play around with the conventions of the genre, creating something refreshingly new with a hint of familiarity. Aided by an excellent star-studded cast, including the likes of Daniel Craig, Jamie Lee Curtis, Michael Shannon, *Knives Out* not only entertaining but wonderfully acted mystery. A must see.

**Parasite
Film**

Griffin Sendek, Photo Editor

Parasite from the excellent director Bong Joon Ho is my movie of the year. A story of a poor south Korean family grifting and swindling their way into the lives of an affluent family is a



COURTESY OF BARUNSON E&A

fun ride that takes a dark and completely unexpected turn. Almost any other filmmaker attempting to turn a film on its head like *Parasite* does would end in an only-for-shock-value disaster. Bong Joon Ho crafts the twist into the story so expertly that your eyes stay glued to the screen. *Parasite* finds beauty in its simplicity, showing that good filmmaking doesn’t require hundred million dollar budgets. Don’t let the subtitles scare you away — *Parasite* is a masterful piece of cinema that should not be missed.

**Fine Line
Harry Styles
Album**

Hannah Boucher, Staff Writer

Fine Line, Harry Styles’s second solo album in his career, made an impression at the tail-end of the year. Debuting at number one on the Billboard 200 chart, his sophomore album even managed to earn the title of the third highest grossing album of

the year with only three weeks left in 2019.

Each song is unique, while also allowing listeners to peek into his own life. The song “Cherry” even features a personal voicemail from Styles’s ex-girlfriend, Camille Rowe, from when they were still romantically involved. It adds intimacy to the song and provides some context to the song lyrics. A sweet touch that makes the song just that more enjoyable: it is my personal favorite on the album.

Like “Cherry,” many of Styles’s songs touch a chord when listened to. “To Be So Lonely,” another more relaxed song, has interesting instrumentals that really catch your attention.

Unlike many of the popular albums of today, *Fine Line* consists of authentic accompaniment tracks which makes listening much more enjoyable. The songs definitely take inspiration from the styles of songs from the late 60s. A wonderful mix of upbeat and emotional songs, *Fine Line* is a great listen for anyone.



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS

WORST of 2019 A4

These are our staff's picks for the worst in entertainment for 2019.



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE! A MUSICAL PARODY

The Office! A Musical Parody **Musical Theatre** **Griffin Sendek, Photo Editor**

The Office! A Musical Parody tour at the Byham was by far the worst piece of theater I saw in the entirety of 2019. Going in, I was not anticipating to be utterly enamoured, but I was hopeful for at the very least for a night of a few laughs. My expectations were absolutely too high. *The Office! A Musical Parody*, was written for those whose lives cycle around watching and endlessly re-watching *The Office*. Rather than being a celebration of what the show was, this musical decided to cram the entire nine seasons of television into a two-hour performance, a poor choice that resulted in a ruthlessly unfunny piece of theater.

No. 6 Collaborations Project **Ed Sheeran** **Album** **Katia Faroun, Staff Writer**

While Ed Sheeran certainly makes his music difficult to complain about, let alone be called some of the worst of the year, I would say that his July release of *No.6 Collaborations Project* was more a disappointment than anything else. Fans of his humble and raw tone that centers around his guitar, loop pedal and voice surely opposed the record's heavy incorporation of Top-40-friendly beats and tracks. While the collaboration with various pop artists allowed Sheeran to expand his fanbase by reaching those of vocalists such as Cardi B, Justin Bieber and Camila Cabello, this



COURTESY OF CYLID SARL DBA I.O.T RECORDS

so odd. I couldn't handle the characters and how they relate to each other. Somehow it got approved for a second season, but I wouldn't recommend it.

The Big Day **Chance the Rapper** **Album** **Sean Armstrong, Staff Writer**

Chance the Rapper released some good songs in 2019 — like his guest verses on “LSD” by Jamila Woods, but his album *The Big Day* was a big flop. It lacked direction, it was pandering to what Chance thought his fans wanted, but it lacked vision. The tracks sound forced together and the promotion he did with Lyft on the release weekend of the album was in bad taste. I respect Chance for creating the blueprint for new revenue avenues so artists can support themselves, but I cannot support whatever the concept was for this album.

The album was pure and utter garbage. His tracks were technically well produced and

I could only watch one episode of this show. I was under the

The Politician **Season 1** **Television Series** **Hallie Lauer, News Editor**



COURTESY OF CHANCE THE RAPPER

impression it was about a political race for the presidency, which it sort of is — if you're talking about the high school class president. One of the many reasons I was confused about this is because Ben Platt plays the main character. Platt looks young, but he's 26 and definitely looks 26, not 17. It is also just

sounded fine, but it lacked the emotion that has made Chance popular throughout his career. Chance was clearly capable of creating something better, but for some reason, he just didn't produce on *The Big Day*. Maybe the Chicago rapper should focus more on the art and less on the promotion in the future now that he has a name for himself.

Antrum **Film** **Joseph Phillippi, Staff Writer**

This was one of the most disappointing movies I have ever seen, and no, that is not an exaggeration. My disappointment mainly stems from the hype that surrounded this film prior to its release. The tagline for the film was, “the deadliest



COURTESY OF UNCORK'D ENTERTAINMENT

movie ever made,” and there were promotional videos in a documentary style surrounding the film and its fictional history. No snippets of the film were shown at anytime during these documentary style trailers in a clever method of building hype. The issue therein lies from its inability to deliver on hype. When a movie claims to be the “deadliest film ever made,” I would hope that it could deliver on that, at least marginally, and it barely did. There was exactly one scene that actually creeped me out somewhat, and that feeling decided to run for the hills to never return for the duration of the movie.

The movie feels as though it was holding back in terms of its ability to do something meaningful to the characters. The advertisement and premise of this movie are absolutely genius and it fails to deliver on being any amount of horrifying or meaningful. The two leads never elicit any emotion from me despite the hardship they go through, nor does the movie itself. I legitimately, could

not bring myself to care at any point, and when you make a horror movie, I feel as though that is a crucial step. *Antrum* is an absolute disappointment, and I would not recommend it.

Baby, It's Cold Outside **John Legend, Kelly Clarkson** **Song** **Kellen Stepler, Features Editor**

Christmas time brings gifts, friends and reviewing the so-called controversial song “Baby, It's Cold Outside.” Whether you think the original is creepy or not, one thing we can all agree on is that we did not need an updated, “woke” version by John Legend and Kelly Clarkson. Don't get me wrong, I like John and Kelly and think they are very talented artists, but this song just missed the mark in so many ways. Especially when Kelly sings about getting another drink, and John responds with the lyrics, “It's your body and your choice.” If you were going to change the lyrics that much, just create a new song.



COURTESY OF NBC