NAACP: Black Lives Matter is not a trend

Colleen Hammond
news editor

In an attempt to bridge the racial divide from a social distance, Duquesne’s chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) held an open discussion on the Black Lives Matter Movement in person and over Zoom Wednesday evening.

The two-hour discussion, which was open to students and faculty of all races, attempted to create a safe space for a cross-section of society to discuss the recent social change surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement and its effects on Duquesne’s Black community.

Since the death of George Floyd in late May, protests have erupted across the country — and social media — demanding racial justice in all aspects of American life. The NAACP leaders began the group discussion by posing the question to the group: “Is Black Lives Matter a trend?”

Over the summer, social media trends, such as posting a solid black tile or using the hashtag “BLM” soared in popularity, but many in the group found this deeply ineffective and even angering.

“You’re heart’s in the right place, but it’s not enough,” said Makeem White, a supporter of the Black Lives Matter Movement and member of the NAACP.

While and his peers expressed their concern that these posts and social media crazes turn this civil and political movement into a fleeting trend.

“I feel like for a lot of people, it’s just performative,” said Angel Williamson-Wheat, a member of the NAACP.

As an organization that is looking to impact social change on campus, several members reiterated the importance of engaging in civic discourse and activism outside of social media.

“If you’re doing it in private, more power to you,” said Roman Ramsey, a member of the Black Student Union and the NAACP.

For Ramsey and his peers, the best way to exercise true allyship is through persistent self-education and avid reading.

“The internet is bountiful with history,” Ramsey said.

Ramsey advocated for delving into America’s history and present, no matter how dark and uncomfortable.

The discussion also featured a variety of topics ranging from reparations, affirmative action, police brutality, corporate support of Black Lives Matter and support of the LGBTQ+ community within the Black community.

“All we want is to be treated equally,” said Darian Reynolds, president of the Black Student Union.

Ramsey further described the backsliding of civil rights movements as an “Alice in Wonderland circle” where the same struggles are seen over and over with problems growing and shrinking repeatedly.

For the first hour of the event, the discussion remained productive with multiple students in-person and over Zoom sharing ideas to improve the Black Lives Matter movement.

However, halfway through the event, the discussion took a turn as the president of the college Republicans, Alec Skomo redirected the conversation to his opposition for the Black Lives Matter movement.

“My side is that I don’t support Black Lives Matter,” Skomo said. When Skomo was asked if he thinks Black people are oppressed in the U.S., he responded with a flat “no.”

Skomo further went on to state that the Three Fifths Compromise of 1787 was not racist or racially motivated, that the Black Lives Matter movement would be the “detriment” of the Black community and that Black students have an easier time getting accepted to Duquesne because of affirmative action.

In the closing statement of the meeting, Reynolds also mentioned that this was not the first time Skomo had voiced similar views.

In a recent Zoom meeting held for all campus organization presidents, Skomo asked Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Anthony Kane, why white students were denied entry to an all-Black mental health support group. Although the group was designed to provide Black students with a safe place to share their experiences and struggles with racial injustices, Skomo felt white students should also be allowed to the event.

He went so far to state that denial of white students to the event was contradictory to the office’s mission of diversity and inclusion.

Skomo’s comments left many in the group noticeably uncomfortable with one student getting up and walking out of the room for a short time.

Although he had visibly upset several of the students present with his remarks, Skomo did not apologize and instead criticized the event. He also stated that had he known it was an NAACP event, he would not have attended at all.

Despite Skomo’s comments to the group, the NAACP allowed him to speak freely and calmly addressed his points and questions. Several group members even said they were glad Skomo showed up to the meeting, hoping his views would change through this experience.

Skomo said to the group that his views had not changed nor evolved from attending the meeting.

The NAACP hopes to hold more events like this in the future to further educate and dialogue with the campus community on issues of race and diversity, including those who do not share their same social and political views.

Registered sex offender harasses students

Elizabeth Sharp
staff writer

During the second week of classes, registered sex offender Jonathan Caito caused a disruption among Duquesne students as he approached multiple female students near an off-campus residence.

Caito had been staked out near the City View Apartments along Washington Pl. when he encountered students. He targeted multiple people and asked them for personal information, as well as following them up and down this street.

Caito has never worked, studied or taught at Duquesne.

Duquesne senior and City View resident Heather Umbel said she was a run-in with Caito on Sunday, Aug. 30 as she was leaving the building. She encountered him near PPG Paints Arena around 1:30 p.m. on her way to meet a friend near Duquesne’s campus.

Umbel detailed the exact situation before Caito approached her.

“He was talking to a couple walking up the hill and then seemed to notice me walking and left them,” Umbel said.

She explained that he was asking seemingly normal questions and making small talk, such as asking for the time. Despite not knowing Umbel, Caito continued to follow her the entire way down the hill.

Umbel noted that he “kept his distance” but felt that “there was really no escape” while Caito was walking in her general vicinity. He then went on to insist that Umbel take his email address and asked her if she had been on any dates recently.

Caito also mentioned how he wanted to get coffee with her even though he just approached her on the street, and the two did not know each other.

Umbel noted that he went on to say, “I do not like coffee but I’ll get coffee with you, and don’t worry, I am not going to touch you.” Umbel was then able to leave.

Follow us on...
Sex offender approaches female students

From CITY VIEW — page 1

She later found out that he was a registered sex offender through an email from Duquesne Public Safety. Because of her interaction with Caito, Umbel found herself driving to work on campus instead of walking and happened to see him again along the same street from the safety of her vehicle.

Umbel noted that there have been no significant changes in Duquesne Police presence around the apartment complex, but she feels that “they are taking the situation seriously” and knows “they have contacted him to warn him against bothering other students.”

There have been other students in addition to Umbel who have been harassed by Caito but are choosing not to speak out for their own safety.

“I am worried about future encounters, but I am really glad the Duquesne Police are really looking into this,” Umbel said.

In the schoolwide email sent on Sept. 1, Assistant Chief Michael Sippey explained this is not the first incident involving Caito.

“In November 2019, Caito approached a female student on campus, where he again asked for personal information and began to touch her, including on her thigh, without consent,” the email stated.

“He is a Megan’s Law sex offender, having been convicted of Indecent Assault on 01/09/2017 and is required to register as a sex offender for 15 years,” the email continued. Megan’s Law requires law enforcement authorities to make information available to the public regarding sex offenders.

For these reasons, Caito was banned from Duquesne’s campus back in 2016 and has since been banned from the campus permanently.

Sippey also included safety tips in the email including the following to be used if encountering a similar situation.

The following was provided in regards to what to do if encountering Caito on campus: “DUPD will provide a safety escort at any time on the campus property. Dial 412-396-6002 to request an escort,” Sippey said. “Place the emergency contact number in your phone so you can immediately request an escort. If you see him again, immediately call 911.”

Sippey also included safety tips in the email including the following to be used if encountering a similar situation.

“Also know that if you see him, do not speak out for your own safety. They are taking the situation seriously. If you see him, report this to the police immediately,” the email continued.

On Sept. 5, while responding to a call regarding people on McCloskey Street behind the Koren Building, a defiant trespass warning was issued to both.

On Sept. 1, police responded to a male and female arguing on Watson Street behind the Koren Building. A defiant trespass warning was issued to both.

On Sept. 1, Assistant Chief Michael Sippey said the police had received another call regarding people on McCloskey Street behind the Koren Building and found three college-aged individuals engaging with students, please call Duquesne Police immediately.

Weekly COVID-19 Data

The date below as provided by Duquesne Health Services and is updated daily. Students are advised to seek medical treatment from Health Services if they begin to experience symptoms of COVID-19.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>New Confirmed Cases*</th>
<th>New Suspected Cases**</th>
<th>Currently Isolated on Campus</th>
<th>Currently Isolated at Home</th>
<th>Currently Quarantined in Hotel</th>
<th>Currently Quarantined at Home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/08/2020</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Laboratory confirmed test using either Abbott ID test or Quest PCR Nasal Swab test

**Based on CDC Clinical & Epidemiological Criteria

- Total number of confirmed cases cumulative over time: 6
- Total number of suspected cases cumulative over time: 13
- Total number of students isolated on campus over time: 5
- Total number of students quarantined on campus over time: 19
- All students who are undergoing isolation or quarantine must receive a letter of clearance from Duquesne University Health

Duquesne Police can be reached by calling (412) 396-2667.
New resources for students struggling with mental health

KELLEN STEPELER
editor-in-chief

In a time where physical, social distancing is a must — where hybrid classes, bans on off-campus gatherings and the option to take classes virtually are the new normal on the Bluff — mental health challenges at Duquesne have made this year different than ever before.

Recent research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted that one in four people aged 18-24 seriously contemplated suicide in June, in a study highlighting mental health, substance use and suicidal ideation during the pandemic.

So, Duquesne, like colleges nationwide, is tasked with bracing mental health challenges along with meeting the social, emotional and mental health needs of students and staff.

Ian Edwards, assistant vice president for student wellbeing and director of counseling services at Duquesne, said that counseling services is delivering mental health services primarily through Zoom, utilizing a version of the program that is HIPAA-protected. Counselors can see students face-to-face when needed, as the Center for Student Wellbeing has been completely re-configured in accordance with CDC guidelines.

“Counseling services has developed a protocol for connecting with students who have been quarantined due to contact with COVID-19 and for those who are self-isolating due to a positive or suspected COVID-19 diagnosis,” Edwards said.

Virtual support groups — Meditation Practice for Challenging Times, The Village, Contingency, International Student Support Group Meeting and Support Group for Duquesne Students during these difficult times — are other outlets students can discuss issues.

Additionally, the Center for Student Wellbeing is developing a support group for LGBTQ+ students that will soon be available.

Student clubs like Active Minds, the Wellbeing Club and the Student Health Advisory Council will be working to offer weekly meetings for interested students as well as University community peer education workshops.

“The Center for Student Wellbeing also will offer regular virtual outreach events, featuring psychoeducational workshops on topics such as stress management, mindfulness and more,” Edwards said. “The Center is also open to requests from groups of students who desire a workshop on a particular topic.”

Protests and racial disparities in this country have also been impacting students and their mental health. Quincy Stephenson, the assistant director and outreach coordinator for counseling services and facilitator of The Village, said that in reference to mental health, racial inequality has increased racial tension for many students at Duquesne.

“Constant exposure to racial inequality occurring in 2020 has continued to present many students of color with increased racial stress,” Stephenson said. “Students have voiced anger and confusion concerning why racial injustice continues to happen over and over again. Many students are searching for opportunities to support and provide meaningful change.”

Adam Warnick, assistant vice president of student involvement, said that resident assistants and community assistants have been encouraged to do virtual programs so that students in isolation and quarantine can participate.

Wasilko also said that outdoor spaces are being utilized while maintaining social distancing so that larger groups can participate in some programs. Virtual TikTok dance tutorials, in-person and virtual paint nights and a pick-up pizza lottery are some programs that the Office of Residence Life has shifted to be safe and socially distant.

“The Duquesne Program Council has small grab-and-go events in the NiteSpot and prolonged programs outside on the weekends,” Wasilko said. “Freshman Development is hosting weekend online virtual events in which students can participate from any location.”

In a year like no other, Edwards said that a student wellbeing team was formed in April to address student concerns and issues, in response to the growing need to assist students in the wake of COVID-19. Duquesne has also created an emergency student assistance fund to help students dealing with the economic impact of COVID-19 and an interdepartmental solidarity group composed of students, staff and faculty was also developed to promote solidarity on Duquesne’s campus.

“Living during a global pandemic and time of social unrest can present you with many challenges,” Edwards said. “However, we believe that the vast majority of these challenges can also serve as opportunities for increased psychological and spiritual growth, as well as growth as a human community.”

Edwards compared Generation Z to the World War II generation. As the World War II generation was considered by many to be the “greatest generation,” today’s students are presented with “an opportunity to rise to the occasion.”

“Defy the doubters who might call you ‘selfish’ by becoming part of new ways of being and living that actively promote wellbeing for all and dedicate yourselves to the ongoing evolution of human consciousness,” Edwards said.

“With each person you encounter, be a vehicle through which love, wisdom, and compassion is expressed. Students can call the Center for Student Wellbeing at 412-396-4604 or visit their website at www.duq.edu/counseling for more information on support services available on campus.”

Colleen Hammond
news editor

In the aftermath of the horrific attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the American people made a solemn promise to “never forget.” Now, 19 years later, the promise is not necessarily forgotten, but never remembering 9/11 altogether.

For the first time since the attacks, nearly every college student and recent graduate is too young to remember the event or were not born until after.

This is a new wave of challenges for recent Duquesne graduate Mikayla Gilmer as she begins her first year of teaching at Musselman High School in West Virginia.

Gilmer, who was four years old at the time of the attacks, has no memories of the event. She learned about 9/11 through factual details about the event as recorded images from the event. Despite the fears of desensitization, Gilmer agreed that there’s still going to be a long process of remembering.

“Every generation has a traumatic event that shapes who they are,” Simpson said.

While there may not be wide consensus about what event that is in each generation, it is clear to Gilmer and Simpson that Generation Z has lived through a significant number of these events already.

“I fear that our generation is becoming desensitized to traumatic events given how often we experience them,” Gilmer said.

Despite the fears of desensitization, Simpson has hope for students to gain perspective on 9/11 through first hand accounts and recorded images from the event.

“We live in a time and place where people have tremendous access to primary sources,” Simpson said.

With the advent of the internet in the post 9/11 world, nearly every classroom has the opportunity to access primary sources when teaching about the attacks. Simpson stated these accounts will become incredibly important as fewer teachers have their own personal memories of the event.

However, Simpson is certain of one thing.

“There’s still going to be a long memory of the event,” Simpson said.

Firefighters raise the American flag at Ground Zero on Sept. 11, 2001. COURTESY OF CNN

Students grappling with mental health struggles can seek out virtual and in-person resources at the Counseling and Wellbeing Center.

The American flag graces the NYC skyline and the New World Trade Center. COURTESY OF NEWSWEEK
EDITORIAL

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 necessarily reflect the views of the editors of The Duquesne Duke.

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

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

Contact
email theduquesude@gmail.com

OPINIONS

Don’t act surprised by the influence of money in politics

As Joe Biden and Donald Trump begin the final stretch of the 2020 presidential election, every American is quite familiar with the countless political ads appearing while scrolling through Facebook, watching the NBA Playoffs or even listening to a local radio station. These commercials and promotions are forms of campaign advertising; which is, broadly speaking, the use of media to convey political messages with the purpose of influencing voters and ultimately gaining more votes.

In recent years, it has become evident that an effective advertising strategy – coupled with the latest technology – holds the power to dictate an election as candidates with the superior approach can more quickly circulate their messages to larger target audiences, while simultaneously building name recognition among voters.

As a result, candidates implementing comprehensive and advanced campaign advertising – no matter how unflattering and incapable of representing the nation – maintain a greater likelihood of defeating those who dedicate more time toward traditional methods of campaigning.

For example, an incredibly unqualified New Yorker can win a presidential election by convincing hundreds of thousands to throw on MAGA hats and pledge unmovable support.

Alternatively, a former Vice President – who most believe have limited mental capacity - can sit comfortably at the top of the polls with 53 days remaining until November third.

In the current presidential election alone, spending on digital advertising is predicted to surpass $1 billion – another record amount.

With the unprecedented surge of campaign expenditures in the past two decades, an observable trend has taken shape: the majority of better-financed candidates have historically emerged victorious.

This trend is unsurprising as it can be inferred that the candidates with more available funds are certainly spending more on campaign advertising and, as a result, gaining a competitive edge.

The main point I am alluding to is that money significantly influences the outcome of congressional, presidential, and even local elections in today’s society.

However, in my opinion, the enormous amount of monetary resources departed from campaign advertising is not necessarily disgraceful; on the contrary, I believe this approach to be the most powerful for constructively engaging with a wide range of voters, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nevertheless, this is only the case if candidates refrain from sharing erroneous and deceitful political propaganda with the sole purpose of degrading their opponent and poaching his or her supporters.

With both Joe Biden and Donald Trump recently intensifying efforts to acquire more funding, we can reasonably predict the next president of the U.S. to be the candidate that outsprings the other.
Conservative media’s desperation in the twilight of Trump

Alexander Wolfe
staff columnist

I like you, experience the blessed curse of Apple News-enabled CNN push notifications, you may have heard about a recent scandal involving comments President Trump made regarding American service members.

An unexpectedly candid article in The Atlantic titled, “Trump: Americans Who Died in War Are ‘Losers’ and ‘Suckers,’” has sparked a brush fire on Capitol Hill and media newsrooms.

Trump’s disdain for service members, veterans, and their families who refuse to kowtow to the Republican party platform was well-documented long before the recent comments, but the media’s reaction to the piece and the White House’s reaction to the media have been slightly at odds with the typical hysterics of the mainstream news.

That difference in how the president treats service members is quite apparent. John McCain wasn’t a war hero because his father said mean things at the Democratic National Convention, but Sean Parnell’s unparalleled service is upheld as the pinnacle of patriotism — you get the gist of how these things go in a world where your opinions on anything lead to people attacking your politics.

What’s notable in our current news cycle is the lengths to which conservative media, specifically Fox News, must go to protect the president. Breitbart, the Blaze and the Daily Wire have made a cottage industry out of commenting on the work of real journalists, but Fox News remains the one overtly conservative news organization that employs an extensive network of correspondents to cover any news that might appear in our hellish 24-hour news cycle.

Fox News’s longtime national security correspondent Jennifer Griffin confirmed large portions of this story, including comments Trump made while visiting the Vietnam Memorial with former Chief of Staff John Kelly, while The Washington Post confirmed the remainder of the details provided by the unnamed sources in The Atlantic.

This should be the way to combat fake news: an organization internally confirming reports to be true or false before commenting on their veracity. However, that day on Fox News, commentator Greg Gutfeld contradicted her reporting by calling the news “a hoax,” and President Trump demanded Griffin be fired over her reporting.

This isn’t a question of press freedom; rather, it’s a question of addressing the backward reality in today’s media, specifically conservative media. What does it say about Fox News that the organization felt compelled to air segments contradicting one another?

I believe this instance highlights the desperate measures Fox News will take to defend its own reality. In a world where negative media coverage of the president is fake, negative coverage from within your own network must be fake as well. If the viewer begins to question the veracity of this story, the veracity of other “fake” stories may too be up for debate. Soon, the viewer’s entire worldview is unraveling, and more importantly, they stop tuning in.

This is the dilemma currently facing mainstream conservative media.

Fringe outlets will always have an audience online, but conservative news hoping to generate widespread viewership is increasingly faced with a choice between reporting the truth and reinforcing its echo chamber.

Many Fox News viewers trust Griffin’s reporting and Gutfeld’s commentary, so how does the network synthesize the conflict without destroying its credibility?

I see two resolutions to this question, one for each side of the story. The simple answer is to reaffirm Griffin’s reporting, retracting the comments of any commentators that argue otherwise, and begin the long, painful process of returning to a world where its coverage is still conservative, but rooted in the same verifiable information as other news networks.

The more likely—and more concerning—answer is that Fox News will progress past the need for truth. Traditional reporters will be pushed from the network, and Fox News will become entrenched as a home for conservative commentary, spinning its own stories and nestling beside other fringe networks peddling conspiracies and falsehoods.

Charles Vogel
staff columnist

Ahas been said countless times in the past few months, right now is a very difficult time in the U.S., politically, socially and so on. There are many negative things happening; however, this is something that seems to happen every year, months before a presidential election.

People often say negative things about others who have opposing beliefs. This is absolutely not right. We need to stop despising people who think differently or are voting for a different candidate than us.

It’s more than fair to disagree with them of course, but to demonize them is simply unfair. This happens in various ways: viewing Muslims as bad people because of what religion they practice, viewing conservatives as evil racists and viewing liberals as brain-washed snowflakes.

Thinking this way leads to more issues; but mainly, it leads to hate and resentment. We have no idea why people choose to believe what they believe since we have never walked around in their shoes.

All that truly matters is if a person is good or not. If a person is good and treats people well, then it should not matter. Whether someone is a Democrat or Republican shouldn’t matter. We don’t know why they chose to become either one, and frankly, it’s none of our business. If we begin to treat each other as equals, everything will become much better.

I was always told that negativity attracts more negativity. However, if you say and do positive things, it will lead to more positivity.

If you really dislike Joe Biden or his supporters, and you walk by someone wearing a Biden t-shirt, don’t frown or say, “Wow, how could they?” Just smile and go on with your life.

The same applies for the other side: If you hate Trump and see someone wearing a Make America Great Again hat, don’t call them a monster or give them dirty looks; smile and go on with your day.

Doing the opposite and being unkind to those people will just make others dislike you and create greater problems in the long run. Although, if you treat them with respect, I bet they will be respectful as well.

If you have a friend who has opposing political beliefs, instead of ending a friendship, simply don’t talk about politics. There is so much more to life than Rs and Ds, and there are many things you may have in common with people who differ politically than you.

If you say you hate Trump supporters or Biden supporters, I bet you have something in common with the people you say you despise. How boring would it be if we all thought the same way? That’s what makes this world great. Don’t hate, because that just leads to more hatred and problems. Instead, just smile and go on.

Responding to disagreement with negative comments only instigates further dispute.

Trump’s recent comments regarding fallen soldiers have sparked outrage.
Duquesne seniors falling in love one second at a time

Jacob and Olivia both graduate from Duquesne in spring 2021.

For Jacob Schwab and Olivia Babyok, it’s the passage of time that brought them together.

Together, the Duoque

"things," Jemison said. Kezia Jemison, a junior biochemistry induction major and president of the club.

"There’s a need for students who sometimes get excited about fixing something, or finding something." As he would talk about the small intricacies of reassembling parts with care and share tidbits of knowledge only someone so far in the watch world would know, Olivia would watch him speak with a wonderful grin on her face, looking on as if just for a moment, he was the only person in the world. It was clear that their love for the history and craft of watchmaking is intertwined with their love for each other.

"Watchmaking in many ways is more than a hobby — what they do is incredibly important. In a small but crucial way, they take the necessary steps to help preserve history and keep the industry, which quite literally is near its deathbed, alive."

"The fact of the matter is it’s a dying industry. Your independent watchmakers are all overloaded with work and they’re all old,” Jacob said. "I feel I preserve a piece of history, a piece of art. So if I can make something live longer, instead of just throwing it away or have it be disposable, I’m all for it."

The wrist and pocket watches they operate on are time capsules of bygone eras. Unlike clothing and other personal effects that have been whittled, lost and worn, watches have been able to survive throughout the years, and with a few minor tweaks from students like Jacob and Olivia, they keep on ticking to this day.

"In the future, I would love someone to watch them repair something,” Olivia said. "It’s always good when you respect your love, time comes to a stop. However, Jemison emphasized that "you can’t really compare anyone, or just help prevent some changes posed by the pandemic, " You, and you can’t really compare someone to back you up or support you is also really difficult,” Jemison said. "Again, just fostering a more positive environment for everyone. That’s all it is."
Steve Nash eager to get started on new career as Nets coach

NEW YORK (AP) — Steve Nash was a leader, a guy who loved to get the best out of his teammates on the court and build relationships with them off it.

Those qualities helped him become a Hall of Fame player.

Now he thinks they can make him a successful coach.

Nash was introduced Wednesday by the Brooklyn Nets, who picked him to guide Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving and the rest of a team with high expectations despite him having no coaching experience.

“I love to compete. I love to teach, to lead and to be a part of a team. And so to be in a position where I can use all those things on a day-to-day basis and focus all my energy on those tenets is a perfect fit,” Nash said.

“So while I hadn’t necessarily publicly stated my desire to coach, privately it’s always been in my heart. It’s always been an opportunity that suited me. When you can’t run up and down the court anymore, what can you do? What can you contribute?”

The Nets believe there is plenty. General manager Sean Marks played with Nash in Phoenix, when the Suns helped usher in an exciting era of high-scoring basketball, and knows how his fearlessness can galvanize an organization.

“Look, there’s nobody that I’ve been around that hasn’t wanted to be pressure tested on the spot quite like Steve. He’s never shied away from a moment,” Marks said.

“This guy has never run from anything and he wants the ball in his hands at the end of games and his career spoke for itself. He made the right decision more times than not, so the experience that he’ll bring here speaks volumes.”

The two struck up a friendship off the court, talking about life outside of basketball. When Marks was looking for a coach this summer, Nash called and asked if this was the time for him to pursue it.

Marks agreed it was, citing Nash’s ability to connect people and drive a culture. And Nash, having played against Durant and Irving and becoming friends with both, is eager to impart his smarts on a roster that has plenty of skills.

“They’re obviously at an incredible point in the history of this organization, so I think the timing is fantastic, the opportunity is fantastic,” Nash said.

“I’m not sure that this is an example that fits that conversation but I own it and I understand why it’s important to talk about it and that we do need more diversity and more opportunity for African American coaches and staff in all capacities,” Nash said.

Nash had worked only as a player development consultant with Golden State, but Marks wasn’t looking for coaching experience. The attributes he sees in Nash go far beyond X’s and O’s.

“His winning past, the way he’s played the game, his family values, and just the curious and creative mind that he has brought to the game over a 20-year career,” Marks said, “and also maybe more importantly than anything the joy with which he played the game and the joy with which he led his teams and his teams played were deciding factors in making Steve Nash the right choice for the Brooklyn Nets.”

Brooklyn reached the playoffs even while Irving played only 20 games and Durant missed the entire season while they recovered from injuries. With them back and a number of players growing from the experience they got playing without them, Nash couldn’t ask for many better places to start a new career.

“I think the chemistry and culture has been well lauded. We have a roster that is very wealthy, and I mean that from a basketball standpoint,” Nash said. “We have talent, versatility and good human beings. So as a coach there’s so much to be thankful for when you walk in the doors here. I just can’t wait to get started.”
Duquesne football transfers look to make impact

Brentaro Yamane
staff writer

Duquesne's football team has received not only spectacular news as of late, recently garnering three commitments from high-profile transfer players.

Todd Summers, Rahmon Hart Jr. and Nathan Proctor Jr. each transferred to Duquesne in the past month as they look toward embarking on the next chapter of their respective careers.

Summers, a graduate student, announced his commitment to DU on Aug. 17. A 6-foot-4, 240-pounder, Summers spent the previous four seasons at Villanova, where he redshirted his freshman year, then recorded 48 receptions for 571 yards and nine touchdowns in 33 games over the course of the past three seasons.

His statistics have steadily improved since he entered, and he is excited to continue to develop his potential.

“During my time at Villanova, I started my career as a very skinny player, but I was able to gain 30 pounds of muscle and was able to have a good meal plan. My improvement in footwork, reading coverages, perfecting my route running and learning my fundamentals better is what I got better at Villanova that I can attribute to Duquesne,” said Summers, a 2016 Franklin Regional graduate.

At Franklin Regional, he was courted by numerous programs, including Villanova, Kansas State, Iowa State, Robert Morris and Duquesne.

“Summers is the total package with the #Shalieve hashtag,” said Scull, a 2016 Tompkins Regional graduate.

In 2018 and 2019 even as his rehabilitation continued he worked out on the field — is secure. If anything, his goal is to continue his development on the Bluff.

“Being back in the city of Pittsburgh is awesome. Growing up here is really nice and being back is even better. Knowing people that also attend Duquesne is really nice to me as well,” Summers said.

“With COVID-19 regulations and precautions, practice has been different only with 10 other players at a time, but it is still fun,” he continued. “Learning a new playbook and watching new film is what I will have to get used to as I am also enjoying working out and creating new relationships with my other teammates.”

Hart, a 6-foot-3 wide receiver, decided to transfer from Ball State to Duquesne on Aug. 27. The Pittsburgh native played one game at Ball State last year as a freshman before deciding to transfer in the spring.

The Imani Christian Academy product said, while it was two largely similar processes, his recruitment was simpler the second time around.

“Transferring from one college to another at the same level is not much of an adjustment, and you know what to expect,” Hart said.

When Schmitt first spoke to Hart, topics such as Duquesne’s mission as a football program were discussed, but the main focus was on how Hart could best fit in with Duquesne before arriving on campus.

“I’m really familiar with Duquesne because my dad used to work there and I’m from around the area,” Hart said. “I think now, they have me in quarantine. The biggest adjustment is that I don’t know many people on campus and it’s hard to get to know people because of the virus. There are not many activities to do outside of football. Ball State competes in the Mid-American Conference, and following the MAC’s announcement that its fall sports season was being canceled, Hart decided to transfer.

Even though Duquesne will not compete during the fall semester, it is still possible that they can compete in the spring. Knowing there’s still a possibility of football this season is what’s going to keep Hart working, he said.

“I think the main thing is to keep working and stay ready. Other schools are still playing during the pandemic. Hopefully, they find a way to do both and get a plan in terms of the season,” Hart said.

Duquesne being one of the first schools to reach out to Hart helped to make him feel comfortable, and especially confident.

see FOOTBALL — page 11

COURTESY OF BALL STATE ATHLETICS
Rahmon Hart Jr., pictured during his days at Ball State, recently committed to Duquesne.

Steelers LB Ryan Shazier announces retirement

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ryan Shazier wants to make something clear. His comeback will have to get used to as I am also enjoying working out and creating new relationships with my other teammates.”

Hart, a 6-foot-3 wide receiver, decided to transfer from Ball State to Duquesne on Aug. 27. The Pittsburgh native played one game at Ball State last year as a freshman before deciding to transfer in the spring.

The Imani Christian Academy product said, while it was two largely similar processes, his recruitment was simpler the second time around.

“Transferring from one college to another at the same level is not much of an adjustment, and you know what to expect,” Hart said.

When Schmitt first spoke to Hart, topics such as Duquesne’s mission as a football program were discussed, but the main focus was on how Hart could best fit in with Duquesne before arriving on campus.

“I’m really familiar with Duquesne because my dad used to work there and I’m from around the area,” Hart said. “I think now, they have me in quarantine. The biggest adjustment is that I don’t know many people on campus and it’s hard to get to know people because of the virus. There are not many activities to do outside of football. Ball State competes in the Mid-American Conference, and following the MAC’s announcement that its fall sports season was being canceled, Hart decided to transfer.

Even though Duquesne will not compete during the fall semester, it is still possible that they can compete in the spring. Knowing there’s still a possibility of football this season is what’s going to keep Hart working, he said.

“I think the main thing is to keep working and stay ready. Other schools are still playing during the pandemic. Hopefully, they find a way to do both and get a plan in terms of the season,” Hart said.

Duquesne being one of the first schools to reach out to Hart helped to make him feel comfortable, and especially confident.

see FOOTBALL — page 11

COURTESY OF BALL STATE ATHLETICS
Rahmon Hart Jr., pictured during his days at Ball State, recently committed to Duquesne.

Steelers LB Ryan Shazier announces retirement

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ryan Shazier wants to make something clear. His comeback will have to get used to as I am also enjoying working out and creating new relationships with my other teammates.”

Hart, a 6-foot-3 wide receiver, decided to transfer from Ball State to Duquesne on Aug. 27. The Pittsburgh native played one game at Ball State last year as a freshman before deciding to transfer in the spring.

The Imani Christian Academy product said, while it was two largely similar processes, his recruitment was simpler the second time around.

“Transferring from one college to another at the same level is not much of an adjustment, and you know what to expect,” Hart said.

When Schmitt first spoke to Hart, topics such as Duquesne’s mission as a football program were discussed, but the main focus was on how Hart could best fit in with Duquesne before arriving on campus.

“I’m really familiar with Duquesne because my dad used to work there and I’m from around the area,” Hart said. “I think now, they have me in quarantine. The biggest adjustment is that I don’t know many people on campus and it’s hard to get to know people because of the virus. There are not many activities to do outside of football. Ball State competes in the Mid-American Conference, and following the MAC’s announcement that its fall sports season was being canceled, Hart decided to transfer.

Even though Duquesne will not compete during the fall semester, it is still possible that they can compete in the spring. Knowing there’s still a possibility of football this season is what’s going to keep Hart working, he said.

“I think the main thing is to keep working and stay ready. Other schools are still playing during the pandemic. Hopefully, they find a way to do both and get a plan in terms of the season,” Hart said.

Duquesne being one of the first schools to reach out to Hart helped to make him feel comfortable, and especially confident.

see FOOTBALL — page 11

COURTESY OF BALL STATE ATHLETICS
Rahmon Hart Jr., pictured during his days at Ball State, recently committed to Duquesne.

Steelers LB Ryan Shazier announces retirement

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ryan Shazier wants to make something clear. His comeback will have to get used to as I am also enjoying working out and creating new relationships with my other teammates.”

Hart, a 6-foot-3 wide receiver, decided to transfer from Ball State to Duquesne on Aug. 27. The Pittsburgh native played one game at Ball State last year as a freshman before deciding to transfer in the spring.

The Imani Christian Academy product said, while it was two largely similar processes, his recruitment was simpler the second time around.

“Transferring from one college to another at the same level is not much of an adjustment, and you know what to expect,” Hart said.

When Schmitt first spoke to Hart, topics such as Duquesne’s mission as a football program were discussed, but the main focus was on how Hart could best fit in with Duquesne before arriving on campus.

“I’m really familiar with Duquesne because my dad used to work there and I’m from around the area,” Hart said. “I think now, they have me in quarantine. The biggest adjustment is that I don’t know many people on campus and it’s hard to get to know people because of the virus. There are not many activities to do outside of football. Ball State competes in the Mid-American Conference, and following the MAC’s announcement that its fall sports season was being canceled, Hart decided to transfer.

Even though Duquesne will not compete during the fall semester, it is still possible that they can compete in the spring. Knowing there’s still a possibility of football this season is what’s going to keep Hart working, he said.

“I think the main thing is to keep working and stay ready. Other schools are still playing during the pandemic. Hopefully, they find a way to do both and get a plan in terms of the season,” Hart said.

Duquesne being one of the first schools to reach out to Hart helped to make him feel comfortable, and especially confident.

see FOOTBALL — page 11

COURTESY OF BALL STATE ATHLETICS
Rahmon Hart Jr., pictured during his days at Ball State, recently committed to Duquesne.

Steelers LB Ryan Shazier announces retirement

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ryan Shazier wants to make something clear. His comeback will have to get used to as I am also enjoying working out and creating new relationships with my other teammates.”

Hart, a 6-foot-3 wide receiver, decided to transfer from Ball State to Duquesne on Aug. 27. The Pittsburgh native played one game at Ball State last year as a freshman before deciding to transfer in the spring.

The Imani Christian Academy product said, while it was two largely similar processes, his recruitment was simpler the second time around.

“Transferring from one college to another at the same level is not much of an adjustment, and you know what to expect,” Hart said.

When Schmitt first spoke to Hart, topics such as Duquesne’s mission as a football program were discussed, but the main focus was on how Hart could best fit in with Duquesne before arriving on campus.

“I’m really familiar with Duquesne because my dad used to work there and I’m from around the area,” Hart said. “I think now, they have me in quarantine. The biggest adjustment is that I don’t know many people on campus and it’s hard to get to know people because of the virus. There are not many activities to do outside of football. Ball State competes in the Mid-American Conference, and following the MAC’s announcement that its fall sports season was being canceled, Hart decided to transfer.

Even though Duquesne will not compete during the fall semester, it is still possible that they can compete in the spring. Knowing there’s still a possibility of football this season is what’s going to keep Hart working, he said.

“I think the main thing is to keep working and stay ready. Other schools are still playing during the pandemic. Hopefully, they find a way to do both and get a plan in terms of the season,” Hart said.

Duquesne being one of the first schools to reach out to Hart helped to make him feel comfortable, and especially confident.
Two years have passed since beloved rap/hip-hop artist Mac Miller tragically lost his life due to accidental drug overdose. On Sept. 7, 2018, the Pittsburgh native, age 26, was found unresponsive on the floor of his studio home in Los Angeles and later pronounced dead by paramedics; wherein, just days prior, Miller was quoted saying he was “in a good place,” according to the Rolling Stone.

Miller’s death has opened conversation on breaking the stigma surrounding addiction and mental illness in the music industry. Disturbing as it is, Miller passed away during National Substance Abuse Prevention Month as well as Suicide Prevention Week.

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), there are various mental health effects alongside the physical side effects of drug misuse. These include paranoia, depression, anxiety, aggression and hallucinations, which Miller said he struggled with periodically.

“It was days after his death that I had begun to research addiction and become more knowledgeable on the topic of drug and substance abuse,” said third-year physical therapy student Kat Koralewski. “Two years later, and I have decided to pursue a law degree post-grad school and specialize in health care advocacy. I credit Mac [Miller] for giving me the push I needed to make a difference.”

The Hollywood scene constantly glorifies drug usage, though Miller always recognized that it was an underlying factor in his life that distracted him from the pain he felt on the inside.

According to Medium, Miller had been working diligently on his recovery with a sobriety coach since 2016, delving more into exercise and other alternatives to keep on a healthy track, focusing especially on his music.

Having primarily struggled with depression throughout his career, Miller was bravely open about his mental strife, showing his humanity in his lyrics. In his album “Swimming” (2018), Miller goes over the thoughts that plagued him most, showing themes of insecurity, inadequacy and loneliness.

In his song “Come Back to Earth,” Miller sings, “I just need a way out of my head/ I’ll do anything for a way out.” The title itself is eerie to fans, being that it vaguely foreshadowed his death.

“The words ‘addiction’ and ‘disease’ should always fall in the same sentence; his death has helped prove that addiction is not merely a choice one makes, but a disease one suffers,” Koralewski said. “His death speaks to the fact that we never know someone’s internal struggles, and we are in no place to judge.”

Miller expressed that he feared being a part of the “27 club,” which is the large group of famous artists who have all lost their lives to drug addiction coincidentally at the age of 27; however, Miller didn’t even make it that far.

“Things can change within seconds. Mac Miller was my favorite artist growing up, and his music tended to really resonate with me due to his style and the fact that he lived in Pittsburgh. His death, I think, shows people that even though someone looks like they are doing well, you can never really know what demons they are facing behind closed doors.” Sophomore business major Ian Smith said.

Fans of Miller have honored his legacy in art, in song and in spirit all across the city of Pittsburgh, leaving his memory everywhere they go.

Mac Miller’s death sparks conversation to be more aware of one’s internal struggles.
Keeping Up With the Kardashians Ending After 20 Seasons on E!

(Variety)—After 20 seasons, “Keeping Up With the Kardashians” will be coming to an end with the final season airing in early 2021.

The decision to end the show was made by the Kardashian-Jenner family and announced on Tuesday.

“It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to ‘Keeping Up with the Kardashians,’” the famous family said in a joint statement, signed by Kris Jenner, Kourtney Kardashian, Kim Kardashian West, Khloé Kardashian, Rob Kardashian, Kendall Jenner, Kylie Jenner and Scott Disick.

“After what will be 14 years, 20 seasons, hundreds of episodes and several spin-off shows, we’ve decided as a family to end this very special journey. We are beyond grateful to all of you who’ve watched us for all of these years — through the good times, the bad times, the happiness, the tears, and the many relationships and children. We’ll forever cherish the wonderful memories and countless people we’ve met along the way.”

The family thanked E!, the production team at Bunim/Murray and Ryan Seacrest, who has been an executive producer on the show since the beginning. E! released an official statement to Variety, regarding the ending of the monumental show that helped define the network as a destination beyond entertainment news. Over the years, with “KUWTK” as their flagship unscripted series, E! transformed into a cabler for hit reality programming, and in more recent years, delved into scripted content, as well.

“E! has been the home and extended family to the Kardashian-Jenner family for what will be 14 years, featuring the lives of this empowering family,” the network’s statement reads. “Along with all of you, we have enjoyed following the intimate moments the family so bravely shared by letting us into their daily lives. While it has been an absolute privilege and we will miss them wholeheartedly, we respect the family’s decision to live their lives without our cameras.”

“KUWTK” has been a massive hit globally for the network, which airs repeats of the franchise constantly — and pays a pretty penny for those rights. In 2017, E! inked a mega-deal with the family for a three-year extension, taking the show through 2020, valued at nine figures. At the time, insiders told Variety that the renewal deal was worth “below $100 million,” though other reports stated the deal was worth up to $150 million.

The show premiered in 2007, and turned the Kardashian-Jenner family into international superstars with a multimedia empire complete with clothing lines, cosmetics companies, apps and never-ending tabloid interest in their every move. When the show debuted, Kris Jenner, now known as one of the savviest businesswomen in the industry, was known to the public as the ex-wife of O.J. Simpson attorney Robert Kardashian. Her former spouse Caitlyn Jenner also ended up starring in her own E! spinoff, “I Am Cait,” which documented her transition into a transgender woman.

When the show hit the air, the family was best known for Kardashian-West’s sex tape, which brought worldwide attention to the socialite who was previously Paris Hilton’s sidekick. Today, Kardashian-West is one of the most recognizable faces on the planet, and has taken her power to the White House with her passion for criminal justice reform. Meanwhile, Kendall and Kylie Jenner were just kids when the show first started airing, and now are two of the most powerful — and lucrative — influencers in the world.

At the time of the series’ 10-year anniversary in 2017, Kris Jenner spoke to Variety about the show’s milestones and futures. In that interview, she spoke about when the time may come to end the show, saying, “I used to just joke and say it’ll be when Kylie gets married in 20 years, and here we are 10 years later. Who thought a decade later we would still be going as strong as we are.”

The famous family members posted about the show ending on their social media accounts, which reach hundreds of millions of fans.

Kardashian-West posted to her 188 million followers: “Without ‘Keeping Up with The Kardashians,’ I wouldn’t be where I am today. I am so incredibly grateful to everyone who has watched and supported me and my family these past 14 incredible years,” she wrote. “This show made us who we are and I will be forever in debt to everyone who played a role in shaping our careers and changing our lives forever.”

The Kardashian-Jenner family take their bows for fourteen years of production.

HOROSCOPES

Libra
(September 23 - October 22)
You’re feeling selfless today Libra! Huh, that’s new. Put that to good use and lend a hand (after washing, of course).

Scorpio
(October 23-November 22)
Your mind right now: buzz buzz buzz buzz buzz... You’re feeling selfless today Libra! Huh, that’s new. Put that to good use and lend a hand (after washing, of course).

Sagittarius
(November 23-December 22)
Mom said you can’t draw on yourself, but I’m giving you permission today.

Capricorn
(December 23-January 19)
Relax, bro.

Aquarius
(January 20-February 18)
You know when you fill up your water bottle at the fountain but then it spills everywhere? Yeah, that’s you today.

Pisces
(February 19-March 20)
If Phineas and Ferb can build a rocket, fight a mummy, and climb the Eiffel Tower, why can’t you?

Aries
(March 21-April 19)
You need some spice. Like Old Bay seasoning. Give your weekend a pinch of that.

Taurus
(April 20-May 20)
Slow down oh boy oh my you’re gonna crash!

Gemini
(May 21-June 20)
Gemini, miss me miss me now you gotta socially distance from me!

Cancer
(June 21-July 22)
Cancer. The floor is lava.

Leo
(July 23-August 22)
Leo, stream “Love Shack” by the B-52’s for clear skin.

Virgo
(August 23-September 22)
You’re in your own little world. Hello? How’s the view?
FBS transfers add to DU football’s roster intrigue moving forward

FOOTBALL — from page 8

that the program wanted him. Other factors helped him make his decision as well. “I like the culture at Duquesne. They were one of the first schools to reach out to me. Being close to home, and the good academic reputation is what helped me make my decision,” Hart said.

With everything that Rahmon learned at Ball State, he hopes he can take some of the fundamentals that he learned at Ball State and transfer them to Duquesne to make himself an even better player. “It was a learning experience [at Ball State] seeing how people work hard at practice and seeing how they practiced transformed into the game, and the other players working on their craft. Hopefully, I can reach my potential at Duquesne and help my team out,” he said.

The other athlete to make their decision to transfer to Duquesne is defensive lineman Nathan Proctor.

Proctor played at Virginia Tech in 2017-18 before transferring to Iowa Central Community College in 2019. In the 2018 season, Proctor recorded three tackles in eight games as a Hokie.

Besides Duquesne, he also received offers from Morgan State, North Alabama and Southern Illinois while he was at Iowa Central Community College. In the 10 games that he played at the community college in 2019, he recorded five sacks and had 46 tackles. Overall, Duquesne has three transfer students coming in who have already played at the Division I level who possess the capability of helping the Dukes win an NEC championship. Hopefully, it can be sooner rather than later when students on the Bluff can watch football games again and see how Summers, Hart and Proctor do in their first years at Duquesne.