

DUKE 2020

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Pandemic leadership proves focal point of final presidential debate

ZOE STRATOS
staff writer

After appearing for the first time on stage together on Sept. 29 in what only could be described as a chaotic 90 minutes, President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden came together last Thursday for another go at a presidential debate.

Trump's diagnosis of COVID-19 in early October led to the second debate being canceled. With only one remaining debate, this was the candidates' last chance to plead their cases to citizens as to why they deserve to be the president of the United States.

Hosted by Belmont University and moderated by NBC's White House Correspondent, Kristen Welker, the debate covered six topics over the course of 90 minutes including the pandemic, national security, American families, race in America, climate change and leadership. Due to the overabundant interruptions during the last debate, each candidate was given two minutes to speak — uninterrupted — with a series of rebuttals after answers. During the two minutes, the opposition's microphone was muted.

Starting off with COVID-19 — arguably the most prominent topic — each candidate took his own route on answering questions regarding the upcoming vaccine, reopening the country and providing economic relief for small businesses and schools.

Trump focused on defending his four years as president; however, he brought up that the U.S. has “rounded the corner — it's going



Trump and Biden face off in the final presidential debate on the stage of Belmont University. COURTESY OF CNN

away,” as well as that a vaccine is in the near future. He also highlighted that the country needed to reopen as soon as possible to continue the economic prosperity he is congratulated for.

After the debate, fact checkers noted that the U.S. has not rounded the corner yet. According to the COVID-19 Tracking Project, around 60,000 new cases are reported daily, which is up from around 50,000 in early October.

Biden, looking more so at the future, asserted that he will look at the science to deliver transparency to the public, enforce mask wearing, sanitizing and social distancing and provide resources to businesses and schools

to make sure they open safely.

During the national security portion, the debate became more accusatory rather than a policy debate.

Both candidates continuously accused the other of collusion — specifically with Russia and China. In this section, Trump told Biden he “owes an explanation to the American people” amid recent questions regarding his son, Hunter Biden's, overseas business ventures. Biden ignored these claims, responding to the president, “I have released all of my tax returns ... You have not released a single solitary year.” Trump replied that he would release the tax returns as soon as he could — a claim he has made without follow-up for years.

Next, the two candidates talked about American families, specifically healthcare.

Trump claimed that he would overturn Obamacare, as he overturned the individual mandate during his first four years. He also included that he would form a better plan — one that would better protect people with preexisting conditions. Biden claimed to build off of Obamacare by passing a public option, reducing premiums and assuring that private insurance holders would not lose their healthcare.

During the race in America topic, Trump improved from his argument during the first debate by talking of his efforts to reform the prison system. Trump may have lost ground when he claimed that he is “the least racist person in the room,” but again gained ground in coining the phrase “all talk, no action” in reference to Biden's lack of action in over 35 years in politics. As a response, Biden took ownership of his mistakes with the crime bills during the 1980s and '90s.

The climate change section largely surrounded Biden's clean energy policies. After Trump asked him “would you close down the oil industry?” Biden quickly returned with, “I would transition from the oil industry, yes” — a statement that could lose him votes in the last days leading to the election.

Lastly, during the leadership section, both ended the debate with final inaugural statements. Both highlighted their strongest policy beliefs, and assured the American people they made the right choice.

The race is tighter than we think after this presidential debate, and the upcoming Election Day is Nov. 3.

Mail-in ballots: the preferred voting during a pandemic election

ZOE STRATOS
staff writer

In the U.S., voting is a fundamental right for citizens, and showing up to the polling booths to cast a ballot on Election Day has been the standard since the beginning of democracy. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Election Day is slightly different, as mail-in voting takes center stage in all 50 states for the first time ever.

Election Day is Nov. 3, but for those voting by mail, what deadlines should be paid attention to, and how do you make sure your vote is filled out correctly?

On the Pennsylvania government website, it's stated that voters can now apply as an absentee or a mail-in voter without an excuse. For background, absentee ballots are submitted by mail from an absentee. An absentee is a person who physically cannot go to a polling booth, whether it be because of military deployment or because the voter will not be in his or her registered state during the election.

Moreover, the absentee ballot cannot be given to anyone; there has to be an excuse. The voter must then request and be accepted to use the ballot through his or her state government. However, 29 states, including Pennsylvania, allow no-excuse absentee ballots, which are essentially no different from a mail-in ballot. Both are submitted by mail. According to the Pennsylvania government website, absentee and mail-in ballots are equally safe and secure ways to cast ballots. The DOS online mail ballot application can help decide which ballot is for you.

“It's helpful if you have a disability, or if you're part of the at-risk population,” Duquesne political science professor Luke Sheahan said. “It's also helpful if your job doesn't allow it. I did it myself. I have to be on campus relatively early on Tuesday's, I'd be pretty hard pressed, as other citizens are, to get it [in person voting] done.”

When choosing a mail-in ballot, voters can apply online or through the mail. An application must be filled out completely and submitted to your local county board of elections office. After receiving the ballot, it must be filled out completely, sealed in the secrecy envelope, sealed again and signed in the pre-addressed return envelope and either taken or mailed to your county board of elections office. The earlier you turn in your ballot, the surer you can be that it is counted.

“It was kind of like filling out the SAT,” Duquesne senior Emma McDonnell said. “After I opened it, it gave me a set of instructions. You have to make sure the bubble is completely filled in, and you have to use a pen.”

However, the issue is that deadlines are different than in person. The mail-in ballot must be received by the voter by Oct. 27, and postmarked Nov. 3 by 8 p.m. If personally taken to the county board of elections office, it must be in by Nov. 6 at 5 p.m.

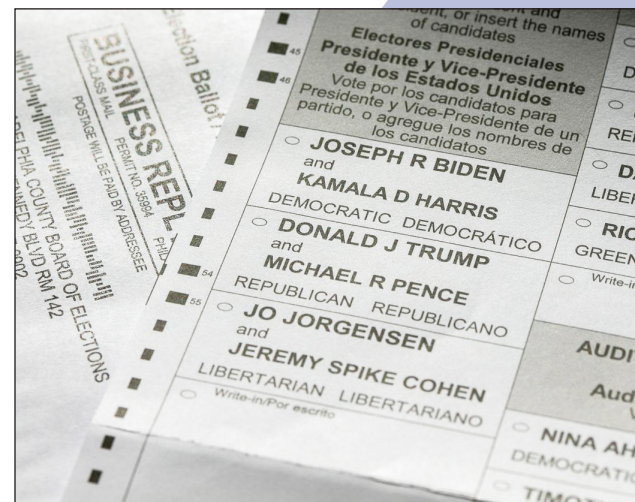
Along with directions of how and when to fill out the mail-in ballot on the state government website, many advertisements from local organizations reminded voters to fill out and turn in their mail-in ballots.

“I got text messages about voting,” McDonnell said. “I was shocked about that because I didn't know how they got my number. It made me a little uncomfortable, but they were really good and helpful advertisements. I also saw a lot of good ones when I'd watch YouTube.”

Since the scope of voting is changing in the U.S. this year, there are worries among citizens as to how it will affect the election outcome.

Recently in Paterson, New Jersey, a municipal election was conducted entirely by mail, and there were issues with fraudulent and stolen mail-in ballots. There are also higher rejection rates among mail-in ballots, which could turn the tide in a close election.

Other than the Paterson incident, according to a study



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Mail-in ballots feature small circles, akin to standardized testing.

from the Heritage Foundation, over 250 million votes have been cast by mail over the years, and only 1,285 have proven cases of voter fraud.

“I think I know how it will affect the election, but really no one will until the election is over,” Sheahan said. “It's a little bit of uncharted territory. There will be a lot of talk and speculation about what the future will hold. For me it might become a permanent part of voting, and I suspect that it will be for a lot of other people, too.”

But some want to stick to the standard in person voting.

“I was just happy I got to vote for the first time,” McDonnell said. “I had the intimacy in my own home, and then I could just go on with the rest of my day. This was a good time first voting, but I really wanted my ‘I voted’ sticker.”



All Greek Life suspended until Feb. 1

COLLEEN HAMMOND

news editor

Citing, “the careless and irresponsible activities of our fraternities and sororities,” Doug Frizzell, senior vice president of student life, on Wednesday suspended all of Duquesne’s Greek Life until February for repeated violations of COVID-19 protocols.

As part of their suspension, all Greek organizations are prohibited from hosting all virtual and in-person activities including social gatherings, recruiting events and charitable functions. It is unclear if their on-campus housing will be dissolved or disbanded now or in the coming weeks.

Frizzell informed the presidents of all 16 active Greek organizations on campus at an emergency meeting at noon on Wednesday, saying that they failed to live up to their organization’s mission statements.

“We made the decision due to repeated and egregious violations of the university’s Student Code of Conduct COVID-19 standards by several organizations and numerous members of Greek organizations,” Frizzell said in a statement sent to all students on Wednesday evening.

Citing FERPA, the Office of Greek Life refused to say how many students within those groups have tested positive for the virus or been cited for violating campus rules.

Frizzell made it clear in his statement that COVID-19 protocol violations are not few and far between.

“Despite several sanctions and repeated warnings, our Greek organizations sadly did not (comply),” Frizzell said.

Before the fall semester began, Greek Life presidents were notified of the new COVID-19 protocols and given strict orders to obey them at the risk of individual or organizational suspension, said Alpha Omicron Pi President Jenna Crouch.

“They put the fear of God in me,” Crouch said.

Crouch claimed that none of her more than 80 sorority sisters were involved in any large, in-person social gatherings and took pride in her chapter’s com-



SAM LABASH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

All Greek Life organizations have been suspended from in-person and virtual events until Feb. 1, 2021. The announcement came after multiple organizations violated campus’s new COVID-19 rules and protocols.

took pride in her chapter’s commitment to the health and well being of the community.

“Their safety is a priority to me,” Crouch said.

She said she sought to minimize in-person events while maintaining a sense of community. Because the suspension began immediately, all Greek chapters were prohibited from even meeting virtually to break the news to their members, Crouch said. As a result, she sent a video message to all her chapter members explaining the situation.

“The university understands the challenges related to COVID-19 student expectations,” said Rebecca Mickler, director of Greek Life, and Annie Mullarkey Sawa, director of student conduct, in a statement to The Duke. “But the policies and protocols that Duquesne has implemented are essential to continue to keep campus open and offer an in-person experience.”

Despite Crouch’s best efforts to keep her organization safe and

healthy, Alpha Omicron Pi will be subject to the same suspension as the Greek Life chapters who were hosting large gatherings, not social distancing and not wearing masks.

“I know not all students in these organizations took part in the actions, but as organizations that have a charge to work collectively for values they represent, the failure of some is often a negative reflection on the entire group,” Frizzell said.

In his scathing critique of Greek Life, Frizzell placed the blame for Duquesne’s rising COVID-19 case numbers on Greek organizations.

“At a time when the university and, indeed, our region needed those leaders most to live the values their organizations espouse, as a system they failed to do so.”

The day before this announcement rocked Duquesne’s Greek Life chapters, Duquesne reported 23 new cases of COVID-19 with over 50 students in isolation and another 205 in quarantine.

“For Greek Life at Duquesne, the next several weeks are a moment of reckoning and, hopefully, reflection,” Frizzell said.

He also warned students — Greek or not — to continue to abide by strict social distancing and mask wearing protocols during the upcoming Halloween holiday weekend.

“The desire of some to attend large parties does not outweigh the importance of taking precautions to prevent or limit the spread of COVID-19,” Mickler and Sawa said.

Although Greek Life has received the brunt of Frizzell’s disciplinary action, he noted that individual violations of COVID-19 protocols from both students and staff have been handled on a case by case basis. Still, Frizzell’s statement was adamant that Greek Life should be held responsible for their actions.

“It’s an unfortunate situation that fell on Greek life,” Crouch said. “But I don’t think it’s just Greek life.”

LGBTQ+ students call for inclusion after Pope Francis’ statement

COLLEEN HAMMOND

news editor

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, a new, exclusive documentary on the life and papacy of Pope Francis was released in which his holiness publicly advocated for same-sex civil unions for the first time.

While Pope Francis’s statement did not advocate for gay marriage, he did state his support of “legal civil unions.” Through this process, he noted the desire for members of the LGBTQ+ community to “be a family.”

Although his statements did not go into specific detail about the types of legal protections he thinks gay couples should be afforded, many have speculated that he is advocating for gay couples to be able to adopt children and legalizing homosexuality across the globe.

This statement, while in line with Pope Francis’s progressive papacy, has received mixed reviews from Catholics around the world.

However, the Catholic community at Duquesne took the Pope’s statement as an opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the LGBTQ+ community.

“We understand that many LGBTQIA+ people are often marginalized; we also recognize that they are deserving of our respect, dignity and love,” said a joint statement by Duquesne University President Ken Gormley and the Reverend Ray French, senior vice president for mission and identity.

While the role of the LGBTQ+ community in the Catholic Church has been widely contested and argued for decades, Pope Francis’s statement seems to be a change of time that could help to improve relations among these groups.

“I think it’s a big sign of hope for me,” said Michael Murphy, a senior

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POLICE BRIEFS

Here are the crimes reported from Oct. 19 to Oct. 26.

On Oct. 21, a female student was deceived by an unknown actor for the purchase of a puppy online.

On Oct. 23, a student was found smoking marijuana on the 10th level of the Locust Garage. The student is being referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Oct. 25, a student was found to be in possession of alcohol and marijuana inside St. Martin's Hall. The student is being referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, a non-affiliated guest of the student was issued a defiant trespass warning.

Also on Oct. 25, the grandmother of a resident student reported her missing. The student was found by Pittsburgh Police at her boyfriend's house.

Also on Oct. 25, a student in Brottier Hall was transported to UPMC Mercy Hospital for excessive intoxication. The student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

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EMAIL TIPS

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 Colleen Hammond at hammondcd@duq.edu

Update: Duquesne purchases body cameras for Duquesne Police

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

On Sept. 25, Duquesne University announced that they had purchased body cameras.



COURTESY OF EMILY STOCK
Duquesne Police officers open the newly delivered body cameras.

A little over a month later, the university announced that they have received those cameras this month, along with investing in a system that will equip all 40 public safety officers with those body-worn cameras.

The body cameras are one of Danielle Brown's, mother of Marquis Jaylen "JB" Brown, three demands of the university. Brown has been advocating for police reforms on college campuses since early July.

Additionally, Duquesne law professor John Rago will assist the program. Rago was a main source of the Pennsylvania Act 22 of 2017, which eliminated numerous legal barriers

to enable police in Pennsylvania to wear body cameras.

"Support for our efforts is drawn from the experiences of state and local agencies who continue to provide us with critical guidance as we

and expectations of our community," Rago said in the statement.

In collaboration with Duquesne's Police union, the university is working on implementation details and policy-making practices.

"Cameras raise several considerations that the Department of Public Safety and the university will take into account, including the effects that cameras have on privacy and community relationships, concerns raised by frontline officers, expectations that cameras create, and other considerations. There are also basic software and technology components that need to be addressed as the cameras are deployed," the statement says.

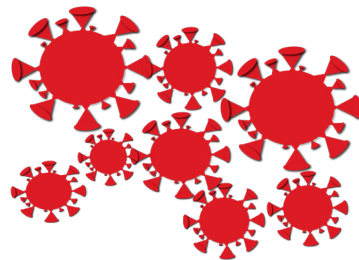
The statement notes that with a police department the size of Duquesne's, it will take four to six months to craft, review and approve an appropriate department policy, training and full deployment of the system.

work draft policy that meets—and we expect will exceed—the needs

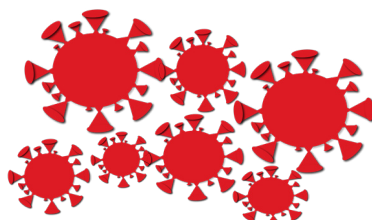


COURTESY OF EMILY STOCK
The new body cameras for all Duquesne Police officers are unboxed.

COVID-19 Update: Over 100 students quarantined at home



More information on COVID-19 prevention and treatment can be found at duq.edu/covid or at cdc.gov.



Duquesne COVID-19 Data

- Total number of confirmed cumulative cases: **130**
- Total number of suspected cumulative cases: **47**
- Total number of students isolated on campus over time: **81**
- Total number of students quarantined on campus over time: **158**
- Total number of employees currently under isolation for COVID-19 (reported to DU HR): **0**
- Total cumulative number of employees under isolation for COVID-19 (reported to DU HR): **4**



Scan here for latest Covid Data

| Date | New Confirmed Cases* | New Suspected Cases** | Currently Isolated on Campus | Currently Isolated at Home | Currently Quarantined in Hotel | Currently Quarantined at Home |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 10/27/2020 | 23 | 0 | 18 | 36 | 55 | 150 |

Seminar discusses BLM and civil rights

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

As 350 million people protested and made history this summer under the name of Black Lives Matter (BLM), Ohio State professor Hasan Kwame Jeffries spoke at a Zoom seminar Tuesday, discussing what the civil rights movement can teach us about BLM protests.

The event was sponsored by the McNulty College of Liberal Arts, the Department of History and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion on behalf of the Duquesne NAACP chapter and Ebony Women for Social Change.

Jeffries opened the seminar with facts: On average, over the past 10 years, police kill almost 1,000 people every year—35% of those people are African-American. He noted that three times the amount of African-Americans die at the hands of police compared to those of lynch mobs in the Jim Crow era.

"Calls for justice are grounded in reality," Jeffries said. "Black folks are seeking justice."

He said that the purposes of the protests is seeking recognition and truth. BLM is not politics, he said — and people need to have an honest account of the past. We can't deal with systemic racism if we don't understand the history, he said.

"BLM protests are totally legitimate," Jeffries said.

"Racism is racism, inequality is inequality, and Black folks were catching hell whether they were in Birmingham or Pittsburgh," Jeffries said.

He said a number of civil rights movements start locally, and that the same negative rhetoric exists in both movements.

"We should all be lifelong learners," Jeffries said. "It should begin as soon as they're in class... build on it, and build out. The only subject we don't do that is humanities."

He said that the movement is not significantly taught in schools, as it should be.

"Not talking about race is not an option, not talking about racism and inequality is not an option."



Pope Francis publicly advocates for “same-sex civil unions”

from POPE— page 1

theater arts and women's and gender studies double major.

Murphy, a vocal member of Duquesne's LGBTQ+ community, stated that he is looking forward to the progression of the Catholic Church and its members in the coming years.

“Duquesne's efforts to be more inclusive of LGBTQIA+ students, in particular, have been undertaken across the University,” the statement said.

Given that university administration has been highly vocal about their commitment to diversity and inclusion for all students this semester, Gormley and French mentioned some of their initiatives to ensure this inclusion extends to the LGBTQ+ community.

“Earlier this semester, we met and spoke with students and faculty in the Solidarity Committee, the newest community of students, faculty and staff that provides support to LGBTQIA+ students,” the statement said.

However, Bethany Evankovich,

current president of LAMBDA said this is not entirely the case.

“I have had no contact with either President Gormley or Fr. French,” Evankovich said.

She said she spoke with Doug Frizzell, vice president for student life, in fall 2019 about LAMBDA and its mission but has not heard from him or top administrative officials since.

The statement also mentioned how pronoun training has been implemented across campus, a sentiment that Murphy takes special issue with.

“They definitely haven't done any pronoun training,” Murphy said.

He noted that while his overall experience with the university has been positive, the biggest struggles have been with student to student interactions.

“I have seen situations that are difficult to resolve,” Murphy said.

Murphy said he appreciates how faculty and staff have been welcoming and accommodating during his time as a student, but wishes the university could do more to dismantle systems that are not designed to assist the unique needs

of LGBTQ+ students.

“The system is not really set up to be accommodating,” Murphy said.

Still, Gormley and French maintain that they have implemented several policies that cater to LGBTQ+ students.

“The Center for Student Well-being has created a variety of safe and welcoming spaces for students, and it practices, particularly in Health Services, a type of hospitality that meets students where they are,” the statement said.

However, Murphy challenges these claims, saying that he hasn't seen healthcare specific to campus's LGBTQ+ community.

“I don't see targeted assistance with HIV or transition care,” Murphy said.

Murphy noted that although Health Services have not always been able to provide the unique care he and his peers may need, the employees at Health Services have always been “helpful with giving referrals.”

Additionally, Murphy noted that the majority of the help he has received this school year



COURTESY OF WANTEDINROME.COM

Pope Francis publicly advocated for “same-sex civil unions” for the first time..

has been “primarily through Dr. Kane,” the current director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

In the future, Murphy said he hopes for “visible pride” events on campus, and for faculty and staff to be able and compelled to step in when a fellow student gives gay couples “that look” when out with their significant others.

“Duquesne is the kind of place I would recommend over other places,” Murphy said.

Despite his desire for institu-

tional change, he is pleased with the level of acceptance and safety at Duquesne. He hopes the Holy Father's statement is just the beginning of progressive relations and communication between the Catholic Church and the LGBTQ+ community.

“Improving inclusion is such a crucial step in improving the safety and wellbeing of all students on campus,” Evankovich said.

Sigma Tau Gamma faces two-year suspension, pending appeal

COLLEEN HAMMOND
news editor

Trouble is on the horizon for Duquesne fraternity Sigma Tau Gamma as they face a two-year organizational suspension for violating their probation.

On the evening of Aug. 25, four members of Sigma Tau Gamma (Sig Tau) were involved in an incident with the Duquesne Police on their designated wing of the Duquesne Towers. During their final evening rounds, residence life employees noticed the smell of marijuana coming from one of the bathrooms on the Sig Tau wing. Residence Life then found a small group of students comprised of Sig Tau members and other Towers residents using a bong in the bathroom.

Because marijuana was present, Duquesne Police were dispatched and the Resident Director searched the rooms on the floor. In the initial search, multiple alcohol containers were retrieved, along with the aforementioned bong and two fake IDs. One of these fake IDs belonged to Sig Tau president Michael Bunce. Bunce claimed that his fake ID was inside a private safe and that the Duquesne Police had no right to seize it. However, Bunce also noted that he was not pressured or threatened by Duquesne Police to open the safe. Bunce said he opened the safe to be searched by his own will.

Bunce and his fellow Sig Tau member, who was also in possession of a fake ID, were issued citations by Duquesne Police and are contesting these citations in

court on Nov. 5.

While the students involved were all, individually, subject to the Office of Student Conduct, Sig Tau also had to answer for their actions as an organization seeing as how three of Sig Tau's executive board's four members were involved in the incident, said Bunce.

This was problematic for Sig Tau because they were already on organizational probation for hazing until May 7, 2021, according to Bunce.

Rebecca Mickler, director of Greek life, and Annie Mullarkey Sawa, director of student conduct, said “that Family Educational Rights Protection Act (FERPA) regulations prohibit the University from sharing specifics related to any individual students or specific organizations” and would not comment on Sig Tau's current situation.

According to Bunce, after the incident on Aug. 25, Sig Tau had to face a disciplinary panel to determine if they had violated their probation.

However, Bunce said there was another incident on the Sig Tau wing of Towers on the same day as the disciplinary hearing for the first offense.

In the evening of Sept. 19, Duquesne Police reported “students in Towers were found to have a bong in their possession along with two empty bottles of alcohol. They are being referred to the Office of Student Conduct.”

According to Bunce, a group of students, once again Sig Tau members and Towers residents, were in his dorm room when another student came in with a bong.



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
The office of Greek Life has suspended Sigma Tau Gamma for two years.

Bunce claimed he did not know at the time who brought the bong. He said resident assistants were completing their nightly rounds when they knocked on the door, smelling marijuana. “In a panic,” the students then hid the bong in the ceiling. When the resident assistants entered the room, they noticed the bong dripping from the ceiling and called Duquesne Police.

“You can't not take responsibility for it. They found it. It was here,” Bunce said.

Duquesne Police responded to the scene and confiscated the bong. The involved students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Subsequently, at the disciplinary hearing for the first offense, Bunce said Sig Tau was found in violation of their probation and would face additional punishments.

Sig Tau appealed this decision, but received the same sentence from a new disciplinary committee.

Bunce believes this decision is entirely due to Mickler's opinion

of the fraternity.

“She's putting all these thoughts in their [the disciplinary committee's] heads right before they decide,” Bunce said.

Mickler once again cited FERPA and stated she could not comment on specific students or situations.

“She put a ton of bias in the panel's head about us,” Bunce said.

Bunce claimed that Mickler advocated for a 10-year suspension of Sig Tau. Instead, they were found in violation of their probation by two separate disciplinary committees and now face a two-year organizational suspension. Bunce stated they will be appealing this decision for a third time with the help of their national organization.

“If they're all [the fraternities] suspended, she [Mickler] doesn't have a job,” Bunce said.

As part of this suspension, Sig Tau is prohibited from accepting new members, bringing new members into living on the Tow-

ers wing, holding organizational events and will likely have to dissolve their current Towers wing, according to Bunce.

Bunce thinks this dissolution of the Towers wing is unlikely due to the pandemic, stating that moving the Sig Tau brothers in with new students could put them at greater risk of contracting COVID-19.

“We feel safe living with these kids,” Bunce said. “None of us are gonna get it (COVID-19).”

His confidence in the Sig Tau brothers' immunity to the virus comes the same week as all Greek Life has been suspended from campus until Feb. 1, 2021.

Still, Bunce remained adamant that he feels he has been treated “unfairly” by the university.

“I think we were being targeted based on Rebecca Mickler's opinion of us,” Bunce said.



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Duquesne's chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma has been suspended for the next two years. The members plan to appeal this decision, even though all Greek Life has been suspended until Feb. 1, 2021.

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OPINIONS



KATIA FAROUN / FEATURES EDITOR

This election is like none other before — leading to a historic turnout in voter registration.

Motivated Americans are the catalyst for a record-breaking surge of early votes

With six days remaining until the 46th president of the U.S. is selected, millions of Americans around the nation have already cast their vote by returning mail-in ballots or visiting the nearest polling center.

At this time, Joe Biden holds a comfortable lead over incumbent Donald Trump; however, this gap is quickly narrowing as a growing number of Trump supporters are heading to polling stations and voting in-person.

According to the most recent data from the U.S. Elections Report, the early vote total as of Wednesday morning exceeded 73 million – an increase of nearly 26 million from the 2016 election.

The country's sizable turnout of early voters stems primarily from the three most populous states in the country as residents in Texas, Florida and California are coming out in droves to vote before Nov. 3.

In addition, the young vote is proving to be a decisive factor, with 63% of citizens between the ages of 18-24 indicating that they will vote in 2020. To compare, only 43% voted in the 2016 election – a favorable difference worth noting.

These staggering, and even surprising, numbers are an excellent indicator that Americans recognize the difficulties our country faces

going forward and are interested in doing their part to make a difference for future generations.

Admittedly, with a deluge of “Vote Early” political propaganda appearing across social media followed by further encouragement from the Democratic and Republican parties, the record-shat-



NOAH WILBUR

opinions editor

tering surge of early voters does not come as a surprise.

Nevertheless, as one of the most impactful and consequential elections in the history of the U.S., it is rather encouraging to see that Americans – both young and old – participate by getting involved in their respective candidates' campaigns and, most importantly, by casting a vote.

From rising tensions with China and a crippling healthcare system, to the need for additional stimulus and a

COVID-19 situation continuing to spiral out-of-control, the list continues to grow of challenges that our great nation must confront in the foreseeable future.

People are proving to be not only aware of this uncertainty, but also adamant on choosing a candidate with corresponding values and principles that they believe possesses the expertise, competence and leadership needed to guide the U.S. during turbulent times.

With the future of America hanging in the balance, I urge those individuals – still teetering on the brink of not voting due to the questionable candidates standing before us – to realize their civic duty as an American citizen and vote in the 2020 election.

Although the unfortunate reality is that we are left with three candidates, none of which are worthy of the honor of being the President of the U.S., it would be imprudent and foolish for us to standby and withhold our vote when now, more than ever, our democracy is at stake.

Whether you are a Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or a die-hard Kanye fan, it is more important than ever to express your support for the candidate you perceive to be the most fit to lead the country.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Supreme Court confirmation baffling

With just less than a week until the 2020 election, the Senate has voted to confirm the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett as the newest member of the U.S. Supreme Court, taking the space left empty by the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The vote was 52 to 48 with all but one Republican member of the Senate voting in favor of her confirmation.

Barrett is a conservative appeals court judge chosen by President Trump and the Republican party. She is devoutly Catholic and was mentored by constitutional originalist Justice Antonin Scalia. Her views reflect this as she is widely considered pro-life in her stance, being quoted as saying that *Roe v. Wade* is “barbaric.” According to CNN, Barrett also spoke to two anti-abortion student groups at Notre Dame in 2013, which she did not disclose in her paperwork filed to the Senate.

Along with her views on reproductive rights, she is highly critical of the Affordable Care Act. Because of this, many believe that when then the arguments on a case for the validity of the ACA are heard again after the November election it will be in danger of being cut. This would leave at least 20 million Americans at risk of losing their healthcare.

The decision to confirm Barrett eight days before the election has left many people baffled. Democrats have openly opposed this decision, saying that it should have waited until after the election so that the American people could have their say. As so many citizens have already submitted their ballots before the decision was made, it is speculated that this was a conscious attempt at a power grab while the Republican party still holds the majority.

Barrett's confirmation is also seen as directly hypocritical to a similar situation in 2016 under the Obama administration, where former President Barack Obama's nominee, Merrick Garland, was denied a hearing by the Republican-led Senate nearly eight months before the election. They believed that the decision of a new member of the Supreme Court should wait until after the 2016 presidential election, yet now in 2020 with the election looming they have changed their tune.

In the wake of Barrett's confirmation, many women, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and members of the pro-choice movement are terrified of what this could mean for their rights. With talk circulating of repealing same-sex marriage and criminalizing abortion among other reproductive rights, these groups of people feel as though they will lose all the progress made without even a chance of their voices being heard.

The impact of Barrett as the newest member of the Supreme Court can already be felt within the community, and while Republicans rally behind her as a champion for their beliefs, many communities fear for the worst knowing their rights are on the line.

The electoral college threatens the future of America's democracy

ALYSE KAMINSKI
staff columnist

With less than a week until the election, I can certainly say I have never been so anxious for a political event in all of my 21 years on this planet. I don't think it would be a stretch to say this is the most nervous I have been for anything ever.

There are a lot of factors contributing to my nerves. What is the next "October Surprise" that could come and sway undecided voters? This year has been so unpredictable, we know that anything could happen.

If people were so confident in 2016 that Hillary Clinton would win, I cannot be confident that Joe Biden will, even though there is a part of me that has hope (knock on wood). What if something actually comes of the alleged meddling from Iran and Russia? What if suddenly people start to care about the so-called scandal surrounding Hunter Biden?

I think, however, the thing that is making me the most nervous is the Electoral College. The fact that for the second presidential election in a row, a

candidate could win the popular vote, but lose the election, is honestly scary. It is a threat to how people will continue to view democracy in America.

I know what you're thinking. "Alyse, you're only worried because it's your preferred candidate that this is more likely to happen to again." And maybe that is the case. But doesn't it say something about our voting system if for the last two major elections, the electorate did not really...elect?

That is probably my main gripe with the electoral college, but there's plenty more issues I take with it. One being the fact that it makes what should be a simple process confusing for Americans who are a little more apathetic to politics. And I really believe that even if politics does not constantly occupy your mind as it does for me, you should not be discouraged to vote just because you don't care to understand the system.

FiveThirtyEight reports that anywhere from 35-60% of eligible voters do not vote in elections. There's many reasons for this, but I don't think that it is a stretch to say the Electoral College is one of them.

The same article from the source introduced Eduardo Martinez who said that if President Trump loses the popular vote but remains in power because of the Electoral College, he will probably never vote again. And honestly, I don't blame him or anyone else who would feel discouraged.

According to George Edwards III, a professor at Texas A&M University, the Electoral College was created when the framers of the Constitution were too frustrated and tired to come up with anything else. So not only is it outdated, but the framers were not even too keen on it.

It is also worth noting that when the Constitution was written, no other country directly elected their leaders. The framers had no guide to base this decision on and they were wary of tyranny. However, it is 2020 and democracy exists widely around the world. There is no need to complicate the system.

It certainly would be easy for those on the other side of the aisle — conservatives — to argue that if Biden lost the popular vote but won the



The Electoral College is not only outdated, but also challenges democracy in America. COURTESY OF SLATE.COM

Electoral College, I would not complain. You know what, maybe that is the case. They could be right; I really want anything that will remove President Trump from office.

However, I find it really difficult for the GOP to point fingers and say Democrats are being hypocrites after they just finished rushing the lifetime confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett eight days before the election when in 2016 they said that was unconstitutional.

I don't mean to create an "Us vs. Them" mentality. We need to start reversing the po-

larization that has occurred since 2016. It is definitely difficult to do so when there is so much happening each day. So much to worry about. However, I really think a step in the right direction is abolishing the Electoral College. Let's make all elections in the future fair and equitable. Let's make sure the people actually get what they want.

If we really want to strive for a more perfect union, then we need to live in one where the candidate who the people elect becomes the president.

Character must be considered when selecting the next President of the U.S.

MOHAMMAD SAJJAD
staff columnist

This presidential election is unlike any other we've seen before. While our elections always seem to come down to a Republican or Democrat, the decision to choose between the two now seems more personal and divisive than ever.

Traditionally speaking, conservatives have been in favor of voting for Republican candidates, while liberal voters have opted toward voting for Democratic candidates. It makes sense to vote for the candidate that embodies your set of values and beliefs.

In this election, however, we've seen a number of politicians and voters supporting a candidate they typically wouldn't have voted for. Many of these individuals have cited the lack of character and dignity exhibited by the current president as the reason why they're not offering him their support.

As a voter who possesses a mix of conservative and liberal values, I fully support the notion that one should seri-

ously consider the character of a candidate.

This article is not meant to depict a particular candidate as being the perfect person. Rather, my aim is to encourage you to think about certain characteristics of the person you plan to vote for, in addition to the policies they are supporting.

Specifically, it's important to note the sympathy that each candidate shows toward citizens, whether selflessness is exhibited during crises, and the way in which they conduct themselves before international leaders.

First and foremost, we have to remember that in each election, we are voting for the person who will lead our country in domestic affairs and represent the U.S. on an international level. With this responsibility comes high expectations.

The U.S. is one of the most diverse countries in the world, a fact that we should be proud of. Consequently, handling domestic affairs of the U.S. can get rather complicated. The president should not create monolithic policies that

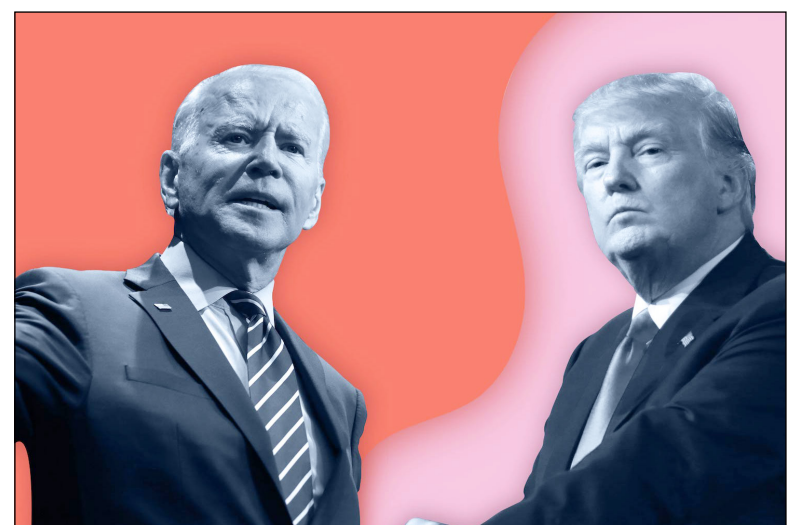
only apply to a subset of the population; rather, he or she should create policies for a mosaic of groups that are expected to co-exist in this country.

In order to do this, our future president must be aware of and sympathetic to the issues facing all of us. We cannot vote for someone who ignores the plight of minorities within the U.S.

We also have to remember that this election is taking place amidst a pandemic. I believe that in order to curb this pandemic, we need a strong leader who is willing to prioritize the public's health over any personal agenda. This requires a degree of selflessness.

It is no easy decision to place restrictions on the population in terms of wearing masks and social distancing. But if it is scientifically suggested that these practices will prevent the virus from spreading, our future president should at least set an example by doing so himself.

Another major part of the presidency is representing the U.S. in international affairs. Our next president should be



When voting, voters should consider a candidate's character. COURTESY OF CLIMATECHANGE

one who shows others respect and is able to acknowledge the customs and values exhibited by leaders and the countries they represent. Other international leaders are expected to behave this way, so there is no reason that same expectation shouldn't apply to our elected officials.

It's difficult to judge a person's character through their public life. How do we know if their public persona embodies their true character? I believe the way a person behaves with their family and friends is in-

dicative of their true character and should be used as a marker when examining a candidate.

With the election less than a week away, I urge voters to think critically about whether the candidate they plan to vote for embodies the characteristics I mentioned above. While these characteristics aren't the only factors a voter should consider, there is no question that character speaks volumes.

Black-owned ice cream shop promises 'happy day' with each scoop

GILLIAN FITZGERALD
staff writer

A quick T-ride over to the North Side, Happy Day Dessert Factory sits on a hill above Heinz Field. Just as its name promises, the dessert shop exudes warmth and happiness, even on a rainy Pittsburgh day. Galen Moore Jr. spends each day providing Pittsburgh with sweet treats he and his dad create themselves as a small, Black-owned business.

Running the factory with the help of his father, Galen Moore Sr., it's 21-year-old Galen Jr. who founded the business and markets to the community around its 906A Western Ave. location. This small business was two years in the making and, today, Galen Jr. operates Happy Day Dessert Factory with his family, which is exactly where his inspiration comes from.

"My dad and my grandma ... I see them working so hard, I want to try to recreate the hard work ethic for the rest of the family," Galen said.

The name "Happy Day" even comes from a song his grandma always sang. The tune would get stuck in Galen's head, so it was quite fitting that he named the factory after the vibes he tries to put out every day at his business.

21-year-olds rarely know exactly what they want to do, let alone have the guts to start their own business. But Galen has been in the ice cream business his whole life and learned everything he knows from his dad.

Galen Sr. previously owned Rita's

Water Ice in the North Side, but decided to branch out with his son to grow their own business with their own products. Galen Jr. has been on this journey with his dad since he was a kid. He's seen what it takes to run a business, including learning from the trade shows he would attend with his father at 6 years old.

"He knows everything I know when it comes to this," Galen Sr. said.

Galen Jr. knew it was perfect timing to open his dessert shop when his dad had equipment leftover from Rita's. Galen figured that he might as well do it now while he had the resources, including his dad to help him. So, why wait?

The factory was set to open at the beginning of this year — and then the pandemic hit. Galen Jr. had to decide whether or not to push the opening until later in the summer. But despite the pandemic, the Moores held the grand opening on March 18 — and it was one of the best choices they could have made.

The outpouring of community support has been overwhelming. The North Side is happy to finally have a local ice cream spot of their own, and the shop has had so many people coming in to support the small Black-owned business along with the Black Lives Matter movement. With the social justice movement and the pandemic, many people have been more conscious of where they are spending their money.

"The fact that people are responding so well and really, really love it — we're doing exceptionally well for

it being our first year, for it being a pandemic, and for this to be one of the highest times as far as racial tensions," Galen Sr. said. "The fact that we have not only been able to survive, but actually thrive, is mind boggling."

Though the pandemic has sometimes made it difficult to get certain ingredients and keep up with equipment problems, Galen Jr. has been proactive and is always thinking about what's best for the dessert shop. He continuously promotes the six-month-old business through social media and by partnering with local organizations to spread the word about Happy Day Dessert Factory — all while doing good in the community.

Last month, the factory partnered with Central Outreach Wellness Center, a non-profit organization that is a LGBTQ-focused wellness center, and iHood Media, an organization that uses art as a way to raise awareness of social issues.

The two organizations supported the Small Business Solidarity program, and together with Happy Day Dessert Factory, they gave away vouchers for free ice cream to those who received a free health screening from the services provided by the wellness center. The three also set up a day and time in September for people to register to vote right at the dessert shop.

Galen hopes to have more events at the factory once it's safe and COVID-19 restrictions ease up. He is driven to provide opportunities to the community, such as local artists and



GILLIAN FITZGERALD / STAFF WRITER

Galen Moore Jr. poses inside the ice cream shop, located on a hill above Heinz Field.

musicians, to have platforms to show their art.

"The main focus is getting back to the community and helping out," Galen Jr. said.

The young business owner made sure his shop had a chalkboard wall too, just for customers to write whatever they want — their names, social media handles, or messages like "Say Her Name," "Black Owned" and "BLM" that continue raising awareness and lifting people up.

Between Galen Jr. and Galen Sr., the business has been set up for success since the very beginning, and they are excited to see what the future holds for them. The two ice cream experts are "a perfect storm," according to Galen Sr., and their desserts are just as perfect.

Happy Day Dessert Factory is de-

termined to spread happiness, social awareness and motivation to all, including other small businesses — all while providing the North Side with great coffee-heath ice cream and delicious cookie monster cakes.

"If you're a small business owner, don't give up on yourself because it does get hard sometimes. But don't get down," Galen Jr. said. "You just got to stick through it until the end — you got to believe in yourself, always."



Harry Potter Week brings students *riddikulus* amounts of fun

EMILY AMBERY
staff writer

This week, Duquesne students waved their wands, cast their spells and made their potions as they participated in the Honors College's annual Harry Potter celebration.

Despite the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the wizards and witches at Duquesne were able to safely celebrate the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. Over the course of the week, the Honors College hosted magical events for all Harry Potter fans.

The annual Harry Potter Party began in 2012 and featured an evening of Harry Potter games, treats and activities. With capacity and social distancing restrictions, the Honors College Student Advisory Committee spread the celebrations out over the week to facilitate a safe and socially distant party.

"I am very proud of the Honors College Student Advisory Committee for coming up with this idea of a weeklong celebration," said Kathleen Roberts, director of the Honors College and the lead organizer of the Harry Potter Celebration. "I asked them if they thought we needed to scale



EMILY AMBERY / STAFF WRITER

Kaitlin Dodd, Claire Neiberg and Keelie McMullin played Bella Biancone's jeopardy.

back, but they instead thought really creatively and expanded the activities so we could maximize participation while still keeping everyone safe."

Harry Potter Week kicked off on Monday morning with sweet treats. Harry Potter-themed cookies, provided by Sugar Mommas Sweets & Eats, filled the Assumption Hall lobby.

Duquesne's Harry Potter fans were put to the test on Tuesday night with Harry Potter Trivia at the NiteSpot. The winners were Lauren Zelnis and Bryce McCracken. The winners could

choose from four Harry Potter house-themed prize packages, which included scarves, backpacks and prizes unique to each house.

On Wednesday night, Harry Potter fans watched the third movie in the franchise, "The Prisoner of Azkaban."

Wizards and witches searched across campus for the Harry Potter Horcrux Scavenger Hunt on Thursday afternoon. Teams were given clues to find the seven horcruxes: the diary, the ring, the locket, Hufflepuff's cup, Ravenclaw's diadem, Nagini and Harry.

The week concluded with the famous Harry Potter Party on Friday evening — in a socially-distanced setting. The event was hosted in the three common areas in Assumption Hall. Each room had different Harry Potter-themed games in which participants earned points towards a variety of Harry Potter prizes. Similarly to the prizes throughout the week, the party participants could choose between puzzles, wizard chess, glow in the dark sheets, backpacks and other themed items.

The games at the party tested wizards in many different ways.

Participants had to pin the nose on Voldemort, play table quidditch and test their wand abilities with Wingardium Leviosa. Wizards and witches could also play in a "Tri-Wizard Tournament," which featured ring toss, a character quiz and plinko.

"My favorite part is how passionate the students are. Most of all, I love seeing students who enjoyed the party when they were freshmen coming back year after year — we have even had alumni stop by to play games and win prizes," Roberts said. "It's like a big Hogwarts reunion every year."



EMILY AMBERY / STAFF WRITER

Students Paige Milavec, Olivia Hassett and Nichole Maliwauki hosted games.

Amid NFL's return, stadium capacities vary

**KATIA FAROUN &
CARISSA HASLAM**
the duquesne duke

Week 1 of football season consisted of cardboard cutout fans and artificial crowd noise. Week 7, on the other hand, brought real fans and fines to NFL teams.

After a long period of uncertainty about the 2020 football season, the NFL agreed upon a set of rules and regulations allowing for the return of the beloved national sport. Fans celebrated the return of NFL football, even with the addition of some new undesirable changes — like fan-free stadiums.

The NFL's updated regulations explain how the league should handle COVID-19 procedures at the start of the season. Its procedures require daily testing of all NFL personnel, including players, coaches, staff and administration; a "Reserve/COVID-19" list for players who tested positive or were exposed or at high risk of being exposed to someone who tested positive; and specific requirements for players who show symptoms or test positive.

Since there are no nationwide COVID-19 regulations, the specifics vary greatly from state to state and team to team. Teams are responsible for abiding by the NFL's general regulations, but also have the liberty to cre-

ate their own COVID-19 policies that are in accordance with their respective state's guidelines.

Some of the greatest variation exists among stadium spectator limitations. While only a couple NFL teams allowed fans during Week 1, the number of stadiums hosting fans has grown exponentially over the weeks. Only the New York Jets, Las Vegas Raiders, New England Patriots and Los Angeles Rams did not host any fans during Week 7 games.

The Washington Football Team, which had initially claimed to not be allowing fans for the entirety of the season, is expected to allow spectators starting Nov. 8 for its divisional game against the New York Giants. The decision comes a week after Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) announced that outdoor sporting events are allowed to open at 10% capacity.

Early in October, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) announced the end of attendance restrictions for all sporting events in Florida. Under the state's updated policy, Florida's three NFL teams — the Jacksonville Jaguars, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Miami Dolphins — could host their games with stadiums at full capacity. However, each of the teams have opted to keep their modified stadium capacities in place.

Following DeSantis' announcement, Dolphins CEO Tom Gar-

finkel expressed the franchise's commitment to keeping their fans and players safe, citing concern over the growing positivity rates in Florida. Florida case numbers have been steadily increasing in recent days, and the state has recorded the 5th highest number of cumulative COVID-19 deaths nationwide.

The Houston Texans and Dallas Cowboys, both Texas teams, currently allow the highest number of spectators in their stadiums. The Cowboys, who hosted approximately 25,000 fans during their Week 5 game at AT&T Stadium, allowed fans at 25% capacity from the very start of the season. The Texans announced at the end of September that NRG Stadium will allow fans up to 20% of the stadium's capacity. For its Week 5 game, the stadium held approximately 12,000 fans.

Both stadiums require spectators to sit in designated socially-distant "pods," or groups of shared ticket holders, wear masks when not eating or drinking and use mobile-only tickets. However, photos and videos of recent Cowboys games show that while these rules are in place, many fans are failing to follow the stadium's COVID-19 protocols by not wearing masks.

Currently, Texas has reported over 900,000 total COVID-19 cases and is tied with California as the two states with the highest reported cases in the country, according to NBC News. If Texas were its own country, it would rank ninth in the world for total number of cases — even more than Mexico, according to Johns Hopkins University's COVID-19 dashboard. Harris and Dallas counties — which include Houston and Dallas — rank highest for COVID-19 cases across the state, and the state has seen a 16% increase in positive cases in the past two weeks.

Multiple players from both Texas teams tested positive for the virus over the summer, but no players from either team have tested positive since the start of the regular season.

The Tennessee Titans experienced a notable outbreak a few weeks into the season, leading to the postponement of two regular season games. Since Sept. 24, 23 players and team personnel have tested positive for the virus — many during the first week of October. The NFL launched an investigation into the cause of the outbreak, and after completing it earlier this week, fined the team \$350,000. The investigation found that the Titans organization failed to clearly communicate COVID-19 workout protocols and that various players and personnel failed to adhere to mask-wearing policies while inside facilities.

Some teams, such as the Pittsburgh Steelers, only allow season-ticket holders to enter the stadium. Others that welcome fans do so at reduced numbers, or continue to prohibit live spectators indefinitely, such as the Green Bay Packers.

Currently, the Las Vegas Raiders are the only NFL team that is not allowing fans to attend home games for the entire season. The team's new Allegiant Stadium was set to begin its inaugural season by hosting fans in the Raiders' Week 2 game against the New Orleans Saints.

While the NFL seems to be slowly restoring its games to a "normal" permissible by CDC guidelines, certainty remains out of reach. Each week brings new changes and updates to NFL regulations and each team's unique protocols. It could be that overnight, stadiums will become once again empty, save for the pre-recorded cheers and flat faces of cardboard fans.



AP PHOTO

A masked fan waits for the start of an Oct. 14 UEFA Nations League soccer match.

DU men's basketball team secures first 2021 commit

Duquesne Men's Basketball Head Coach Keith Dambrot's 62nd birthday fell on Oct. 26, making Andy Barba's verbal commitment a day later quite the belated birthday gift.

On Oct. 27, Barba, a 6-foot-6, 210-pound guard from Ohio, announced his intentions to play for Dambrot's Dukes, becoming the first recruit of the team's 2021 class. Barba is currently a post-graduate student at International Sports Academy in Willoughby, Ohio — the same school current DU freshman guard Mike Bekelja attended prior to Duquesne.

Barba originally committed to Miami (Ohio), but re-opened his commitment to a bevy of potential suitors. The springy sharpshooter also held offers from Texas A&M, Washington State and Missouri State, among others.

Dodgers top Rays in Game 6 for first World Series title since 1988

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Mookie Betts streaked home with a go-ahead run and later homered for good measure as the Los Angeles Dodgers won their first World Series championship since 1988, taking advantage of a hotly debated Tampa Bay move to beat the Rays 3-1 in Game 6.

The Dodgers posted the best record in the majors during this pandemic-shortened season, then rallied in the final game to claim a most elusive crown.

Tampa Bay starter Blake Snell struck out nine and seemed to be in complete control with a 1-0 lead when manager Kevin Cash pulled him with one out and a runner on first in the sixth inning.

The Dodgers pounced quickly, and Betts soon dashed home from third base on Corey Seager's infield grounder for a 2-1 edge.

Betts added a solo home run in the eighth.

Manager Dave Roberts and the Dodgers lost the World Series in 2017 and '18 before winning this title at a neutral site, Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas.

Rookie sensation Randy Arozarena hit his record 10th homer in the postseason to account for Tampa Bay's run.

NCAA Football AP Top 25 — Week 9

| Rank | Team | Conf. | Overall | Streak | This Week |
|------|----------------|-------|---------|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Clemson (52) | 5-0 | 6-0 | W6 | vs. Boston College |
| 2. | Alabama (10) | 5-0 | 5-0 | W5 | vs. Mississippi State |
| 3. | Ohio State | 1-0 | 1-0 | W1 | at No. 18 Penn State |
| 4. | Notre Dame | 4-0 | 5-0 | W5 | at Georgia Tech |
| 5. | Georgia | 3-1 | 3-1 | L1 | at Kentucky |
| 6. | Oklahoma State | 3-0 | 4-0 | W4 | vs. Texas |
| 7. | Cincinnati | 2-0 | 4-0 | W4 | vs. Memphis |
| 8. | Texas A&M | 3-1 | 3-1 | W2 | vs. Arkansas |
| 9. | Wisconsin | 1-0 | 1-0 | W1 | at Nebraska (<i>canceled</i>) |
| 10. | Florida | 2-1 | 2-1 | L1 | vs. Missouri |

| Rank | Team | Conf. | Overall | Streak | This Week |
|------|------------------|-------|---------|--------|----------------------------------|
| 11. | BYU | n/a | 6-0 | W6 | vs. Western Kentucky |
| 12. | Miami | 4-1 | 5-1 | W2 | <i>Bye</i> |
| 13. | Michigan | 1-0 | 1-0 | W1 | vs. Michigan State |
| 14. | Oregon | 0-0 | 0-0 | n/a | <i>Pac-12 play begins Nov. 6</i> |
| 15. | North Carolina | 4-1 | 4-1 | W1 | at Virginia |
| 16. | Kansas State | 4-0 | 4-1 | W4 | at West Virginia |
| 17. | Indiana | 1-0 | 1-0 | W1 | at Rutgers |
| 18. | Penn State | 0-1 | 0-1 | L1 | vs. No. 3 Ohio State |
| 19. | Marshall | 3-0 | 5-0 | W5 | at FIU (<i>postponed</i>) |
| 20. | Coastal Carolina | 3-0 | 5-0 | W5 | at Georgia State |

| Rank | Team | Conf. | Overall | Streak | This Week |
|------|-------------|-------|---------|--------|----------------------------------|
| 21. | USC | 0-0 | 0-0 | n/a | <i>Pac-12 play begins Nov. 6</i> |
| 22. | SMU | 2-1 | 5-1 | L1 | vs. Navy |
| 23. | Iowa State | 3-1 | 3-2 | L1 | at Kansas |
| 24. | Oklahoma | 2-2 | 3-2 | W2 | at Texas Tech |
| 25. | Boise State | 1-0 | 1-0 | W1 | at Air Force |

Tyson Acuff talks acclimation to college life, new ‘mates

ADAM LINDNER

sports editor

Head Men's Basketball Coach Keith Dambrot welcomed a sizable group of newcomers to the Bluff this fall, bolstering roster depth and addressing team needs in the process.

In all, nine new faces will don the Red & Blue this season, including a pair of sharpshooters (Mike Bekelja and Jett Roesing), intriguing big men (Mounir Hima and Andre Harris) and lanky swingmen (Toby Okani and Chad Baker).

Tyson Acuff, a 6-foot-4 combo guard from Michigan, is one of the team's most fascinating new arrivals; following an impressive run at Cass Tech High (a four-year starter, he helped the Technicians to three Detroit Public School League titles), Acuff arrives in Pittsburgh looking to contribute immediately to a Duquesne team in win-now mode.

Acuff took the time to speak with *The Duke* on the phone in early October, touching on everything from his new home in the 412 to his relationships with his new coaches and teammates.

Portions of the conversation, transcribed below, have been edited for brevity.

Q: Talk me through your decision to attend Duquesne.

A: [Assistant] Coach Charles [Thomas] was recruiting me heavy from the jump. He would come check up on me all the time, even when I wasn't expecting it — he came to a couple cross country meets, because

we were required to run cross country. That showed me how dedicated he was to have me be a part of the team, how much he wanted me. Then, when I came on my visit, they made me feel like family — like they really need me, and I can be a great piece [for] the team. ... The coaching staff showed real love, and they didn't only gas my head up and tell me all the things I'm good at; they told me the things I need to work on, too. That's something different that none of the other college coaches did. They just tell you how great you are and how great you can be.

Q: What's your favorite basketball shoe of all-time? What have you been playing in lately?

A: I like Kobes; not specific ones, just Kobes. ... [Lately I've been playing in] Kevin Durants and LeBrons. I only got one pair of Kobes right now.

Q: Favorite basketball memory?

A: When I won the city championship for the third time in high school (as a senior in 2020).

Q: In your opinion, what's your most notable skill on the court?

A: Getting in transition, running the floor, not waiting for the defense to set up.

Q: How has the adjustment been to college life, especially during a pandemic?

A: It's been big; it's been different from high school from the academic standpoint. The courses are a little more challenging than in high school. ... The adjustment was big, but I'm liking it so far.

Q: How has practice been?

A: It's been good. The strength & condi-

tioning coach (John Henderson), he's been going hard, because it's a whole different ball game in college. The guys are bigger, faster, stronger, everything. ... It's been great.

Q: Anything specific you're focusing on improving upon basketball-wise?

A: Playing off two feet in the lane. I can't just jump off one foot and finish around the bigger players, so playing off two feet will help me get more comfortable with my finishes.

Q: What's your relationship with Coach Dambrot like, now that you're seeing him on a daily basis?

A: The relationship with Coach D is great. He shows mad love, not only on the court — he's definitely going to push you to try to make you better. You've got to have thick skin, but that's just how he is. He's going to [make] you better. But he's always checking up on you to make sure you're doing good, you're in the

right state of mind, class is going OK, family back home is OK. So, he's not just a basketball coach — he's more of a father figure.

Q: How hard was it to leave home?

A: It wasn't as big as some people make it, leaving for college. That's because the nature of the whole AAU thing was totally different — we traveled all around, spending weeks away from home. I talk to my family almost every day, if not every day, so it wasn't that big. I like living on my own, so it's pretty good.

Q: How has it been getting to know your fellow teammates?

A: It's been great. Like you said, we've got a big freshman class. The good thing about the freshmen is everybody is willing to put in the extra work. If they're not doing homework or something like that, they're in the gym, trying to get better. ... Everybody's pretty cool, so it's been good.



COURTESY OF MLIVE.COM

Freshman DU G Tyson Acuff, pictured during his high school days at Detroit's Cass Tech High.

Kiski Area DE Jack Dilts bolsters DU football's '21 class

BRENTARO YAMANE

staff writer

It's only October and Duquesne's football team has yet another high school player that has verbally committed to the program. The player that verbally pledged is a local product in Kiski Area High School's Jack Dilts. Dilts is currently a senior at Kiski Area, where he plays both tight end and defensive end.

His Kiski Area Cavaliers are currently 2-4 this season. Even though his team is not having the best start to begin his senior year, one of the bright sides for him is that he already made his college decision in choosing Duquesne. He verbally committed on Oct. 5.

Duquesne is recruiting him exclusively as a defensive end.

Dilts started playing football when he was in first grade. His older brother, Hunter, who graduated from Kiski Area in 2019, started playing football at a young age and his parents only thought it would be right if they signed Jack up to play football, as well. Jack has other siblings that play sports, too, so it can be said that it can be busy over in the Dilts household.

"All of my siblings either play or played sports," Dilts said. "My two older sisters played basketball, volleyball and did gymnastics. My older brother played football and wrestled. My younger brother plays football and wrestles. Also, my younger sister is a gymnast."

To show how athletic Dilts is, he is also a wrestler at his high school and has won two district championships in wrestling. His Kiski Area wrestling teams won the WPIAL 3A team championship in his freshman and

sophomore years in 2018 and 2019.

Dilts had thought about wrestling in college, but he felt that football was the better option for him since no schools had offered him the opportunity to wrestle at the college level.

For a lot of college athletes, there was most likely a certain point in their high school careers when they realized that they could play at the next level; Dilts was able to recall the exact moment he knew.

"When I was a sophomore [in 2018] competing against seniors, I realized that there was a chance that I could play football at the collegiate level," Dilts said.



COURTESY OF TRIBLIVE

Jack Dilts, a tight end/defensive end at Kiski Area High School, will be a frosh on the Bluff in 2021.

Since then, he has continued to work hard, earning offers from other NCAA Division I FCS schools like the University of Pennsylvania, Bucknell University, University of Albany, Robert Morris University, University of Akron and, obviously, Duquesne.

The football coaching, the atmosphere and the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business were each reasons why Dilts chose Duquesne.

"Coach Kory Gribbin was the first coach to reach out to me from Duquesne. Coach Cornelius Coleman reached out to me, as well, when he was hired at Duquesne back in July," Dilts said. "I've always wanted to play

NCAA Division I football, and I'll be majoring in business, so I feel that Duquesne is my best option. I feel relieved now that I know where I am going."

After Dilts made his decision, one of the first people to congratulate him was current Duquesne defensive lineman Troy Kuhn, who graduated from Kiski Area in 2019. Kuhn was also football teammates with Dilts at Kiski Area, and they will continue to be teammates when Dilts starts to attend Duquesne in 2021.

"Troy said that he really loves it at Duquesne," Dilts said. "He was one of the first people to congratulate me when I first got the offer, and when I committed."

Dilts and Kuhn were both recruited by Duquesne as defensive linemen, and hope to lead the Dukes' defensive line together, maybe helping each other win a Northeast Conference championship someday.

In his final year at Kiski Area, Dilts hopes to help the Cavaliers make it to the WPIAL playoffs, as his team has not won a playoff game since he has been in high school in 2017. For now, he will continue to try to improve his game as he wants to make an impact on Duquesne's football team when he arrives in 2021.

"Before I graduate, I would like for my [Kiski Area] team to win out the rest of the season," Dilts told *The Duke* earlier in October. "After the season, I will be lifting and getting bigger."

"As a defensive lineman, I feel like my main strengths are coming off the edge and being able to use my hands. However, I would like to get bigger and stronger so I can contribute as a freshman next year."

Virtual 'Black Art Matters' presentation exhibits cultural impact

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

Courtesy of Duquesne's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Collegiate 100 and Center for Global Engagement, Duquesne in Rome professor Elizabeth Lev was granted the opportunity to give an astounding art history presentation on the story of Edmonia Lewis: the first African-American/Native-American sculptor of the late 1800s.

Lev, a Boston native, is an art historian who studies, writes and teaches the vitality of art's development from Duquesne's campus in Rome, specializing in the Renaissance/Baroque period. Lev got her degree in Bologna, Italy, and has lived in Rome for the past 30 years.

Live from Rome at 12 p.m. EST, the Zoom meeting kicked off with study abroad executive director Joe DeCrosta welcoming students interested in traveling to Duquesne's campus in Italy, where Lev amongst many other professors give culturally diverse lectures from the very heart of European history.

In such a pivotal time as now in our socio-political climate, Lev brought to light how Black artists have paved the way for art as we know it, such as through the impact of Lewis.

In 1876, in honor of America's 100th birthday, Lewis stunned audiences with her masterpiece "The Death of Cleopatra," which challenged the preconceived notion of Cleopatra being a romanticized/feminized historical figure.

Though there were other imagined sculptures of Cleopatra that were exhibited, Lewis' caught the most attention for its stark contrast and suggestive demeanor, symbolizing Cleopatra's lifeless body as "the death of slavery."

Lewis studied close details of Cleopatra's life to incorporate in her work, such as the proper attire, the two children on the throne depicting her twin chil-



Lewis' "Death of Cleopatra" brought a powerfully raw perspective of the Egyptian queen.

dren with Caesar, the serpent coiled around her hand and the roses climbing the sides.

Born in Greenbush, NY on July 4th, 1844, Lewis was left an orphan at age nine by her Haitian father and Native-American mother; she sought for post-secondary education in her childhood, working her way up to a pre-college program at Oberlin College in Ohio by age 18.

Her first professional drawing was of a statue, which inclined her affinity toward 3D art.

However, in the midst of her education, two white female students accused Lewis of poisoning them, wherein she was kicked out of Oberlin for good. To her luck, John Mercer Langston defended her in court.

After losing the trial, Lewis had the opportunity to meet Frederick Douglass, who told Lewis to go East, even abroad if she had to, to avoid the prejudices and discrimination brought on by white artists in the industry.

Moving to Boston, Lewis caught herself in the midst of the Abolitionist movement, heavily inspired by Lydia Marie Child and William Lloyd Garrison, who cared for her and urged her to pursue sculpting and get her hands on an apprenticeship.

Finding that she was enamored by marble, Lewis decided that her work would be most beneficial in moving to Rome.

In this time period, racism was far more prevalent in America

than in Italy. The only racist commentary that Lewis faced in Rome was from American visitors and writers, not native-born residents.

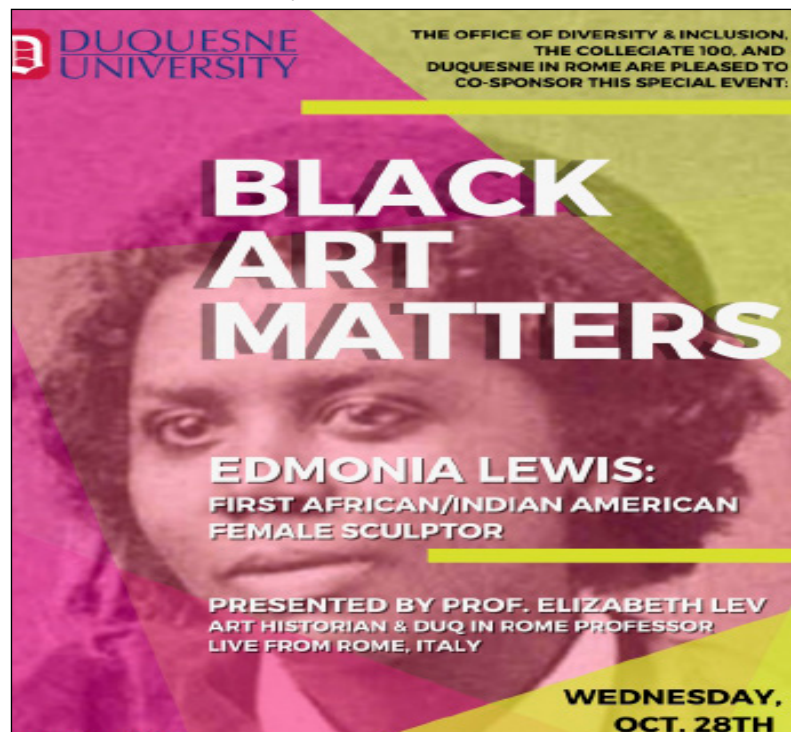
Author Nathaniel Hawthorne, for one, was notoriously racist,

reminded of my color."

Though lost after her death in 1907, Lewis' Cleopatra was re-discovered and exhibited in the Smithsonian for spectators to gaze upon in wonder for years to come.

According to Lev, Lewis was "not bitter" about the discrimination she faced as a person of color in the art industry, though instead channeled it to "speak the truth through beauty and reason."

"She had a calm determination... she didn't fight or yell, she was a leader who fought for the path no matter the discouragement faced, responding to injustices, responding to language, responding to preconceived notions and changing them to be



Professor Lev excitedly presents her research on Lewis' astounding story.

making comments against Lewis and other Black female artists for trying to make it in the industry.

According to Lev, Lewis was quoted saying, "I was practically driven to Rome in order to obtain the opportunities for art culture, and to find a social atmosphere where I was not constantly

perceived differently," Lev said.

"Black women in the arts constantly show they can bring something new to the table and share with others," Lev said. "There is a long road ahead, but plenty of room to go amaze-- to go and make people feel wonder."

WEEK'S EVENTS

DPC DUNite: Trick or Treat
Oct. 30, @ 9 p.m.

Stop by Mellon Patio for on-the-go sweet, spooky treats while supplies last! In case of bad weather, event will be moved to the NiteSpot.

"The Uninvited"
Oct. 31 @ 8-10 p.m.

Join the Red Masquers for a student-led radio production to get in the Halloween spirit! Visit the Red Masquers website for the link to the event.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Positions
Ariana Grande
Friday, Oct. 30th

Grande's sixth studio album accompanies newly released single of the same name to listeners who have been long-awaiting the harmonies she has been teasing on her social media.

Fatale
Friday, Oct. 30th

A psychological thriller, sports agent Darren watches his career collapse below his feet, with a police investigation on his case for a previous one-night stand.

CAPRI'S COMPLAINTS

So where do we go?

Ah, the crisp autumn air.
How do we avoid it?

The "dining tents" placed sporadically across campus could only be beneficial for so long: I hate to say it, but it's cold now.

Where are students going to go where they can safely social distance in, dare I say it, warmth?

Hogan Dining Center can only hold so many, as the same goes for the Union ballroom, 5th floor and so on.

To stay safe and warm to the rest of the semester, Duquesne will have to brainstorm the most logical way to make this possible.

—Capri Scarcelli



Virgo

So imagine yourself as decorative cupcake sprinkles. That's quirky!



Libra

The winner takes it all....



Scorpio

The devil went down to Georgia, but I went downstairs because I forgot to sign out my guest.



Sagittarius

I spoke too soon



Capricorn

It's Halloween b*tch! Watch something other than "Stand By Me" !!



Aquarius

Remember when TikTok was the smash single by Ke\$ha?



Pisces

Watch for deer!



Aries

Video killed the radio star :)



Taurus

Chuck-E-Cheese face mask: think about it.



Gemini

DUCK...



Cancer

One-eyed, one-horned, flying purple people pleaser :)



Leo

Meeeeeeep!

Streaming platform "Quibi" quits as soon as it started

GRIFFIN SENDEK
multimedia editor

It feels as though Quibi's \$1.75 billion attempt to revolutionize the way we watch TV – and its eventual bankruptcy – all happened in well, a Quibi.

If you happened to be a member of the massive majority of the world's population, the word Quibi likely means nothing.

Quibi is, or soon to be was, a brand new streaming platform launched on April 6, 2020 that featured solely original TV content. The standout feature setting it apart from the rest was that each episode was 10 minutes or less, not a second longer.

In a massive advertising campaign near the launch of the service, there was an attempt to make "Quibi" a new addition to the lexicon, a definition synonymous with a 10-minute or less period of time. This series of advertisements served more to push the use of this new word, as opposed to actually informing consumers what the new platform really was, and why they should pay for it.

The word quibi, and the service itself, failed to catch on.

On Oct. 22, Quibi co-CEO Jeffery Katzenberg and Meg Whitman posted an open let-

ter informing investors and consumers that the company would be shutting down and is in the process of selling off its content.

"Quibi was a big idea and there was no one who wanted to make a success of it more than we did. Our failure was not for lack of trying; we've considered and exhausted every option available to us" Katzenberg and Whitman said in the statement.

Multiple factors were likely the culprit for the platform's demise.

"And yet Quibi is not succeeding. Likely for one of two reasons: because the idea itself wasn't strong enough to justify a standalone streaming service or because of our timing," Katzenberg and Whitman said.

A release sandwiched between an explosion of new streaming services and a global pandemic were unfortunate conditions for success. A service consisting of bite-sized episodes designed for an on-the-go, commuter market was the last thing people were clamouring for while stuck in the height of stay-at-home orders.

Seeking to kill as much time as possible during quarantine, when the decision was between paying for yet another streaming subscription to watch a handful of average quality shows no one

had ever heard of, sliced into 10-minute chunks that is only viewable on a phone, or watching Netflix's "Tiger King," "Tiger King" won out.

The fact is, streaming services live and die by quality of content, not the method of delivery. The shows Quibi had to offer never managed to capture the public interest. Out of dozens of shows on the platform ranging from dramas, comedies, reality TV and documentaries, none garnered a must-see status. One smash hit driving users in and proving Quibi as a viable platform might have been all that was needed to keep the service afloat.

The majority of the shows on Quibi were of a very average quality that couldn't hope to compete with the originals produced by Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, HBO and Disney+. Big budget productions, A-list actors and the return of beloved long canceled shows barely made an impact when it came to general interest and subscriber numbers.

At launch, the offer of a generous 90-day free trial garnered an initial spike in subscriber amount, however as the three month trial period came to a close, Quibi struggled to convert the free trial users into

paying subscribers.

The pandemic, in no way, helped Quibi's business, but the idea may have been doomed from the very beginning. Quibi was seemingly formed out of the assumption that "kids-these-days have-zero-attention-spans"

and chasing the popularity of the short form content of Vine, TikTok and Youtube. The key difference Quibi failed to consider is that these social media platforms are popular not for its runtime, but because the content is all available for free.



COURTESY OF PITCHFORK

The streaming platform, Quibi, had a tenure of just that – a Quibi.

Bruce Springsteen rocks 20th studio album release

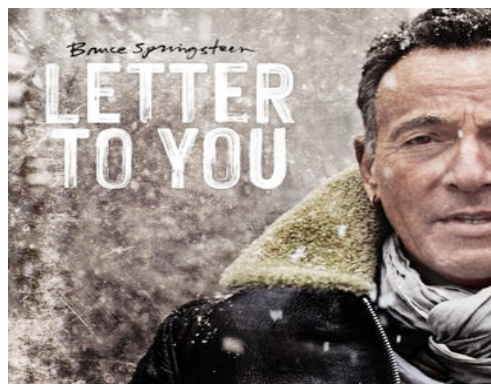
CLAIRE NEIBERG
staff writer

Being raised on classic rock, some of my earliest memories surrounded the discography of Bruce Springsteen.

From listening to the E Street Radio on SiriusXM every morning with my dad to singing along to "Thunder Road" with my family at the Hersheypark Stadium on a rainy evening in 2014, Springsteen's music is a prominent part of my life, giving me high expectations for his Oct. 23 release, *Letter to You*.

A rock and roll legend with a breakthrough in the 1970s, Bruce Springsteen has captured the hearts of audiences through the decades and is known for his electrifying sound and his immense talent as a lyricist.

Letter to You, his 20th studio album, gently touches upon the theme of aging



COURTESY OF PITCHFORK

Springsteen's *Letter to You* boldly accepts and celebrates the on-going chapters of life.

and serves as a dedication to his fans, past band members and his craft as an artist.

Prior to the album's release, Springsteen released two singles in September, "Letter to You" and "Ghosts."

In an Apple Original Films documentary celebrating the release of the album, Springsteen explains that "Ghosts" is about the beauty and joy of being in a band, and the pain of losing one another to illness and time.

This is evident through the touching lyrics but also in the music video where late band members Danny Federici and Clarence Clemons are featured in cameos. Both Federici and Clemons significantly shaped the history of the E Street Band, and Springsteen's new song celebrates their lives and influence as musicians.

"Letter to You," the album's title song, serves as a dedication to Springsteen's fans and his loved ones.

The lyrics, "Things I found out through

hard times and good / I wrote 'em all out in ink and blood / Dug deep in my soul and signed my name true / And sent it in my letter to you" are deeply poetic and illustrate Springsteen's earnest and authentic abilities as a songwriter, which remains prevalent through the rest of the album.

Two elements that make this album a special release is its timing, and the fact that it is recorded live.

"It's the only album where it's the entire band playing at one time, with all the vocals and everything completely live ... It's about being in a rock band, over the course of time. And it's also a direct conversation between me and my fans, at a level that I think they've come to expect over the years," Springsteen said.

In an interview with Rolling Stone magazine, Springsteen talks about how this album was supposed to catapult a 2021 tour, but because of the coronavirus pandemic, a tour will have to wait.

"My antenna tells me, at best, 2022. And I would consider the concert industry lucky if it happens then... I'm going to consider myself lucky if I lose just a year of touring life. Once you hit 70, there's a finite amount of tours and a finite amount of years that you have," Springsteen said.

For Springsteen, music and performing is a "fundamental life force."

While the Coronavirus has put a lot on hold, Springsteen's new masterpiece assures his fans that true rock and roll will never die.



COURTESY OF PITCHFORK

Springsteen is excited to perform his latest work soon.



Letter to You is available on all streaming platforms and can be bought on CD, vinyl and more.



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Shank speaks out, asks state and federal boards to investigate DU

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

Gary Shank, the professor who was fired earlier this month for using a racial epithet, wrote letters to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the Pennsylvania State Board of Education Friday, asking them to investigate his termination alleging serious academic integrity violations within his department.

In the letters, Shank, who at one time was responsible to provide support within the doctoral program in his specialty area of qualitative research methodology, directed a number of dissertations he said were “excellent.” Under the previous director, Shank said he could run the program as he saw fit and the students thrived under his leadership.

However, the director of the program at that time left for another university, and Shank said switched his attention to the educational administration doctoral program for a few years. When he returned to the original program, Shank claimed that the quality of the work and students had dropped significantly. He alleged that students were being promised they could complete the program in three years, and their work was suffering.

“In my case, I put in literally hundreds of hours on more than one dissertation to correct grammar, spelling and logical sequencing,” Shank wrote in the letters. “These dissertations, which were only one step from defense, were woefully inadequate. But the three-year guarantee had to be met. In the most shocking case of all, a faculty member admitted that she, not the student, actually wrote the dissertation.”

Shank did not name that faculty member. Duquesne spokesperson Gabe Welsch said that Duquesne has not seen, and does not have a copy of any letter from Shank to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education or to the PA State Board of Education.

“Under the University’s faculty handbook, Professor Shank has 30 days to file his grievance in front of the University Faculty Grievance Committee, which is comprised of faculty members from schools across the campus. Thus far, he has not done that, although his lawyer has stated in the media that he intends to do so. Moreover, he declined an invitation from the dean to meet during the investigation that led to the recommendation for termination. Duquesne is, and remains committed to, following the proper

process in this matter,” Welsch said in a statement.

Welsch said that the university does not know the context of Shank’s accusations shared in his letter.

“However, the University has to wonder why he did not share these concerns with the University administration at any time prior to this letter, and we are disappointed that he apparently has chosen to deride the students in the program and his colleagues in this manner,” Welsch said.

Welsch also said that Shank was given multiple opportunities to speak with school of education dean, Gretchen Generett, to “share his reasons for engaging in the inappropriate behavior that he engaged in during his class.”

“He declined to do so,” Welsch said.

Shank has not yet filed a grievance, according to Welsch, and has not explained his position with the university faculty grievance committee, even though the faculty handbook “provides him the opportunity to do so.”

“If Dr. Shank wishes to express his position on any issue he should follow the processes and do so appropriately,” Welsch said.

“When I got back into dissertation work with this program, I was shocked,” Shank wrote. “The students were less talented and less interested in research. Instead, some of them admitted they had chosen this doctoral program over competing local programs because the Duquesne program ‘promised’ that they would get their doctorate in three years.”

According to Duquesne’s doctorate in educational leadership website, currently, the admission criteria to apply for the program are a master’s degree in an education or related field, five years of experience in PK-12 schools or related educational field preferred, a 3.0 GPA in graduate work and a completed application packet.

Hired with tenure in 1997, Shank was under contract to write a textbook that was in print for 15 years.

Shank was terminated from the university Oct. 7 after using the N-word in a lecture. In his Sept. 9 lecture via Zoom, Shank used the racial slur repeatedly and gave students permission to use the word. After a video went viral on social media, Shank was placed on administrative leave Sept. 11 and was eventually fired from the university nearly a month later.

Duquesne provost David Dausey wrote the termination letter to Shank Oct. 7, saying that he reviewed the report written by Generett and that, pursuant to Section 9.2 of the Duquesne faculty handbook, his



KELLEN STEPLER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Shank, a former education professor, asked boards to investigate “serious issues” at the college.

“employment at Duquesne is terminated for serious misconduct.”

In Shank’s letter he sent Friday, he writes that he explicitly informed his class that he was going to use the word, and why it was important that he did, to “demonstrate how its context has changed over time along with how our culture perceives what is racist.”

“When some students expressed concerns, I apologized for making them upset and uncomfortable,” Shank wrote to the state board of education. “Other students from the class acknowledged that I was intending to teach and not harass or traumatize them.”

The Duke obtained Shank’s apology email he sent to his class following the Sept. 9 lecture. Students in his class noted that he spent the entire 50-minute lecture the next day apologizing for using the racial epithet.

Shank claimed in his letters that he has received over 20 letters of support from people in the United States and abroad. He wrote that this group includes former students — including students of color — former colleagues, “prominent” members of the Pittsburgh community, and even people who do not know him personally, but believe his firing was unjust.

“Those who know me assured me that they knew that I was in no way a racist, and that over the years my teaching methods had been valuable and impactful,” Shank wrote. “Some of these respondents also directed letters of support to provost Dausey urging the university to reinstate me.”

Shank’s letters also state that he is concerned about this action by Duquesne “not just because of its impact on [him] personally, but also how it fits into a long-standing

pattern of making expedient and ethically suspect judgements and actions.”

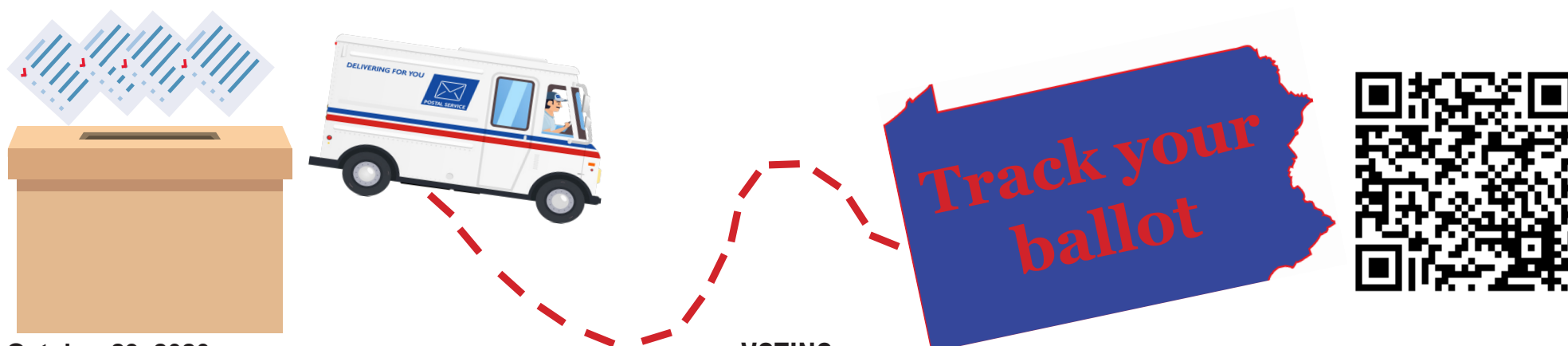
The latter half of his two-page letter points out “serious issues” with the doctorate in educational administration program in his department, the department of foundations and leadership.

Shank cited Sept. 21 meeting minutes from a school of education faculty meeting with Generett on the record saying that Dausey said in a provost council meeting that the issue with Shank is “based on perception.”

To the state Board of Education, Shank wrote that these issues of “blatant violation of academic freedom, blatant disregard of due process and in the case of the doctoral program, the commission of academic fraud are concerns that might warrant further investigation on your part.”

Since his dismissal, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) and the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) have written letters to Duquesne president Ken Gormley demanding Shank’s reinstatement. Following his termination, FIRE filed a complaint to Robert King, the assistant secretary at the office of postsecondary education at the U.S. Department of Education, writing that, “Duquesne’s departure from promises of freedom of expression is most recently illustrated by its unjustifiable punishment of faculty member Gary Shank, who has relied on Duquesne’s promises of free expression and academic freedom throughout his 23-year teaching career at the university.”

Shank’s attorney, Warner Mariani, said that they “have 30 days to grieve the termination and certainly will do so.”



October 29, 2020

VOTING

2020 Presidential Election voting guide

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

Polling places in Pennsylvania will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and all polling places in Allegheny County will be open.

First time voters will be asked to show an approved form of identification. These include: a PA driver's license, an ID issued by the state or federal agency, a passport, an armed forces ID, a student ID or an employee ID. Additionally, a voter identification card, a firearm permit, current utility bill, a paycheck, bank statement or government paycheck are also approved forms of identification.

To vote in-person, voters must wear face coverings and observe safety protocols. To find your polling place, go to votespa.com or call 877-VOTESPA (877-868-3772).

In a press conference Tuesday, Pennsylvania Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar said that the Department of State has provided masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, sneeze guards, towels and tape to mark social distancing to all 67 counties.

"We ask every voter to wear a mask, to protect themselves, and as a respect and a courtesy to others as well," she said.

As of Oct. 28, 1,978,482 Pennsylvanians have already voted by mail, Boockvar said in a press conference Wednesday.

"The expansion of mail-in voting here in Pennsylvania gave more voters options and it strengthened our democracy right here in Pennsylvania," Wolf said. "We anticipate that our county election offices will see a historic surge in the number of mail-in ballots received, as well as the overall number of ballots voted."

Over 3 million Pennsylvanians have applied for an absentee ballot or a mail-in ballot. Wolf urged voters to hand-deliver mail-in ballots immediately.

"If you still have your mail-in ballot, fill it out now," Wolf said. "Don't wait — hand deliver your vote ballot at a secure drop box or at the county board of elections."

As of Oct. 28, 292,531 ballots have been returned in Allegheny County, according to the county. Of those, 217,022 have been Democratic, 48,738 have been Republican, 252 Green and 744 Libertarian. The state reported 65% of mail-in ballots have been returned.

Voters must return their mail-in or absentee ballots to their county election board's drop boxes before 8 p.m. on Election Day. For Allegheny County voters, the closest drop box to Duquesne University is a half-mile away at the Allegheny County Office Building at 542 Forbes Ave. Boockvar noted that locations can be found on votespa.com.

"Just make sure, no matter what, that you drop off your ballot by 8 p.m. on Election Day," Boockvar said.

Wolf reminded voters to secure their voted ballots in the secrecy envelope and then fill out the declaration in the mailing envelope.

"That gives you the peace of mind that your ballot is in on time, and that your vote will be counted," he said.

Should your mail-in or absentee ballot not be accepted, Boockvar said that voters

can still vote a provisional ballot on Election Day.

"If you just forgot to sign the ballot, and that ballot is not going to be counted, you can still go in on Election Day, check in with the poll workers like normally, and you'll be able to vote by provisional ballot and your ballot will be counted as long as you don't have another mail-in or absentee ballot on record as having been counted," Boockvar said.

Wolf predicted that because over 3 million people are voting by mail, the lines will be shorter and the polling places will be less crowded.

"That's good news for Pennsylvanians who prefer to vote in-person because it's going to help to ensure that every single voter can cast their vote in a way that's both safe and secure," Wolf said.

Nov. 3, Election Day, is the deadline for returning a voted mail-in or absentee ballot. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day and received by the county election office by 5 p.m. Nov. 6 to be counted.

Boockvar said on Wednesday that as of Oct. 28, voter registration in Pennsylvania has reached 9,081,933 — a record high. 4,228,962 are registered Democrats, 3,542,313 are registered Republicans, 911,397 are non-affiliated and 399,261 are other.

"This is an exciting time for democracy in Pennsylvania," Wolf said. "More eligible voters can exercise their right to vote than ever before."

With one week to go before the election, Wolf said that "it's vital to make sure that everybody has a plan in place to vote."

"If you're voting at the polls, make a plan now to make sure you're there on Nov. 3," Wolf said. "Either way, your vote really matters."

Who's running?

Obviously, the presidency will be up for grabs, with Republican incumbent Donald Trump, Democratic candidate Joe Biden and Libertarian candidate Jo Jorgenson. Each candidate must receive 270 of 538 electoral votes — Pennsylvania accounts for 20 of those votes.

In 2016, Trump won 48.2% of the vote in Pennsylvania, while Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton won 47.5%. However, in Allegheny County, Clinton earned 55.9% of the vote compared to Trump's 39.5%. President Barack Obama won both the state and the county in 2012.

The Pennsylvania Attorney General position — the state's top lawyer — will also be on the ballot. Elected for a four-year term, the attorney general investigates public corruption, defends the state in lawsuits, investigating criminal operations and works as a political figure along with the governor and state legislature.

Democrat Josh Shapiro is looking for a second term in this position. Shapiro, of Montgomery County, won the race by three points in 2016 and since then, he has opposed Trump's travel ban in 2017, moved forward with an investigation of allegations of sexual abuse within the

Catholic Church in 2018 and supported the legalization of recreational marijuana use for adults in 2019.

He will be challenged by Republican Heather Heidelbaugh of Mount Lebanon, who is a partner at the law firm Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl with over 35 years of experience in the courtroom. In a Tuesday tweet, Heidelbaugh wrote that "Shapiro's focus is on a higher political office, mine is on the rule of law."

Daniel Wassmer, a longtime attorney and adjunct professor at Bucks County Community College will be representing the Libertarian Party, while Pittsburgh native Richard Weiss will be running on behalf of the Green Party for the Attorney General race.

The ballot will also feature the race for Pennsylvania Auditor General. The chief fiscal watchdog of the state, the auditor general is responsible for using audits to ensure all state money is used legally and properly, according to the commonwealth's auditor general website.

Nina Ahmad will be representing the Democratic party in the race for auditor general, and Timothy Defoor will be on the ticket for the Republican party. Jennifer Moore will represent the Libertarian party and Olivia Faison will represent the Green party. Current PA Auditor General Eugene DePasquale endorsed Ahmad to succeed him on Monday. The auditor general is a four-year term.

For state treasurer, democratic incumbent Joe Torsella will be challenged by Stacy Garrity of the Republican party, Joe Soloski of the Libertarian party and Timothy Runkle of the Green party. According to the state treasury website, "The Pennsylvania Office of the State Treasurer serves as the custodian of more than \$100 billion in Commonwealth funds, and is responsible for the receipt and deposit of state monies, investment management and oversight of all withdrawals and deposits from state agencies." The state treasurer is a four-year term.

Duquesne University is part of the state's 18th congressional district, and 19th legislative district. Voters will choose between democratic incumbent Mike Doyle and republican Luke Edison Negron to represent in Congress. Jake Wheatley, a democrat and member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, will run unopposed. Both seats are two-year terms.

Voters will also see a proposed special election question on their ballots: "Shall the Pittsburgh Home Rule Charter, Article Two, Executive, be amended and supplemented by amending and adding new language to Sections 229 and 230 and adding a new Section, 231, expanding the powers of the Independent Citizen Police Review Board to allow the Board to require police officers to participate in investigations, conducting performance audits of the Police Bureau and preventing the removal of Board members except for just cause and with City Council approval?"

In simpler terms, this gives residents a chance to consider whether or not to expand the power of the Pittsburgh Citi-

zen Police Review Board (CPRB.) If the measure passes, Pittsburgh police officers would be required to cooperate with CPRB investigations into police misconduct.

The ballot measure would allow the board to act officially in its pursuit of police accountability, and work with the city controller and the commission on human relations. It requires all officers and employees to participate in investigations conducted by the CPRB, and provides protection for sitting CPRB members from the mayor from removing a board member at will.

"If an officer fails to cooperate, that can be construed as just cause for dismissal," Beth Pittinger, director of the CPRB, said. "This is what democracy in action looks like ... it's worthy of consideration of city voters."

Patience is key

Wolf said that because of circumstances, this election is going to be different than previous ones.

"Counting ballots and tallying the results — that's going to be different," he said. "We've known for months that county election workers would need additional time to count the mail in ballots this year."

Pre-canvassing — opening the ballots before Election Day, but not counting them until Election Day — is what Wolf called a "simple step" that would have "cost nothing, fixed problems and it was supported by counties, and it was even supported by former governor Tom Ridge."

"But Legislative Republicans chose not to act," Wolf said. "And because of this inaction of Republican leaders, Pennsylvanians may not have results that we need on election night in every county. It may take longer than usual for counties to finish counting votes."

Boockvar strongly urged every county to start pre-canvassing as soon as possible on Tuesday.

In response to a tweet Trump sent out early Tuesday morning, writing, "Philadelphia [sic] MUST HAVE POLL WATCHERS!," Boockvar noted that everyone can have poll watchers, and that "that hasn't changed."

"Voters need to ignore the disinformation," Boockvar said. "There's so much disinformation out there, people should not retweet, should not repost, this information is inaccurate. Pennsylvania has very clear laws, poll watchers are going to be appointed days before Election Day."

Boockvar noted that the Department of State is working very closely with all 67 counties, and that the first priority is to count every ballot accurately, and after that, "accurately as quickly as humanly possible."

"Everybody's going to have to be patient, and expect that it's going to take a couple of days," Boockvar said. "But I do expect that the overwhelming majority of ballots will be counted within a couple of days." Once a ballot is in, the vote is final — you cannot go back and change your mind.

"Please, no matter how you vote, exercise your right — make sure your voice is heard," Boockvar said.