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# Paint Your Heart Out



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

The Wellbeing Club partnered with the Psychology Club for a night of relaxation and calming painting. The Paint Night was held in the NiteSpot and was used as a way to advertise their Out of Darkness Walk, which will take place on March 28, at 10 a.m. on Academic Walk.

# Burglary on campus unsolved

Ollie Gratzinger editor-in-chief

Sometime between 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6 and 7 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 7, an unidentified man broke into a Duquesne building and committed burglary. Campus police are requesting assistance in identifying the

A university laptop, credit card and petty cash were stolen from an office on the 6th floor of College Hall when the suspect allegedly pried open the door with a flat-tipped tool, according to Chief of Duquesne Police and Director of Public Safety Thomas Hart. The stolen university credit card was used to make purchases at a local Walmart.

The victim in this crime is not any one individual, but rather "the university community," according to Hart.

The university sent out a series of emails over the course of the past week, informing the campus community that Duquesne Public Safety "has acquired sufficient evidence to obtain an affidavit of

 $see\ CRIME-page\ 2$ 

## Brottier Hall changes recycling protocols to vary from other dorms

Katia Faroun associate photo editor

Once again, recycling is changing - this time, the changes are happening right on campus.

Brottier Hall has recently changed recycling policies, cutting down on which recyclables are accepted in the building.

Over the summer, Brottier Hall staff released a newsletter informing residents of its updates to its building-wide recycling policy. The newsletter announced a significant change, that "due to international recycling process and law changes over the last few years, Brottier has made the tough decision to only recycle clean paper and cardboard. This is due to the limitations on other recyclables and contamina-



CARISSA HASLAM / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brottier Hall has changed its recycling bins to only accept uncontaininated aluminum, tin, paper and cardboard.

More recently, Brottier has once again updated its policy to include rinsed aluminum and tin, according to Angiola Gabriel, assistant director of operations at Brottier. Residents received a flyer this week listing accepted materials that they can recycle in the building.

Now, Brottier staff have placed recycling bins near the trash chutes on every floor that accept paper, cardboard and aluminum. Originally, these bins accepted all types of recyclable materials, and most still have signs indicating that some items, such as aluminum, can be taken to the bin in the lobby kitchenette. However, there is no longer a recycling bin in the kitchenette, and the only lobby-floor

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## Follow us on...







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Local band goes to Memphis

@theduquesneduke

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#### **POLICE BRIEFS**

On Feb. 6, a lost wallet was found in the Student Union. The wallet contained a fake New York driver's license. The wallet was returned to the resident student to which it belonged, the fake ID was confiscated, and the student was issued a state citation. They were also referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Don't lose your wallet if you've got a fake ID in there kids.

On Feb. 7, there was a burglary in room 603 of College Hall. Read more about this in our cover story.

On Feb. 8, an underage student was found intoxicated. They were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

#### **JOKE CORNER!**

Q: What do you call the world's smallest Valentine's Day card? A: A valen-teeny

Q: How did the phone propose to his girlfriend? A: He gave her a ring

Q: Why is Valentine's Day a good day to have a party? A: Because you can party hearty

Q: What kind of candy is never on time? A: choco-LATE

Q:What did one flame say to another on Valentine's Day? A: We're a perfect match.

#### **JOINTHE DUKE!**

If you're interested, email 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

### New initiative started in the school of education

LUKE SCHRUM staff writer

Since its founding, Duquesne has made a tradition of serving students and the community through projects designed to encourage collaboration between both. In support of this tradition, the School of Education is embarking on the Project Hope initiative. The initiative focuses on emphasizing the importance of an equitable education for all, while also broadening the experiential work students in the School of Education are offered.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, the School of Education hosted an event to launch the project where details describing the vision and opportunity for student involvement were shared. Darius Prier, associate dean for teacher education in the School of Education, explained the importance of the project and Duquesne's involvement with it.

"This project gets to the heart of who Duquesne is. We have a spiritual mandate to serve who the Bible describes as the 'least of these.' Duquesne started as a school for poor, immigrant families. Our mission is rooted in serving the underserved," Prier said.

Project Hope has a multifaceted plan to improve the learning environments of homeless children and young adults in Pittsburgh and eventually the communities current Duquesne education students will serve in after graduation.

"The first [part of the initiative] focuses on preparing our School of Education students and educational leaders to be sensitized to unac-

companied youth and the foster care system," Prier said. "Our students will soon be going out into the world as educators and need to be aware of the barriers these students face and how to support them."

Demonstrating the urgent need for educational resources to be devoted to homeless students, the Pennsylvania Department of Education reports that more than 3,500 children throughout Allegheny County are homeless.

Prier co-founded the Project Hope initiative with Joe Lagana, chair of Dean Cindy Walker Ringel's Community Advisory Board for the School of Education. The two realized the need for resources in Pittsburgh to serve the population of homeless youth and young adults.

Understanding the dynamic needs of those the program is aiming to assist is important as it works to bridge the gap in quality of education that students from differing backgrounds receive. The initiative will be working closely with shelters and schools in the area to adapt to the changing needs of the community.

"Project Hope will be an ongoing collaboration between the School of Education, homeless shelters and local schoolteachers," Prier said. "The shelters provide a lot of great insight – they know these kids best."

Learning environments vary widely depending on the funding available to schools and the resources they are able to provide to students. In order to prepare future teachers and educational leaders,



COURTESY DUQ.EDU

Darius Prier, the associate dean for teacher education in the school of education, is a co-founder for Project Hope.

all students in the School of Education have opportunities to both observe classrooms and teach lessons in schools of varying sizes, funding and populations.

Improving educational resources available for homeless youth and young adults in Pittsburgh is the primary goal of the initiative and will be achieved with the support of current education students. First-hand experiences aim to demonstrate the importance of adapting to situations in and out of the class-room to support students.

Sophomore secondary math education major Steven Loebig describes the importance of observations and student teaching on his experience so far.

"Observations give us a great chance to think of ideas for how we'll approach teaching in the classroom. I think having the opportunity to be involved with Project Hope will improve my teaching style as a student-teacher and eventually once I have my own classroom," Loebig said.

The second side to the Project Hope initiative will begin in fall of 2020. Governor Tom Wolf's Fostering Independence Through Education Act which will put a tuition and fee waiver for postsecondary education in place for foster care youth 16 or older.

"Fall 2020 is quickly approaching, so we need to raise awareness of the act to attract applicants and help prepare Duquesne's student support services to eventually welcome these students to campus," Prior said

## Pittsburgh photographer exhibit comes to Gumberg

ASHLEY NEWMAN staff writer

Before African American life was documented frequently by photographers, journalists or writers, Charles "Teenie" Harris took the daunting task into his own hands. In his lifetime, Harris took tens of thousands of photographs and left an impressive mark on his hometown of Pittsburgh, specifically the Hill District. Harris' photographs capture the essence of African American life in the Hill as early as the 1910s until his death in 1998. The photographs encapsulate everything from town hall meetings to christenings to weddings to nights out on the town, providing an important and unique look into life in the Hill.

Staff from Duquesne University's Gumberg Library took interest in Harris' work after reading "Smoketown: The Untold Story of the Other Great Black Renaissance" by Mark Whitaker.

Ted Bergfelt, Gumberg Library's liaison to the departments of Classics, English and Theater Arts, History, Philosophy, Theology and the



ASHLEY NEWMAN / STAFF WRITER

Center for Healthcare Ethics, was inspired to look more into Harris and his work, as he was predominantly featured in the book.

According to Bergfelt, Gumberg purchased six framed prints of Harris' work to create an exhibit.

On Thursday, Feb. 6, Gumberg unveiled their newly acquired Harris photographs with a display and a lecture with Charlene Foggie-Barnett. Foggie-Barnett, an archive specialist at the Teenie Harris Archive at the Carnegie Museum of Art, spoke about what Harris meant to the people of the Hill.

Growing up, Foggie-Barrett knew Harris personally, and was even photographed by him on multiple occasions. She said that Harris had no idea of the impact he would have on society by his photographs, and was just a "working man" in his own eyes.

Harris was a close member of the community and could be seen at nearly every event. Foggie-Barnett said that because Harris knew everyone in the community, he was also skilled at knowing who should not be placed next to each other for pictures due to arguments and feuds.

Many of Harris' photographs were published in the Pittsburgh Courier during his lifetime. Hailing from the Hill itself, The Courier was a leading African American newspaper in America. The Courier was a nationwide publication and one of the nation's top newspapers for African Americans from the 1930s to the 1960s.

"He would just show up everywhere. He wasn't 'Teenie Harris,' he was Teenie Harris," Foggie-Barnett said.

Harris did not capture only special occasions in the Hill, he would

see TEENIE – page 3

## Brottier no longer recycling certain plastics

BROTTIER — from page 1

recycling bin accepts just paper and cardboard.

International policies in recycling began changing in 2017, when China issued a ban on imported recycling. The U.S. had since relied on China to accept its recycling exports, and the ban initiated a worldwide shift in recycling policies. Without a country overseas to accept it, the U.S. government had little time to figure out where to go with its 26.7 million annual tons of exported recycling.

Waste management companies across the U.S. began changing their recycling policies to adapt to the ban. Many decided to cut down on recycling altogether in order to avoid the risk of contamination — something Brottier Hall has decided to do, as well.

Contamination happens when non-recyclable items or items tarnished by food are combined with acceptable items, therefore contaminating the entire collection of recyclable products. If one bag of clean and acceptable items contains a single contaminated item, the whole bag is rendered unrecy-

By shifting its recycling policy to only accepting paper, cardboard and aluminum, Brottier decreases the possibility of contamination by eliminating the recycling of plastics and glass. However, students who initially relied on Brottier Hall to dispose of their recycling now must either find other places to drop off their recycling or resort to throwing it in the trash.

In light of adopting stricter recycling policy, Brottier Hall staff is encouraging students to adopt less wasteful habits. Their newsletter includes Environmental Awareness Tips on how to become educated on recycling policy and adapt daily habits that decrease the use of wasteful materials.

Brottier's recycling policy differs from the policies of other residence halls on campus. Other Duquesne residence halls still accept paper, cardboard, aluminum and plastics labeled 1 and 2, according to Bill Zilcosky, senior director of Facility Services and Operations at

Despite the difference in accept-

ed materials, both Brottier Hall and the rest of campus residence halls dispose of recycled materials in the same campus recycling compactor.

"I can't speak to the internal practices in Brottier Hall, but we do work in cooperation with them," Zilcosky said.

Brottier residents looking for a place to recycle their plastics and aluminum are able to use recycling bins located in other residence halls and academic buildings, like the Student Union or Fisher Hall.

The City of Pittsburgh continues to accept plastics and glass at its drop-off locations, according to the Department of Public Works website. Pittsburgh accepts the following recyclable items: cardboard, glass bottles, aluminum and steel cans, mixed paper, plastic bottles, jugs and jars and bagged shredded paper. Items must be cleaned (uncontaminated) in order to be considered recyclable and cardboard must be flattened before being placed into the bins.

Students looking to recycle at city drop-off locations can find bins in East End, Strip District, Hazelwood, West End and Beltzhoover.

# Teenie Harris photos capture a different side of the 'Burgh

TEENIE — from page 2

also photograph everyday life of the predominantly African American community rather than just the extreme highs or lows.

"He's telling the story of the city that's not slavery and not the Obama administration. It's the way we lived and the way we made it," Foggie-Barnett said.

When important civil rights activists arrived in Pittsburgh, Harris made sure to be at the front of the crowd. According to Foggie-Barnett, Harris photographed President John F. Kennedy, Justice Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Jesse Jackson and many other important figures in the Civil Rights Movement.

Foggie-Barnett praised Harris' dedication to his photography and making sure that, although he only took one shot, it was perfect.

Harris was especially skilled at shooting skin tones of different hues and making sure that no one looked washed out or could not be seen in a photograph, according to Foggie-Barnett.

Foggie-Barnett closed the lecture by discussing Harris' great impact on the community, and by describing the new exhibit dedicated to Harris at the Carnegie Museum of Art.

The museum has an archive of over 80,000 photographs that they have been working on digitizing since they were given to the museum in 2001. About 67,000 have been digitized and can be viewed on screens in the exhibit. Photographs can be searched for by the title, date, location, event or even the name of someone in the picture.

The museum has been asking people in the community for help identifying the subjects of Harris' photographs. While they have identified many, they still have many unnamed people.

Anyone interested in viewing Harris' photography and a historical view of Pittsburgh, can visit the new exhibit or look at the museum's online archive.

## Public Safety asking for assistance

CRIME — from page 1

probable cause necessary for an arrest warrant," and that Pittsburgh Police and various crime watch organizations are already on alert.

In the email blasts, the person of interest was pictured in yellow and black shoes, a black Michael Kors shirt and black Nike pants, as well as a silver and black Michael Kors backpack. The individual has a goatee and eyeglasses, as well.

On the evening of Feb. 6, the suspect accessed College Hall, Mellon Hall and Rockwell Hall, exiting onto Forbes Avenue. He then passed through the Forbes surface parking lot until he exited campus, according to the email.

Despite the incident, Hart said Duquesne still remains a safe campus, and that Duquesne Police are working hard to keep it that way.

"The safety and security of students, faculty, staff and visitors on our campus is of top importance. Members of the Public Safety department patrol campus by vehicle, bike and on foot, maintaining a highly visible deterrence presence while monitoring for anything suspicious," he said. "Department personnel have extensive training to safeguard campus and provide a variety of crime prevention and safety programs to the community."

He suggested that students should sign up for the Duquesne University Emergency Alert System to be notified of developing situations on campus via text, email or phone, if they aren't enrolled already. This system administers alerts to the student and a possible emergency contact

in the event of an emergency or crime on campus or in the nearby neighborhood.

Hart also said that students should be aware of risks and take precautions to safeguard not only their personal belongings, but each other, as well.

"Never let someone you don't know into your residence hall or a locked campus building, and never prop doors open. Protect your stuff. Keep your belongings in view at all times."

"Be safe online! It's too easy to share personal information online. Avoid updates on websites that share your location or personal information. Keep your settings private," he said.

He also suggested that members of the campus community store user names, passwords, bank account and other confidential information in a secure place, and report it right away if you happen to lose a key or ID card with swipe access that could allow whoever finds it entry into an academic building or residence hall.

Students and faculty should also keep a file of all important phone numbers and line extensions in their cell and at least one other place, in case the phone is also stolen.

"This includes campus security/police and the telephone numbers to your bank and credit card company," Hart said.

If you have any information on the suspect's name or identity, Duquesne Police are encouraging you to contact Public Safety at (412) 396-2677, and as always, if you see something suspicious or feel that you're in danger, call 911.

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The Duke is hiring an assistant news editor! If interested:

Send your resume and cover letter to current news editor, Hallie Lauer at hallielauer 18@gmail.com



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This photo of the suspect came from a security camera on the sixth floor of Rockwell Hall.

# **OPINIONS**

#### **THEDUQUESNEDUKE**

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"The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart."

DOROTHY DAY

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

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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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113 College Hall



COMIC BY KATIE SECAUR

#### National Catholic Register calls out Duquesne

s a result of the Jan. 28 federal court ruling, Duquesne University is not required to permit unionization for adjunct professors. In defense of their anti-union stance, the university cited a deep need for religious liberty.

The university's central defense was that being forced to allow the adjuncts to unionize, would be an infringement on the school's First Amendment rights, that generally allow it to act independent of governmental interference due to its status as a religious organization.

"The university is grateful that the Court recognized the importance of our religious mission in rendering this significant decision," said Gabriel Welsch, a spokesperson for the university in an official university communication sent to all students.

In response, the National Catholic Register (NCR) recently published its reaction to this decision and Duquesne's outlandish reasoning. In its bold statement, it titled its article "Hypocrisy on Display in Duquesne's Religious Liberty Win."

In this column, the NCR compared Duquesne's case to another religious liberty trial involving ministering to immigrants crossing the border from Mexico to Arizona.

While the trial in Arizona was founded in truly Christian ideals of serving the poor, Duquesne's quest of "religious liberty" was a failed charade, not remotely based in Catholic doctrine or teaching. After all, as pointed out in a letter-to-the-editor run in the Feb. 6 issue of *The Duke*. Duquesne is free to recognize unions regardless of whether or not they were forced to by the court. By failing to do so, the university has implied, erroneously, that unions themselves are counter to the school's Catholic mission.

To claim that the Catholic Church is anti-union is inherently false. Although there is a wide spectrum of political and social beliefs within the Church, officials consistently uphold the importance and value of unions.

One of the earliest and most noted examples of prounion sentiments from the Church comes from Pope Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical Rerum Novarum. Of course, a lone, singular mention of union promotion is insufficient reflection of the Church's views. However, statements advocating for unions were frequent among 20th century Catholic leadership.

St. Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have all declared their support



<u>COLLEEN HAMMOND</u> opinions editor

for unions. Most recently, Pope Francis addressed the issue in a 2017 meeting with delegates from the Confederation of Trade Unions in Italy in which he calls upon "two epochal challenges that today the trade unions movement must face and defeat if it is to continue to perform its essential role for the common good."

If the Pope, who is accepted as infallible within the Church on matters of faith and morals, can recognize the "essential role" unions play in the common good of society, why can't Duquesne?

In addition to Pope Francis's statements, Bishop Zubik of Pittsburgh has also voiced his support for unions.

In a 2017 column in Pittsburgh Catholic, Bishop Zubik upheld the teachings of the various popes while adding his personal experiences with his father who was a union worker.

"I don't agree with every position taken by every labor union. But I believe — as the Catholic bishops of this country have long believed — that unions benefit society as a whole," said Zubik in the column.

There is no Catholic doctrine or authority that demonizes labor unions, and there is no reason for the university to prevent unionization for adjunct faculty. University statements give the impression that unions contradict Catholic identity. They couldn't be more wrong.

part of Duquesne's curriculum, students are required to take at least one class with a "faith and reason" theme area. One of the frequently required readings for these courses is *Dorothy* Day: A Radical Devotion by Robert Coles. The book, as the title suggests, honors the life and work of Catholic union activist, Dorothy Day. Her monumental work for social change is praised by the Church and has even led her on the pathway to sainthood. In many cases, the university requires that Dorothy Day be studied as a model of courageous faith, yet in this circumstance, Duquesne is condemning her work by claiming that unionization contradicts catholicism.

The NCR is completely justified in their criticism of Duquesne's behavior during this trial and verdict. Duquesne is hiding behind a false guise of "religious liberty" in order to prevent adjunct professors from unionizing.

While religious liberty must be upheld and Duquesne must fight to preserve its Catholic identity, this is not the way to go about it.

As a practicing Catholic, I am deeply disheartened that Duquesne is using its Catholic identity as justification for denying unionization to adjunct professors.

Unions do not contradict Catholic teaching, and the National Catholic Register is right to call out this hypocrisy.

Catholic teaching is entrenched in service to one's fellow man, and Christ's mission is rooted in caring for those in need. At this moment, adjunct faculty are those in need and, unfortunately, Duquesne is refusing to be their good Samaritan.

#### STAFF EDITORIAL

# Liberal arts students left in the cold

The annual Career Expo is a valuable resource for many on Duquesne's campus.

High profile employers come in and speak with students about potential job openings and internships. Over 100 companies are represented at the event, and those aspiring to work in the fields of science or business have the opportunity to spend hours networking.

Corporations such as PITT OHIO, PNC Financial Services, WVU Medicine and Green Mountain Energy were among those in attendance.

However, students in the liberal arts school get left behind by the event. It seems that a recent trend at the Career Expo is a lack in jobs that cater to majors in the liberal arts school.

Students from a number of liberal arts programs were left without anyone in their field of interest to connect with.

The list and map that was distributed at the Career Expo listed the only liberal arts type jobs under the "other" category. While the other categories included things like "Healthcare," "Accounting" and "Insurance."

Two employers, listed under the title "Government," included the City of Pittsburgh and the PA Department of Corrections. These were hiring positions in multiple fields, including those involving liberal arts disciplines.

Duquesne's Center for Career Development should try to place more of an emphasis on getting a broader range of companies to attend the event.

Even if certain companies in attendance aren't necessarily hiring at that time, it would still serve as valuable networking experience for liberal arts students. Gaining advice from those working in the field would at least be worth more than having.

Making those connections as an undergrad is vital to the networking process and is often necessary to the job hunting process.

It is even more surprising that the Career Expo doesn't cater to liberal arts students when put into perspective that they make up the largest part of the undergraduate class. In Fall 2019, there were 1,745 liberal arts undergraduate students. This was higher than any other school.

The liberal arts school also has a wider variety of areas of study. There are 33 undergraduate programs — one would think that it would be easier to find companies to cater to just a vast spectrum of jobs.

The business school by comparison has nine majors, and the Rangos school has 10, yet the majority of the employers at the fair cater to jobs in those fields.

Liberal arts jobs are already difficult for students to find, even with assets like Handshake, Indeed.com or other job-searching websites. It would be beneficial to Duquesne liberal arts students to see employers that could possibly hire them someday at events like this — even if it is just as a networking opportunity, not necessarily a hiring one.

# **OPINIONS**

# Public fears and anxieties over GMOs growing old

HANNAH BOUCHER staff columnist

enetically modified organisms (GMOs) are not as new of a concept as many would like to believe. While it has been a controversial scientific advancement since the 1970s, when Herbert Boyer and Stanley Cohen invented modern-day genetic engineering, artificial selection has been used to cultivate crops and animals for over 30,000 years.

The misconception that GMOs are dangerous has derived from a misunderstanding of the definition. In fact, agriculture because humans selectively bred organisms to cater to their needs. This is the definition of agriculture.

Genetic engineering — the true controversial topic — falls under the umbrella of genetic modification, which is what has brought society its big, red tomatoes, giant ears of yellow corn and sweet bananas.

The technology used to genetically engineer common produce can also be used on animals and bacteria. Cloning and gene transfer have been successfully carried out in scientific labs, however, these successes have been met with

While humans possess the power to multiply livestock by the masses, or create an entirely new species in a lab, that does not mean it should be done. These processes violate certain ethical standards because they are seen as being humane - which is technically true.

An example of this issue is the banana industry. The Cavendish banana - which is actually the second species commercially grown - fell victim to Panama disease, a fungus that spreads quickly and kills the entire plant. Bananas are mass produced by corporations such as Dole and Chiquita to appeal to the millions — but at a cost.

Scientists are struggling to find a banana plant that carries the gene that fights the disease to breed with the Cavendish. Banana plants are now dying at a faster rate than can be produced, meaning that they may go extinct. This is not the first occurrence of this issue either. In the 1950s, the first species of banana, the Gros Michael, was completely wiped out from a strain of the Panama disease.

The main difference between cultivation normal and monoculture is that monoculture decreases the variability within a population. Cultivation has been successfully practiced for thousands of years. Some of



Mass-produced bananas are dying at an increasingly faster rate and are at risk of one day going extinct.

the most commonly consumed vegetables are actually all derived from the same species. Broccoli, cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts and a few other popular greens are all cultivated forms of Brassica oleracea, or, wild cabbage.

Although there are major risks associated with selective breeding, there are also major benefits. By selective the most favorable traits within a species, the fitness, or the species' ability to produce viable offspring, increases.

This has helped the farming industry keep up with the growing pool of consumers that continues to increase as the population rises. Certain modifications reduce the need for pesticides and increase the overall crop yield, which also increases the overall income for farmers.

Another big issue with GMOs is that not all of the health risks are currently known. Before any new modified products are released to consumers, they must undergo a series of tests assessing the possible hazards posed from consumption. However, the regulations put in place by the Center for Food Safety [CFS] require all products that contain genetically engineered ingredients to be clearly labeled so people are aware of its contents.

It is important to consider though that many technological advancements pose risks to the general public. It is not the act of genetically manipulating an organism that is the problem, but rather the lack of consideration of the possible issues. Scientists must be careful not to cross a line because they hold the fate of species in their hands. There is nothing to fear when it comes to GMOs. Civilization would be nonexistent without the cultivation of crops and animals.

# Lessons from a gamer: the danger of violence in video games

**TIMOTHY RUSH** staff columnist

ightharpoonup rand Theft Auto V is the third best selling video game in history (only being bested) by Tetris and Minecraft. Unlike its fellow top 3, the Grand Theft Auto series is among the most controversial video game franchises in history because of its inherently violent nature. Violence in video games has been a common point of contention in modern society, particularly over whether these games encourage aggressive or violent behavior.

Is there an association between violence in video games and aggressive behavior? Yes, many studies have confirmed that violence in video games has a direct link to increased aggressive behavior.

According to the American Psychological Association, "scientific research demonstrated an association between violent video game use and both increases in aggressive behavior, aggressive affect, aggressive cognitions and decreases in prosocial behavior, empathy, and moral engagement."

In a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of 17,000 adolescents, a link was found wherein playing violent video games led to increased physical

aggression. This analysis took place over 24 different studies from several different countries, and the finding was relatively consistent across national lines. To clarify though, this study did not find an observable link between aggressive criminal behavior and video games, but rather aggressive behavior in general. To use a quote from the study, "playing violent games equates to about twice the risk of being sent to the principal's office for fighting during an eightmonth period."

From this, there comes a crossing point of contention. In this discussion, we are so prone to jumping to violent video games that cause things like mass shootings or violent crime. The evidence doesn't inherently point to that; there is insufficient evidence to suggest that violent video games lead to increased potential criminal activity, even though there is strong evidence to suggest heightened aggressive behavior.

So, what does this mean for us? For parents, this should mean that you take an active role in moderating your child's use of video games and monitor their behavior. If you see your child shows increased aggression, limiting factors that encourage that aggression is a good avenue — one such factor is violent video games. For people who play violent video games, it's as simple as simply



moderating your own behavior and weighing that against your use of video games. Acknowledge that hobbies like these can affect your behavior. If you find that such hobbies have such an effect on you that it negatively impacts your own life, it may be for the best to limit that hobby.

Furthermore, just because someone does play violent video games doesn't inherently mean that they're violent, either. While we can confirm that there is a trend, there are also many people who play games like *Grand Theft* Auto and Call of Duty that are perfectly normal non-aggressive people. Just because your friend regularly plays violent video games doesn't mean that they are inherently aggressive.

And just to further note, this wasn't my opinion a month ago. If you told me that violent video games increased aggression before the New Year, I would have likely dismissed it. I decided to write this article because I originally wanted to write an article that was going to say the opposite of what I'm saying now. When I started researching for this piece, I was overwhelmed by the sheer amount of research and evidence that there is. Enough that it completely changed my viewpoint and I realized that this article can't be about dismissing it. I'm about evidence, and the evidence is clear on this matter.

Violence in video games doesn't make mass shooters or criminals. There's no significant evidence to suggest that. But there is more

than enough evidence to show that violent video game consumption does impact behavior, it does lead to increased aggression in many people. This is something that we should, as a society, look at and acknowledge what it is.

I'm not saying we should ban them; I'm not saying we should necessarily even push regulation to limit them. What I'm suggesting is that we actively consider moderation for ourselves, our children and those around us. I'm suggesting that we examine behaviors and make sound judgment acknowledging the evidence that there is. One thing is certain, there is a statistical trend that shouldn't be ignored, and we need to stop ignoring it.

# **FEATURES**

# DU profs married to the books and each other

KELLEN STEPLER features editor

ove is in the air - and also on the Bluff. In the spirit of Valentine's Day, here are the stories of some Duquesne professors who work in the same hallways as their spouses.

#### The Kinnahans

Tom and Linda Kinnahan, both English professors at Duquesne, have been married for 26 years. Linda came to Duquesne in 1990, while Tom began his career as a Duke in 2007.

They met during graduate school at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Linda explained that they originally met as teaching assistants, and are used to working with each other.

"We were good friends for a long time," Linda said.

Linda came from a family of teachers, and she taught high school art and English for six years before moving up to higher education.

teaching. They were already married when he got his doctorate, and found a teaching position at Carlow University.

There was an open position at Duquesne teaching with 19th century American literature, which Tom considered "his specialty."

"Carlow was a good experience, but Duquesne's opening was more of my specialty," Tom said.

For the Kinnahans, the benefits are aplenty from working together.

"I don't have to explain my job to him," Linda said. "It sounds corny, but he's just a really good guy and colleague. I'd say that even if we weren't married."

"It's good to have someone to talk to about teaching, and she gives me advice sometimes," Tom said. "It's good to have conversations with someone who's familiar with my work and profession."

Duquesne has had an impact on their family as well. Their daughter, Chloe, recently graduated from Duquesne with a degree in political science. Although it wasn't in English, Chloe earned a women and gender studies minor, which Linda helped co-found.



work obsessively.

"We have to leave work at work," Lin-

All in all, the Kinnahans are happy to find a place to work together at Duquesne.

"I'm grateful that we have this opportunity for both of us to find a place at Duquesne and contribute," Linda said.

#### The Scheids

Daniel and Anna Scheid, both theology professors at Duquesne, have been married since 2006. They both started at Duquesne in 2007.

Daniel explained that they met in church, at Anna's campus ministry at Northwestern University. Anna noted that they met singing in the choir and then ended up in the same masters' program. They would then earn their masters' degrees in theology from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and go on to receive their doctorates in theology from Boston College.

For Daniel, going into teaching was a "natural fit." He said that he has always loved learning and exploring ideas, and enjoys working with students who could also explore complicated ideas.

Being familiar with the job and knowing what their spouse is doing is one of the benefits of working together, according to Daniel.

"We can commute in and eat lunch together," Daniel said. "Our personal and professional lives can mix.'

"We can also talk through work related concerns or hopes with confidence that the other person knows exactly what we're talking about," Anna said.

Although the familiarity of their jobs is a plus, Daniel noted that doing things at the same time, like grading final exams or writing research papers, can be challenging.

"We have to switch gears from our professional life to our personal life. We'll be discussing a recent department meeting, and then ask, well, who's taking Clare to gymnastics tonight?" Daniel said. "We do a good job between college stuff and personal stuff."

The Scheids have three children; 11-year-old Henry, 9-year-old Clare and 6-year-old Eamon.

"Our kids love coming into our offices, watching TV and eating candy in there," Daniel said. "They've been to every open house; its like Halloween to them."

The Scheids have balanced their work and personal lives for the entire duration of their careers.

"We've either been in school together or at work together for our entire relationship. It might feel weird at this point not to work in the same place," Anna said.

Daniel said his one regret of working with his wife is that they've never cotaught a class – yet.

"We've guest lectured in each other's classes before and have co-written a book together, but we've never co-taught a class yet," Daniel said.



COURTESY OF THE KINNAHANS

Last December, Tom and Linda's daughter, Chloe, graduated from Duquesne with a degree in political science and a minor in women and gender studies (WGS). Linda co-founded the WGS minor.

"I like working with younger people," Linda said. "I like the energy of a classroom."

Tom explained that when he got his undergraduate degree from JMU in 1982, the job market was poor. He was able to get a teaching fellowship to complete his masters degree, and he found that he enjoyed teaching. He worked in journalism and PR for a while, but found he missed

"It's a place where our friends are also people who teach," Linda said. "It's felt like home for a long time."

Despite working in the same department, the two actually don't see each other a lot during the work day.

"We work in different areas of literature," Linda said. "We get along really well, and there's no conflict with work. It's a collegial relationship."

# Valentines from The Duke

From:

Are you my FLEX? Cause I plan to be done with you by March.

From:

You're lucky to have

From:

I tolerate you.

From:

Roses are red, violets get so unlucky to be stuck with you?

### Women's lacrosse beats Canisius, 11-10, in home opener

David Borne sports editor

Wednesday afternoon's lacrosse home opener wasn't gorgeous in any sense. Snow, sleet and rain led to a sloppy game. Both the Dukes and Canisius turned the ball over 26 times, respectively.

Despite Duquesne's struggles to set up solid scoring opportunities, the Dukes grinded out a 11-10 win to grab their first victory of the season.

"We held it together long enough that we were able to pull off a win," Dukes Head Coach Corinne Desrosiers said. "We really needed this win to right the ship from Ohio State, where I thought we played well at but made too many unforced errors. Today, we played a much more aggressive team. They made us work for it more than Ohio State did and it was hard for [her team] to regain their composure."

"We have a lot of work to do at practice," Desrosiers added. "But I think it does speak to the resilience of a young team to be able to stay in the game even when the other team is not stopping. It was a hard fought game, and we still came away with it. I was very proud of them for that."

Duquesne held a 10-7 lead halfway through the second half, but Canisius did not go away. The Golden Griffins' pesky defensive efforts held Duquesne at bay, and they managed to slowly climb back into the game.

Canisius attacker Katie Smolensky potted a shot with just over a minute to play to bring her team within one.

The Golden Griffins then had a chance to tie the game as time ticked away, but the Dukes forced a turnover and held on for the victory.

Even though her team pulled out a positive result in the end, Desrosiers acknowledged that her team has plenty of room to improve. She's happy with the win, but hopes the game can be used as a learning and growing experience more than anything.

"Hopefully it means that we're going to get smarter each gameday," Desrosiers said. "That's really all I'm trying to do with this season. I know they're athletic, I know we can run, I know they all have sticks. But it's getting



KATIA FAROUN / ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Michaela Connolly (right) chases down Canisius defender Ilia Bagley. Connolly scored a goal and recorded an assist during the first half of the victory.

on the same page, it's being cohesive and it's understanding what's in front of us in order for us to be successful.

Duquesne's 11 goals came off the sticks of six different players. In total, the Dukes sent 22 shots on goal on Wednesday.

Mady Hart led the way for Duquesne on the scoring end in the win. The senior finished with a game-high five goals, after being held scoreless in the first game of the season.

"We needed her on Friday and she didn't have a good game, so she came back today really looking to help her team out," Desrosiers said. "You can always count on her on the draw, her shots were there, she's just a really good player for us. She's our best two-way player. When we need her, it's good to know that we have her."

The Dukes will take a day off from practice on Thursday and spend their time reviewing game footage. Come Friday morning, they'll head back to work to prepare for next Wednesday's game at Penn State.

Their focus in practice will be dedicated to getting to that level of cohesion Desrosiers knows they need to find success this season.

The head coach knows she has a talented bunch in front of her.

Once that chemistry forms and the Dukes' attack really opens up, they're going to give opposing teams a lot of trouble.

"I think we're all really excited to get back out on Friday to try to just be smarter," Desrosiers said. "We play really hard, we outrun a lot of teams, we have good sticks, but if you're not smart it doesn't matter."

#### **Upcoming Events**

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

- Feb. 14 , 11 a.m. Men's Tennis vs. Morgan State

- Feb. 14, 11 a.m. Women's Tennis vs. Morgan State

**− Feb. 15, 4 p.m.**Men's Tennis vs. Denison

- Feb. 15, TBA
Women's Track at Doug
Raymond Invitational
(Kent State)

— **Feb. 16, 1:00 p.m.** Women's Basketball vs. Davidson

Feb. 16, 2 p.m.Men's Basketball at Fordham

- Feb. 19, TBA
Women's Swimming and
Diving at Atlantic 10
Championship

− Feb. 19, 4 p.m.Women's Lacrosse at PennState

*— Feb. 19, 5:30 p.m.* Women's Basketball vs. Rhode Island

— **Feb. 19, 8:00 p.m.** Men's Basketball vs. George Washington

— **Feb. 22**, **7:30 p.m.** Women's Basketball vs. George Washington



Katia Faroun / Associate Photo Editor Duquesne defender Kaitlin Rice rushes by a defender during the first half of Wednesday's win over Canisius. The sophomore finished with two ground balls. Rice has been in the starting lineup for both of Duquesne's games so far this season. The Ellicott City, Maryland native is one of eight sophomores, and 22 underclassmen on Duquesne's 32-person roster.

#### Men's Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	No. 6 Dayton	11-0	22-2	W13	2/15 at UMass
2.	Rhode Island	10-2	18-6	L1	2/15 vs. Saint Joseph's
3.	St. Bonaventure	9-3	17-8	W5	2/14 vs. Davidson
4.	Richmond	8-3	18-6	W3	2/15 vs. VCU
5.	VCU	7-4	17-7	L1	2/15 at Richmond
6.	Duquesne	7-4	17-6	L1	2/16 at Fordham
7.	Saint Louis	6-5	17-7	L2	2/15 vs. Saint Louis
8.	Davidson	6-5	12-11	W1	2/14 at St. Bonaventure
9.	G. Washington	4-7	10-14	L3	2/15 at George Mason
10.	UMass	4-7	10-14	W1	2/15 at UMass
11.	George Mason	3-8	14-10	W1	2/15 vs. G. Washington
12.	La Salle	2-9	11-12	L1	2/15 at Saint Louis
13.	Fordham	1-10	7-16	L <sub>5</sub>	2/16 vs. Fordham
14.	Saint Joseph's	0-11	4-20	L6	2/15 vs. Rhode Island

#### Women's Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Dayton	11-0	18-7	W13	2/16 vs. Dayton
2.	VCU	8-2	13-10	L1	2/13 at St. Bonaventure
3.	Fordham	7-3	15-8	W3	2/13 vs. Davidson
4.	Davidson	6-4	13-10	L3	2/13 at Fordham
5.	Duquesne	6-5	16-8	L1	2/16 at Davidson
6.	Saint Louis	6-5	14-10	L1	2/16 at UMass
7-	UMass	6-6	16-9	L3	2/16 vs. Saint Louis
8.	Rhode Island	5-6	12-11	W1	2/16 vs. St. Bonaventure
9.	Richmond	5-6	12-13	W2	2/16 vs. Fordham
10.	G. Washington	4-7	10-14	L1	2/15 vs. George Mason
11.	La Salle	4-7	10-14	W1	2/15 at Saint Joseph's
12.	St. Bonaventure	4-7	7-17	W2	2/13 vs. VCU
13.	Saint Joseph's	2-9	8-15	L <sub>5</sub>	2/15 vs. La Salle
14.	George Mason	2-9	8-16	L1	2/15 at G. Washington

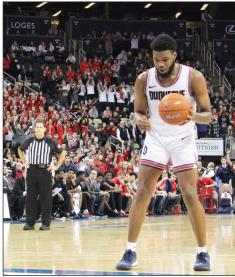
## Men's basketball's Weathers thriving in second season at DU

JAMES LEO staff writer

A new star has emerged for the Duquesne men's basketball team this season.

In his second year with the Dukes, junior Marcus Weathers is having a career year. He leads the mens team in scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage, and even averages a block and a steal per game.

His field goal percentage, 57.8%, is the 31st best in the NCAA. This is quite impres-



ALYSON LOREFICE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Weathers prepares to shoot a free throw during the second half of Duquesne's game against Dayton on Jan. 29 at PPG Paints Arena.

sive since there are more than 350 Division I schools, with around 10-12 players on each team (around 4,000 total Division I players). He also has the 32nd best PER (player efficiency rating) in all of Division I.

Weathers showed signs of stature early in

his collegiate career. As a freshman at Miami (OH), he saw action in all 32 of their games. He averaged 9.7 points and six rebounds per game, and had 15 double-digit scoring games.

Between his freshman and sophomore seasons, Weathers transferred to Duquesne. In his first season at Duquesne, Weathers improved on his freshman campaign, averaging 10 points, six rebounds and a block per game.

Currently, he is fresh off what could possibly be his best game as a Duke. In an important road win against Saint Louis, Weathers scored a game-high 26 points, and corralled nine rebounds against an aggressive Saint Louis team.

This isn't the first time Weathers has had a great game against Saint Louis — he tallied 26 points and five rebounds against the Billikens on Jan. 2. In addition to these two notable games, he has also led the team in scoring in seven of their last 10 games, and has five 20-point games this season.

His stellar play hasn't gone unnoticed by Head Coach Keith Dambrot.

"He's in better shape," Dambrot said. "He's finishing better around the rim; he's more confident. I think the best is yet to come for him."

Although Weathers has improved tremendously to this point, Dambrot has big hopes for the future.

"He's going to have some bad moments, but as we get him in better shape and add to his game, he should be like Draymond Green; that's really who he should be," Dambrot said. "He should be able to make the outside shot, he should be a good passer, he should be able to defend one through five. He's not all the way there yet, but if he takes as big of a jump as I think he can, I think he's capable of taking as big of a jump to the

next level if he gets it right. And most of it is conditioning-based."

Weathers also believed better conditioning was the reason for his improved play.

"I would say my conditioning is one of the biggest things, and just my overall confidence," Weathers said. "I feel like I'm super confident in my abilities this year. I just go out there and try to play as hard as I can."

It is obvious from his play that Weathers is following Dambrot's plan.

"Just like Coach Dambrot says, it all starts in practice," he said. "We try to practice as hard as we can, and usually when you practice hard and you work hard, the end result is the end result. We're gonna keep that recipe and keep it moving for the rest of the season."

Two more stats that should be noted are that Weathers leads the Dukes in traditional three-point plays, with 15, and dunks, with 25. A true sportsman, Weathers credits his teammates, his coach and himself for being in the right place at the right time.

"It's just a combination of everything," he said. "I think it's a combination of raw strength and raw athleticism. The right plays also set everything up, and I'm usually in the right position to get those and-ones."

Weathers admitted that the Saint Louis win meant a little more than most wins.

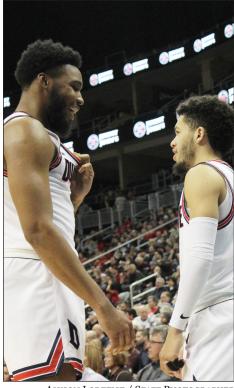
"Everybody's feeling good about the win," he said. "It was really big for us to show that we can win on the road, especially in a big environment like that. The biggest thing was we matched their physicality and rebounded just as well as they did."

But, he and his teammates make sure to keep themselves grounded. A great example of this was when teammate Mike Hughes stopped by to ask Weathers some questions.

"I said it earlier, we have the funniest team in the country," Weathers said. "We have a

fun group of guys, and we just have fun with it. He [Mike] is a great example of that comedy we have."

Weathers and the Dukes will be back in action on Saturday, Feb. 16, against Fordham. Duquesne defeated Fordham in a tough match back in January, 58-56. The end of the season is always tough, but it appears the Dukes are taking it one game at a time, which will hopefully assist them in finishing the season strong.



ALYSON LOREFICE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Weathers (left) with Duquesne guard Tavian Dunn-Martin. Through the first 23 games of the season, Weathers is Duquesne's leading scorer. The forward averages 14.7 points per game.

## MBB can't slow down St. Bonaventure's offense in loss

DAVID BORNE sports editor

With just over a minute remaining in Sunday's matinee matchup, Duquesne and St. Bonaventure were knotted at 77-77.

Bonnies' Head Coach Mark Schmidt called a play for his team's leading scorer, Kyle Lofton. Lofton found himself wide open on an out-of-bounds play that began with a lob to SBU's Dominick Welch. Welch kicked the ball out to Lofton, and the sniper buried the shot.

Duquesne couldn't overcome the deficit the bucket created, and dropped an 83-80 result at the UPMC Events Center in Moon.

"They threw the ball up in the air. They lobbed in it on Tavian [Dunn-Martin's] man, so what's human nature? Everybody stares at it," Dambrot said. "[Lofton] flared us out the back when everybody stared at it. I've seen NBA teams get caught on it. We got caught on it."

Lofton's dagger was the last of many threes St. Bonaventure netted on Sunday. The Bonnies finished the afternoon shooting 10-21 from deep. Lofton led the three-point barrage, netting five of his six attempts from deep. Sophomore guard Jaren English added two threes as well

Overall, St. Bonaventure shot 30-61 from the floor. The Bonnies posted their second-highest point total of the season in the win.

Duquesne guard Tavian Dunn-Martin admitted the Dukes consistently gave the opposition too much room on their looks — and that gave St. Bonaventure the edge.

"They were just making [shots]," Dunn-Martin said. "They took advantage of wide open shots. That's basically all I can say. And we got out-rebounded. If we box them out, rebound, and try to not give them as much open shots, it'd probably be a different game."

The game was a back-and-forth battle, with both teams lighting up the attacking end of the court. Dunn-Martin carried the offensive load on his shoulders in the first half for Duquesne. The Dukes trailed 43-38 at the end of the first period of play, with Dunn-Martin accounting for 16 of those points. He finished the day as the game's leading scorer with 25.

Sincere Carry, who was held scoreless in the first half, put on a scoring display in the second. The sophomore added 17 points of his own, which kept Duquesne within arm's reach of the Bonnies lead.

Even though Duquesne got everything it needed on the offensive side of the court, the Dukes couldn't trip up the Bonnies on the other end. St. Bonaventure's attack proved to be too much for Duquesne to handle, and the comeback effort was denied.

"I haven't won many 83-80 games," Dambrot said. "I don't really like those kind of games. But I don't know how many games I've ever lost when we made 14 threes, either."

The loss dropped Duquesne's Atlantic 10 record to 7-4. St. Bonaventure's win — and another victory on Tuesday night against Saint Joseph's — pushed the Bonnies ahead of the Dukes in the standings.

The Dukes will have had nearly a week off

before they hit the floor again this weekend. Duquesne will head out on the road and take on Fordham at 2 p.m. this Sunday at the Rose Hill Gym.

Fordham finds itself in the bottom quadrant of the conference standings again this season. However, the Rams did take Duquesne to overtime earlier this year, but the Dukes pulled out a 58-56 win.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Tavian Dunn-Martin works on dribble moves before Sunday's game at the UPMC Events Center in Moon. The redshirt junior finished the day with a team-high 25 points. Dunn-Martin tied his career-high for three-point field goals made against St. Bonaventure, hitting seven shots from behind the arc.

# **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

# Super Midnight plays the blues in Memphis

CAPRI SCARCELLI staff writer

Born from a "product of necessity," the six-person Pittsburgh soul band Super Midnight revels in their success of self-production within the ever-evolving music industry.

Alex Weibel, guitarist, and Spencer McNeill, saxophonist, are both sophomores at Duquesne University, majoring in music education.

According to Weibel, Super Midnight was granted the opportunity to participate in the International Blues Competition in Memphis, where more than 200 bands from around the world came together to enjoy the culture of the blues. This competition is held annually in the rhythms of Beale Street; this year, it ran from Jan. 28 to Feb. 1.

The Blues Challenge is not audition-based; rather, a band must get a sponsorship in order to qualify.

According to Weibel, the band was sponsored by the Blues Society of Western Pennsylvania, where the winning band gets to compete in the international conference.

"Every night from Tuesday to Friday, there were three bands at each venue, and you could just go and watch them all," Weibel said. "It was great; it was so cool because it was Beale Street — this long street where you could just go and listen to all of these bands ... everyone was so into it where it wasn't really a competition, it was everyone just kind of going out and enjoying the experience."

Qualifying contestants compete for various grand prizes and future gigging opportunities. According to the Blues Foundation website, winning instrumentalists receive "instruments, a plaque, cash and a package to include a variety of



GRIFFIN SENDEK | PHOTO EDITOR

Music education sophomore Spencer McNeill rips on his sax in a show at Moondog's Pub.

national and international club and festive gigs ... in addition, [they receive] time to record, mix or master at the Showplace Studios [in New Jersey]."

The group performed in the youth division, for groups with members under 21. Bands that qualify for the youth division are judged, though do not compete internationally, according to McNeill.

Additionally, Weibel said there were master classes throughout the week that youth division instrumentalists could attend.

Super Midnight prepared a 30-minute repertoire, consisting of both covers and original pieces of theirs. McNeill said that their band does not have a specific genre: their music is fluid in the sense that each member has their speciality, though they found a unique middle ground for soul.

"We're not confined by a certain genre ... we all have a lot of different backgrounds, and we all bring our own thing to the table," Weibel said. "A lot of it is pretty improvised music; it's pretty free. I enjoy being able to show up to each gig and play the music dif-

ferently each night ... a lot of communication — that's hard to find."

According to McNeill, the Blues Society encouraged Super Midnight to compete, though they turned down the offer to instead ease into the opportunity they were given.

"We were originally chosen to compete in the challenge, but after reading the rules and finding out that you can only do this challenge three times in your band's life, we were thinking like 'yeah we should probably just test the waters first," McNeill said. "But we ended up doing so well that the judges told us we should've competed ... we learned a lot though."

According to Weibel, the band came together because of his and McNeill's interest in gigging for fun, as Weibel had experience from when he was in high school.

Around the fall of last year, Weibel said that he was contacted for a gig, but soon found that he had to put together a group. He immediately contacted McNeill, who was able to recruit bass Eric Dowdell Jr. alongside keyboardist Henry Shultz and drummer

Brandon Terry. Vocalist Jacquee Paul has sung with Weibel since she was 10 years old, just as Dowdell and McNeill have played together since they were 16.

According to McNeill, the band got their name from an inside joke.

"Me and Alex [Weibel] were hanging out one night, and it was super late, we didn't know what time it was and we weren't exactly with it, so Alex was like 'dude, it is so late what time even is it,' and I said 'I don't know man, like super midnight,' and it ended up being, like, 3 a.m." McNeill said.

Weibel said his favorite part about music is the communication that translates to what they love most.

"To me, music is a language. When really great musicians get together, it's a conversation that transcends [the] language," Weibel said. "That sense of community and togetherness that comes out of it? Living in the moment and being apart of such a subconscious experience ... it is really hard to quantify."

McNeill said that Super Midnight's sound is "very collected" and "appeals to a wide audience of people, including the people making it."

"It's nice for us to play music that is both intellectual and accessible," McNeill said.

McNeill and Paul write original music for the band. Their single, "Willow," was performed at the International Blues Competition, and "the crowd really appreciated [it]," according to McNeill.

This summer, Super Midnight plans to work on an EP and release it come fall.

[It is] going to be a big time to focus on writing original music," McNeill said.

You can follow Super Midnight's journey by liking them on Facebook or following them on their Instagram:

@super.midnight

#### WEEK'S EVENTS

Restorative Yoga Feb. 17 @ 4 p.m.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) will host this event in room 205 of the Power Center. According to ODI, it is set to include "relaxation techniques, opening exercises for the muscles and the mind."

DIY Donut Decorating Feb. 18 @ 11 a.m.

Visitors to Hogan Dining Center can cover donuts with delicious treats.

#### UPCOMING RELEASES

Sonic the Hedgehog Friday, Feb. 14

After a heavily publicized redesign of its titular character delayed release, this video game adaptation finally makes it to the big screen.

Friday, Feb. 14

In a horror reimagining of the '70s drama series, visitors to a magical island learn to be careful what they wish for.

#### MICRO REVIEW

bernie 2020 (prod. jack marlow)

EMPTYCANOFPBR

"I'mma run the race like I'm Bernie Sanders." This line, from the chorus of this new track from Pittsburghbased rapper EMPTYCANOFPBR, is indicative of his overall style: lighthearted and clever rhymes over extremely smooth and listenable beats. The result here is a political anthem that is refreshingly tolerable. It's not preachy and repetitive — it's good music.

- Josiah Martin



GRIFFIN SENDEK | PHOTO EDITOR

## Father of All... makes strong statement, but lacks musicality

OLLIE GRATZINGER editor-in-chief

alifornia rock band Green Day is back with its thirteenth studio album Father of All..., released on Feb. 7. With punchy guitars and lyrics charged with political exhaustion, the album sounds like a pop-punk tribute to a society wrought with panic.

If Green Day set out to make a statement, it certainly made it, with a big middle finger to the establishment and a blatant disregard for the status quo. This is, after all, a group that (almost ironically) gained mainstream popularity for its rebellious attitude and indifference toward industry expectations.

Father of All... takes the political musings of its earlier predecessors Revolution Radio (2016), 21st Century Breakdown (2009) and rock opera American Idiot (2005) and turns them on their heads; this record isn't about political resistance, but rather the depressed ambivalence that comes after you've resisted so hard for so long and nothing has even begun to budge.

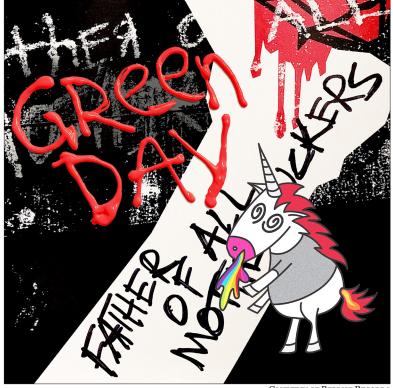
However, if the band set out to make a memorable album with hits comparable to Dookie's "Basket compelled to hum along to. No Case," Nimrod's "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)" or American Idiot's "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," Father of All... has almost certainly missed its mark.

What it says, it says loudly; society is very, very broken, and it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the constant onslaught of tragic headlines in the news. "Sugar Youth" and "I Was a Teenage Teenager" detail the anxieties of growing up in a hopeless world, while "Junkies on a High" and the titular "Father of All" chronicle the drug-infused experiences of burnt out characters with no craps left to give. With these elements hard at work, Father of All... is an album with frayed nerves in the midst of a manic breakdown. Conceptually, this is pretty cool and objectively relevant. But unsurprisingly, it doesn't necessarily translate to good music.

There's no respite from rushed, feverish and often hard-to-understand lyrics and high-intensity drums; while this helps the listener understand the hectic emotions it's trying to convey, it doesn't really make for the kind of music most people would feel song stands out as iconic, memorable or otherwise better than all the rest, and no lyric is especially profound or meaningful. It's got the rage of American Idiot's protagonist St. Jimmy and the disordered chaos of 2012's UNO... DOS... TRÉ!, but it lacks the heart.

The closest Father of All... comes to saying something meaningful is in the album's final track, "Graffitia." This song is stylistically different from the rest of the album, and it sounds more like Green Day than the rest of the record, which tends to echo either late Fall Out Boy or early Fitz and the Tantrums.

There's a line in "Graffitia" that talks about police brutality and the shooting of a young black man, whereas the rest of the album focuses on the party scene, drug abuse and unhealthy romance. "Oh Yeah," too, mentions bulletproof backpacks and our society's obsession with social media, and like "Graffitia," it feels like a welcomed outlier on an otherwise unoriginal album. Still, neither song feels strong enough musically to outlive the recent release hype.



COURTESY OF REPRISE RECORDS

The uncensored version of the album cover lacks the unicorn.

Father of All... pales in comparison to Green Day's past fame. It feels more like a failed attempt at a return to punk roots than a reactive piece of art inline with the band's earlier achievements. It makes a powerful statement about what a society at its

wits end can look like, but it lacks the driving musicality that made Green Day a cult classic and crafted anthems that defined a generation.

Father of All... is a rage-filled dance party, but when that party ends, there's nowhere left for it to go.

## Academy Awards ceremony filled with surprises, good and bad

Griffin Sendek photo editor

Oscars, a yearly extravaganza of elegant dresses and finely tailored tuxedos where the biggest movie stars and filmmakers duke it out for the ultimate honor of being handed little gold statues, aired on ABC this past Sunday night.

This year's lengthy three and a half-hour show made history, awarding Parasite, a South Korean film from visionary director Bong Joon Ho, with Best Picture. Parasite

is the first foreign-language film in the Academy Awards' 92 year legacy to ever win the Oscar for Best Picture.

For the second consecutive year, the Oscars went hostless a decision that first came about last year when Kevin Hart, the planned host for 2019, stepped down from the role after several homophobic tweets from years prior had resurfaced.

One of the biggest trends at the Oscars in recent years is making fun of the Oscars history of being

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Bong Joon Ho gestures to director Martin Scorcese during his acceptance speech.

a very white and male-centric awards show.

"Think how much the Oscars have changed in the past 92 years," Steve Martin said alongside Chris Rock in the show's opening stand-up bit.

"And now in 2020, we got one!" Chris Rock added.

In lieu of a host, the Academy awards elected to instead go for big stars and big moments to keep audiences entertained. Some of these so-called big moments were an unprecedented amount of musical performances.

While having one or two of the best original song nominees perform live at the Oscars is not unusual, Sunday night's show ended up being a remarkably musical affair.

The show opened with Janelle Monae singing "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," which upon the toss of her jacket, transformed into a rip-roaring dance number with Billy Porter and ensemble costumed as characters from 2019s popular films.

The musical lineup mostly of the best Original Song nominees, such as Idina Menzel singing "Into the Unknown" from Frozen II. She is joined by the rest of the foreign voice cast for Elsa, each singing lines in their respective languages. Other Oscar-nominated musical numbers included Chrissy Metz singing "I'm Standing with You" from Breakthrough, Cynthia Erivo giving an enchanting performance of "Stand Up" from Harriet, Randy Newman singing the adorable "I Can't Let You Throw Yourself Away" from Toy Story 4 and finally, Elton John, with the fun and laterannounced Best-Original-Songwinning, "(I'm Gonna) Love Me Again."

Other musical numbers included Billie Eilish with an excellent rendition of the Beatles' "Yesterday" during the In Memorium segment of the night, as well as Utkarsh Ambudkar's seemingly random addition of rapping about the Oscars night so far.

But the most absurd and unexpected musical number was Eminem appearing onstage for an 18-year-too-late performance of his Oscar-winning "Lose Yourself." While not a bad presentation, Eminem's appearance was greeted by looks of utter shock and confusion from the audience.

Hollywood veterans Brad Pitt and Laura Dern earned their first acting Oscars Sunday night. Best Supporting Actor went to Pitt for his role in Once Upon a Time... In Hollywood and Best Supporting Actress went to Dern for her performance in Marriage Story. Pitt had previously won an Oscar for producing but never before for acting.

Joker, which came out the gate running this awards season with 11 Oscar nominations — the most of any film - only took home a modest two awards, winning Best Original Score and Best Actor in a Leading Role.

Bong Joon Ho's Parasite ended the night with four Oscars, Best Original Screenplay, Best Director, Best International Film and closing the show with Best Picture under its belt.

Martin Scorcese's Netflix hit The Irishman began the night with 10 nominations and left empty-handed, being beaten out by other films at every possible turn.

Scorcese did not go without recognition though; during Joon Ho's Best Director acceptance speech, he acknowledged the acclaimed director.

"When I was in school, I studied Martin Scorsese's films. Just to be nominated was a huge honor. I never thought I would win," Joon Ho said.

Joon Ho was incredibly grateful for his Best Director win and was especially honored to be named among the other nominated directors.

"And Todd [Phillips] and Sam [Mendes], great directors that I admire," Joon Ho said in his acceptance speech. "If the Academy allows, I would like to get a Texas chainsaw, split the award into five and share it with all of you."



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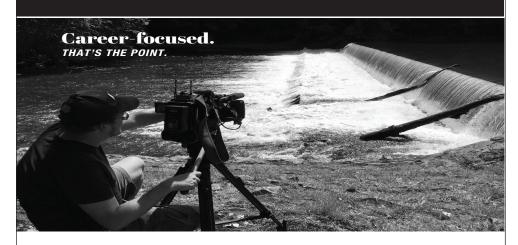
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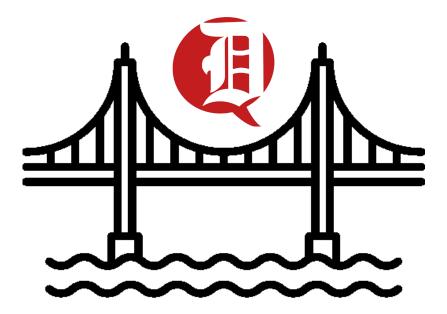
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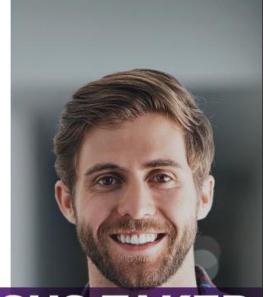
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