Griffin Sendek
multimedia editor

As joyous celebrations for Joe Biden’s presidential win erupted into song and dance throughout the South Side and Squirrel Hill on the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 7 — the fascist, white supremacist group Patriot Front marched to the steps of the City-County Building Downtown.

The demonstration was seen before it was heard, as big plumes of red and blue smoke billowed high above Grant St. The rally itself was flashy and quick, all taking place in less than 15 minutes.

1:49 p.m.: Patriot Front reached the foot of the city-county building.
1:51 p.m.: Multiple red and blue smoke bombs were lit
1:52 p.m.: The speech began.
1:56 p.m.: They marched down Grant St. turned on Ross Street to a parking lot, packed up their gear and belongings into a Uhaul truck.
2:01 p.m.: The members loaded into vans and left the city.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) defines Patriot Front as a white nationalist hate group which is “an image-obsessed organization that rehabilitated the explicitly fascist agenda of Vanguard America with garish patriotism.”

Patriot Front formed from a splinter of Vanguard America after its collapse in 2017 following the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, VA which resulted in the killing of Heather Heyer and injuring many others.

According to SPLC, “when PF orchestrates protests or public appearances, they are typically tightly choreographed and scripted to maximize propaganda value. Virtually all its activities are undertaken with propaganda in mind.”

Saturday’s demonstration followed that formula exactly. This fascist rally was a “blink-and-you’ll-miss-it” affair. It was witnessed by people in roughly 50 vehicles and 20 passersby. It all took place so quickly, no other media was present. And by the time reporters from TV stations pulled up, Patriot Front was long gone — the only thing left were burned-out smoke bomb cartridges.

As a result, in a city of nearly 300,000 people, Patriot Front delivered their message to virtually no one.

Most of those who were there to witness the demonstration weren’t sticking around to listen. For those who watched the event unfold, there was an immense sense of confusion about who the group was and what they were doing there in the first place.

A Duquesne student and her boyfriend happened to be driving by when the rally took place.

“We drove past it just enough to get a glimpse, the group was putting off smoke bombs and yelling into a bullhorn and lined up in front of the City-County Building. I thought it was a protest or had something to do with election results, but it wasn’t clear from the car,” said Duquesne senior Raena Smyda.

For Smyda and her boyfriend — and likely many others that drove past the demonstration — the only message Patriot Front was able to convey was vague election anger and that smoke bombs are attention grabbing.

The group held a 30-foot banner reading, “Two Parties One Tyranny.” The phrase coincides with the Patriot Front’s third position views and the desire to create an ethnestate according to the SPLC.

According to Patriot Front’s telegram page the Pittsburgh rally was a “march and demonstration against two fraudulent elections of two-party tyranny.”

Reciting the group’s rhetoric about ‘reclaiming America’ vitriolic was the founder and leader of the group himself, Thomas Rousseau.

Local activist and founder of BLM Pittsburgh and SW PA Tanisha Long was disappointed by the news of Patriot Front’s presence in the city.

“For those who watched the event unfold, there was an immense sense of confusion about who the group was and what they were doing there in the first place.”

“Many people believe that Pittsburgh is the liberal bastion of Southwest PA, they believe...”

see RALLY — page 3
Take-home COVID-19 test kits made available to all students

**Colleen Hammond**
news editor

As Duquesne’s first fully hybrid semester comes to a close, university administration has attempted to lay out a plan for students as they return home for Thanksgiving and the subsequent two-month semester break.

COVID-19 cases have reached an all-time high in the U.S. this week, and Allegheny County has been reporting more than 100 new cases everyday for the past three weeks. At the time of publication, Duquesne has reported 100 students are currently in isolation either on campus or at home, and an additional 309 students are currently under quarantine (66 in a hotel and 243 at home).

This has posed serious questions about finishing the semester safely and allowing students to return home without bringing COVID-19 with them.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention repeatedly states on its website “Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.”

This sentiment was partially echoed by an unsigned statement sent to all Duquesne students urging them to “wind down and limit contact” with others for 14 days prior to their departure from campus. Despite this recommendation for students to quarantine before leaving, the university is continuing to hold in-person classes up until Thanksgiving break as initially planned.

In addition to the encouragement to “limit contact,” but not quarantine, the university is advising students to follow another CDC guideline for COVID-19 travel.

The university is recommending that all students take a COVID-19 test prior to your return home for Thanksgiving and the conclusion of the fall 2020 semester,” said the statement.

The statement also said that all students will be able to obtain an Everlywell COVID-19 Test Home Collection Kit at the university’s expense. These kits will be available for pick up in the Towers Multipurpose Room from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting on Thursday, Nov. 19.

Students who pick up a collection kit will be able to administer the COVID-19 test from the safety of their current residence and either ship it to the lab or drop it off in the designated receptacle, also in the Towers Multipurpose Room.

Students were advised to carefully plan when they administer the test to themselves depending on their mode of travel. The email also encouraged students to, once again, “limit contact” with people outside their pod from the time they administer the test to the time of their departure to ensure the test results.

However, it is unclear how long the shipping and testing process will take, further adding to the struggle of students planning when to get tested.

Although the statement said test results will be available on Everlywell’s website anywhere from 24-48 hours after receiving the sample, it did not state how, or even if, students could track their sample during the shipping process.

“The speed and ease of use make the test kits ideal for meeting the variety of circumstances students are managing during the transition from campus to home,” the statement said.

Still, hope is on the horizon this week as Pfizer announced that their new COVID-19 vaccine has proven over 90% effective in clinical trials. This vaccine will not be an overnight remedy to this international crisis, but experts are hopeful that the Pfizer vaccine will receive emergency FDA approval and will start to be administered to the general public within the next few months.

Since widespread use of the vaccine is still far in the future, university administration did not comment on how, or when, it would be given to students, should it become available during the spring 2021 semester.

Despite the growing concern over vaccine availability, Duquesne University President Ken Gormley remained confident in students’ return to campus for the spring semester.

“For the spring semester, classes will resume on Thursday, January 21, 2021, allowing plenty of time for students to again limit outside contact for 14 days prior to returning to campus,” Gormley said.

**COVID-19 Update: Over 200 students quarantined at home**

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

Scan here for latest Covid Data

**Duquesne COVID-19 Data**

- Total number of confirmed cumulative cases: 240
- Total number of suspected cumulative cases: 47
- Total number of students isolated on campus over time: 125
- Total number of students quarantined on campus over time: 233
- Total number of employees currently under isolation for COVID-19 (reported to DU HR): 2
- Total cumulative number of employees under isolation for COVID-19 (reported to DU HR): 6
Patriot Front, a white supremacist hate group, holds Downtown rally on the morning of Biden’s victory

“Many people believe that Pittsburgh is the liberal bastion of Southwest PA, they believe that stuff like this wouldn’t happen in Pittsburgh or that it’s uncommon,” Long said. “It’s not. These people were able to come here, find a base here and find support here.”

The white supremacist group Patriot Front arrived at the City-County Building, delivered a speech and packed and left the city within the span of 12 minutes. Patriot Front are known or their quick, tightly choreographed propaganda stunts.

Patriot Front had a team of multiple photographers and a videographer documenting the group’s every move.
COVID-19 is a psychological killer too

With countries around the world struggling to contain the spread of COVID-19, millions of people are bracing for a second wave that promises to be just as destructive as the first. While governments once again race to implement new lockdowns and other restrictions to limit social interaction among their citizens, the common fear remains that this next wave will change life as we know it for generations to come. Since the onset of the pandemic, the primary concern was contracting the virus and having to overcome the unpleasant symptoms affecting the nose, throat and lungs. I must not neglect to mention the considerably more severe effects that we’ve all cautiously kept in mind, such as respiratory failure, pneumonia and, very realistically, impending death.

On the other hand, the notion that you could potentially infect others – vulnerable family members, friends or the unfortunate bystander – and watch them slowly suffer, has been, in a way, even more alarming and distressing than potentially testing positive for the virus. Nevertheless, as more research continues to emerge each passing day, it is becoming overwhelmingly evident that the secondary effects of COVID-19 are equally as dreadful as the “primary effects” mentioned above.

For example, increased social isolation and the abandonment of familiar routines are proving to be disastrous for mental health. Although some are fond of the latest work-from-home (WFH) trend, others are mentally and physically exhausted from sitting inside and staring at a computer screen for 12 hours as they go through the motions of life, without actually living.

One particular group that is being impacted psychologically by COVID-19 are college students. In the midst of online curriculums that starve them from interaction with friends, with maintaining a daily routine, 73% reported a lack of adequate physical activity and 63% said that staying connected with peers was more challenging than ever. An alarming reliance on prescription drugs and other unnatural remedies to cope with the ever-increasing feelings of doubt has been reported as well. The preceding evidence clearly confirms that the pandemic is severely impacting the wellbeing of those who stand to serve as the next leaders of the world in coming years.

It is interesting to consider that mental health is not being adversely influenced by only one or two universal conditions, but rather are the sole opinions of the collaterals of COVID-19, such as college students. In the midst of online curriculums that starve them from interaction with friends, with maintaining a daily routine, 73% reported a lack of adequate physical activity and 63% said that staying connected with peers was more challenging than ever. An alarming reliance on prescription drugs and other unnatural remedies to cope with the ever-increasing feelings of doubt has been reported as well. The preceding evidence clearly confirms that the pandemic is severely impacting the wellbeing of those who stand to serve as the next leaders of the world in coming years.
After Joe Biden’s win, the real battle begins within the Democratic Party

ALEXANDER WOLFE
staff columnist

As the election-obsessed individuals among us take the time to rest their brains and purge the names of different Michigan, Florida and Georgia counties from our heads, a new political battle has already emerged. Yes, while America takes a break from constantly checking the Apple News Associated Press electoral vote counter, the Democratic party has taken a moment to initiate the dispute between progressives and moderates many have been expecting for about 18 months.

The conflict actually started before the presidential election was called, but it took a while in Joe Biden’s own words, he is “The Democratic party,” the Democratic party that is about to matter to the president-elect, but starting itself apart on Capitol Hill.

Lost beneath the presidential tweets from a greenside bunker was a series of reports documenting the upcoming fight, the most prominent of which was a New York Times interview with newly re-elected representative Conor Lamb (PA).

On Nov. 8, the New York Times profiled the congressman and his position on the state of the House. Democratic candidate the Lamb on Saturday was referenced in a New York Times interview with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, as an example of how moderate Democratic house members had misallocated their funds in the final weeks of the campaign.

Speaking about how Democratic moderates had been running campaigns, Ocasio-Cortez explained, “Some of this is criminal.” It’s malpractice. Conor Lamb spent $2,000 on Facebook the week before the election. I don’t think that’s really the way to run on the internet in a real way [...] and los es an election can blame anyone else when you’re not even really on the internet.

She went on to critique the Democratic party’s lack of meaningful online presence, touching on the importance of online and interpersonal authenticity. Lamb’s responses were, as one might expect, restrained, but he did respond directly to the criticism of policy saying that, “[has constituents] are extremely frustrated at the lack of understanding of how to fund the police and banning fracking. And I, as a Democrat, am just as frustrated.”

Both representatives, young, up-and-coming members of the Democratic party have had to claw their way into the national spotlight by toppling establishment candidates and defying expectations. Their conflict now is a snapshot of the larger debate among liberal strategists.

In analyzing the debate, I evaluated the seat retention of different Democrats based on what policies they may or may not have advocated, their performance in their district, the 2020 presidential election outcome in their district, and the 2016 presidential election outcome in their district. Some interesting patterns emerged that lead me to believe this battle may be far from over.

Moderates like Lamb, Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) often come from communities that don’t think it against the law. President Trump won in 2016 that tend to lean Republican.

Lamb, Slotkin and Spanberger all had a modicum of some kind and are moderate on policy, courting a larger spectrum of voters to maintain their seats. According to Lamb, progressives continue to advocate “unworkable and extremely unpopular policy,” and moderates like him are looking for a more clear-cut message on policy going forward.

On a Friday call, progressive Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) defend ed progressives for advocating policy positions that she said their communities supported. Spanberger shot back that rep resentatives like her would get slaughtered in the midterms if progressives continued to push the party toward Medicare for All and similar policies.

Despite all this, exit polling showed that 72% of voters favor transitioning to a government-run healthcare plan. This disconnect has formed the bedrock of the conflict taking shape within the Democratic party.

A majority of voters consistently favor many progressive policy positions: Medicare for All, marijuana legalization, $15 minimum wage, the concept of a Green New Deal, but these voters consistently would not or might not freely oppose those positions.

Regardless, the party has shown the propensity to come together. Lamb as Tony Stark and Ocasio-Cortez as Captain America can come together to defeat Trump’s Thanos if necessary.

That said, there is no time-travel in 2020, and despite everything that’s happened in the past four years, the idea of pre-Trump Washington gridlock is still as unappealing as ever.

Kamala Harris makes history as first female Vice President of the US

ALYSE KAMINSKI
staff columnist

When I was a kid, my parents used to tell me not to be discouraged because there weren’t as many women represented in politics or science as there were men. They told me that I can do anything as a girl and that being a girl is a superpower.

I never understood why there had never been a female president or vice president before. Why couldn’t a woman be a leader? I thought it was against the law. Obviously, it wasn’t against the law. People just weren’t ready, which sounds silly. What’s there to not be ready for? I don’t think I will ever understand why it has taken so long for a woman to get leadership in the White House. I really think it should’ve happened sooner, to be honest.

When I say to, I am thrilled that America has elected its first female Vice President, Kamala Harris. Not only is she the first woman, she is the first Black and South Asian person to hold the office. She single handedly shattered so many glass ceilings.

When major news outlets began projecting Joe Biden as president and Kamala Harris as vice-president, I was sleeping in. First of all, I spent all of last week glued to CNN and the one time I decided to not wake up early to watch coverage, they called the election.

I woke up to a call from my mom cheering that Biden and Harris had won. Not only did America make Donald Trump a one-term president, but my wish of seeing a woman in the White House finally came true.

Throughout the day I had a million thoughts running around in my mind. But what I mainly kept circling back was thinking about the girls at Strong Women, Strong Girls (SWSG). SWSG is a mentoring organization that works with girls in third grade and up and teaches them a curriculum based on female empowerment and healthy habits. I am one of the two chapter directors for the Duquesne chapter, and the girls we work with hold a special place in my heart.

I kept thinking of all the mentoring sessions I had over the three semesters I worked with the girls at Arlington K-8. The girls are so smart and resilient. They consistently open up to us about their struggles and how they face them and where they encounter and what they want out of life. They so dearly admire the women we teach them and want to be just like them.

I cannot wait for our mentors to log on to Zoom and celebrate with the girls the election of Kamala Harris. I can already assume they did running for president, and most candidates are not running for the highest office.

Ocasio-Cortez and progressives like her continue to grow in numbers — Cory Bush, Jamaal Bowman, etc. — but they still compose a minority in the House Democratic caucus. The silence of moderates allows them to punch above their weight, and their poignant rhetoric on defunding the police, Medicare for All and other policies has cut through the national conversation.

On a Friday call, progressive Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) defended progressives for advocating policy positions that she said their communities supported. Spanberger shot back that representatives like her would get slaughtered in the midterms if progressives continued to push for a more clear-cut message on policy going forward.

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We still have a long way to go in this country in eliminating misogyny, but I am hopeful. The fact that our first female vice president is a woman of color speaks volumes about how far we have come. Representation matters. Just look at all of the photos of little girls watching Vice President Elect Harris speak on Saturday night.

They hung on her every word.

Let’s keep electing women to office. Let’s keep making STEM fields a safe space for women. My personal hero, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, said it best — “Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn’t be that women are the exception.”

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez prepares to spar with Democratic moderates.

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It’s not fair — we work just as hard.”

Terina J. Hicks has experienced the inequities and the pressure of being a Black woman her whole life, and knows what it is to not only be Black in Pittsburgh, but to be the owner of a small Black-owned business: CobblerWorld.

The Duquesne alumna knew from a young age that she wanted to start something, she just didn’t know how or when that would come to fruition. After getting laid off from her job at Carnegie Melon University in April 2014, she saw an opportunity for that “something” to come to life.

Hicks immediately went into business mode and officially created CobblerWorld in October of that year. This baked-good business was inspired by her childhood and the time she spent with her recently deceased mother, Mamie Lou, who taught her how to bake her famous peach cobbler when Hicks was 14 years old.

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Duquesne women picked to finish tied for fourth in A-10

Adam Lindener
sports editor

The Atlantic 10 released its annual women’s basketball preseason predictions on Monday, Nov. 9, with two Duquesne players named to all-conference teams and the team slotted to finish in the top half of the league’s standings.

Senior guard Libby Bazelak, a 2019-20 All-Conference Second Team honoree, was selected to both the Preseason All-Conference First Team and Preseason All-Defensive Team. Redshirt senior center Laia Solé, second on the team in scoring with 11.8 points per game in 2019-20, was named to the Preseason All-Conference Second Team.

The Dukes were picked by the league’s 14 head coaches to finish tied for fourth alongside Davidson and Fordham, which also received 140 points in the poll. VCU was named the conference’s favorite, followed by Dayton at No. 2 and Saint Louis third.

VCU received 10 first-place votes and 185 overall points in the poll, with Dayton (two), Saint Louis (one) and Duquesne (one) receiving the poll’s remaining first-place votes.

“Polls are polls,” Head Coach Dan Burt said in a team release. “We believe we are capable of winning the league if we maintain a strong mental resiliency. Our talent has great depth, and we have size and versatility at every position. We can play both small and big depending on the situation.”

Bazelak, a native of Kettering, Ohio, led Duquesne in scoring (13.2 points per game), rebounding (6.5 per game) and assists (3.9 per game) last season, becoming the first Duke to lead the team in all three categories since program legend Korie Hlede did it in the late 1990s. Bazelak’s 1.3 steals per game also led the team, and her 44.4% 3-point percentage ranked 11th in the nation.

“Libby richly deserves being recognized on the Preseason Atlantic 10 First Team,” Burt said. “Her on-court play and leadership last year was outstanding and we expect even more this season.

“We believe she is the best pure point guard in the Atlantic 10.”

Burt said he was disappointed Bazelak didn’t land on the All-Conference First Team at the conclusion of last season, praising her efficiency.

“We were disappointed she wasn’t on the first team. No wasted movements, no wasted reps.”

Solé, who transferred to Duquesne after beginning her collegiate career at Maine, led Duquesne in field goal percentage last year with a 47.1% mark, good for seventh-best in the conference as a whole. A marvel on the offensive side of the court, Solé posted a 38-point outing against Saint Francis last season on Dec. 15, which was the most by a Duquesne player in 21 seasons. Additionally, she posted four games in which she scored 20-plus points last season.

Burt offered high praise for his starting center, as well.

“We believe that Laia is the best offensive post player in the A-10,” Burt said in the release. “She has raised her level of play over the summer, and we are expecting a big year from her.”

Beyond Bazelak and Solé, the Dukes welcome back a steady group of veteran players, including sophomore Amaya Hamilton, senior guard Amanda Kalin and sophomore center Precious Johnson.

Hamilton, a 6-foot-2 guard/forward, posted 20.6 minutes per game as a true freshman in 2019-20, including a team-high 17-point effort against Pitt on Nov. 23.

Kalin was the Dukes’ third-leading scorer last season (10.2 points a game), trailing only Bazelak and Solé. She also led the team in blocks, and figures to bolster Duquesne’s stable of guards behind Bazelak. Johnson was tied for second on last year’s team in blocks and averaged 4.8 points per game during her freshman year.

The Dukes, who finished last season with a 20-11 record and a 9-7 mark in the A-10, fell to Fordham in the conference quarterfinals on March 6, mere days before sports were canceled across the country due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

The team hasn’t won an A-10 regular season title since 2016; that season, the Dukes went on to defeat Seton Hall, 97-76, in the NCAA Tournament, before falling to eventual national champion Connecticut in the second round.

The 2015-16 team is the last Duquesne team to appear in the NCAA Tournament. In other program news, a top 2021 recruit signed with the team on Wednesday, giving Burt a major recruiting victory.

Liv Westphal, a 5-foot-10 senior guard at nearby Bethel Park High School, signed a National Letter of Intent with the team.

Westphal is ranked as a four-star recruit and the top 2021 player in Pennsylvania by espnW. Ranked 37th among 2021 guards, espnW lists Westphal as the No. 90 overall prospect in the 2021 class.

NCAA Football AP Top 25 — Week 11

Rank Team Conf. Overall Streak This Week
1. Alabama (59) 6-0 6-0 W6 at LSU (postponed)
2. Notre Dame (2) 6-0 7-0 W7 at Boston College
3. Ohio State (1) 5-1 3-0 W3 at Maryland (cancel)
4. Clemson 6-1 7-1 L1
5. Texas A&M 5-1 5-1 W4 at Tennessee (postponed)
6. Florida 4-1 4-1 W2 vs. Arkansas
7. Cincinnati 4-0 6-0 W6 vs. East Carolina
8. BYU 1-1 8-0 W8 Bye
9. Miami 5-1 6-1 W3 at Virginia Tech
10. Indiana 3-0 3-0 W3 at Michigan State

Rank Team Conf. Overall Streak This Week
11. Oregon 1-0 1-0 W1 at Washington State
12. Georgia 4-2 4-2 L1 at Missouri (postponed)
13. Wisconsin 1-1 1-1 W1 at Michigan
14. Oklahoma State 4-4 5-1 W4 Bye
15. Coastal Carolina 6-2 7-0 W5 at Troy
16. Marshall 3-0 6-0 W6 vs. Middle Tennessee
17. Iowa State 5-1 5-2 W4 Bye
18. Oklahoma 4-2 5-2 W4 Bye
19. SMU 4-1 7-1 W3 at Tulsa
20. USC 1-0 1-0 W1 at Arizona

On This Day in Sports History ...

On Nov. 12, 2018, freshman MBB guard Sincere Carry scored 32 points and added eight assists, six rebounds and four steals in an 89-88 overtime win over UIC at the A.J. Palumbo Center. Carry’s 32 points tied the program mark for second-most points ever scored in a single game by a freshman, trailing Eric Williams Jr.’s 34 points that he tallied against George Mason on Jan. 20, 2018.

On Nov. 10, Carry was named to the Atlantic 10’s Preseason All-Conference Third Team, joining teammate Marcus Weathers, who was named to the All-A-10 Second Team.
Highlights from Media Day: Dambrot, seniors talk shop

Adam Lindner
sports editor

Since Keith Dambrot’s hiring in the spring of 2017, Duquesne has exceeded its preseason prognosis each season. At this point, it makes sense for the team to be dismissive of the conference’s annual preseason polls.

On Nov. 10, the Atlantic 10 announced its Preseason Poll for the 2020-21 season, with the Dukes slated to finish fifth in the league, directly behind Richard, Saint Louis, Dayton and St. Bonaventure. Additionally, redshirt senior Marcus Weathers and junior center Sincere Carry were named to the conference’s preseason second and third teams, respectively.

On Wednesday, Dambrot, Weathers and senior center Mike Hughes participated in Duquesne’s portion of the A-10 Media Days, which was held virtually via RingCentral. The trio dished on a number of topics, including the team’s preseason ranking, its schedule for the upcoming season and an update on the UPMC Chuck Cooper Fieldhouse.

Below are selected responses from the team’s virtual session with media members.

Question for Dambrot: Provide a brief synopsis of the team.

Answer: We feel like we have a pretty good dynamic in that we have seven or eight guys that have played a lot of basketball for us and have been in a lot of big games — they have proved they can handle big games in this league. And then we have some talented young guys that unfortunately haven’t had the full college experience both as students and as athletes. We’re just trying to catch them up and get them ready for college basketball.

Question for Dambrot: Are you going to South Florida for another bubble before you go to Louisville?

Answer: We are. We’re not totally sure who we’re gonna play, other than we are gonna play Cincinnati there. Loyola-Chicago is the other team, and they haven’t named a fourth team yet — so if they don’t get a fourth team, we’ll play Loyola and we play Cincinnati. If they get the fourth team, then we’ll see who else we’ll play besides Cincinnati. ... We’re still working on our schedule, which is kinda crazy to do on the middle of January, the middle of January. But again, I can’t control that, so I’m not going to worry about it.

Question for Weathers/Hughes: What is the significance of being picked fifth in the A-10 this year?

Weathers: The significance would be having that chip on our shoulder. I think our team is based off being real tough, real gritty, because we’re always not going to be picked top three. To be picked top five is really disrespect, but we have a lot more to prove.

Question for Weathers/Hughes: What are your thoughts on entering bubble-like settings in Louisville and Indianapolis?

Hughes: I think it’s an exciting thing, but it can be nerve wracking at the same time. It’s exciting to be in the same type of process as the NBA guys, being excluded from the world and basically in your own world — that’s basically what a bubble is. There’s also things that can be concerning; me, being asthmatic myself, it (remains to be seen) how they control those positive tests if there are any. At the same time, we also have to have trust like we do with everything else we do — we have to trust the professionals that they’re going to keep everything safe and do the right thing and that everyone else coming in is gonna do the right thing.

Gridiron Dukes looking toward abbreviated Spring season

Carrie Jefferson
staff writer

Walking along Duquesne’s Academic Walk, one would sullenly expect to see an empty Rooney Field due to the cancellation of fall football this year.

Wrong.

The Dukes are exhibiting profound work ethic as they continue to train toward a spring football season. Although everything has been up in the air amidst the pandemic, the NCAA and NEC have stated there will be a season in the spring.

“Recently, [the NCAA] saying that they’re pretty sure we’re gonna play in the spring has definitely lifted the moods of everybody,” said senior tight end Bill O’Malley. “Everyone’s a little bit more energized and excited about it and you can see it in workouts and practices [now that there is] something in front of us to work toward.”

whether it’s running sprints on the field, lifting in the gym or simply playing catch with teammates, the Duquesne football players are setting their sights on an upcoming season. Seeing as the team was picked to finish second in the Northeast Conference Preseason Coaches’ Poll, the Dukes are determinedly working to live up to that prediction.

Although there have been no formal practices during the spring, the players have been permitted by the NCAA to wear helmets as well as train in pods to work on individual skill sets.

“It’s been an extreme challenge [to stay motivated],” Head Coach Jerry Schmitt said. “We are pretty close to not having played or practiced football for a full year, but the players just keep looking to the future, [taking] it day by day.”

Allowing the team to train in pods not only lets the players continue to improve their skills, but it enables them to play the game, so they’re passionate about alongside their teammates. During the exceptionally long offseason, the coaches have stressed taking each day as it comes and working on themselves individually.

“We try to get [the players] concentrated on utilizing this time to work on some individual skill development whether it be on the field, improving in the classroom or some mental work,” Schmitt said.

In order to follow COVID-19 protocols, the use of Zoom has been essential as the team to stay connected. Nevertheless, it has been a struggle to create and maintain relationships within the team due to the virtual aspect.

“It’s tough developing relationships in what we call our ‘football family’ over Zoom calls,” Schmitt said. “The incoming freshmen have not had the opportunity to come in here and experience the normal way that we welcome our freshmen into our football family. Just like any team sport, it will be crucial for the Dukes to mesh together in order to form a strong bond that will lead them down a winning path.”

“Whenever we get the chance to come together, [my goal] is that we gel as a team because we haven’t had that opportunity yet,” O’Malley said. “Communication will be essential, as well, for the success of the team in the spring, especially with the addition of many new players.”

“Duquesne’s offense is going to be a lot of new faces [with] a lot of transfers, [a] new quarterback [and] some young receivers,” O’Malley said. “I think it’s going to be really interesting, but it’s up to us to find that potential and achieve it.”

Looking toward the future, the Dukes will participate in a shortened six-game conference-only schedule with the possibility of an appearance in the FCS playoffs in Spring 2021. The playoffs will consist of only 16 teams instead of its usual mark of 24. With that in mind, the team will need to come out strong right away.

“We can’t really afford a slow start, especially with how our season will be structured if we want to make the playoffs and make a run at it,” O’Malley said. “We gotta start fast and we can’t have a slip-up early.”

Under normal circumstances, a team’s goal may just be focused on making it to the playoffs, and while that may be true for the Dukes, they have an even simpler goal this year: Reaching that first kickoff.

“My goal is to get to the field [and] get to the first game,” Schmitt remarked. “If and when we kick off that football in that first game, I’ll be the happiest guy in the world.”

Duquesne football fans can attest to Schmitt’s goal as they anxiously await the day they’re permitted to cheer on the Dukes from the Rooney Field bleachers. In a whirlwind of a year, many things have been unexpectedly ripped away due to the pandemic, which has forced everyone to face difficult lessons.

“This season is a perfect example of, ‘don’t take anything for granted,’” O’Malley said. “There’s a lot of things outside of your control and, like we’ve seen, it can be taken away very quickly.”
Social justice book club flips the page to John Lewis

**EMILY AMBRY**
staff writer

Heroes in comic books and graphic novels are well-known for fighting monstrous foes, but new heroes are emerging to fight against social injustice. Social justice graphic novels are becoming more of an impactful tool in the classroom.

Duquesne’s Social Justice Reading Club (SJRC) was developed by Gumberg Library faculty in fall 2018 to unite and engage faculty, students and staff in meaningful dialogue around a good book.

The SJRC chooses its reading for each semester based on current social justice issues impacting the world. The SJRC’s book this semester was *March: Book One*. It is the first volume in a graphic trilogy authored by Lewis, co-writer Andrew Aydin and New York Times best-selling artist Nate Powell.

In the past few years, the club has featured: *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas, *Persepolis: The Story of Childhood* by Marjane Stratapi, Evicted by Matthew Desmond and *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan.

The Nov. 5 event was a virtual discussion panel that focused on *March: Book One*, featuring the artists and board members: Duquesne history professor Robin Chapdelanie; director of Pitt’s art gallery Sylvia Capri; Pittsburgh-based artist Marcel Walker; and Duquesne student and SJRC committee member Jessica Mann.

First, Rhor Samaniego spoke about *March: Book One*. He said the 1957 comic book, *Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story*, depicted an actual real life event, “Not only are comics for entertainment but for learning and engaging the audience for the panel members.”

Next, Generett Jr. talked about his experience working with Lewis as an intern, and continuing to work with him throughout his life. Generett said that Lewis had a profound respect for humanity and his love for spreading experience to people of all different backgrounds.

“[Lewis’s] role in the Civil Rights movement really helps to relate to kids today with what we see happening with the BLM movement,” said freshman secondary education major Natalia Malandro. “The ability to connect and remain relevant and inspiring when you’re gone is a special ability that not everyone has in the world.”

Chapdelanie followed by highlighting the critical work of Lewis’ activism and the importance of using comics and graphic novels as a pedagogical tool. She also gave a brief history of graphic novels and their prevalence throughout time. She concluded with her experience of teaching with graphic novels and how the power of image can make a real difference.

The panelists for the discussion included Duquesne history professor Robin Chapdelanie; director of Pitt’s art gallery Sylvia Capri; Pittsburgh-based artist Marcel Walker; and Duquesne student and board member Natalia Malandro. “The ability to connect and remain relevant and inspiring when you’re gone is a special ability that not everyone has in the world.”

To end the event, Mann moderated questions between the panelist and questions from the audience for the panel members. “Not only are comics for superheroes, but for stories like *March: Book One*, where it depicts an actual real life event,” Kurnava said. “I think now more than before that comic books are a legitimate source of not just entertainment but for learning and teaching aspects too.”

**HOROSCOPES**

Aquarius

Come over babe, I’m wearing my free semester shirt from the COVID test.

Gemini

I heard Aries has a thing for you... zoom chat them for that Starbucks date.

Libra

It was 90 cents!

Pisces

The laundry room holds your secrets, not your degenerate.

Cancer

Quick! A source of happiness! Somewhere!

Scorpio

Ah... what a sweet surprise...

Aries

Never trust a Gemini... they took your Starbucks holiday cup.

Leo

You look better with a mask on :)

Taurus

Snow White said “whistle while you work.” Is that actually doable?

Virgo

Is it Thanksgiving break or Black Friday Eve?

Capricorn

I know what you do during zoom lectures...

Montgomery Story, had the power to inspire many civil rights activists such as the Greensboro Four and John Lewis,” said freshman secondary education major Natalia Malandro. “The progress the comic book made in American history is amazing.”

Next, Generett Jr. talked about his experience working with Lewis as an intern, and continuing to work with him throughout his life. Generett said that Lewis had a profound respect for humanity and his love for spreading experience to people of all different backgrounds.

“[Lewis’s] role in the Civil Rights movement really helps to relate to kids today with what we see happening with the BLM movement,” said freshman secondary education major Alex Karnava. “The ability to connect and remain relevant and inspiring when you’re gone is a special ability that not everyone has in the world.”

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**UPCOMING RELEASES**

**WEEK’S EVENTS**

Beauty of Melanin Interest Meeting
Nov. 12 @ 7:30 p.m.

It’s almost time for the Ebony Women for Social Change’s Medley of Melanin pageant. If you are thinking about participating, find the Zoom link on CampusLink.

Ugly Christmas Sweater Party
Nov. 16 @ 9 p.m.

The Ecology Club welcomes Duquesne students to celebrate the holiday season at the NiteSpot. RSVP on CampusLink by Nov. 13.

**CAPRI’S COMPLAINTS**

A pandemic’s price

COVID-19 is becoming somewhat of a game for Duquesne University.

For the first 3,000 students to get tested for the virus before break, free T-shirts are available for all of the hard work put forth in staying safe throughout the semester.

It’s like giving a dog a bone, but for what? Doing a poor job of following social-distance guidelines, staying at tables maskless or for going out and coming back as if it never happened?

You tell me.

I feel like we shouldn’t be bribing students into taking care of themselves and those around them. Instead, I think we should be a little more COVID-conscious as we continue to take this pandemic seriously for the betterment of our spring semester experience.
Ariana Grande "positions" herself for another album hit

By CAPRI SCARCELLI

Ariana Grande’s sixth studio album, Positions, released on Oct. 30, has already been named number one on Billboard’s top charts and has garnered over 174 million streams on Spotify and Apple Music – and for good reason.

Grande is notorious for cranking out harmonies and teasing them along the way, but no one could have guessed an album was coming so soon.

This album is unique in the sense that it is her very own; I truly believe Grande has finally grown into her sound, style and literary voice in her artistry.

With that being said, let’s take it track-by-track.

The first track of the album, “shut up,” begins with an alluring acoustic plucking, transitioning to soft vocal riffs trickling down from Grande. This musically sophisticated background juxtaposes the lyrics, which, as Grande said in an interview with The Zach Sang Show, was meant wanting people to keep harmful notes at the end that I’m sure her fans were waiting for, but were nevertheless awed by as much as I was.

On the other hand, “nasty” and “west side” I wasn’t as big of a fan of. I think they could have been put earlier in the album since they don’t stick out as much as the others. I liked the whipsy vocals and contemporary pop beat, but they both felt more like filler songs.

Nothing was held back with “love language,” however. This song immediately starts off with an attention-grabbing trill, then slides into a jazzy rhythmic beat. Grande’s vocals are effortlessly smooth against the strong backbeat, really making the song pop.

This was probably my second favorite; it stood out to me greatly.

The hit single of the album’s namesake, “positions,” was definitely a catchy chart-topper to represent the album. I think it really fit the direction that pop music is going, and still reminded me of Ariana Grande’s older works. I think the lyrics paired with the music video made for a stark symbol of woman empowerment, and she should be proud of that.

It felt vintage and fresh at the same time. The song itself seems like a sweet gesture to a loved one, and it feels like the intimate moments of an old romance movie. Lyrically and vocally, this song was an absolute hit for this album, and I'm hoping it becomes a lead single on the radio. This song was added to my playlist within seconds, but it got even better when I heard Grande’s signature whistle-tone notes at the end that I’m sure her fans were waiting for, but were nevertheless awed by as much as I was.

Next, I really liked the careful transitioning in “obvious.” She starts off soft and sweet, saying “I love the taste of you in the morning/Keep me warm and/Nothing else, nothing more important,” and then finishes out that short verse as the background kicks in with a steady, melodic beat. This song was great to put second-to-last, as it holds its own as a stand-alone song, yet still ushers toward a conclusion of the album as a collective piece.

Last but not least, “pov” was gentle, mellow, and felt like a fresh breath of air. Grande sings of how grateful she is for love, singing “I’d love to see me from your point of view.” This song felt complete; it seemed to wrap up the motifs throughout the album and set a tone that suggests that, with love, everything is going to be alright. Lyrically sounded and astounding vocally, this track was heartfelt and honest, fading out with tender care.

As a whole, Positions grew on me in the time that I’ve shuffled through, and I am proud of Grande’s confidence in herself to put a collection of moments and memories that have true meaning to her. The transparency, yet careful juxtaposition of her “chill” vibe really melded wonderfully to make an album that is true to her.
Gary Shank, the Duquesne education professor who was fired Oct. 7 for using a racial epithet in an Oct. 9 Zoom lecture during his Educational Psychology class, said Nov. 5 that he “was terminated for making statements during [his] teaching that are well within the accepted standards of academic freedom.”

In a grievance, Shank placed the grievance against Duquesne provost David Dausey, Duquesne President Ken Gormley, Gibbs Kanyango, interim department chair for the school of education and Gretchen Generett, interim dean of the school of education.

The resolution, sought by Shank, is pursuant to section 10.5 of the Faculty Handbook, claiming that tenured grievances who have been dismissed from university faculty may demand a hearing.

“Because I am tenured and my right to academic freedom has been violated, I demand an investigation, including a hearing, with said investigation and hearing being conducted by persons that are impartial, and have no pre-conceived ideas regarding the facts in issue,” Shank wrote.

Shank wrote that if an impartial panel can not be assembled, he requests that a neutral, outside arbitrator conduct the hearing to be paid by the university. After the hearing, he demands a “full reinstatement with no conditions, back-pay and benefits, and payment and reimbursement of all my legal fees and expenses as a result of this wrongful termination.”

Shank also objected to section 10.6 of the handbook, which states that the grievant should bear the burden of proving there was a violation of policy, procedures or established practice.

“Because the university terminated me, Duquesne University should bear the burden to prove that I violated policy, procedures or established practice,” Shank wrote.

He cited a Sept. 27 letter from the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) written to Gormley, asking for Shank’s reinstatement.

Shank also objects to section 10.7 of the faculty handbook, denying him the right to an attorney, and that he demands the right to be represented by counsel.

“Reasons for using the actual term, and not an euphemism like “the n-word,” were two-fold, Shank wrote. The euphemism does not bear the full bluntness of the word, and that his students – aspiring teachers – need to “be able to connect with many different kinds of students and parents so they can start where they find them, to be able to guide them in more empathetic and effective ways.”

Shank also objected to section 10.6 of the handbook, claiming that the grievant who has been dismissed from university faculty must be represented by counsel. He demanded the right to an attorney, and that he demands the right to be represented by counsel.

“Reasons for using the actual term, and not an euphemism like “the n-word,” were two-fold, Shank wrote. The euphemism does not bear the full bluntness of the word, and that his students – aspiring teachers – need to “be able to connect with many different kinds of students and parents so they can start where they find them, to be able to guide them in more empathetic and effective ways.”

He wrote that in the afternoon of Sept. 9, he talked to Kanyango and Generett about the class, his motives and intent, and his desire to debrief the students – in which Generett told Shank “not to worry.”

On Sept. 11, Generett told Shank that a student complained to the administration about the lecture, and received another call from Generett later in the afternoon that a video with “small portions of my lecture were posted out of context by a student on the social media platform Twitter,” and that he was on paid leave pending an investigation. Shank alleged that she told him that she could not talk to him anymore.

However, Shank said that Generett contacted him Sept. 14 to ask if he would be willing to participate in a Zoom interview with Ryan Dawson from Duquesne personnel the following day. Initially, Shank agreed, but withdrew from the meeting after advice from his attorney, Warner Mariani.

The following day, Dausey sent Shank an email and a letter via express mail asking for his resignation by noon Sept. 16, or that the university would begin to strip his tenure and start the dismissal process. Shank claims that he received the “actual letter” at 11:43 a.m. on Sept. 16, giving him 17 minutes to decide.

On Sept. 17, Shank received an email from the law firm of Reed Smith LLP on behalf of Duquesne, extending the deadline until 5 p.m. that day. Shank wrote he heard nothing from Dausey, Kanyango or Generett, and that rather than setting up a hearing “as required by Faculty Handbook Section 10.5,” on Oct. 5, he received an email and subsequent letter from Generett recommending his dismissal based on four charges of “serious misconduct.”

Generett’s charges, which Shank called “overly broad, subjective and vague,” are that he failed to observe the Duquesne resolution, failed to observe specific policies that address discrimination, failed to treat students fairly, honestly and with respect and the failure to maintain standards of professional conduct articulated by administrative policies and in the faculty handbook.

He then received a letter from Dausey on Oct. 7 saying he was dismissed from the university. That letter, Shank said, did not address any of Generett’s recommendations for his termination.

Shank cited a Sept. 14 statement from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee that says the committee is “deeply concerned and disappointed by the recent actions involving a member of the faculty who utilized hurtful and racially insensitive words as part of a class session.” Shank says that the Faculty Senate has prejudiced him and that, therefore, any members of the committee who were involved or consented to the issuance of the statement should rescind themselves from hearing his grievance.

Shank wrote that Dausey must rescind himself for being the person who terminated him, and Gormley and Generett must recuse themselves. He said that Generett’s predisposition was made evident in a Sept. 7 email to Shank, writing that “to be clear, I believe that there is never a time, pedagogical or otherwise, for a professor to use language that creates a hostile learning environment.” He said that Generett’s comments in a Sept. 15 school of education leadership meeting also show that the “matter is a bother to her.”

“The public statements of respondents have not only violated my rights to academic freedom, in breach of the university’s policies and my contract of employment, but have defamed me and, unless they are promptly retracted and I am restored to my position, will injure my professional standing and reputation and cause me substantial financial harm,” Shank wrote.

KELLEN STEPLER
Editor in Chief

Shank, a former education professor, filed a grievance against the university Thursday.

THE LAST WORD

Shank files grievance, demands hearing from university

KELLEN STEPLER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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The Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Prevention and Recovery, The Ohio State University and DU CARES Present:
With a grant from the National chapter of ZETA Tau Alpha Generation Rx mini Grant

A workshop to discuss the Use, Misuse and Abuse Of Prescription Stimulants In the Higher Education setting

Presented by Reggi Armes, Graduate Assistant, The Honors College

Tuesday November 17th at 9:00 pm

Join us at the zoom Link below.
No pre-registration necessary.

https://duq.zoom.us/j/92166274196
Meeting ID: 921 6627 4196

Made possible with a grant by the Ohio State University and Zeta Tau Alpha National Chapter, and Generation Rx