



Court: No unionization for Duquesne adjunct faculty

OLLIE GRATZINGER

editor-in-chief

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled Jan. 28 that the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has no jurisdiction over the university's adjunct faculty.

According to the ruling, the NLRB does not have the authority to approve an adjunct faculty union — a right the professors have been campaigning for since 2012.

This decision, if upheld, could permanently douse unionization efforts at Duquesne.

"The ruling by the Court of Appeals reaffirms what the U.S. Supreme Court has made clear for decades: That religious organizations like ours are exempt from regulation and intrusion by the federal government as it pertains to employment relationships with our faculty (here, adjunct faculty members in the college of liberal arts)," said Duquesne University President Ken Gormley. "This decision by the United States Court of Appeals was an important one, in terms of ensuring that we maintain the 142-year-old Catholic and Spiritan identity of our university. Our name is Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit for a reason."

The ruling was based on the "long-standing precedent" by the U.S. Supreme Court and earlier decisions of the D.C. Circuit, according to a university statement emailed to students.

Gormley elaborated, explaining that the religion clauses in the First Amendment of the Constitution prevent the government from interfering in religious affairs. Since Duquesne is a religious institution, organized as non-profit, the court ruled that it is exempt from the jurisdiction of the NLRB — a federal agency.

"The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit that issued the ruling in our case is one of the highest courts in the nation aside from the Supreme Court," he said. "Its

decision was lauded by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities and other religious institutions across the United States in the same position as Duquesne. As someone who has studied and taught constitutional law for decades, it is clear to me that this is a correct interpretation of the U.S. Constitution."

But for some adjuncts, the ruling feels like a step in the wrong direction.

Clinton Benjamin has been teaching English and composition as an adjunct at Duquesne for about 10 years. He isn't on campus this semester because of low enrollment — his classes were removed from the roster.

"It certainly seems to slam the door on adjunct unionization at Duquesne," Benjamin said. "Admin kept moving the goalposts until they got a decision they liked. I think it reflects a willful hypocrisy from them that's about on par with what we've seen before during this kerfuffle."

According to Benjamin, adjuncts make about \$4,050 per class. He's limited to two classes a semester, which gives him an income of just over \$16,000 per year.

"I can hardly live on it, but I'm good at teaching and I like it," he said.

According to Inside Higher Ed, adjuncts teach 44% of all credit hours in Duquesne's core curriculum, including math, writing, science, philosophy, theology and ethics.

United Steelworkers, the union seeking to organize the university's adjuncts, issued a statement in response to the ruling.

"We are disappointed with the court's decision and even more concerned that Duquesne's administration would fight this hard to keep their workers from having a voice on the job. Unlike other Catholic universities that recognized

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Tamburitzans return to Duquesne for a performance and meet and greet



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

The Tamburitzans, an Eastern European song and dance group, have a long-standing history with Duquesne. They were coined as the "Duquesne University Tamburitzans" in the late 1940s. In 2014, the university announced that the Tamburitzans were going to become "an independent, non-profit organization" as a way to increase the applicant pool, according to their website. Auditions will be held on Feb. 19 and they now accept students from any Pittsburgh-based colleges. The group performed a special show for Duquesne students, staff and family on Jan. 29.

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POLICE BRIEFS

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

On Jan. 24, a student was cited by the Pittsburgh Police for public urination and underage drinking. They were also referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

And that's it for this week. It has been rather quiet on the Bluff this semester. Here's some jokes to keep you busy so you don't go committing crimes as the boredom of winter really sets in.

JOKE CORNER!

And the Lord said unto John, "Come forth and you will receive eternal life." But John came fifth and won a toaster.

Helvetica and Times New Roman walk into a bar. "Get out of here!" shouts the bartender, "We don't serve your type."

**Knock Knock
Who's there?
Control Freak.
Con -
Okay now you say "control freak who?"**

Q: Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards?

A: He was just going through a stage

Q: Why did the police arrest the turkey?

A: They suspected fowl play

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We want your input!

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DU first in PA to receive endowment award for arts

HANNAH BOUCHER
staff writer

Duquesne has recently achieved the honor of being the only school in Pennsylvania to receive the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read Grant for the 2019 year. A major project that has been in the works for over a year, the librarians at Gumberg put together an application that has provided students with the opportunity to attend lectures, discussion panels and a plethora of other events that the NEA grant helps fund.

Duquesne's book of choice this year is *Lab Girl*, a memoir written by Hope Jahren. Jahren, a geochemist and geobiologist, writes on her personal experiences as a woman in the world of science.

"With over 500 female students studying in 27 STEM-related programs at Duquesne, we thought *Lab Girl* would be the perfect book to feature during the Big Read," said University Librarian Sara Baron.

Scott Buchanan, Duquesne's Outreach & Communications Librarian, joined the project not too long after the application had begun to be drafted. His job was to connect with groups and organizations in the community to partner with Duquesne for the Big Read project.

This is actually a requirement for the NEA grant application, however this stipulation proves to be beneficial because it allows

the program to be more accessible to those outside of the Duquesne community.

So far, Buchanan's secured partnerships include the Carnegie Science Center, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Swissvale Library, the Health Sciences Library at the University of Pittsburgh and the Women's Advisory Board. All of these groups have been provided with copies of the memoir to distribute the book to anyone interested in joining the book discussion.

There will be a book discussion hosted by Carnegie Science Center for the members of their STEM girls group in later February. Also in late February, at the Carnegie Library, the annual seed exchange will be hosting a discussion on *Lab Girl*.

Stuart Kurland, one of Duquesne's English professors, assigned the memoir to his sections of Imaginative Literature to read and has encouraged his students to attend as many of the Big Read events as possible. As soon as he saw that Duquesne would be participating in this event, he decided to take part.

Kurland believes it is important to engage his class in this program, seeing as the book has the potential to reach so many different students.

"It's timely, it's relevant ... this is a time to encourage people to get into STEM fields, particularly women," Kurland said.

Kristine Blair, the dean of the



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

Events surrounding the endowment award include *Lab Girl* book discussions as well as panel talks from various scholars.

College of Liberal Arts, believes it is important to be emphasizing women in STEM.

"To understand and [to] really have those first-person narratives are really critical because they serve as realistic depictions of what it's like for women engaging in scientific inquiry, and in other cases, women speaking realistically about the experiences they face working in particular fields that have been traditionally seen as male dominated," Blair said.

On Feb. 11, the kickoff event is a discussion panel that will feature Duquesne faculty and alumni from a wide range of backgrounds. This includes professors from the Bayer School, the School of Pharmacy and the School of Liberal Arts. The panel

will take place in the Student Union Africa Room from 3 to 5 p.m.

From February to March, there will be different free events for students revolving around the discussion of *Lab Girl*. There will also be free copies of the memoir available for anyone who wants to participate in the Big Read program in Gumberg.

Students from all schools are highly encouraged to attend as many of the events as possible. The intention of the Big Read is to involve the entire campus.

"I think because there are so many themes at play in *Lab Girl* ... there's something that has potential to reach everyone," Buchanan said.

University pleased with court ruling

UNION—from page 1

adjunct faculty unions, the Duquesne administration decided to invoke its status as a religiously affiliated institution in an effort to stop adjuncts from joining together to improve their working conditions and the university community," it said. "Adjuncts in Duquesne's McAnulty College voted in favor of union representation. They deserve the same rights to come together and bargain collectively as all workers."

Gormley insisted that the ruling was not intended to diminish the work of adjuncts, or delegitimize the merits of unionization. He said growing up in Swissvale, a factory town, had given him a "special appreciation" for unions. During college, he was a member of a union when he worked for Union Switch & Signal.

"Our successful position in this case, premised on our religious status, does not in any way indicate a lack of appreciation for the importance of unions. To the contrary; the university has and continues to have a deep respect and appreciation for unions," he said. "Duquesne has maintained

long-term relations with four different unions representing several hundred non-faculty employees on our campus."

Gormley also said he'd worked as an adjunct for seven years early in his career.

During those seven years, Gormley was also practicing law.

"I understand how vital these members of our faculty are in helping us to deliver a first-rate education to our students," he said. "For all of these reasons, we see the court's decision as a positive one for Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit."

The treatment of adjunct professors at Duquesne became a mainstream issue in 2013, following the death of Margaret Mary Vojtko, who had worked as an adjunct professor of French at the university for 25 years.

Vojtko suffered a heart attack in August and died two weeks later on Sept. 1, 2013. She was 83.

According to a *Duke* article from 2013, Vojtko would sometimes sleep overnight on the couch in the department office, because she was undergoing chemotherapy for ovarian cancer and the treatment would make her feel

tired and weak.

Due to medical bills she had incurred while undergoing cancer treatments, coupled with the meager salary she made as an adjunct, she was living in extreme poverty. The lack of a pension plan and benefits after the university decided not to renew her teaching contract resulted in Vojtko being unable to fix a broken furnace at her house, which left her without heat. She'd spend nights at an Eat n' Park and bus back to Duquesne in the morning.

"Poor adjunct conditions hurt the entire profession. Reliance on adjunct professors erodes tenure-track positions and makes tenure-track [professors] take on greater course loads," Benjamin said. "It used to be that being a professor was a ladder into the middle class — not anymore, since adjuncts are becoming the norm, not the exception."

According to Inside Higher Ed, the 2-1 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia suggests that more litigation in the case may be possible. However, it is not known at this time if the NLRB will appeal this decision to the Supreme Court.

South Side residents report strange sounds

HALLIE LAUER
news editor

Over the last two weeks, the Zone 3 police in South Side have received multiple reports from people who have heard what sounds like recordings of babies crying or the voices of children asking for help.

The police responded to each report, but were unable to hear the sound or locate the source.

There have been multiple posts on social media platforms linking these reports to a sex trafficking group; however, the police have not confirmed that.

On Thursday, Jan. 23, the university sent out an email to students with general safety tips which include things like not walking alone, letting people know where you are going and when you will return and being aware of your surroundings.

Duquesne has also been in touch with Zone 3 police about these reports.

Police are asking anyone who hears these sounds to immediately call 911 and remain indoors.

Health experts: Human-to-human spread of new virus worrying to officials

(AP) — World health officials expressed “great concern” Wednesday that a dangerous new virus is starting to spread between people outside of China, a troubling development as China and the world frantically work to contain the outbreak. For a second day, the number of infections grew dramatically.

The new virus has now infected more people in China than were sickened there during the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak. On Wednesday, the number of cases jumped to 5,974, surpassing the 5,327 people diagnosed with SARS.

The death toll, which stood at 132 Wednesday, is still less than half the number who died in China from SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome. Scientists say there are many questions to be answered about the new virus, including just how easily it spreads and how severe it is.

The World Health Organization’s

tee of experts Thursday. It will assess whether the outbreak should be declared a global emergency.

To date, about 99% of the nearly 6,000 cases are in China. Ryan estimated the death rate of the new virus at 2%, but said the figure was very preliminary. With fluctuating numbers of cases and deaths, scientists are only able to produce a rough estimate of the fatality rate and it’s likely many milder cases of the virus are being missed.

In comparison, the SARS virus killed about 10% of people who caught it.

The new virus is from the coronavirus family, which includes those that can cause the common cold as well as more serious illnesses such as SARS and MERS.

Ryan noted there were several aspects of the new virus outbreak that are extremely worrying, citing the recent rapid spike in cases in China. He

nounced they were cutting flights to China, and Hong Kong was suspending rail travel to and from the mainland at midnight.

The number of cases in China rose 1,459 from the previous day, a smaller increase than the 1,771 new cases reported Tuesday. Australia, Finland and Singapore were among those reporting new cases, as the number outside China topped 70. The vast majority are people who came from Wuhan.

The U.S. plane arrived in California after a refueling stop in Alaska. All 201 passengers, who included diplomats from the U.S. Consulate in Wuhan, passed health screenings in China and Anchorage, and were to undergo three days of monitoring at a Southern California military base to ensure they show no signs of the illness.

“The whole plane erupted into cheers when the crew welcomed them back to the United States,” Dr. Anne Zink, Alaska’s chief medical officer, told reporters in Anchorage.

Four passengers on the evacuation flight to Japan had coughs and fevers, and two were diagnosed with pneumonia. It wasn’t clear whether they were infected with the new virus, which first appeared in Wuhan in December. Its symptoms, including cough and fever and in severe cases pneumonia, are similar to many other illnesses.

Takeo Aoyama, an employee at Nippon Steel Corp.’s subsidiary in Wuhan, told reporters he was relieved to return home.

“We were feeling increasingly uneasy as the situation developed so rapidly and we were still in the city,” Aoyama said, his voice muffled by a white surgical mask.

Australia, New Zealand and Britain were among the latest countries to announce they are planning evacuations.

British health secretary Matt Hancock tweeted that “anyone who returns from Wuhan will be safely isolated for 14 days, with all necessary medical attention.” The measures are a step up from those during the devastating 2014-16 Ebola outbreak, when returning travelers from West Africa were asked to monitor themselves for symptoms.

Mark Woolhouse, a professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh, said the steps are justified to prevent the introduction of the virus and its spread.

“There’s always a balance between the draconian measures of public health and what people

might want to do, and obviously it’s regrettable if people who turn out not to have the virus are quarantined unnecessarily,” he said.

The outbreak has affected international sporting events. The International Hockey Federation postponed Pro League games in China, and soccer, basketball and boxing qualifiers for the Tokyo Olympics in February have been moved outside of the country.

In China’s Hubei province, 17 cities including Wuhan have been locked down, trapping more than 50 million people in the most far-reaching disease control measures ever imposed.

WHO’s director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, commended China’s response. The low number of infections outside China “is due in no small part to the extraordinary steps the government has taken to prevent the export of cases,” he said. “They’re doing that at the expense of their economy and other factors.”

During the 2002-2003 SARS epidemic, China was slammed for hiding that outbreak for months, allowing it to spread unchecked before reporting it to the WHO. Even after inviting international experts to investigate the epidemic, SARS patients were moved from hospitals and driven around in ambulances to conceal the true extent of the virus’ spread.

The source of the new virus and the full extent of its spread are still unknown. However, the World Health Organization said most cases reported to date “have been milder, with around 20% of those infected experiencing severe illness.”

Scientists expect many crucial questions about the virus’ behavior will be answered in the coming weeks as the outbreak evolves and it becomes clearer how people are infected.

Although the Chinese health minister and others have suggested that the virus is spreading before people get symptoms, data to confirm that has not yet been shared widely beyond China.

“It’s still unclear whether that takes place,” said Malik Peiris, chair in virology at the University of Hong Kong.

“The fortunate thing about SARS, if there was anything fortunate, was that transmission did not take place before symptoms,” he said. If it turns out that the new coronavirus can indeed be spread by people who don’t show any symptoms, “a pandemic is a scenario that we have to consider.”



COURTESY AP NEWS

Passengers board buses after arriving on an airplane carrying U.S. citizens being evacuated from Wuhan, China, at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, Calif. Jan. 29. The passengers will undergo additional screenings in California.

emergencies chief told reporters on Wednesday that China was taking “extraordinary measures in the face of an extraordinary challenge” posed by the outbreak.

Dr. Michael Ryan spoke at a news conference after returning from a trip to Beijing to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other senior government leaders. He said the epidemic remains centered in the city of Wuhan and in Hubei province but that “information is being updated and is changing by the hour.”

Ryan said the few cases of human-to-human spread of the virus outside China — in Japan, Germany, Canada and Vietnam — were of “great concern” and were part of the reason the U.N. health agency’s director-general was reconvening a commit-

tee of experts Thursday. It will assess whether the outbreak should be declared a global emergency.

“Without understanding that, it’s very hard to put into context the current transmission dynamics,” he said.

Meanwhile, countries began evacuating their citizens from the Chinese city hardest-hit by the virus. Chartered planes carrying about 200 evacuees each arrived in Japan and the United States as other countries planned similar evacuations from the city of Wuhan, which authorities have shut down to try to contain the virus.

The first cases in the Middle East were confirmed Wednesday, a family of four from Wuhan that was visiting the United Arab Emirates. Airlines around the world an-

Black History Month Events at Duquesne

Feb. 3 - 7
Teenie Harris Photo Exhibit

Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 11:30 a.m.

Office of Diversity and Inclusion Appreciation Day

Thursday, Feb. 6 from 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Teenie Harris Archive Presentation

Monday, Feb. 10 from 5 - 7 p.m.
Jackson Kelly Law Reception

Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 11:30 a.m.
“No Agendas: Open Discussion”

Thursday, Feb. 13 at 9 p.m.
Black History Month Series:
Dear White People

Monday, Feb. 17 at 6 p.m.
Restorative Yoga

Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 11:30 a.m.
“Self-Empowerment Hour”

Tuesday, Feb. 18 from 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Black Love Day

Friday, Feb. 21 from 7 - 9 p.m.
Medley of Melanin Pageant

Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 11:30 a.m.
I Love My Hair Symposium

Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 9 p.m.
Collegiate 100 Pinning Ceremony

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“There was some-
thing in the air that
night. The stars
were bright,
Fernando.”

ABBA

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

@TheDuquesneDuke

EDITORIAL
POLICY

The Duquesne Duke is the student-written, student-managed newspaper of Duquesne University. It is published every Thursday during the academic year except during semester breaks and holidays, and prior to final exams. The Staff Editorial is based upon the opinions of the editors of *The Duke* and does not necessarily reflect the views of the students, faculty, administration, student government or the University publications board. Op-ed columns do not reflect the opinions of *The Duke*, but rather are the sole opinions of the columnists themselves.

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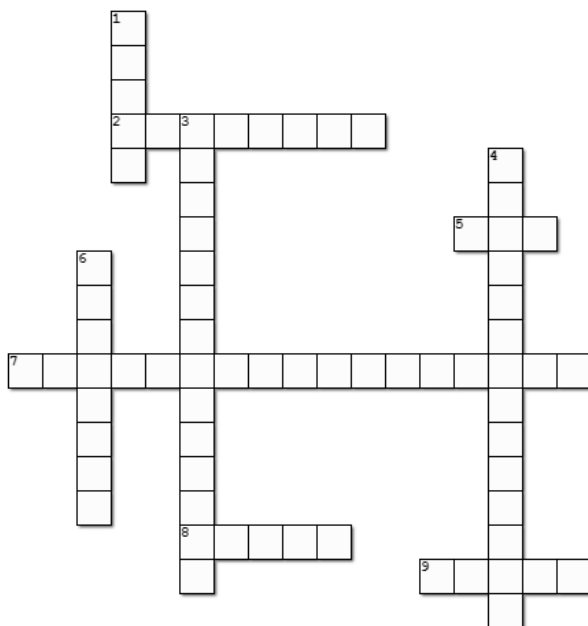
2. American Muslim
minister and civil rights
activist
5. Has a dream
7. ‘I have a dream speech
happened during this
event

8. Organization Founded
in 1909

9. Bloody Sunday Hap-
pened here

Down:

1. First Black President
3. National Guard
escorted students
4. The Queen of Jazz
6. Black History month



Locking away voting rights from prisoners

As the 2020 presidential election nears, many Democratic candidates have boasted their brilliant new strategies of criminal justice reform. From eliminating the cash bail system to ending federal use of private prisons, these candidates believe they have figured out how to finally fix this broken system. However, very few have taken into consideration prisoners' opinions on these matters.

Well, why would they? The majority of prisoners in the U.S. are not allowed to vote.

As of 2017, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported nearly 1.5 million Americans are currently incarcerated in state or federal prisons, and although laws vary state to state, most of the nation's prisoners lose the right to vote while incarcerated — Pennsylvania prisoners included.

This means that in the upcoming election, roughly 50,000 people in Pennsylvania will not be allowed to vote because they are currently serving prison sentences.

However, although these inmates are not allowed to vote, they will still be counted in the 2020 census and contribute to the state's overall population when determining representation in Congress.

It is deeply unjust to count prisoners as citizens when seeking representation, but revoke their right to vote once they have been counted. This tactic mimics those used in the late 1700s and through most of the 19th century in which slaves were counted (or partially counted) to boost the number of southern representatives in congress, but not granted the right to vote.

By revoking prisoners' right

to vote while counting them for representation purposes, lawmakers show their desire to disenfranchise this massive, yet unseen section of society.

The U.S. is one of the only countries to uphold this policy. Most other developed nations, including most of Europe, view voter disenfranchisement as a violation of human rights. In 2005, the European Court on Human Rights ruled that the U.K.'s blanket removal of voting rights for prisoners was inhumane. Since then, the U.K.



COLLEEN HAMMOND
opinions editor

has changed its policy and many other nations have followed suit. In 2002, the Canadian Supreme Court also upheld prisoners' right to vote.

While many Americans view the criminal justice system as necessarily punitive, disenfranchising prisoners puts the prison population at a severe disadvantage. Even though most decisions on criminal justice policy are made by state and nationally elected officials, prisoners have no say in who represents them.

Being convicted of a felony should not disqualify someone from fair representation in state and federal government. U.S. law requires fairness in

the criminal justice system when being accused of crimes and facing trial. Why does the need for fairness, justice, democracy and human dignity suddenly disappear when someone is behind bars?

If the goal of the criminal justice system is to release rehabilitated prisoners back into society, they should be allowed to have a say in the government they will face outside prison walls. Involvement in democratic processes is inherently productive and should be a permitted and encouraged activity for prisoners.

In addition, the prison industrial complex disproportionately impacts minority groups. According to the Pew Research Center, although African Americans make up only 12% of the U.S. population, they constitute 33% of the U.S. prison population. A similar trend is seen with the Hispanic population. Although Hispanics make up 16% of the national population, they comprise 23% of all inmates.

The current system disenfranchises large sections of minorities, and politicians cannot ignore this anymore.

The U.S. has consistently denied prisoners the right to vote while incarcerated. This is a clear violation of human rights. The right to vote is meant to be intrinsic and irrevocable for American citizens. This practice suppresses minorities and prevent large sections of the population from having their fair say in their governments. While prisoners may forfeit their freedom as punishment for their crimes, their inherent human dignity cannot be sacrificed for the sake of perceived “justice.”

STAFF
EDITORIAL*Black History is not
just for February*

During this year's Grammys, Google released an ad it's calling “The Most Searched: A Celebration of Black History Makers.” This ad features prominent black figures in American history like Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Fredrick Douglas, as well as important people in modern culture like Serena Williams, Beyonce and RuPaul, among others.

Google used data tracking that dates back to 2004 to compile a list of the most searched abolitionists, performances, biographies and many others as a way to celebrate the start of Black History Month.

On the website where Google has the explanation behind this commercial, it has in large text, “Everyone deserves the chance to make history.”

Not only that, but everyone deserves the chance to know their history — their full history — without the whitewashing.

As with every year, the cries on social media for a “White History Month” take hold. The plain and simple answer for why there isn't a white history month is because white people have taken hold of all of history. They have effectively erased black history from the textbooks.

So frequently, when students learn about prominent figures in history, they are, more times than not, white men.

Black History Month gets its origin from Negro History Week, created in 1926, and it was created by Carter G. Woodson — a black, Harvard-trained historian. It wasn't 50 years later that it would become a month-long event. February was chosen because both abolitionist Fredrick Douglas and President Abraham Lincoln's birthdays fall within it.

Part of the original goal of Negro History Week was to place an emphasis on teaching the history of black Americans in public schools.

Pause here for a moment. This was 1926. Woodson wanted to educate public schools on black history, 28 years before the schools were desegregated.

By creating a specific time when black history could be celebrated, Woodson effectively made sure that it would be celebrated.

We can sit here and say all we want that black history should be studied and celebrated all year round — and it should. However, if we were to remove or forget the importance of Black History Month, that simply wouldn't happen.

It's similar to how people boycott Valentine's Day, because “you should love your significant other all the time.” But really, how frequently in people's everyday lives to they go out of their way to show their affection? By creating a time and space for a celebration to occur, it ensures that the duty will be fulfilled.

Without the reminder that February is Black History Month, much of

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OPINIONS

Face the music; women are silenced by industry giants

ZOE STRATOS
staff columnist

As music's biggest night came to an end on Sunday, conversations of Grammy winners and other controversies within the Recording Academy sparked up once again — including that of women's representation in the music industry.

Prior to the Grammys ceremony, controversy within the Academy hid behind the curtains as first female Recording Academy president Deborah Dugan suddenly was put on administrative leave ten days before the ceremony; she was appointed to the position in August 2019 due to the resignation of Neil Portnow.

Portnow's resignation was not a quiet one, either. Shortly after a male-dominated Grammys two years ago, with females being awarded only 17 of 86 awards, Portnow was confronted about the gender imbalance by Variety.com, and his response was less than desirable.

"It has to begin with ... women who have the creativity in their hearts and souls, who want to be musicians, who want to be engineers, producers, and want to be part of the industry on the executive level," said Portnow. "... [They need] to step up because I think

they would be welcome."

Following this statement, American musician Vanessa Carlton put out a petition calling for Portnow's resignation. In the letter, she addressed important concerns with his wording and attempts at backpedaling. As a music industry giant, Portnow had an opportunity in that moment to acknowledge women's accomplishments in music; but rather, whether it was intentional or not, labeled it as a "boy's" club that is welcome to those women worthy enough to be in it.

Also contained within the letter were statistics pertaining to women's representation in the Grammys, specifically. In a study done by the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, they found that between 2013 and 2018 90% of Grammy nominees were men; and there were over 800 nominees.

With all of that said, representation in the Grammys has improved significantly since Portnow's words, with 31 women last year and women this year taking home the prestigious award. Most importantly, young popstar Billie Eilish swept the top four categories: best new artist, album, record and song of the year.

Now fast forwarding back to Dugan: another possible victim of



Vanessa Carlton struggles to have her voice heard by male music executives. COURTESY OF CTV NEWS

the lack of female representation in the music industry. Dugan's dismissal came shortly after she sent out a detailed memo concerning practices and voting irregularities in the Academy, and that she herself had been paid less than her predecessor — the leave being a way to save face within the Academy and stifle the woman trying to create change.

The Academy, however, claims the leave is due to Dugan's hostile leading style — especially toward her inherited assistant, Claudine Little. On top of this, Dugan's stand-in Harvey Mason Jr. claimed Dugan was giving out misinformation, but I digress.

Now taking it to a more general music view, women are still se-

verely underrepresented under all categories of music production — despite the "progress" made in the Grammys this past Sunday.

In February of 2019 USC's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative released a study surrounding discrimination in music, specifically looking at the ratios of gender and race across 700 popular songs from 2012 to 2018.

Under the category of "artists," the study found a total of 1,455 artists credited somehow with the 700 popular songs in 2018. They came to find that men represented 82.9% of artists on the year end charts, while women only represented 17.1%. Under the category of "songwriters," the study included 3,330 songwriters over

the seven year period. Once all of the data was gathered, 87.7% consisted of men while the other 12.3% were women.

However, the study, and the overall problem, does not end with lack of representation in general, but goes as far as to list statistics from a study of 75 female songwriters and producers experiencing other types of harassment or discrimination.

In the recording studio, 39% of them reported to be objectified, 25% were the only woman in the room, and 28% were dismissed from the room.

The problem of gender discrimination within the workplace is prevalent across all occupations. A highly covered occupation, such as the music industry, must begin to make change. From Dugan's compromised position, to female artists jipped of deserved titles, to females in the industry hurt and ignored by male counterparts — the solution must come from the industry's men.

Organizations like the Academy need to set inclusion standards and support women's music, sort of like they finally did on Sunday. A plethora of women nominees, winners, performers and even host led to an inclusive night, much deserved.

A sickly healthcare system requires a variety of treatments

NOAH WILBUR
staff columnist

Four years ago, we witnessed an unexpected reality emerge into existence when Donald J. Trump was elected the 45th President. Americans are once more in the midst of another presidential election with the potential to considerably impact future generations.

While the 2020 candidates continue to declare their stances on a collection of noteworthy issues, one concern has become the focus of immense attention: the U.S. healthcare system.

In December 2019, Gallup, Inc conducted a survey to discover the key issues that Americans distinguished as most influential in their determination of which candidates to support. The results revealed that healthcare sits at the helm with 35% of voters identifying it as "Extremely Important" in selecting the next president.

Another recent survey by Gallup concluded that 70% of Americans believe the current U.S. healthcare system to be "in a state of crisis" or

as having "major problems."

These discoveries from the two polls did not in any way, shape or form appear as a revelation to me. The public disdain and unfavorable attitude towards healthcare in the U.S. is certainly not a new, radical discovery of American sentiment that was otherwise unknown.

However, it does seem as if the resentful scrutiny surrounding healthcare in this country has finally culminated into an unshakable campaign to upend the entire system. Across the nation, Americans have challenged the 2020 candidates to focus on developing an effective solution for what is considered a "healthcare crisis."

Although the public conviction of a "healthcare crisis" might seem extreme, this judgement is reasonably warranted after examining the countless costs and obstacles associated with the system.

Exorbitant prices for both procedures and medication, as well as a lack of insurance coverage for many Americans are well-known problems. In addition, the attempt to unwind the complicated pro-



U.S. healthcare system factors heavily into voter choices for 2020 election. COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM

cedure involved with obtaining health coverage is often a precarious struggle.

For most individuals, overcoming the many hurdles in the present system invokes a sense of anxiety and fear equivalent to the apprehension felt by a stockbroker during a sudden dip in the markets.

Adding insult to injury, the average life expectancy in America has declined for a third year in spite of the U.S. spending more on healthcare per capita than any other country.

Thus, it is indisputable that the U.S. healthcare system is a systematically flawed and unequal institution embedded with complex arrangements which unfairly permit medical professionals, hospitals and insurance companies to reap the benefits.

Amid the wide-spread criticism, both Democratic and Republican politicians have responded with several versions of healthcare reform. In this presidential cycle, the most prevalent has been the rallying cry of "healthcare-for-all" behind the democratic proposal

known as Universal Healthcare.

The rudimentary definition of universal healthcare is a government-led system in which all citizens are guaranteed quality health coverage with the assurance that considerable financial burden and distress will not be the outcome.

Advocates of a universal system argue that advantages include cheaper overall health care costs through governmental control, lower administrative costs and the standardization of high-quality services at sensible prices.

Supporters proclaim that the long run effect is an American population with reduced sickness and health related ailments; as a result, social costs will substantially decrease for both the U.S. government and healthcare agencies.

In contrast, the opposition disputes universal healthcare by insisting that it leans too closely towards socialism. This of course would be a complete abandonment of the Western values that form the foundation of which the U.S. boldly stands.

see HEALTH — page 11

Penguins march and waddle at Pittsburgh Zoo event

JESSICA LINCOLN
staff writer

On Sunday, all eyes were on the quarantine doors. Children pushed to the front to look through the openings in the barricades, and people of all ages craned their necks to look for movement in the window. Suddenly, the doors opened, and out came the stars of the show: 13 Macaroni and Gentoo penguins parading their way down the path outside of the PPG Aquarium.

It was a good day to be a penguin. Temperatures were in the low 30s as they waddled past the crowds, enjoying the light snowfall and investigating the new faces. Later, the barriers were moved to form a circle, and the penguins played with one another, often mere feet away from their rapt audience.

They were outside because of Penguins on Parade, an event the Pittsburgh Zoo holds every Saturday and Sunday during the winter months, weather permitting. The event is free to zoo members and is included with general zoo admission.

The parade itself lasts for about 15 minutes. It starts at 11:30 a.m. sharp, although visitors are advised to come early, said Tracy Gray, the zoo's media and public relations manager.

Visitors can call the zoo at 412-665-3640 or visit the zoo's website to check for cancellations.

The day after the parade, I was taken behind the scenes to talk to penguin keeper Jessica Ries and find out more about what life is like as a penguin at the zoo.

When I arrived, I was introduced to Elsa, a female Macaroni penguin who



JESSICA LINCOLN | STAFF WRITER

Penguins from the Pittsburgh Zoo waddled around a crowd last weekend.

was hatched in 2014. Like all of the zoo's penguins, she wears bands around her wings for identification. And surprisingly enough, she was soft to the touch, allowing us to pet her on her back without resistance.

As Ries and I spoke, Elsa moved her head around, watching from every angle. She stretched, extending her wings and looking up before shaking herself out. She was standing on a tablecloth with an ice block underneath, and she seemed content as could be.

Macaroni penguins, named after an eighteenth-century style involving the placement of feathers in hats, are smaller than Gentoos. Both species are compact and streamlined with solid bones to let them "fly" through the water, according to Ries.

As of now, the zoo has 25 penguins,

seven of which are Macaronis. It's impossible to tell if a penguin is male or female without doing a blood test, so all of the penguins undergo one shortly after they hatch. Iggy, a penguin who hatched last spring, is a boy, Ries confirmed.

"We hand-feed them all individually," Ries said, with three varieties of fish twice daily. The penguins swallow their fish whole, and they understand their schedules and can identify their keepers.

The automated lighting cycle inside the exhibit tells them when to molt their feathers, which they do once a year, and when to begin breeding season. As is common for penguin exhibits in this hemisphere, they run on an Arctic lighting cycle, since their native Antarctic cycle would leave the exhibit dark for most of the summer — the zoo's busiest season.

Around March, they begin breeding

season. Penguins mate for life, and they do so by presenting their partners with pebbles and building nests with them.

"We put piles of rocks all over," Ries said. "We work closely with our animal health team throughout that time."

Elsa was one of the first Macaroni penguins born at the zoo, and her keepers are hopeful that she might lay an egg this season.

As for Penguins on Parade, the penguins' health is the priority.

"45 degrees is a safe limit for us," Ries said. If temperatures are above that point, the event will be canceled, as announced on the zoo's Twitter feed.

"It's enriching for the penguins to go out and play in the snow and have that experience," Ries said.

The parade is voluntary for the birds. Ries and the other keepers signal them when it's time to leave, and around 10 to 14 of them typically join in. If any of them show signs of overheating, such as open-mouthed breathing, they are taken back inside.

Ries said the best part of the parade is "seeing the joy on children's faces and adults' alike."

For Ries, working with the penguins is a dream come true.

"I knew right away that this was what I wanted to do and where I wanted to be," she said. "They make me laugh every single day."

She hopes that meeting the penguins and getting to know their "penguinalities" might inspire visitors to consider sustainable practices, like eliminating single-use plastics and buying sustainable seafood.

"I hope they'll take a second in their day-to-day lives to think about how they can impact penguins in the wild," she said.

Groundhog Day: the history behind the unusual holiday

KELLEN STEPLER
features editor

Step aside, Gus. Pennsylvania's most famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, will take the spotlight Sunday, Feb. 2, as the world watches to see if we will have six more weeks of winter, or if spring is right around the corner.

Crowds have descended on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney on Feb. 2 every year

since 1887. According to tradition, if Phil sees his shadow and returns to his hole, he predicts six more weeks of winter. If he does not see his shadow, he has predicted an early spring.

Last year, Phil predicted an early spring. He has only predicted an early spring 20 times, and has predicted six more weeks of winter 102 times. There was no record kept nine times. In 1943, he did not make an appearance, and in 1942, Phil only saw a partial shadow, with the president of the

Inner Circle claiming that "war clouds have blacked out parts of the shadow."

The holiday reigns from Candlemas Day, an early Christian holiday that was also a weather prediction occasion. In Germany, they would wake up a badger or hedgehog to see if he saw his shadow.

The Inner Circle, donning tuxedos and top hats, translates Phil's prediction. Phil tells the president of the Inner Circle what he has seen in a language known as "Groundhogese." The president of the Inner Circle is the only person who is able to translate the language through an ancient acacia wood cane.

According to the Groundhog club website, the Inner Circle is composed of 15 men. The president then informs the vice president of the Inner Circle of Phil's findings, and the vice president then reads from a pre-written scroll to the crowd. The Inner Circle scripts the ceremonies and decide what Phil will see in advance, but they keep the criteria for determining the weather a secret.

Besides planning for the ceremony, the Inner Circle takes care of Phil for the entire year.

Despite a 132-year career, Phil actually isn't that accurate at predicting the weather. Data from the Stormfax Almanac shows that Phil is only right about 39% of the time. With those numbers, you'd be better off flipping a coin to predict the weather.

However, the Inner Circle claims that Phil has a 100% accuracy rate, and about an 80% accuracy rate in recorded predic-

tions. They claim that whenever Phil's prediction is "wrong," the person in charge of translating Phil's prediction interpreted it wrong.

Although groundhogs only live about six to eight years, Phil drinks a magical elixir in the summer to expand his life. The drink allows Phil to live for seven more years, according to the Groundhog club website.

When Phil is not at Gobbler's Knob predicting the weather, he resides at the Punxsutawney town lobby. He lives in the library with his wife, Phyllis.

Also, the groundhog wasn't named Phil until 1961. The Groundhog Club website says that he was named after King Phillip.

The holiday didn't become popular until 1993, when the movie *Groundhog Day* was released. A Punxsutawney Phil appearance on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* in 1995 sparked some more publicity to the groundhog and the holiday as well. Now, about 40,000 people travel to Punxsutawney each year to witness the prediction.

If you go, go early: the prediction occurs every year at around 7:20 a.m. It takes about an hour and 30 minutes to drive from Pittsburgh to Punxsutawney.

The holiday appeared in Punxsutawney's newspaper, *The Punxsutawney Spirit*, in 1886, and the event has gotten bigger and bigger ever since, according to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club website.

"[Groundhog Day is a] day to take everything a little less seriously, and break up the winter monotony ... at least for a little while," the club said on its website.



COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON POST

The Inner Circle interprets and translates Phil's prediction and future weather forecast.

MBB’s comeback comes up short against Dayton

KELLEN STEPLER
features editor

The Duquesne men’s basketball team gave it their best shot, but Dayton proved why they were the No. 7 ranked team in the nation in a 73-69 Flyers win on Wednesday night at PPG Paints Arena.

The Flyers built an eight point lead at halftime, thanks to a buzzer-beating three-pointer by Jalen Crutcher. Crutcher would finish with 18 points for Dayton. After the intermission, the Flyers would create a 10-4 run and Dayton would lead Duquesne by 19 points with 11 minutes left in the game.

But Duquesne wouldn’t say die just yet. Tavian Dunn-Martin would hit back-to-back three-pointers to spark an 11-4 Duquesne run to pull the Dukes back within eight.

“[Dunn-Martin] gave us really great energy, he really fired us up,” Duquesne forward Marcus Weathers said. “We had to go out fighting. We’ve got a lot of guys with a lot of fight.”

With four minutes left in the

game, the Dukes trimmed a 19-point Dayton lead to only four. Keith Dambrot praised his team for its ability to fight back from the deficit.

“They delivered knock-out punches, but we didn’t go down,” Duquesne head coach Keith Dambrot said. “We can play with every team in our league.”

Weathers and teammate Michael Hughes helped lead the Dukes comeback charge in the second half. Hughes scored 13 of his 19 points, and Weathers scored 11 of his 17 points in the second half. Duquesne shot 45.8% from the field, 33.3% from three-point land and went 7-for-13 from the free throw line.

With 33 seconds left in the game, the Dukes make it a one possession game, and the crowd of 7,001 was roaring.

But, standout Dayton sophomore Obi Toppin would head to the foul line and sink both shots to put Dayton up by four points, and that would be too little too late for the Dukes. Toppin would lead all scorers with 22 points, shooting 64% from the field. As



ALYSON LOREFICE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Duquesne’s Tavian Dunn-Martin (0) sends a bounce pass to Marcus Weathers (5).

a team, the Flyers finished the night shooting 59.2% from the field, 44.4% from beyond the arc and went 7-for-7 from the line. Dayton coach Anthony Grant was confident when Toppin went to the line, but wasn’t too pleased with his team’s performance overall.

“In my opinion, we’re better than what we played today,” Grant said. “We need to bring our best to every game. I’m glad we made enough plays at the end to get the win,” Grant said. “We made ourselves vulnerable, and some things [we did] were self-inflicted.”

While being the leading scorer, Toppin would lead the Flyers with 10 rebounds and had a big blocked shot to silence some of Duquesne’s momentum.

Toppin also gained respect from the Duquesne team.

“[Toppin] is the catalyst,” Weathers said. “We tried to limit his athleticism plays. Dayton runs their stuff very well.”

Duquesne out-rebounded Dayton 30-25, and the Dukes’ bench outscored Dayton’s bench 37-9.

Both the Flyers and Dukes would connect for eight three-pointers each, and the Dukes

would score 36 points in the paint, whereas the Flyers would score 38 points in the paint.

“We showed what we’re capable of, but we’re too inconsistent,” Dambrot said.

Additionally, Dambrot thought that if they would’ve played UMass before they played Rhode Island, they probably would have beaten the Minutemen.

“The season’s long, some nights you don’t have it,” Dambrot said.

The loss adds to Duquesne’s three game Atlantic 10 losing streak, and they fall to a record of 15-5, and 5-3 in the A-10.

They will look to get back on the winning track Sunday, where they will play host to La Salle in another Atlantic 10 matchup.

Currently, La Salle is 12th in the A-10, and have lost eight of their last 10 games. Sunday’s contest will tip off at 2 p.m.

The Explorers are led by 6’8 sophomore Ed Croswell, who has had five double-double games so far this season.

With the win, Dayton improves 8-0 in the A-10, and 19-2 overall. The Flyers will now travel to the Bronx, New York to play 13th place Fordham.



ALYSON LOREFICE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sincere Carry (10) drives to the hoop during the second half of Wednesday’s game.

Kobe leaves behind legacy worth more than basketball

JACK BREEN
staff writer

Shortly before 10 a.m. this Sunday morning, authorities in Calabasas, California received a 911 call due to a helicopter crash that ignited a brush fire in steep terrain. More than 50 respondents arrived to the scene where they found that none of the passengers had survived the crash.

Among the nine deceased was NBA legend Kobe Bryant, dying at age 41.

Others who were on the helicopter included Kobe’s 13 year-old daughter, Gianna “Gigi” Bryant, Gianna’s basketball teammate, Alyssa Altobelli, Alyssa’s father, John Altobelli who was a baseball coach at Orange Coast College, Alyssa’s mother, Keri Altobelli, Christina Mauser, a basketball coach at Harbor Day School, Payton Chester, a middle-school student, Payton’s mother, Sarah Chester, and the pilot, Ara Zobayan.

The victims of the crash were on their way to Mamba Sports Academy for the girls’ basketball tournament. The aircraft was moving at a rate of 184 mph and descending at a rate of more than 4,000 feet per minute when it struck the ground.

Kobe Bryant was more than a basketball player. Bryant was universally respected as a father, a friend, a husband, a leader and an inspiration to millions.

Read more on our website, at www.duqsm.com

Men’s Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	No. 7 Dayton	8-0	19-2	W10	2/1 vs. Fordham
2.	Rhode Island	7-1	15-5	W7	1/31 vs. VCU
3.	VCU	6-2	16-5	W4	1/31 at Rhode Island
4.	Duquesne	5-3	15-5	L3	2/2 vs. La Salle
5.	Saint Louis	5-3	16-5	W2	2/1 at Saint Joseph’s
6.	Richmond	5-3	15-6	L2	2/1 vs. G. Washington
7.	St. Bonaventure	5-3	13-8	W1	2/1 vs. George Mason
8.	G. Washington	4-4	10-11	W2	2/1 at Richmond
9.	Davidson	4-4	10-10	L1	2/1 vs. Umass
10.	UMass	3-5	9-12	W2	2/1 at Davidson
11.	George Mason	2-6	13-8	L2	2/1 at St. Bonaventure
12.	La Salle	1-7	10-10	L6	2/2 at Duquesne
13.	Fordham	1-7	7-13	L2	2/1 at Dayton
14.	Saint Joseph’s	0-8	4-17	L3	2/1 vs. Saint Louis

Women’s Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Dayton	7-0	14-7	W9	2/2 at Saint Joseph’s
2.	VCU	7-0	12-8	W7	2/2 vs. Duquesne
3.	Davidson	6-1	13-7	W1	2/2 vs. UMass
4.	UMass	5-3	15-6	W1	2/2 at Davidson
5.	Fordham	4-3	12-8	L2	2/1 vs. La Salle
6.	Saint Louis	3-4	11-9	W1	2/2 at G. Washington
7.	G. Washington	3-4	9-11	W2	2/2 vs. Saint Louis
8.	Duquesne	3-4	13-7	L1	1/30 vs. St. Bonaventure
9.	Rhode Island	3-4	10-9	L2	2/1 vs. George Mason
10.	La Salle	3-5	9-12	W2	2/1 at Fordham
11.	St. Bonaventure	2-5	5-15	W1	2/2 at Richmond
12.	Richmond	2-5	9-12	L1	2/2 vs. St. Bonaventure
13.	Saint Joseph’s	2-6	8-12	L2	2/2 vs. Dayton
14.	George Mason	1-7	7-14	L7	2/1 at George Mason

Desrosiers excited for second year at helm of women's lacrosse

DAVID BORNE
sports editor

The “sophomore slump” is a term sports fans and analysts love to toss around. Anytime a player, coach or team exceeds expectations in their first season, there’s always the fear that they will fail to make progress the following year.

After leading her team to an Atlantic 10 Championship tournament appearance in her first season at Duquesne, women’s lacrosse Head Coach Corinne Desrosiers isn’t ready to be complacent in 2020.

“My hope is this year, with a lot of new faces, we can do a lot of brainwashing. We can get the kids out of habits that they were in last year, it held us back in certain areas,” Desrosiers said. “I think we’ve made gains in that sense, especially defensively. We’re definitely talented and we should come down with some wins. Our hope is that we do better this year than last year.”

A number of Duquesne’s key contributors from last year’s nine-win team will be back on the Bluff this spring. Rilee Bradshaw, Duquesne’s leader in points (58) and goals (54) last season and First-Team All-Atlantic 10 selection Maddie Hart will lead the attack.

Juniors Michaela Connolly and Carlee Braverman, who combined for 89 points last season, will continue to be relied upon on the offensive end as well.

Duquesne will be captained by Bradshaw, along with senior midfielder Kirsten Barnes. Their work ethic, combined with the respect they’ve earned from their

teammates, made the choice clear for Desrosiers when she was looking to name captains last fall.

“[Bradshaw and Barnes] were both not even starters for me last year,” Desrosiers said. “They grew with the evolution of the program. They always had a team first mentality, they outworked their teammates at practice every day.”

On defense, All-A-10 first team defender Sydney Reed and goalie Maddy Curtis will look to lock things down for the Dukes. Reed, a junior, finished second on the team in ground balls (41) and caused turnovers (40) last season.

Curtis enters her senior season ranked eighth in school history with 223 career saves and 10th in wins with 10 victories.

Megan McCrea headlines a group of 11 freshmen that joins the Dukes this season. Desrosiers expects McCrea to be a starter for the team this season.

“She’s explosive in her speed and has a stick that can rival an attacker’s, just with how good she is with her stick work,” Desrosiers said on McCrea. “You don’t see that kind of handling on a defensive level. She’s super aggressive, the kind you either have or you don’t. She’s looking to make a big impact for us if we can keep her healthy.”

One dramatic change for Desrosiers and the Dukes this season is the strength of their non-conference schedule. Duquesne will be taking on some of the nation’s top programs, including Ohio State, Penn State and Notre Dame.

While the second-year head coach knows that these games will be a chal-

lenge, scores and results aren’t everything she hopes to take out of them. The experience her young team can get, and the lessons they can learn against stiff competition are invaluable.

“We have 31 kids on our team. 22 of them are underclassmen,” Desrosiers said. “So if we’re talking about depth or experience on the field, those teams have us in those categories. We get to provide our young players with an opportunity to see, feel and experience it, and then to take that back and play every day. I really think that’s how you should be building a program — with a championship mentality.”

With the program heading in the right direction, Desrosiers intends to keep the ball rolling this season. With improved results on the field and bolstered recruit-

ing efforts, she’s on a mission to permanently etch Duquesne’s name into the top of the A-10 standings.

“It’s easy to ride the high, sit back a little bit, maybe get lazy, complacent or comfortable,” Desrosiers said.

“I think for us, if we can do our job in recruiting and we can isolate those players that help bring us to the next level against the very talented A-10 kids that are coming in, I think we’ll be fine.”

“In terms of a five-year plan, I’m absolutely hopeful that were one of those top-two teams in the A-10 every single year. With consistency from our current kids and our continuation in recruiting, we can get it done.”

The Dukes open their season against Ohio State at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7th at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne shattered several program records during Corinne Desrosiers’ first season as head coach. Last year, the team netted a program-high 270 goals, posted 371 points and fired 669 shots.

Pirates host annual “PiratesFest” at PNC Park

KATIE SECAUR
staff writer

The time has come once again, Pirates fans; it is 11 days until pitchers and catchers report to Bradenton, Florida for Spring Training and the 2020 season will be upon us soon. But something else happens much closer to home to signify the start of a new season.

Every year, the Pittsburgh Pirates host “PiratesFest” as a means of hyping up the city for baseball. This event was previously held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center but has recently moved over to PNC Park back in 2017.

The event is split up between two days; Friday and the first two hours on Saturday are dedicated to season ticket holders and the remainder of the day Saturday is open to the public.

Major events offered included photo opportunities from the dugout. Game issued and worn merchandise and alumni autographs were available in the Hyundai Club. Fans also had a chance to take some swings in the batting cages and much more.

This event is spread throughout the park with the major events being in the Left-Field Lounge, the Hyundai Club and the Pittsburgh Baseball Club.



COURTESY OF THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES

Pirates centerfielder Bryan Reynolds models one of the new alternate jerseys. The team also introduced new black road jerseys.

A major criticism is that the event was lacking in signage. Right as you walked into the park, locations were marked slightly better, but if you were someone who had no idea of where anything was in general, it would be easy to get lost.

Another good thing to bring to this event would be your wallet. Most of the games and the autograph sessions for the major players cost money.

The games were \$2 a try and the autograph sessions were \$20 for a set of three. All from the event is donated to Pirates Charities.

Pirates’s fans were able to get autographs from current players and staff, as well as former Pirates players and the broadcast team.

Current players that were signing for fans included Jameson Taillon, Bryan Reynolds and Josh Bell.

Most of the events and spaces were open to everyone of all ages, but several stations were not. The batting cages were an exception to this all-age idea. “PiratesFest will feature activities for the entire family throughout PNC Park” their website said, and the batting cages are mentioned under this section.

It was not until I was at the front of the line that I was told that they were for kids aged 14 and under. Neither the website

nor the sign promoting this event stated the age restriction.

The team also announced new road alternate jerseys for the 2020 season. These new uniforms bring back the font of the ‘90s. Instead of the block font that fans are familiar with, they now have “Pittsburgh” written in a script style that seems to be a mix of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Washington Nationals and a small bit of the Philadelphia Phillies.

These jerseys are supposed to be alternates so the keystone font may not be gone considering that the cap logo features it. Fans on Facebook do not seem to really care about the new attire but instead still calling for owner, Bob Nutting, to give up the team or at least seem to care about it, as they do on every new post from the team.

Twitter seems neutral and Instagram seems positive to the new look.

The new broadcasting team was also announced this past weekend to fill in for Steve Blass’s retirement at the end of last season. The three former players that are set to take the mic are Kevin Young (1992-95, ‘97-2003), Matt Capps (2005-09), and Michael McKenry (2011-13).

As the team begins to reconstruct, this coming season is sure to be an interesting one, to say the least.

Netflix's *Sabrina* series returns for third season

HANNAH BOUCHER
staff writer

Despite the fact that Halloween was three months ago, it seems as though spooky season has made a comeback with the recent release of *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina: Chapter Three*.

Written by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, who also happens to write the popular CW show, *Riverdale*, *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* picks up roughly around where the previous season left off. After facing off with Lucifer (Luke Cook) himself, Sabrina (Kiernan Shipka) is determined to bring things back to normal — well, as normal as things can be for a half-witch-half-mortal girl.

Not only is Sabrina, along with Harvey (Ross Lynch), Roz (Jaz Sinclair) and Theo (Lachlan Watson), busy trying to save her boyfriend from the grasps of Madam Satan (Michelle Gomez), but her aunts must try and save their witch coven.

Aunt Hilda (Lucy Davis), Aunt Zelda (Miranda Otto) and Ambrose (Chance Perdomo), Sabrina's cousin, are very busy at the Academy of Unseen Arts, trying to salvage whatever they



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Kiernan Shipka stars as Sabrina Spellman.

can after the tragedies of the previous season.

All in all, the Spellman family is thrown for quite the loop. This season, their small witch-family steps up to the challenge, doing what it takes to protect their loved ones and the coven.

However, exactly what the Spellman's are trying to prevent is a tad unclear throughout this season. Very similar to last season, one of the downfalls of the show has been that there are too many bad guys. While in the first season, Sabrina's main conflict was within herself, these past two seasons have presented a variety of obstacles for her to

deal with.

In chapter three, Sabrina has the initial problem of saving her boyfriend, Nicholas Scratch (Gavin Leatherwood), but it soon becomes apparent that there are more issues to be resolved. From challengers to her power, an evil carnival, a weakening coven and that darn devil, Sabrina has her plate full. Yet, she still manages to have a social life in the mortal world, even joining the cheer-leading squad.

Sabrina's character has slowly evolved into a shell of what it once used to be. Now, this is not in any way saying that Shipka's performance has worsened. In fact, this is simply

because Sabrina has turned into a more impulsive, shallow being. Sabrina's world has been turned completely upside down over the past year, and she has chosen to roll with the punches.

Despite the fact that Sabrina's character has undergone this major change, like the other two previous seasons of the series, she makes many fabulous fashion choices. She shows that no matter how many demons you face, you can still put some thought into your daily ensembles.

In addition to having wonderful costumes, Sabrina still enlists the help of her amazing gang of friends. While Sabrina has changed into a less enjoyable character, her friends have become stronger individuals, capable of carrying their own interesting subplots.

The dynamic between Harvey, Roz and Theo has always been a strong point in the show. Always doing what's best for their pal Sabrina, there's never a time when their characters are unlikeable.

Although season three of *Sabrina* has its flaws, it's overall a great watch. The chemistry between the actors, the amazing costumes and the added supernatural elements will keep you hooked.

WEEK'S EVENTS

Board Game Night
Jan. 30 @ 9 p.m.

The Table Top Club provides free snacks and fun times for all who are interested at their meetings in the Union NiteSpot.

Auditions: There's No One New Around You
Feb. 3-4 @ 7 p.m.

The Red Masquers will hold open auditions in the Genesis for this Evan W. Saunders-penned production.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Taylor Swift: Miss Americana
Friday, Jan. 31

This Netflix documentary looks at the life and career of singer-songwriter Taylor Swift.

High Road
Kesha
Friday, Jan. 31

Kesha's fourth album is her second release since a hiatus in new releases associated with a long legal battle with a former producer and other personal issues.

MICRO REVIEW

"What a Man Gotta Do"
The Jonas Brothers

This newest single by your favorite childhood boyband definitely shines out among the rest of their recent tunes. Released on Jan. 17, this song has already made it onto the iTunes Top 10 chart, not surprising for this ever-successful trio of brothers. Besides its popularity, "What a Man Gotta Do" uses quick rhythms and heavy acoustic guitar to create an upbeat and cheerful tune. This song is perfect for driving with your friends, dancing alone and kickstarting your day.

- Katia Faroun

HOROSCOPES



Aquarius

(January 20-February 18)

Face your enemies, Aquarius. Invest in a full-length mirror.



Pisces

(February 19-March 20)

February is a short month. Don't waste time. Get ahead of the curve by wearing a shirt that says, "Wow! It's March!"



Aries

(March 21-April 19)

Spill the beans, Aries!



Taurus

(April 20-May 20)

Clean up the beans, Taurus!



Gemini

(May 21-June 20)

Gemini, you have desecrated this page with oil and grime! Wash your hands!



Cancer

(June 21-July 22)

Cancer, you and your soulmate are like the sun and the moon. You're hot, sure, but they're cold and distant.



Leo

(July 23-August 22)

You put your left foot in, Leo. Then you take your left foot out. You put your left foot in, and then you shake it all about.



Virgo

(August 23-September 22)

The bra outside the Student Union is yours. If you could kindly retrieve it, we would be grateful.



Libra

(September 23-October 22)

Libra, can I get a high-five? Slap the paper and say, "oh yeah!"



Scorpio

(October 23-November 22)

Scorpio, leave this copy of *the Duke* beneath the strange falcon statue inside the Forbes entrance of Rockwell Hall. It's his now.



Sagittarius

(November 23-December 22)

Sagittarius, your lucky number is 5!



Capricorn

(December 22-January 19)

Could you *please*? Would you *mind*? Can you *not*?

The C-Word tackles difficult subject with fantastic cast

JOSIAH MARTIN
a&e editor

The Red Masquers have once again proven the stunning dramatic talent here at Duquesne with *The C-Word*.

In this show, writer Olivia LeSuer, a Duquesne Student, has created three characters who want so badly to connect with each other but are in denial about their own inability to do so.

This creates seemingly unhealable rifts between them. All the while, past and present struggles with mental health make it harder for them to connect, as they bob and weave past the uncomfortable subjects they most desperately need to discuss. It's riveting theater and indicative of the talent of LeSuer and director Justin Sines.

The three actors that make up the cast of *The C-Word* — Katelyn Donnelly as Mary, Audrey Nigh as Grace and Christian Poach as David — deserve immeasurable praise for the hyper-realistic tone and well-paced dialogue. I cannot overstate the degree to which their arguments feel like real fights. Do you remember when you'd sleep over at a friend's house, and you'd be horribly uncomfortable because they'd start arguing with their mother? The cast and crew has captured that here — and it works incredibly well.

Donnelly and Nigh's near-constant conflict throughout the show is portrayed expertly. Donnelly brings a perfect I'm-not-mad-just-disappointed tone to her character. Nigh gives Grace a thick layer of intense frustration and rage over a

barely-hidden mountain of fear and insecurity. The two's comedic timing together and on-stage chemistry is undeniably perfect for LeSuer's dialogue.

Poach's portrayal of David may have been my favorite character in the show. His inability to truly understand Grace or Mary is heartbreaking, and his accompanying lack of empathy for them is a fantastic source of tension. Poach is riveting and believable in the role. His request for a "bowl of ice" and the awkward minute that follows is one of the funniest bits in the whole show, as well as one of he and Donnelly's finest moments.

The Masquers consistently make good use of the potentially claustrophobic blackbox Genesius theater. *The C-Word* is no exception. It takes place primarily in the living rooms of the main characters, with changing throw pillows and wall decor signifying the change in setting from one character's home to another. It's simple but effective, and the audience sitting along the sides of the thrust stage enjoys a particularly immersive view of the action, a testament to both Sines' directing and Luke Kenyon's set design.

Some aspects of the play, however, felt underdeveloped. David's living room is littered with unexplained pots of poinsettias. They are such a prominent and out-of-place



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

Tension builds between David (Christian Poach) and Mary (Katelyn Donnelly).

presence in his blue and gray living room that the line "these are all from the church" seems wildly insufficient, and the flowers are only addressed in passing otherwise.

The flowers are merely one piece in what appears to be the show's general confusion as to David's purpose as a character. The reasons for his rocky relationship with Mary and Grace are explicitly stated. It's clear he's not a good guy. Despite this, his attempts to reconnect with Grace seem genuine, and often successful. This makes David's final scene rather disappointing, as it doesn't line up with the growth and change we see in him up to that point.

Additionally, the show's final scene revolves around the repetitive, chirping annoyance of a malfunctioning smoke detector. Overall, the

story is dynamic and dialogue-driven until it inexplicably ceases to be, and this random object's noise acts as a catalyst for the plot's resolution. It's an unfortunate near-MacGuffin that robs the characters of their agency and autonomy in the play's most vital moment. Luckily, Donnelly and Nigh's spectacular performances re-inject the missing depth in the remainder of the scene.

It would be impossible to discuss *The C-Word* without talking about how well it handles its sensitive subject matter. Grace's frankness and dark sense of humor regarding her experiences is a refreshing take. Suicide and self-harm are not ignored or treated with unrealistic reverence. These characters talk about these issues the way that people would. I cannot recommend this show enough.



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

Grace (Audrey Nigh), back, looks on at her mother, Mary (Katelyn Donnelly).

Awkwafina is Nora from Queens shows star's comedic prowess

SEAN ARMSTRONG
staff writer

Awkwafina is Nora From Queens debuted Wednesday, Jan. 22 and all indications are that Comedy Central hit a home run with this series. The series has already been renewed for a second season, and after watching the pilot, I can understand why.

This show, is like nothing else I have ever seen, yet oddly familiar. For Comedy Central, whose many shows, like *South Park* and *Tosh.O*, border on bold and odd-*Awkwafina is Nora From Queens* fits in quite well. Yet, the show distinguishes itself because it blends slice-of-life storytelling with a multiple shotgun-like blasts of information.

In one scene alone, Awkwafina starts driving for a rideshare service only to take viewers on a montage of embarrassingly uncomfortable small talk she has with her passengers. Another moment that embraces the show's unique style is when Awkwafina is sitting in a restaurant with her more successful cousin talking about getting a new job. This, of course, goes horribly wrong like the rideshare experience.

Overall, the show portrays bizarre takes on mundane situations that give viewers a sense of déjà vu with a Dutch angle. Something always seems a little off no matter what scene you are watching, and usually, the culprit is Awkwafina. Yet, similarly to FXX's *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, things always seem to work out for the

main character, regardless of what stupid or dangerous thing they do.

As absurd as this show is, and the fact that most daily interactions never take these peculiar dives into the strange, there is a kernel of truth in every scene. There is almost a deadpan humor portrayed by Awkwafina that takes real-life situations to the extreme to demonstrate the absurdity of certain lines of thinking.

Awkwafina's encounters with racism, a common theme for her across all artistic media, is something she often discusses using this deadpan style. In one of the pre-views for later episodes, one woman tells Awkwafina her English is really good, assuming she is not from the US because she is Asian. While this is played for laughs, it also gets at the truth of the matter that assumptions are often tied to judgments made on images. Everyone can do better at catching and reframing these stereotypes as they arrive in their mind.

A less obvious example of this deadpan style calling into question stereotypes is when the show opens and Awkwafina is lying in her cluttered room smoking. Her grandmother calls her a hoarder and Awkwafina associates the idea of hoarders with deadbeats. This leads to her later asking her father if she is a loser. Her father responds by comparing her to her more successful cousin, assuring her she is not a loser. The messages are obviously mixed in that conversation.

The answer her father gives her then



COURTESY OF ZACH DILGARD | COMEDY CENTRAL

Awkwafina is well known for her roles in *Ocean's 8* and *Crazy Rich Asians*.

propels the plot for the rest of the pilot as viewers jump from scene to scene of not-quite-right scenarios. Overall, this demonstrates Awkwafina's mastery of comedy because she is able to play with expectations so well on a subliminal level that it would take careful and detached analysis to point out what her setups are in every scene.

Awkwafina is Nora From Queens is

a smart show even if it appears absurdly stupid to viewers at first glance. Comedy Central clearly recognized the potential this show has after seeing the viewing numbers for the pilot alone. Overall, for anyone not acquainted with Awkwafina in the past two years, appreciating the show will be much more difficult. For anyone on the fence about whether this show is worth watching, it is.

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Black history should be celebrated all year

from STAFF ED — page 4
the celebration would decrease significantly. Racism is on the rise yet again in America and around the world. Now, more than ever, we need to teach and be taught about our past — All of our past, including the racist bits we've been trying to cover up for centuries.

Black history is American history. It would be a disservice to forget the stories of the past. They shape every single one of us, and they mold our future.

While we should make an effort to celebrate black history throughout the entire year, we can all make an effort to learn something new this February and preserve a history previously buried.

Bipartisan efforts can cure the U.S. healthcare system

from HEALTH — page 5

The opponents declare with compelling evidence that this system would overwhelm the government budget and greatly widen the nation's already immense deficit.

Further assessment from the opposition indicates that universal healthcare will ultimately provoke a distinct decline in the quality and availability of healthcare services and medicine in the U.S.

Investigation into countries that have implemented universal healthcare reveals that purely public systems have not amassed the acclaim and approval that one would assume.


In the U.K., Canada and Denmark, citizens have endured exceptionally lengthy waiting times for procedures and general treatment, as well as noticeable slumps in the quality of services.

Therefore, I urge elected officials and the 2020 candidates to consider a mixed healthcare arrangement that takes into consideration the benefits provided by public and private healthcare systems.

Politicians must overcome the bureaucratic complexities resting in between Democrats and Republicans to accomplish a bipartisan agreement that endorses a two-tiered system delivering equal and excellent healthcare services to all Americans.

This Week's Weather

Thursday

39°  Clouds giving way to some sun

Friday

40°  Mostly cloudy


Saturday

43°  Rain and snow showers

Sunday

42°  Clouds giving way to sun

Monday

56°  Clouds giving way to sun

Tuesday

62°  A couple of showers possible

Wednesday

42°  P.M. snow showers possible

Courtesy of AccuWeather

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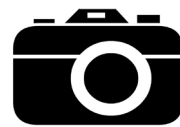
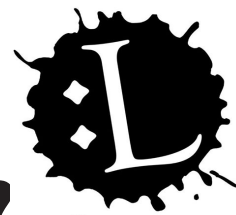
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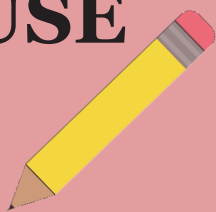


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