



## Chuckle up: Comedy Club holds first event



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

Sam Espirtu (far right), a senior music therapy major, performed at the Duquesne Comedy Club's event in the NiteSpot. Troy Smajda (standing middle) is the president of the Duquesne Comedy Club. This is their first event of the semester, with plans to hold one every month.

## DU hosts workshops to help future entrepreneurs

RIVER CHAPDELAINE  
staff writer

Duquesne's Small Business Development Center, more commonly known as SBDC, started its 2020 business workshops in early January. They are being hosted at Rockwell Hall Room 108 for anyone who is interested in starting up their own business and is curious to see what's needed in becoming an entrepreneur.

SBDC is a non-profit organization that is federally funded by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and, at the state level, by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic

*see SBDC — page 2*

## Duquesne student helps Puerto Rican relief efforts

JESSICA LINCOLN  
staff writer

Ericka Correa was at home for Christmas break when, on Dec. 28, her mother called her attention to a story that had just broken on the Spanish-language news channels: a magnitude 4.7 earthquake had struck near the southern coast of Puerto Rico, where most of Correa's family lived.

Now, as more quakes continue to hit the island, Correa has partnered with the Office of Residence Life and the Puerto Rican Student Association to set up a fundraiser for those affected.

"I think it's really important to start a fundraiser now because



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the population of Puerto Rican citizens at Duquesne is growing extensively, and I think it's important not only for us, the Puerto Rican community here at Duquesne, to give back to our community on the island, but I think it's important to spread awareness of what's happening," Correa said.

Since the end of December, Puerto Rico has been struck by more than 2,000 quakes large enough to be felt, according to the National Earthquake Information Center, all of which had epicenters near the southwestern part of the island. Of those, 30 had magnitudes over 4.5,

*see AID — page 2*

### Follow us on...



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#### opinions

The dark side of organ donation

The international black market of organs thrives

PAGE 4

#### features

Drum major for justice

Woodruff duo recognized at MLK Breakfast

PAGE 6

#### sports

Michael Hughes is on a tear

Dukes' center one of nation's best blockers

PAGE 7

#### a & e

*An Elephant in the Garden*

One-woman show explores World War II family

PAGE 10



## POLICE BRIEFS

It's been rather chilly up on the bluff, so it seems the criminals have been hiding indoors.

On Jan. 19, a student was found to be intoxicated near Towers LLC. An acquaintance of that student was denied from returning to campus.

On Jan. 19, Duquesne University dispatch received a call for an intoxicated male in the School of Music. Duquesne police officers arrived on the scene and contacted the non-affiliated male. He was then escorted from the building and taken to the Public Safety Building. A non-traffic citation was issued for disorderly conduct.

On Jan. 21, a Duquesne student in St. Martin Hall was found to be in possession of marijuana paraphernalia. They were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

## JOKE CORNER!

**Q: What do you call a fish without eyes?**  
**A: FSH**

**Q: How do poets say hello?**  
**A: Hey, haven't we metaphor?**

**Q: What do you call a pig that does karate?**  
**A: a pork chop**

**Q: If you walk into a forest and cut down a tree, but the tree doesn't understand why you cut it down ... is it stumped?**

## JOIN THE DUKE!

If you're interested, email [thedukeduq@gmail.com](mailto:thedukeduq@gmail.com) or stop by our newsroom located in the basement of College Hall (Room 113).

## 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 [hallielauer18@gmail.com](mailto:hallielauer18@gmail.com)

## Students collect donations for earthquake victims

*AID—from page 1*

meaning they were capable of causing considerable to severe damage. Most recently, three quakes registering around 4.5 occurred on Jan. 20.

The island has been in continuous recovery since Hurricane Maria made landfall there in 2017. Ricardo Rossello, the governor of Puerto Rico at the time, estimated in 2018 that the hurricane had killed 2,975 people and caused \$90 billion in damage.

"Some believe the island's plights have been forgotten about and that they have been left to recover on their own," according to Charity Navigator, a nonprofit evaluation organization.

To help, Correa initially planned to set up a donation box in Des Places, where she works as an RA. However, resident directors from other buildings soon expressed their support, and the project became a campus-wide initiative. Camila Arieiro, the president of the Puerto Rican Student Association, also reached out to collaborate on the project.

Now, anyone at Duquesne can drop off items at Des Places or donate via the project's GoFundMe page. Funds raised on

the page will be used to purchase more items to donate to the citizens of Puerto Rico, as well as covering shipping costs, according to Correa.

"Puerto Rico is going through something very, very terrible, and I would like [Duquesne students] to spread awareness and do some research," Correa said. "Donate. Anything really helps. A lot of people are in need."

For Correa, the recent swarm of earthquakes hits very close to home. On her mother's side of the family, her three aunts are living in tents because their houses, virtually destroyed, are not stable enough to stay in. On her father's side, her grandmother, her uncle and her uncle's family were living in the garage. Then, her grandmother became ill and had to be flown to mainland U.S. for treatment, since the aid she needed was unavailable on the island.

"I know that in the news, a lot of people have been focused more on Australia and the war in Iran and all of that, but I think we also really need to take a step back and look at what's happening here in our own country, our own territories," Correa said.

At Duquesne, the number of Puerto Rican students is growing.



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Rubble from one of the buildings destroyed in a recent earthquake in Puerto Rico.

Last spring, 38 enrolled students who listed Puerto Rico as their permanent residence according to official enrollment data. This fall, nine more Puerto Rican students enrolled, said Emily Brzustowicz, the assistant director of undergraduate admissions and the campus advisor for the Puerto Rican Student Association.

"As part of the Puerto Rican community here on campus, I feel kind of isolated [from other Duquesne students]," Correa said. "In doing this fundraiser and spreading awareness on campus, I think that's bridging the gap."

Interested students can drop

off non-perishable food items, saltines and crackers, bottled water, batteries, diapers, insect repellent spray, flashlights, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, baby wipes or other items at Des Places. The GoFundMe can be found online.

As of print time, the GoFundMe was \$6 away from its \$200 goal, and Correa said that many items had already been donated.

"That really gives me a lot of joy and appreciation for the students here on campus and the joy that I know my family and others are going to have when they see all of this," she said.

## Small business workshops begin at DU

*SBDC—from page 1*

Development. It offers individualized confidential consulting to owners of small businesses or individuals who want to start up a small business in the Southwestern Pennsylvania area. It offers free business consulting after participants take a pre-business seminar that costs \$25.

Business consulting can be scheduled at its offices, located in Lawrence, Butler and Beaver counties along with SBDC's Downtown Pittsburgh office.

The first workshop of the year, titled, First Step: Business Start Up Essentials, was on Jan. 9. The topics of discussion were insurance, financing options, government procurement and major components of the business plan.

Duquesne will be hosting its workshop events until March 25,

according to the SBDC website. However, not all workshops are hosted at Duquesne; SBDC splits up its workshops between the Community Development Corporation of Butler County and Duquesne.

The SBDC workshops are specially tailored for all different facets of building and managing a small business. This includes not only having workshops revolving around logistics of taxation requirements for your business, but includes workshops focusing on a modern approach on the profitability of advertising through social media, appealing to the technological marketing aspect of business building.

Speakers such as Chris Vendili, CEO and founder of inbound marketing and website development company ProFromGo, will be presenting the Fundamentals of an Effective Website workshop

on Jan. 23 at 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Main subjects will include recommended tools and resources for digital marketing, how your business can design and create a cost-effective website, anticipating a timeline for building a site and more.

The next workshop, Simple Strategic Planning, will feature speaker Ken Seveck. He is a well-known business coach with 15 years of experience and also affiliated with the global Action Coach organization.

This workshop will focus on important business aspects like six key areas essential to executing plans on a regular basis, a solid structure and format for planning as well as ways of improving team productivity and optimal ways to improve time management.

These bring valuable insight, having knowledgeable speakers who founded their own businesses. It provides great opportunities for Duquesne students to learn more about starting a business for an affordable price and gives young entrepreneurs a place to start.

These workshops are to be purchased individually. Prices range from \$25-35. A calendar of events can be found on its website.



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# Saudi crown prince's WhatsApp linked to Bezos phone hack

(AP) — The cellphone of Amazon founder and Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos was hacked in what appeared to be an attempt by Saudi Arabia's crown prince to "influence, if not silence" the newspaper's reporting on the kingdom, two U.N. human rights experts said Wednesday.

The U.N. experts called for an "immediate investigation" by the United States into a report commissioned by Bezos that showed the billionaire technology mogul's phone was likely hacked after he received an MP4 video file sent from Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's WhatsApp account after the two men exchanged phone numbers during a dinner in Los Angeles in 2018.

The video file was sent to Bezos' phone five months before Saudi critic and Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi was killed by Saudi government agents inside the Saudi consulate in Turkey in October. At the time, the crown prince was being widely hailed for ushering in major social reforms to the kingdom, but Khashoggi was writing columns in the Post that highlighted the darker side of Prince Mohammed's simultaneous clampdown on dissent.

The Post was harshly critical of the Saudi government after Khashoggi's killing and demanded accountability in a highly public campaign that ran in the paper for weeks after his death.

"The information we have received suggests the possible involvement of the Crown Prince in surveillance of Mr. Bezos, in an effort to influence, if not silence, The Washington Post's reporting on Saudi Arabia," the independent U.N. experts said.

At a time when Saudi Arabia was "supposedly investigating the killing of Mr. Khashoggi, and prosecuting those it deemed responsible, it was clandestinely

waging a massive online campaign against Mr. Bezos and Amazon targeting him principally as the owner of The Washington Post," the experts said.

Bezos first went public about the hack last year. He said the National Enquirer tabloid, whose owner has ties to the crown prince, was threatening to publish Bezos' private messages and photos if he didn't stop a private investigation he'd sought into the hacking of his phone.

Iyad el-Baghdadi, an activist who worked with Bezos' investigators, told The Associated Press it appears the hacking was about free speech. "It's not about trying to compromise a businessman for business purposes," he said. "It's not about Amazon, it's about The Washington Post."

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, called the hacking allegations "absolutely illegitimate."

"There was no information in there that's relevant. There was no substantiation, there was no evidence," he told an AP reporter at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. "It was purely conjecture, and if there is real evidence, we look forward to seeing it."

The independent experts, Agnes Callamard, special rapporteur on summary executions and extrajudicial killings, and David Kaye, special rapporteur on freedom of expression, were appointed by the U.N. Human Rights Council. They published their statement after reviewing the report conducted by FTI Consulting, which was hired by Bezos' security adviser to manage the investigation. The report was published in full exclusively by VICE's Motherboard later on Wednesday.

The digital forensic investigation assessed with "medium to high confidence" that Bezos'

phone was infiltrated on May 1, 2018, via the video file sent from the crown prince's WhatsApp account.

The U.N. experts said that records showed that within hours of receiving the video from Prince Mohammed's account, there was "an anomalous and extreme change in phone behavior" with enormous amounts of data being transmitted and exfiltrated from the phone, undetected, over months.

The report stated that Bezos' phone was compromised "possibly via tools procured by Saud al-Qahtani," the former adviser to the crown prince who was sanctioned by the U.S. for his suspected role in orchestrating the operation that killed Khashoggi.

Saudi Arabia's justice system found al-Qahtani not guilty of any wrongdoing in the killing. A judge sentenced five people to death and sentenced three others to a combined 24 years in prison in December for Khashoggi's slaying.

Al-Qahtani was also head of Saudi Arabia's cybersecurity federation and allegedly behind campaigns that created artificially-trending tweets to attack the prince's perceived enemies, rally support around the leadership and stymie criticism on social media.

The full investigative report, reviewed by The Associated Press, found that due to end-to-end encryption, it was virtually impossible to decrypt the contents of the downloader to determine if it did indeed have any malicious code.

Saudi Arabia has already been accused of spying in America in a case involving Twitter. U.S. prosecutors in California allege that the Saudi government, frustrated by growing criticism of its leaders and policies on social media, recruited two Twitter employees to gather confidential personal information on thousands of accounts that included prominent opponents.

Adam S. Hickey, deputy assistant attorney general of the U.S. Department of Justice's National Security Division, would not confirm or deny a U.S. investigation of the latest allegations was underway, but said "we investigate nation state-sponsored hacking all the time."

Separately, a Trump administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters, said presidential adviser Jared Kushner has communicated with the Saudi crown prince on WhatsApp.

Bezos visited Saudi Arabia in 2016 to meet with Prince Mohammed before the two men met again during the prince's tour of the United States in 2018.

The billionaire had been looking for a site in the Middle East to expand Amazon's cloud services. The company ultimately selected the island nation of Bahrain off the coast of Saudi Arabia.



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In this Dec. 14, 2017, file photo, Jeff Bezos attends the premiere of "The Post" at The Newseum in Washington. United Nations experts on Wednesday, Jan. 22, have called for "immediate investigation" by the United States into information they received that suggests that Jeff Bezos' phone was hacked after receiving a file sent from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's WhatsApp account.

During that time, Amazon had already expanded into the Middle East with its 2017 purchase of e-commerce website Souq.com, which is a competitor of Noon.com, a platform launched that same year and is heavily funded by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, which is overseen by the crown prince.

Bezos went public last February after allegedly being shaken down by the National Enquirer, which he said threatened to expose a "below-the-belt" selfie he'd taken and other private messages and pictures he'd exchanged with a woman he was dating while he was still married.

Bezos wrote in a lengthy piece for the Medium that rather than capitulate to extortion and blackmail, "I've decided to publish exactly what they sent me, despite the personal cost and embarrassment they threaten. While he did not accuse Saudi Arabia's crown prince of being behind the hacking of his phone, he noted that the owner of the National Enquirer had been investigated for various actions taken on behalf of the Saudi government.

Bezos' chief investigator, Gavin De Becker, went further, saying in a published report last March that the investigation "concluded with high confidence that the Saudis had access to Bezos' phone, and gained private information." In a piece for The Daily Beast he outlined in detail what he said was the crown prince's close relationship with David Pecker, the chairman of AMI, which is the parent company of the National Enquirer.

The investigation said that any number of cyber weapons could have been used, including Israeli spyware firm NSO Group's Pegasus. The firm's wares have been used by governments to target journalists in Mexico, opposition figures in Panama and human rights activists from the

Middle East.

The U.N. experts said Bezos' phone hacking occurred during a period in which the phones of two close associates of Khashoggi were also hacked, allegedly using the Pegasus malware.

In response, the company denied involvement in Bezos' phone hack and said its technology was "not used in this instance".

Duquesne University's Society of Professional Journalism is recruiting new members!



Contact President Hallie Lauer for more details at [lauerh@duq.edu](mailto:lauerh@duq.edu)



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In this Oct. 14, 2019 file photo, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman speaks to Russian President Vladimir Putin during the talks in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. United Nations experts Wednesday, Jan. 22, called for an "immediate investigation" by the United States and others into information they received that suggests that Jeff Bezos' phone was hacked after receiving a file sent from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's WhatsApp account



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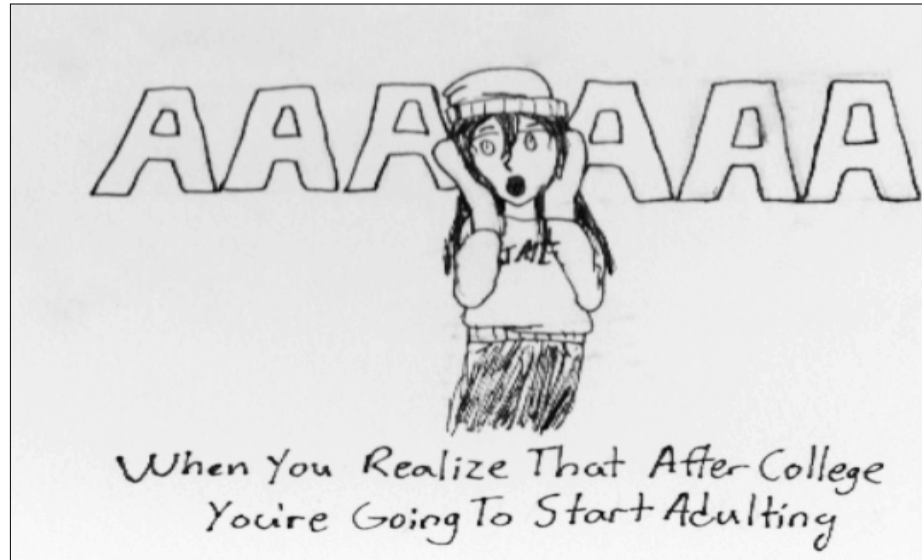
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## Corrections/clarifications

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

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COMIC BY ROBERT GWIAZDA

## Black market organ trade skyrockets

While standing in the endless line at the DMV, it seems so simple to check the box next to “organ donor” and receive the small, red heart on the bottom right corner on that renewed driver’s license.

As of 2018, the Heath Resources and Services Administration reports more than 155 million Americans, nearly 58% of the population, are registered organ donors. However, the same report notes that more than 113,000 people are on the waiting list for an organ transplant with little hope in sight. This has led many families to take desperate measures and purchase healthy organs on the international black market.

Although purchasing organs is banned by the World Health Organization and the majority of countries, it is estimated that roughly 10,000 illegal transplants occur annually, making up about 10% of all transplants performed worldwide.

This industry is fuelled by the global organ shortage. The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) notes that about 7,300 Americans die every year while waiting for a life-saving organ. Even with the majority of the population registered as organ donors, there is still not enough supply to meet the demand.

This growing desperation and increased shortage has opened the door to a dark underworld of international crime.

Since 2006, a new industry of “transplant tourism” has boomed. This practice involves traveling to a foreign country for the purposes of purchasing a healthy organ for transplant. The World Health Organization estimates the cost of one of these “vacations” to be anywhere from

\$70,000-\$160,000, depending on the organ involved.

Kidneys are the most common organ in need of transplant and is one of the only organs that can be donated while the donor is alive. This makes healthy kidneys extremely sought after in Western countries, often leading the people in this industry to do the unthinkable.

In 2016, Pakistani officials raided an illegal clinic that was holding 24 people captive to harvest and sell their kidneys. While these prisoners were rescued, others are not as lucky. The il-



COLLEEN HAMMOND  
opinions editor

legal organ trade has become an extension of human trafficking, where individuals are not only exploited for sex or their ability to work, but for their organs too.

Too often this issue goes ignored by governments because organ donation, or obention, is viewed as an ultimately good and lifesaving act. However, the life of a wealthy, westerner cannot be considered more valuable than that of a poor individual in the Middle East or China, where the illegal organ trade is most rampant.

No matter how dire the situation, it proves fundamentally wrong to take the organ of another human being without their consent, yet this industry is only

growing as more and more westerners fall ill to kidney failure.

However, this fact has led many to argue that the sale of organs should be legalized.

Some believe that the only way to destroy the illicit organ trade and its connection to illegal imprisonment and human trafficking is to allow citizens to sell their organs instead of donate them.

This is far from the truth.

Even with legalized organ sales, it is unlikely that the necessary number of Americans would participate to close the organ deficit. Organ transplants require extensive surgeries and often lengthy recovery periods. Even with the extra money gained from selling an organ, it is unlikely that it would even cover the costs of the hospital stay.

In addition this would prevent poorer individuals from receiving transplants in a timely manner. A new system of buyers and sellers would disproportionately affect low-income patients. Organ transplants cannot be reserved for those who can afford it.

Organ donations are a serious matter. They require giving a functioning body part to another human being and should not be done out of need for financial gain. Instead they should be a freely willed gift, and the current system supports that process.

Healthy, human organs are not a commodity and should not be treated as a luxury item reserved for the rich. They must be viewed as unbelievably generous gifts that should be distributed fairly. The international community must pay more attention to stopping this horrific black market trade in order to preserve the dignity of each human being as more than a set of replaceable parts.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Papers picking political sides

One of the first things you learn in a journalism class is to be unbiased.

In fact, that’s kind of the whole point. Journalism’s purpose is to give citizens the information they need in their communities, lives and jobs. Journalists are to remain objective, providing facts, issues and events in an unbiased and neutral manner. In turn, this leaves readers to create their own opinions on the matter.

Recently, the New York Times editorial board endorsed Senators Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts for the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination.

Regardless of how you feel about Klobuchar or Warren, newspapers shouldn’t be endorsing political candidates.

First, readers are already skeptical of newspapers separating opinion from fact. A 2016 HuffPost survey said that 51% of Americans say that newspapers should not endorse political candidates, and only 24% believe that they should. Trust in the media has fallen over the past couple of years.

Additionally, readers don’t care who newspapers endorse. In a 2017 Virginia gubernatorial race for governor, candidate Ralph Northam easily beat out Ed Gillespie despite newspapers in Roanoke, Richmond, Fredericksburg, Winchester, Harrisonburg, Lynchburg and Halifax endorsing Gillespie. Truth is, readers don’t care who newspapers support.

And they shouldn’t. Journalists should be giving us the facts, so that readers can create and formulate their own opinions and decisions. No one should try to “sway,” or influence, a vote.

Not only are newspapers endorsing these candidates, but they’re against the outcome. In 2016, many newspapers endorsed candidate Hillary Clinton over current president Donald Trump. Only one major newspaper, the Las Vegas Review-Journal, endorsed Trump. So, why bother?

Not everyone endorses political candidates, either. Web outlets Slate and BuzzFeed have never endorsed a candidate. But, newspapers endorsing candidates has been a practice that has been around forever. In 1860, the NYT announced their support for candidate Abe Lincoln.

Journalists are adamant that the editorial board is separate from the newsroom. But, in today’s societal climate, people are having a hard time believing if that is true. The media has a credibility problem, and endorsing candidates for political power isn’t making it any better.

Newspapers should be providing and engaging a forum for dialogue in the community to talk about issues at hand. Not shifting them.



# OPINIONS

## The advent of online shopping births retail apocalypse

TIMOTHY RUSH  
staff columnist

The so-called “retail apocalypse” has been decimating stores across the country in the past couple of years, and it doesn’t appear to be slowing down. In 2019 alone, we saw the bankruptcy of retail giants Forever 21, Payless and Gymboree. Payless closed all U.S. locations, Gymboree is actively liquidating and selling off its assets and Forever 21 closed more than 100 stores. In a time where we are constantly bombarded with news of how well the economy is doing, economists are saying that the retail industry has entered a deep recession, and that is something we must really be concerned about.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 15.8 million people are employed in the retail trade as of December 2019. Regarding gender, the industry is one of the largest employers of part-time women workers, who outnumber men almost 2:1 in the industry, according to The Mom Project, a company that aims to help women remain active in the workforce.

When we talk about stores closing across the country, we shouldn’t be so dismissive of it or treat it as an inconvenience. It’s much more than that — we are potentially witnessing one of the worst industry recessions of our time, one that will disproportionately hurt women and working

poor more. And it is infuriating that this doesn’t get more attention from policymakers and the mainstream media.

This doesn’t even touch on the phenomena of dead malls, or malls that have largely been abandoned. According to Swiss investment firm Credit Suisse, in 2017, 20-25% of American malls will be abandoned or closed by 2022. One doesn’t have to look beyond Pittsburgh to see the worst of this; Pittsburgh Mills was once a mall valued at \$190 million, but was sold at foreclosure for just \$100 to Wells Fargo. In 2018, that property was only valued at \$6.48 million, when Wells Fargo sold it to Mason Asset Management for \$11 million.

The reason why dead malls are important is because of the horrid effects that they have on surrounding areas. Dead malls strongly contribute to decreasing property values and have negatively contributed to investment in surrounding areas. Increasing crime has also been attributed to these malls in some areas, resulting in them often having to be added as a routine stop or patrol area by local police.

Obviously, the gut reaction is to ask what we can do to stop it, and really there isn’t much of an answer. The U.S. government can’t effectively bail out any major retailer that goes under; it’s just not feasible and would easily reach billions of dollars within just



COURTESY OF CBSNEWS

Retail giants continue to close brick-and-mortar locations in favor of online exclusive shopping.

a few years. It’s also very unlikely that the American consumer will change their habits in the face of this, as e-commerce is becoming a staple of the American economy and is not very likely to change.

But instead of giving in to this seemingly hopeless situation, we should instead be looking at even more alternative and creative solutions. One solution comes from what many argue is the source of the problem, e-commerce. Kohl’s is an anomaly in the ongoing retail climate as it’s been able to largely survive and thrive amidst this ongoing retail recession. Many argue it is because Kohl’s partnered with Amazon. Since 2017, Kohl’s has been accepting Amazon returns for free in-store and getting people through the

doors alone with this setup has benefitted the department store tremendously. Perhaps bringing retail and e-commerce together may be a good solution.

We should also be looking at ways to help alleviate the ill-effects that will come with this ongoing problem. Obviously, job training and organizations that help bring people into employment must be more heavily invested in, as any fraction of 15.8 million retail workers going directly into unemployment would be devastating. Helping these people transition into another field may just be necessary at this point.

And when it comes to dead malls, one idea comes in the form of the American Mall Act, which would aim to secure funding to

help struggling malls attract not only new businesses but schools and organizations that could take up residence in that mall. Other ideas include buying malls and converting them into residential living areas and investing in them as mini-renewal projects that help better serve communities.

Regardless of however we want to approach the ongoing retail apocalypse, we must have one. This is a massive industry that largely employs women and working poor, and its ongoing recession and seemingly inevitable collapse will have dangerous repercussions across the country. And we should come up with something soon before it is too late.

## New trade deal with China set to benefit both nations

ALEXANDER WOLFE  
staff columnist

Phase One of President Trump’s long-awaited trade deal has been lauded as a ground-breaking first step in the process of bringing China “under control.” The 86-page agreement addresses intellectual property (IP) concerns, a new process of settling trade disputes and \$200 billion of guaranteed purchases of U.S. goods across manufacturing, agriculture, energy and services. Lost in the promulgation of the incoming relief to farmers is the future of \$360 billion of U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods that still remain in place, affecting every business connected to China, or put another way, our whole economy. Let’s ignore the future rounds of negotiations and the fact that the Chinese supposedly did not get the main thing they were hoping for out of these negotiations: the trade war is over on Twitter only.

China got a lot out of this deal, while the U.S. has a series of written affirmations. The first three chapters of the agreement are hilariously one-sided. On IP, tech-



COURTESY OF REUTERS.COM

The new trade deal between China and the U.S. determines the fate of previous concerns like intellectual property laws.

nology transfers and food products, the clauses detail an array of Chinese acknowledgements to U.S. institutions and Chinese affirmations to the rights they will subsequently bestow upon American importers and business entities. Most importantly, China promised to refrain from stealing American trade and technology secrets from firms in the Chinese market. In short, this amounted to Chinese recognition of American patent law and a pinky promise to be nicer to American corporations.

One notably ironic phrase in Article 1.22 clause 2 notes China’s commitment to providing proof of its physical market IP enforcement. I spent whole weekends at these so-called “fake markets” last semester, and local police presence is already quite high. However, local authorities are rare to enter the markets themselves, instead choosing to monitor from afar. A salesman selling Vans for \$14 explained to me that the vendor bosses get a few days’ warning from the provincial government

before a raid is ever conducted, so let’s assume that increasing the number of police from 15 to 30 won’t make a difference.

Even more absurd is Article 1.14, a special call-out for ‘major e-commerce platforms,’ because there is only one major Chinese e-commerce platform: Alibaba. Alibaba’s website Taobao is the most widely used business to consumer and consumer to consumer platform in China, so much so that on Singles’ Day (Chinese Black Friday) Alibaba reported \$38 bil-

lion of the day’s total reported \$52 billion in sales revenues. This was considered a disappointment by Alibaba founder Jack Ma, despite his company’s coverage of over 70% of the market.

Yet Chinese businesses don’t want to copy American brands forever. China 2025, one of China’s flagship initiatives, promotes investment toward Chinese businesses in strategic economic areas with the goal of transforming China into a powerhouse of innovation, sustainability and services. This might explain China’s acceptance of the agreement’s mandated minimum purchase of \$37.9 billion in American services. The acceptance of American service-sector business will be made even easier by the agreement’s detailed protections of IP and trade secrets for American-owned enterprise.

In returning to those \$200 billion of targeted purchases China will make in the next two years, I found a depressingly transparent political calculus in the specific authorized purchases. Of the \$32

see CHINA — page 12



# Woodruff duo honored at MLK Breakfast

KELLEN STEPLER  
features editor

Justice, peace, service and righteousness – all these and more are what Martin Luther King Jr. stood for.

This was displayed Monday morning at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church for the 21st annual Homer S. Brown Division (HSBD) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast and Program. The breakfast was hosted by the Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA).

The Hon. Dwayne D. Woodruff and his wife, Joy Maxberry Woodruff, received the 2020 Drum Major for Justice award. The award's name originates from one of King's final sermons, titled "Drum Major Instinct," about a eulogy that might be given in the event of his death.

In the speech, King said, "I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity; say that I was a drum major for justice; say that I was a drum major for peace; I was a drum major for righteousness. I just want to leave a committed life behind." King was assassinated two months after giving the speech.

"The Drum Major for Justice Award is presented to recognize individuals or organizations for their contribution of perpetuating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, who try to make justice, equality and opportunity a reality for all people," said Bethany Miller, esquire for the ACBA HSBD.

Miller nominated the Woodruff duo for the award.

"Their lives are examples of selfless love, in their acts of outpouring themselves into the community to promote equality, justice and opportunity for others," Miller said.

Miller noted that together, the Woodruffs founded and co-chair Pittsburgh's "Do the Write Thing Challenge," in which, annually, more than 2,000 middle school students in Allegheny County write about the impact of violence on their lives and have classroom discussions on ending violence.

Judge Woodruff, a 1988 graduate from Duquesne's Law School, also co-chairs Pittsburgh's Shared Accountability for Education (SAFE) workgroup and serves on the Educational Success and Truancy Prevention (ESTP) committee. Currently, he is a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, and presides primarily over juvenile cases.

"He makes sure that juveniles who ap-



PHOTO BY KELLEN STEPLER

Judge Dwayne Woodruff and his wife, Joy Maxberry Woodruff, were recognized Monday morning at the Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast and Program as "drum majors for justice."

pear before him know that he genuinely cares about them, he believes in them and he will always be there for them," Miller said. "His actions ensure justice within our law system, as well as create an opportunity for those who need his support the most."

Miller also noted Joy's accomplishments in the Pittsburgh community.

"Joy has served as president of the African-American Women for Political Change, which was formed in part of the recognition of black women among Pittsburgh elected officials," Miller said. "She has also been active in the North Hills Ebony Women, whose primary mission is to provide scholarships to college-bound minority students, giving them an opportunity."

"Look at the example Judge Woodruff and Joy Woodruff have set and continue to set as drum major in their work, and in their service to others."

The Woodruffs have not made contributions in the courtroom and the classroom, but also on the gridiron as well. The couple came to Pittsburgh in 1979 when Dwayne was drafted as a defensive back for the Pittsburgh Steelers, and played until 1990. He played in Su-

per Bowl XIV and was the team's MVP for the 1982 season. In his final three seasons, he enjoyed a dual career while playing for the Steelers and practicing law with the Meyer Darragh law firm.

Additionally, Joy was president of the Pittsburgh Steelers Wives Association and won a national award as an NFL Humanitarian Woman.

When called to the stage to receive their award, the duo walked to the podium to loud applause and a standing ovation. Joy cried, and Dwayne was visibly proud.

Seeing two awards on the podium, Joy's tears stopped. "I thought we were sharing [the award]," she said, to the audience's laughter.

Joy found out that they won the award while sitting in her husband's office. When she found out, she screamed.

"I did scream, because I had hoped for him, but never for me," Joy said. "I stand here with my best friend, a man with a heart of gold, who truly cares about and advocates for children."

Joy recalled that in 2005, Pittsburgh Magazine wrote an article on her family and their accomplishments in that year. In 2005, Dwayne was elected to the Court of Common Pleas, their oldest daughter, Jillian, graduated from medical school, their second daughter, Janyce, graduated college and was accepted to Duquesne's law school; and their son John graduated from high school and was headed to West Virginia University to play football. Her neighbor saw the article and told Joy to come over to pick it up if they needed an extra copy. When Joy walked over to pick it up, the neighbor's daughter was at the door to give her the magazine.

"I will never forget the comments she made to me that day," Joy said. "She said, 'Wow. This is a wonderful article about your family. Everyone has an accomplishment, except you. You are just a mother,'" Joy said, to a mix of laughter and jeers from the audience.

"So I am grateful for this day," Joy said, as the audience roared with laughter. "If she could only be here now."

Dwayne spoke that while society has come a long way, there is still much more work to be done in terms of justice. During his speech, he noted that he couldn't

have accomplished everything without his wife's help.

"We continue to struggle with justice," Dwayne said. "How we dispense it, how we review it, how we define it. One thing that I know for sure is that when you're in a battle, you need to have God's saints with you. Someone that you trust, someone you can totally depend on, to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you, to stand back-to-back with you, and I have one of these individuals in my wife."

The Woodruffs' accomplishments were recognized through many other community members as well. Congressman Conor Lamb, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Duquesne's women's basketball team, Duquesne President Ken Gormley and Lynne Hayes-Freeland from KDKA news, among others, were in attendance during the breakfast and program.

"This is a great, great event that gets bigger every year," Fitzgerald said. "What we do well in this region is when we come together to meet challenges and move forward."

Hayes-Freeland, who served as the event's master of ceremonies, said, "This is one of those days that I get to look out into this audience and say, this is what the dream represents."

Gormley said in a statement to *The Duke* that there was an "impressive" Duquesne turnout at the program, and that he is "proud that university students, faculty and staff continue to attend the annual [event]."

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. continues to inspire our own work at Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit, as we seek to serve others on campus, in our broader community and around the globe each day," Gormley said.

The prayer breakfast and program was just one event Duquesne sponsored to recognize King. Wednesday, Jan. 15 kicked off the Inspire Initiative, which encouraged members of the Duquesne community to write a note of appreciation and recognition to other members of the Duquesne community. The cards will be distributed, and the senders and recipients are invited to a reception on Jan. 29.

"The Inspire Initiative will be quite interesting – acknowledging the service and impact of others is who we represent as a Spiritan University," said Jeff Mallory, assistant vice president of Duquesne's diversity, inclusion and student advancement.

Additionally, a MLK Day Luncheon took place in the Africa Room on Friday Jan. 17, where Alvin Tillery from Northwestern University was a keynote speaker. The Power Center hosted athletic tournaments last Monday, and the "I Have a Dream" flag placement occurred on Wednesday. The second and third floors of the Union are where community members are creating flags with their respective dreams on it for others to see, Mallory noted.

"Martin Luther King, Jr. represents many things, in my opinion. From leadership, to perseverance to supporting well-being of others, MLK was at the heart of many things. Above this, his ability to inspire others and provide a voice to those in need, spoke to the transformational nature his servant leadership. Ultimately, I am glad we have the opportunity to uplift and align with his legacy through our work here at Duquesne," Mallory said.



PHOTO BY KELLEN STEPLER

The Duquesne community is invited to participate in "I Have a Dream" flag presentation, held in the second and third floors in the Student Union.



MBB’s Hughes among national leaders in blocks

**DAVID BORNE**  
sports editor

It takes the perfect balance of aggression and discipline to block a shot.

The defender must find a way to bring a sufficient amount of force to shutdown a shot attempt, but needs to remain calm enough to not be whistled for a foul.

Duquesne’s Mike Hughes has mastered that skill.

“It’s all timing to be honest,” Hughes said. “It’s all instincts and timing. It’s knowing the time and place of the game. It’s knowing when it’s the right time to try to go make a play and whenever it isn’t so you don’t go make a foul.”

Entering Wednesday night’s game at Rhode Island, Hughes ranked fifth in the nation in blocks per game.

The 6’8” center denies an average of 3.18 shot opportunities per contest.

Hughes came up with four or more blocked shots in four of Duquesne’s first five Atlantic 10 matchups. He posted a season-high seven blocks on Jan. 2 at Saint Louis.

The redshirt junior’s abilities fit perfectly into Keith Dambrot’s sys-

tem. Dambrot, who is known for running a very defensive minded style of play, has coached plenty of talented post players.

But when it comes to shot blocking ability, he ranks Hughes as one of the best he’s been around.

“I’d say [Hughes] and Zeke Marshall are by far the two best shot blockers,” Dambrot said. “The kid that’s at Utah Valley now, Emmanuel Olojakpoke, he’s up there, as well. He was with us at Akron. But those two are probably the two best that I’ve ever had.”

Hughes may be known for his thunderous rejections, but his skill set isn’t limited to the defensive end of the court.

The redshirt junior is averaging just over 10 points per game, posting a field goal percentage right below 59%.

Despite his contributions on offense, Hughes still prides himself on his defensive efforts. For the center, coming up with a big block is one of the best feelings he can have on the court.

If given the choice between securing a win by burying a clutch basket, or by recording a big rejection at the buzzer, he’d choose the block everytime.

“I’ve been bred a defensive guy.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS  
Hughes dives on the floor for a loose ball during the first half of Duquesne’s 71 - 49 victory against Radford on Dec. 14 at Ellet High School in Akron, OH.

So whenever you seal the game with a big block — it stings. It’s known. So me, personally, I’m a big block guy to finish out a game.”

As a team, Duquesne’s defensive play has been largely responsible for the team’s hot start this season.

Hughes and his teammates have been able to smother their opposition by consistently giving their all on defense.

With everyone on the same page, Hughes knows Duquesne’s early season success can continue. The whole team is locked in on both ends of the floor, willing to do anything they can to pull out a positive result.

“It’s just all the guys doing work,” Hughes said. “Guys just want to get better, guys just want to do great things. That’s the biggest thing. Guys feel their purpose, and we all want to get wins.”

With Hughes and his teammates getting Duquesne off to its best start since 1971-72, it may seem easy for the team to be satisfied with how things are going. However, the group knows this is only the beginning. With plenty of basketball yet to be played, Hughes only has one goal for the remainder of the season: Winning an Atlantic 10 championship and making an

NCAA tournament appearance.

“It’s all about what we are going to do next,” Hughes said. “We don’t like to worry about what’s happened in the past.”



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS  
Mike Hughes swats a shot by VMI’s Garrett Gilkeson off the backboard during Duquesne’s 71 - 58 win over the Keydets on Dec. 4 at La Roche University. Hughes finished the night leading the team in points (23) and also posted a team-high four blocks in the victory.

Swimming and Diving beats Saint Francis on Senior Day

Seven Duquesne seniors walked out of their final home meet on Saturday with a win at Towers Pool. The Dukes defeated Saint Francis, 149-113, in the team’s last on-campus meet of the season.

Lauren Devorace, Meredith Easterling, Carson Gross, Madelyn Hoying, Erin Kuhn, Heather Svitavsky and Summer Svitavsky were recognized with a ceremony prior to the meet against Saint Francis.

The senior class helped Duquesne achieve its first ever Atlantic 10 Championships in 2018 and 2019.

Both Gross and Kuhn made the most of the last home meet of their careers. The two seniors each won two events a piece.

Gross grabbed the crown in the 200-yard freestyle (1:55.82) and 500-yard freestyle (5:09.86). Kuhn topped the leaderboard in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:07.85) and 200-yard breaststroke (2:28.51).

Junior Clare Flanagan and sophomore Audrey Steen finished first in their events as well. Flanagan placed first in the 100-yard backstroke (59.73), with Steen winning the 200-yard butterfly (2:08.88)

The Dukes will be back in action on Jan. 24 and 25 during the Western PA Invitational at Trees Pool on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh.

Diving will kick off the event at 1 p.m. on Friday, with swimming competions beginning on Saturday morning at 11 a.m.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Men’s Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	No. 7 Dayton	6-0	17-2	W8	1/25 at Richmond
2.	Richmond	5-1	15-4	W3	1/25 vs. Dayton
3.	Rhode Island	5-1	13-5	W5	1/25 at St. Bonaventure
4.	<b>Duquesne</b>	5-1	15-3	L1	1/25 at UMass
5.	St. Bonaventure	4-2	12-7	L2	1/25 vs. Rhode Island
6.	VCU	4-2	14-5	W2	1/25 at La Salle
7.	Davidson	3-3	9-9	W1	1/25 vs. George Mason
8.	Saint Louis	3-3	14-5	L2	1/26 vs. Fordham
9.	G. Washington	2-4	8-11	L1	1/25 vs. Saint Joseph’s
10.	George Mason	2-4	13-6	W1	1/25 at Davidson
11.	La Salle	1-5	10-8	L4	1/25 vs. VCU
12.	Fordham	1-5	7-11	W1	1/26 at Saint Louis
13.	UMass	1-5	7-12	L4	1/25 vs. Duquesne
14.	Saint Joseph’s	0-6	4-15	L1	1/25 at G. Washington

Women’s Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Dayton	6-0	13-7	W8	1/26 vs. Fordham
2.	Davidson	5-0	12-6	W5	1/26 at Richmond
3.	VCU	5-0	10-8	W5	1/25 at George Mason
4.	Fordham	3-1	11-6	W2	1/23 vs. Saint Louis
5.	UMass	4-2	14-5	L2	1/26 at G. Washington
6.	Rhode Island	3-2	10-7	W2	1/26 at St. Bonaventure
7.	<b>Duquesne</b>	3-3	13-6	W2	1/26 at Saint Louis
8.	Saint Louis	2-3	10-8	L1	1/23 at Fordham
9.	Saint Joseph’s	2-4	8-10	W1	1/26 at La Salle
10.	G. Washington	1-4	7-11	W1	1/26 vs. UMass
11.	La Salle	1-4	7-11	W1	1/23 at Richmond
12.	George Mason	1-5	7-12	L5	1/25 vs. VCU
13.	St. Bonaventure	1-5	4-15	L3	1/26 vs. Rhode Island
14.	Richmond	0-4	7-11	L4	1/23 vs. La Salle



# Former WBB standout Richardson adjusting well to coaching role

**JAMES LEO**  
staff writer

You may have noticed a familiar face on the Duquesne bench this season.

Conor Richardson, who finished her playing days as a Duke in 2019, joined the women's basketball staff as a graduate assistant

for the 2019-20 season.

For those unfamiliar with Richardson's amazing stats, she averaged over one steal per game in four seasons with Duquesne, and was a key member of the 2017-18 team that advanced to the third round of the National Invitation Tournament (NIT).

Thus far, she has had no problem transfer-

ring her playing abilities into coaching. The Dukes currently sit at 13-6 (3-3 in A-10 play) and are 7th in the A-10 standings. Keep in mind, this team was projected to finish 9th in the A-10 preseason poll, and now sit just three games out of second place in the A-10.

Duquesne has had stellar guard play; four of their top five scorers are guards. Junior Libby Bazalak, who leads the team in scoring, entered Wednesday night's game shooting an incredible 47.4% from downtown (good for fourth in all of Division 1). Richardson, once a guard herself, has obviously had a positive impact on the team.

"The girls respect my new role and know I want to see them all succeed," Richardson said. "I've played with all the girls on the team (except for the freshmen) and in my role they know I relate to their experiences and everything that they are going through because I have been through it all with them."

No matter what the situation, Richardson preaches one thing to her players.

"The biggest lesson that I have learned as a player is to simply 'figure it out.' I use this philosophy when things get tough, when I'm unsure and in many other situations," Richardson explained.

"There is always a better, more efficient way to do something and I have taken that lesson and transferred it into my current role with my day to day tasks."

When this team has faced hardships, they have always fought back. For instance, af-

ter losing their first two games of the season, the Dukes rattled off 10 wins in a row. Then, despite a slow start to conference play, Duquesne grinded out a close contest against St. Joseph's on Jan. 18th.

Richardson, like the team, is no stranger to hardship herself. She suffered several injuries during her Duquesne career, and looked to a former NBA player for inspiration.

"I was inspired by Derrick Rose," she explained. "He has been through so many injuries, and I can relate to the rehab journey and the dedication it takes to get back."

"We have a special team this season. This team plays for each other and has a strong sense of togetherness," Richardson said. "No one is worried about their stats or any personal, they love each other and want to win as one. Every (remaining) conference game will be a dog fight and this team is ready for it."

While she is unsure what the future holds for her, Richardson seems open to coaching opportunities.

"I'm using this graduate position as a trial run to see if I want to coach, but I can also see myself working a 9 to 5 with my weekends off and freedom to do what I want."

The Duquesne women's basketball team will be back in action on Jan. 26 at Saint Louis. As Richardson alluded, every conference game has major implications for the team.

They will have to approach each game differently to reach their ultimate goal of clinching a tournament berth.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Conor Richardson (red) poses on Academic Walk with the rest of Duquesne's coaching staff.

## MLB to test but not use computer umps at spring training

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball will test computer plate umpires during spring training but will not use the system for decisions in any exhibition games.

MLB experimented with the automated balls and strikes system during the second half of last season in the independent Atlantic League, and the Arizona Fall League used it for a few dozen games at Salt River Fields.

The Major League Baseball Umpires Association agreed last month to cooperate and assist if Commissioner Rob Manfred decides to utilize the system at the major league level.

"We will be running the automated balls and strikes system only in test mode but will not actually use it to call balls and strikes in spring training games," the commissioner's office said in a statement. "It will be available in nine spring training facilities for later use during the Florida State League season."

Plate umpires hear the computerized ball/strike calls via earpieces. The human umps decide on checked swings and other plays.

Manfred spoke about the system in an interview with Fox at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"We believe over the long haul it's going to be more accurate. It will reduce controversy in the game and be good for

the game," he said. "The current strike zone design is actually three-dimensional, and a camera is better at calling a three-dimensional strike zone than the human eye."

Manfred also addressed his Jan. 13 decision to discipline the Houston Astros for using a video camera to steal signs in violation of rules during 2017 and 2018. Manfred suspended manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow for one season each, and both were fired by the team.

He fined the team \$5 million and stripped the Astros of their next two first- and second-round draft picks.

MLB also is investigating whether Boston stole signs in 2018, and Manfred withheld a decision on Red Sox manager Alex Cora, whom Manfred concluded was involved in sign stealing by the Astros when he was Houston's bench coach in 2017.

Cora lost his job as Boston manager and Carlos Beltrán, implicated by Manfred as a senior player on the 2017 Astros, quit his new job as manager of the New York Mets.

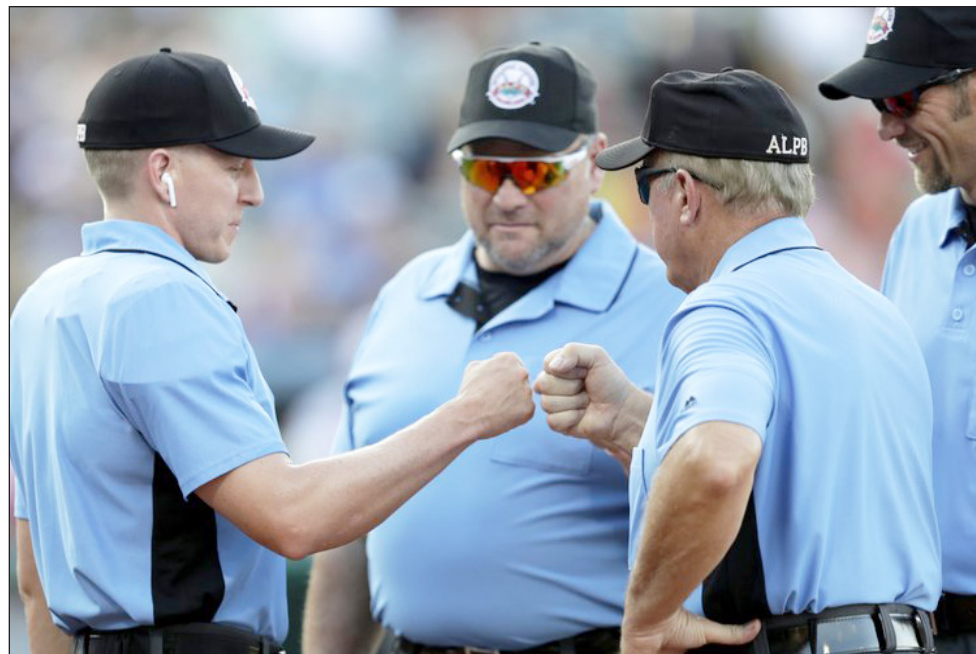
Manfred said stripping the 2017 Astros and 2018 Red Sox of their World Series titles was not considered.

The Dodgers lost both World Series, and the Los Angeles City Council adopted a resolution Tuesday asking MLB to award the Dodgers both championships.

"We haven't concluded our investigation with the Red Sox, so it's a little hard to take the trophy away from somebody who hasn't yet been found to do something wrong," Manfred said.

"We don't know what the outcome of that's going to be. I think that the second

flaw is whatever the impact of the sign stealing was, it could have changed who was in the World Series — absolutely unclear that the Dodgers would have been the World Series champion. I think there's a long tradition in baseball of not trying to change what happened."



AP PHOTO

Home plate umpire Brian deBrauwere, left, huddles with officials while wearing an earpiece connected to a ball and strikes calling system before the Atlantic League All-Star game on July 10 in York, Pa. The Atlantic League became the first professional baseball league to let computers call balls and strikes.



## Track by track, *Circles* is a Mac Miller masterpiece

CAPRI SCARCELLI

staff writer

Prior to his death in September 2018, Pittsburgh rap/hip-hop phenomenon Mac Miller was in the midst of working on an album that posed as a call and response to his previous album: *Swimming*.

*Circles*, which was officially released on Miller's behalf on Jan. 17, seems to reflect the unanswered questions of *Swimming*.

I believe this album shows the cacophony of thoughts that were whirling around Miller's head in dealing with his mental illness and drug addiction. It seemed to me like a form of self-discovery — he was, as he hints to his audience, “swimming in circles.”

Listening to this album makes me feel as though my heart is caving in on itself, knowing he is no longer here to see how well-received his work was.

The only way to break apart this album, truly, is to go track-by-track.

The opening track of the album, “Circles,” sets up the echoing theme of Miller addressing his own inner-turmoil. The gentle entrances of both the instrumentation and the vocals are so carefully crafted; it gives you a glimpse of Miller's mind, briefly, at ease. The lyrics show Miller's longing for a calm life, despite the anxiety he alludes to in the beginning. He compares this to an endless loop of “drawing circles,” which I believe shows how each day feels like a repeat of the last.

“Complicated” gives off more of an R&B feel. Miller's voice and the lyrics themselves compliment the beat of the song, as they offer a relaxed melody for such a heavy concept to be addressed. He says, “I'm way too young to be getting old,” which shows how fast he had to grow up in the music industry when dealing with his deepest emotions. Even when Miller got his start in Pittsburgh at the age of 15, he had always been quite self-aware.

There are only two explicit songs featured on this album; “Blue World” is one of them. This track reminds me of a celebration of sadness. With its steady, up-tempo rhythm, Miller introduces the track with a snippet of a 1950s song called “It's a Blue World” by The Four Freshmen, then quickly transitions with a tasteful beat drop.

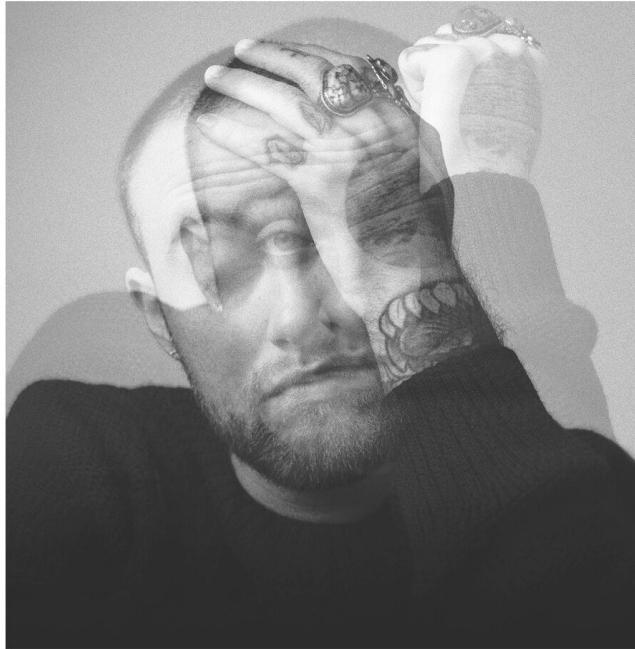
The song itself is a sign of hope for Miller, as he says, “this mad world is making me crazy, might just turn around, do one-eighty.” I find this song to be a stark contrast from the careful pacing of the beginning of the album, though complimentary all the same with the overall theme.

“Good News” is also hopelessly optimistic, despite where he feels he is at emotionally. The guitar plucking is a perfect backing to Miller's soft, cooing vocals, illuminating how sporadic his thoughts appear in his head. He tells himself, “it ain't that bad, it could always be worse,” though admits that the only person standing in his way is himself. Listening to this song feels like walking through the city alone on a chilly day — there's a sense of peaceful solidarity to it.



COURTESY OF RICK KERN / WIREIMAGE

Miller died of an accidental drug overdose in September 2018.



COURTESY OF WARNER RECORDS

Production on *Circles* was completed by Jon Brion, who had previously acted as a producer on *Swimming*.

“I Can See” features pop artist and ex-girlfriend Ariana Grande in the background vocals. Though it is uncredited, fans have noticed, as she posted the song on her story as a hint. This was very emotional to me, knowing how in love they were before Grande ended things. As subtle as it is, Grande's appearance on the album is such a beautiful tribute to their relationship.

“Everybody” is blunt, yet soulful; it exposes Miller's view on the world around him. Starting immediately with the piano and quiet vocals, the music grows as the drums hit the downbeat with determination and persistence throughout the duration of the song. Everything about it to me is lulling. As for the lyrics, Miller reminds the audience that everyone feels pain; everyone feels joy. He sings, “I feel you know the reason why,” suggesting that we know exactly what it feels like to go through the motions of life.

Next comes “Woods.” This is another quaint piece of Miller's, which I see as more of a transitional piece than something that sticks out to me. The backing, however, flows quite nicely.

I noticed that “Hand Me Downs” is one of the longer songs on the album, as it also is the only song where someone is directly attributed to collaborating with Miller. Rapper Baro Sura sings the

chorus of this piece, and I think Miller did this in order to draw attention to a perspective other than his own. Its mellow cadence is calming and shows a promise of reassurance.

Entitled “That's on Me,” this song seemed to be about Miller directly addressing his problems to himself. The other songs on this album have an apparent introduction, but this one starts off immediately with Miller singing. The title of the track is repeated quite often throughout, which I think is done for emphasis. It is simplistic, but impactful.

The following song, “Hands,” is the last explicit song on *Circles*. On this track, Miller brings out the raw intensity of his emotions and familiarizes his audience with a sound that reminds fans of his older works, especially for those who were a big fan of “Divine Feminine.” This song dips back into his roots, taking a break from the ballads that encompass the majority of the album.

“Surf” is easily one of my favorite songs on the album. It is swift, yet delicate in terms of lyrics and overall tonality — it truly flows well. In this song, Miller illuminates the pinnacle of his mental strife. This most likely alludes to the point where he and Grande broke up, as he says “got her head in the clouds/don't need to be lower,” whereas in Grande's “Problem,” she sings “head in the clouds got no weight on my shoulders.”

The last track of the album is entitled “Once a Day.” This final piece, quite literally, brings the album full-circle. He alludes to the title of this concluding track in the very first one of the album, as it juxtaposes the hopeful tone with a more somber one.

By this endpoint, it felt as though Miller wasn't there anymore. He sounded distant, as if he was drifting away, and then the song ends somewhat abruptly. There was a heavy weight on my chest listening to this one, though it made me feel whole.

Miller's *Circles* is art. I feel as though there was no better way to convey the darkest crevices of his mind, reminding his audience of his humanity.

Pittsburgh is beyond fortunate to have him as a part of our identity.

## WEEK'S EVENTS

The C-Word  
Jan. 29 - Feb. 2 @ 8 p.m.,  
2 p.m. on Sundays

Written by Olivia LeSeur and directed by Justin Sines, this Red Masquers production is a “dark comedy about mental illness and family.”

The Tamburitans in Concert  
Jan. 29 @ 9 p.m.

The renowned traditional Eastern European song and dance group, known for their former association with Duquesne University, will perform in the Union Ballroom.

## UPCOMING RELEASES

The Gentlemen  
Friday, Jan. 24

Written and directed by Guy Ritchie, Matthew McConaughey plays a man who attempts to bow out of the marijuana trade in London, prompting a battle for his fortune.

Sing in a World  
That's Falling Apart  
Black Lips  
Friday, Jan. 24

The Atlanta-native rock band, known for the 2010 indie hit “O Katrina!”, release their ninth studio album.

## MICRO REVIEW

PB Inspector

This app, chosen by Brottier Hall as the means through which residents complete their Room Condition Reports, must be more than a decade old and deserves its one-star review on the App Store. Besides the trashy structure and disheartening lack of modern design, the app crashed about three times as I was attempting to fill out the report and the lag made me wonder if we're still in 2020. The app itself made me not want to fill out the report; to be honest, I'm unsure if it even worked. Deleting this app gave me a feeling only comparable to taking out my three-week-old kitchen trash.

- Katia Faroun



# An Elephant in the Garden is an impressive one-woman show

COLLEEN HAMMOND  
opinions editor

On the quaint stage of the Byham Theater, a remarkable story of familial bonds and personal growth amid disaster took center stage as *An Elephant in the Garden* made its Pittsburgh debut.

This one-woman show tells the story of a young German girl named Elizabeth and her family as they struggle for survival during the dark days of air raids, famine and constant loss during World War II.

Alison Reid, the star of this one-woman masterpiece, shines in this role. Her ability to perfectly craft characters through her physicality is unmatched. Reid beautifully portrays a teenage girl, her parents, neighbors, extended family and, most impressively, an elephant. Somehow, without extensive costuming or puppetry, Reid manages to convey the heavy, thundering steps of the elephant. Her movement is honest and engaging without appearing gimmicky. This feat alone makes the show worth seeing.

Even though she is the only actor onstage, her presence fills the space remarkably well. Reid makes great use of her environment, frequently crossing the stage and changing her physicality to maximize intrigue. Despite the tragic storyline and limited characters, Reid captures the audience's attention for the entire show.

In addition, Reid's performance was heavily aided by a fabulous script



COURTESY OF FARROWS CREATIVE

Alison Reid took *An Elephant in the Garden* on a European Tour that included the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse in London.

written by Michael Morpurgo. His extensive background in writing children's books primed him to write believable teenagers. The characters of Peter and Elizabeth have a unique sense of honesty and genuineness about them. Although these young people are placed in the horrific circumstances of war-torn Germany in the middle of World War II, Morpurgo expertly balances their newfound maturity with their child-like instincts.

While this may seem like an overdone plot or exaggerated war story, Morpurgo finds a way to make this

script feel fresh and new. He utilizes stunning imagery to convert the simple sets and single actor into the quiet, snow-covered woods of eastern Germany.

To assist in the transformation of the space, this production features a beautiful lighting design. The transition from one location to another appears flawless, while the ever-changing mood of the story is furthered conveyed by simple changes in color and brightness. This remarkable lighting design is the icing on the cake for this deep and moving play.

Despite the playwright's gorgeous

imagery, the great lighting and the mindblowing talent of Reid, there is one major issue with this show. *An Elephant in the Garden* premiered in Pittsburgh as part of the EQT Bridge Theater Series. This program was designed to bring professional, international theater to the children of Pittsburgh. During the pre-show announcements, it was stated that this production was for a pre-teen audience.

While the show was absent of foul language or explicit sexual imagery, this production seemed very dark for children ages 10-12, especially since

the majority of the children in the audience appeared younger than the suggested age bracket. Although it is necessary to educate children on the horrors of the Nazi party and the destruction that accompanies war, this seemed like a rather jarring history lesson for Saturday matinee of a children's show.

In addition, the cover of the playbill featured images of a playful elephant and Reid skipping through a pile of clouds with the title of the play in large, inviting yellow letters. *An Elephant in the Garden* seemed to market itself as a children's show, but proves far from it.

It deals with highly complex themes of nationalism, identity, war, grief, loss, homelessness and refugeeism. Reid describes in vivid detail the bombing of Desden and the subsequent fires that destroyed the city, killing hundreds. She also uses highly inflammatory, antisemitic phrases when portraying Elizabeth's uncle. These elements are all necessary to the story and make it much more believable, but this show is not for children.

*An Elephant in the Garden* proved to be a lovely show about the importance of family during a crisis. Its lighting design, masterful script and outstanding talent made this show a great addition to Pittsburgh's 2019-2020 season, but this piece of theater might not be suitable for younger audiences.

## Nintendo announces *Fire Emblem's* Byleth for *Smash Ultimate*

JOSEPH PHILLIPPI  
staff writer

*Super Smash Bros. Ultimate* is perhaps the most diverse fighting game in video game history, with a cast of characters hailing from a smorgasbord of games, ranging from *Metal Gear Solid*, to *Banjo Kazooie*, to *King of Fighters/Fatal Fury*, to *Persona 5*.

The fighter roster, including DLC characters, for *Smash Ultimate* is a whopping 74 characters and it is only growing with each new announcement. With endless possibilities, many players often wonder who could be added next. The lead up to the next fighter reveal, however, was preceded with hopes and prayers from the "Smash" community that the fighter would be a character from a game we have not seen yet, and that it would be a character with a unique move set and weapon.

These prayers were, at first glance, tossed into the fire as the newest character added to the roster in the smash announcement video last Thursday is Byleth from *Fire Emblem: Three Houses*. Sure enough, Byleth's base weapon involves a sword.

Smash players have shown immense displeasure for the newest edition, primarily due to the character's origin series, but also because Byleth is a swordfighter. *Smash Ultimate*, out of the current 75 fighters, possesses a total of 17 sword fighters, and

out of those 17, seven are from the *Fire Emblem* games.

Players are complaining that Byleth is a redundant addition that takes a roster spot from a more deserving or unique character. Leading up to the announcement, players hoped to see the likes of Dante from *Devil May Cry* or Master Chief from the *Halo* franchise.

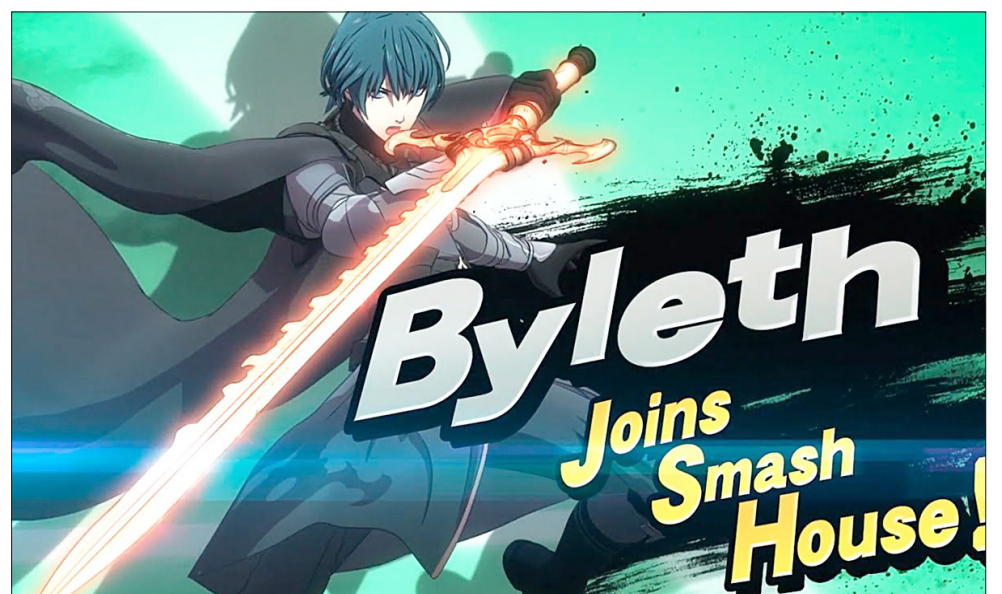
Masahiro Sakurai introduced Byleth in an announcement video which lasted almost 40 minutes. In this video, he previews Byleth's play style, and speaks on their history and backstory in *Fire Emblem: Three Houses* along with the history of the *Fire Emblem* franchise itself.

Byleth boasts a move set involving a gamut of weaponry, including a bow, battleaxe, spear and sword, each used depending on the direction in which the player aims the control stick.

Sakurai explains that Byleth is "lacking in mobility ... throws are not [Byleth's] strong-point either, their grab lacks range."

He then goes on to explain, "You could say [Byleth is a] distance demon," meaning that Byleth may not be able to jump as high or move as fast as characters like Marth or Link, but Byleth's weapon diversity and close quarters range is something to be feared.

Sakurai gives examples of Byleth's play style, demonstrating an up-special (tilting the control stick up and pressing the A but-



COURTESY OF NINTENDO

Pictured is Byleth as they appear at the start of Nintendo's 38-minute announcement video.

ton) similar to Simon or Richter. This up-special allows the player to latch onto the edge of the stage, while also giving the player the ability to knock their opponent into the air, following that up with a hard blow to the ground or to the bottom of the screen depending on the situation.

In the video, Byleth demonstrates a unique play style, in that, their reach overall is similar to what we have seen before; however, their reach in close quarters is devastating, with a side-special B (tilting the control stick to the left or right and then pressing the B

button) that reaches opponents a quarter way across the stage.

Byleth also has a down B (tilting the control stick down while holding B) that possesses Super Armor whilst readying the attack, gifting the player with the ability to withstand an attack from the opponent. However, this can be counteracted with a grab, stopping the move and leaving the player open to a counter. It is unknown how Byleth will be perceived by the smash community when released. The DLC pack will be released to the public Jan. 28.



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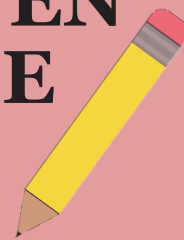
## WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED FOR THE DUKE



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## This Week's Weather


### Thursday

43°  Times of  
clouds and  
sun


### Friday

45°  Cloudy and  
mild;  
P.M. rain

### Saturday

40°  Showers of  
rain and  
snow

### Sunday

37°  Cloudy  
with flurries

### Monday

38°  Low clouds

### Tuesday

42°  Still cloudy

### Wednesday

47°  Mostly  
cloudy and  
mild

*Courtesy of AccuWeather*

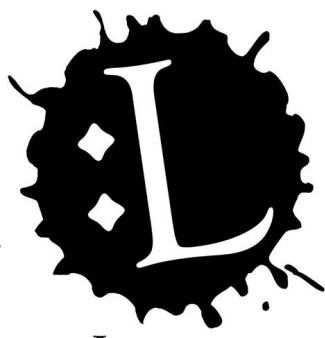
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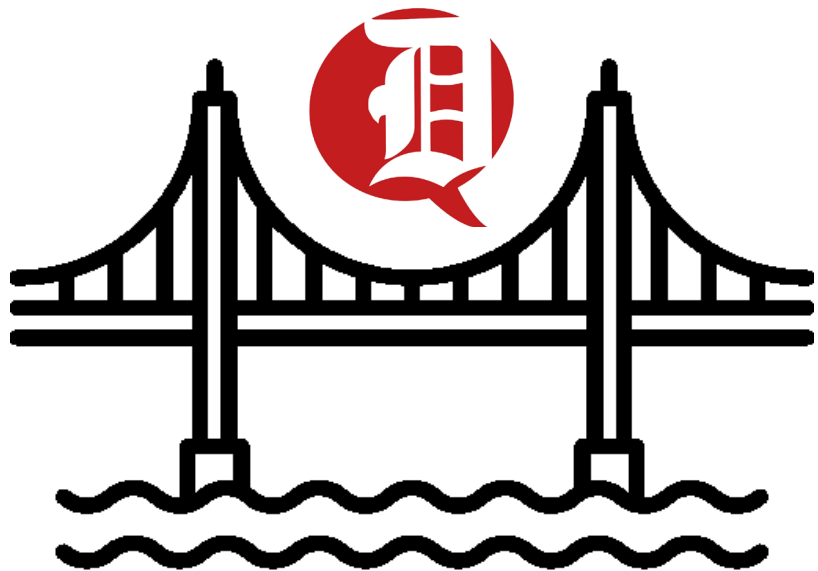


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## Chinese-American trade deal

*from CHINA — page 5*  
billion in agriculture purchases, China must purchase ethanol (oilseeds), meat, cereals, cotton and a few other types of products specifically produced in swing states. As the deal was being signed, Trump even called out Joni Ernst (R-IA) for pressuring him to feature ethanol purchases for Iowa farmers. Energy purchases are limited to fossil fuel energies: liquified natural gas, crude oil, refined products and coal, effectively destroying our ability to compete with the Chinese solar market.

Most important, in my opinion, are the new rights granted to American financial enterprises operating in China or in partnership with Chinese firms. Our finance industry will now be allowed to review Chinese loans and make extensive and far-reaching investments into the Chinese economy. Shockingly, Article 4.5 Clause 2 allows American financial services suppliers to apply for permits to acquire non-performing loans from Chinese banks. Though estimates of non-performing loans

are speculative at best, most rating agencies presume 40% of the loans throughout the Chinese economy to be non-performing. In allowing American finance to take on its debt, China has expertly distributed its monstrous risk portfolio, tying our financial sector to its national economic well-being.

Throughout the next few weeks and on the campaign trail, this phase one agreement will be presented to voters as a key reason to re-elect the president. Conservative media will paint the deal as an example of the president's unique deal-making skills, how he managed to coerce China into hundreds of billions of dollars worth of concessions and secured legal rights for American business while refusing to abandon his protectionist tariff regime. But let's not joke about this, China got a fantastic deal. If they didn't like it, they would have held out for another year in hopes of a more cooperative replacement across the table.

This deal will be great for all parties, insofar as they were present at the negotiating table.



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