



THE DUQUESNE DUKE

Duke Exclusive: **Images from the Patriot Front rally**

White supremacist, fascist group holds rally Downtown



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 ethnostate 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.

"Many people believe that Pittsburgh is the liberal bastion of Southwest PA, they believe

see RALLY— page 3

POLICE BRIEFS

Here are the crimes reported from Nov. 2 to Nov. 9.

On Nov. 3, an assistant resident director found marijuana and several smoking devices in a room in Towers. Evidence was transported back to Duquesne Police and destroyed.

On Nov. 6, a resident student reported that she was physically assaulted in her dorm room by her former intimate partner. An arrest warrant was issued for Davyonne Stampley of Beaver County.

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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 it's 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.

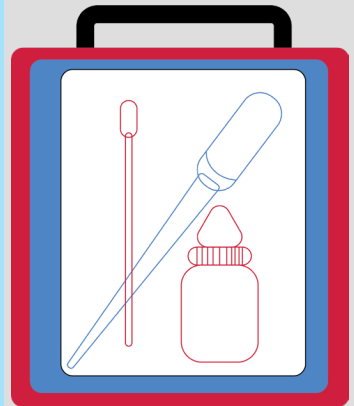
Still, hope is on the horizon this week as Pfizer announced that their new COVID-19 vaccine has proven over 90% effective in clinical trials. This vaccine will not be an overnight remedy to this international crisis, but experts are hopeful that the Pfizer vaccine will receive emergency FDA approval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

FREE COVID TEST KITS



Located in the Towers Multipurpose Room.

11/19
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

11/20
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

11/21
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

11/22
NONE

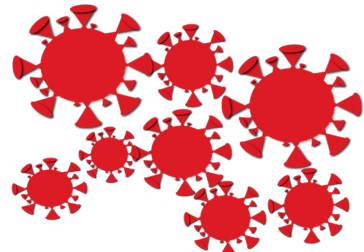
11/23
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

11/24
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

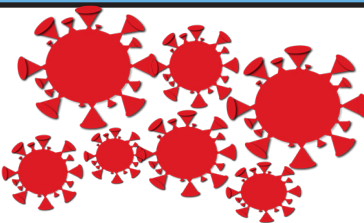
11/25
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The first 3000 students will receive a free t-shirt celebrating the end of the semester

COVID-19 Update: Over 200 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: 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



Scan here for latest Covid Data

Date	Lab Confirmed Cases Today	Suspected Cases Today	Currently Isolated on Campus Today	Currently Isolated at Home Today	Currently Quarantined in Hotel Today	Currently Quarantined at Home Today
11/10/2020	4	0	32	68	66	243

Patriot Front, a white supremacist hate group, holds Downtown rally on the morning of Biden's victory

from RALLY— page 1

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."

"All this stuff exists in Pittsburgh, and it's already been here," Long said. "I'm not surprised. I'm not appreciative of the fact that anytime we [BLM protesters] have a rally that's peaceful we're met with riot cops, and we are not treated very gently, but when police there appear to be more protective of them than any counter-protesters."

Pittsburgh Police were present nearby, but their numbers were minimal, and they were not equipped in riot gear. Just a single day prior, a small group of Trump supporters gathered to protest at the very same spot, when a group of counter-protesters approached, more than 30 police officers equipped in

multiple times about the celebrations in the Southside, but not a single message was issued about the Patriot Front gathering.

The members of Patriot Front marched into town in matching uniforms consisting of combat boots, tan cargo pants and blue baggy jackets. They carried flags of the organization and circular riot shields. Whether the members had any concealed weapons was unclear.

Patriot Front was able to enter the city and was met with no force or opposition. The goal may have only been to quickly spread their propaganda, but if 2017 Charlottesville riots are anything to go by, extremist hate groups have a history of being unpredictable and dangerous.

"And the fact that this is going on at the same time as people who are reminding us that this hate has not left the building," Long said. "That they are going to be louder now and that they are going to be out in the open and they are going to sow this discord is just a not-so-gentle reminder that nothings changed, this is still Trump's America."



GRIFFIN SENDEK/ MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

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 for their quick, tightly choreographed propaganda stunts.



GRIFFIN SENDEK/ MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Patriot Front had a team of multiple photographers and a videographer documenting the group's every move.

"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."

riot gear lined up creating a barrier between the groups.

The police presence Downtown on Saturday afternoon was nowhere near as large.

The City of Pittsburgh released no statements regarding the demonstration; the only information released was a brief recount of what happened and the message, "The investigation is ongoing and as such we have nothing to add at this time."

The office of public information would not say if the city of Pittsburgh had received any advance notice of Patriot Front's arrival.

The Pittsburgh public safety Twitter account delivers messages regarding safety concerns in the city, such as shootings, road hazards and oftentimes communicates the actions and movements of protests.

Over the course of Saturday afternoon the account tweeted



GRIFFIN SENDEK/ MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Thomas Rousseau, the twenty-one-year-old founder and leader of Patriot Front gave a speech about "reclaiming America."

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“If you’re always trying
to be normal, you
will never know how
amazing you can be.”

MAYA ANGELOU

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OPINIONS



Comic By Kelsey Burtner

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,



NOAH WILBUR
opinions editor

professors and even family, the “college life” is no longer what it was cracked up to be.

A recent survey by Active Health – a nonprofit supporting mental health awareness and education – found that 80% of students say the pandemic has had a negative impact on their mental health.

Increased levels of stress and anxiety, disappointment about life, loneliness, financial setback and relocation from campuses are the main factors triggering distressed thoughts and mental instability.

What's more, of the 2,086 individuals surveyed, 76% indicated that they had trouble

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 – an indication that the issue is more consequential than originally thought. On the contrary, there seems to be a vast array of different experiences converging together to drive the unprecedented levels of distress among students in college.

While Nancy Pelosi calls for additional unemployment benefits and President-elect Joe Biden advises Americans to wear their masks, I call on our government and state leaders to also bear in mind the impact of the pandemic on the mental health of college students – the individuals next in line to lead our great nation.

Institutions of higher education must quickly implement new intervention programs and preventive approaches to address the mental health crisis developing on their campuses. If they fail to do so, the result is a rippling effect that promises to impede the success of future generations.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Will Donald Trump put on his big boy pants?

Imagine driving to the nearest polling station on Nov. 3rd and placing your vote for the candidate who you believe to be the most fit to lead our great nation.

Within a few days, after soundly exceeding the required number of electoral votes and receiving the most popular votes of any presidential candidate in American history, the challenger defeats the incumbent to become the 46th president of the U.S.

Nevertheless, you stand by and watch as numerous reports emerge that the sitting president (for now) is refusing to concede and instead pledges to open lawsuits in battleground states in an attempt to fight the election results tooth-and-nail.

Oh, wait... This is awkward.

It admittedly comes as no surprise that President Donald Trump has refused to concede the 2020 election – even going as far to not commit to a peaceful transition of power. Since early elections polls first indicated a second term was becoming increasingly less likely, Trump began declaring a Biden presidency would only occur through a rigged election.

Despite what the polling data clearly validates, Trump and his fellow MAGA supporters are under the unyielding belief that they've indeed won the election, citing collusion within the Democratic party and widespread voter fraud.

From the lack of transparency and ballot-tampering, to extended deadlines and the “illegal” counting of absentee ballots, the Trump administration has now filed lawsuits in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona and Nevada – the key battleground states ultimately leading to his demise.

The most surprising outcome of this attack on our democracy is the growing number of GOP leaders who are expressing public support of these baseless legal claims. Most recently, Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell stated, “President Trump is 100% within his rights to look into allegations of irregularities and weigh his legal options.”

Contrary to the incumbent's allegations, the majority of political analysts and national law experts have all ubiquitously declared these voter fraud claims as unfounded and meritless.

With over 76 million Americans voting for Joe Biden, the evidence overwhelmingly suggests that Americans – more than ever – desired a calmer and more diplomatic next four years. In addition, as foreign leaders continue to come out in support of a Biden presidency, it is evident our allies feel the same way.

The last four years were full of highs and lows for the Land of the Free. That being said, Donald Trump must now put on his big boy pants and concede the election before he loses not only the respect of his party, but also the admiration of his supporters.

After Joe Biden's win, the real battle begins within the Democratic Party

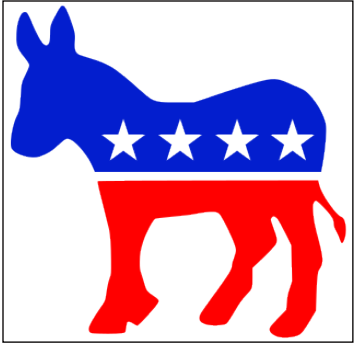
ALEXANDER WOLFE
staff columnist

As the election-obsessed individuals among us take the time to reset 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 tracker, 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, because while, in Joe Biden's own words, he "IS the Democratic party," the Democratic party that is about to matter to the president elect is tearing 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



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Progressive and moderate Democrats head to battle over the party's future.

prominent of which was a New York Times interview with newly re-elected representative Conor Lamb (PA-17).

On Nov. 8, the New York Times profiled the congressman and his position on the state of the House Democratic caucus. Lamb on Saturday was referenced in a New York Times interview with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-10), 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 anybody who is not on the internet in a real way [...] and loses 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, "[his constituents] are extremely frustrated by the message of defunding 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 establish-

ment 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 take decades to fight. Primarily, that both Lamb and Ocasio-Cortez are correct when talking about their own districts, but incorrect about each other's districts.

Moderates like Lamb, Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) often come from competitive districts or districts President Trump won in 2016 that tend to lean Republican.

Lamb, Slotkin and Spanberger all have a military background of some kind and are moderate on policy, courting a larger spectrum of voters necessary 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.

Lamb's support of clear policy is logical, but it's also the kind of bland rhetoric Democrats have come to expect from moderates. If the success of the SettleforBiden instagram account is any indication, establishment Democrats have a short memory, as the strategy of embracing an inspirational



COURTESY OF MATT A.J.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez prepares to spar with Democratic moderates.

candidate is what won them the presidency in 2008 and 2012.

However, inspirational candidates may not find the same footing in a House race that they would running for president, and most candidates are not running for the highest office.

Ocasio-Cortez and progressives like her continue to grow in numbers — Cori Bush, Jamaal Bowman, etc. — but they still compose a minority in the House Democratic caucus. The silence of moderates allows them to punch well 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

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 elect politicians who ignore or flatly 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 to not 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 to see female leadership in the White House. I really think it should've happened sooner, to be honest.

Needless to say, 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-presidents, 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 to was thinking about the girls at Strong Women, Strong Girls (SWSG). SWSG is a mentoring organization that works with girls in third through fifth grade on a curriculum based on female empowerment and healthy habits. I am one of the two chapter directors for the Duquesne chapter, so 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 at home, the prejudice they encounter and what they want out of life. They so dearly admire the women we teach them about each week in the biography portion of mentoring. They 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 will have a virtual dance party. I promise it means so much to them.

No matter who you voted for, I hope that you see the election of Harris as our next vice president as a huge win. You may not agree with her politics, but it's hard to disagree that young girls need to see themselves represented in politics.

There is so much sexism that still lurks within our country, especially when it comes to girls going into fields that are still male-dominated, like politics. I've seen this firsthand.

My parents own a small business doing title abstracting. They spend the first half of their time looking at deed books in the Department of Real Estate at the County Office Building Down-



COURTESY OF GAGE SKIDMORE

Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris sparks hope for young girls in the U.S.

town. They work alongside other title searchers who work for other companies. I work with my parents now, but when I was little, they brought me down there a lot. The people they work alongside have known me since I was about 4 years old. They've watched me grow up to the confident woman I am today.

When I was going off to college almost four years ago, a group of guys asked my dad what I was majoring in. He proudly said political science and that my dream is to run for office. They laughed at him, basically saying "That's cute, but probably not." They would not have done that if I were my dad's son, I can assure you.

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."



DUKE SERIES: MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

GET A PEACH OF THIS

CobblerWorld brings back memories with childhood desserts

GILLIAN FITZGERALD
staff writer

"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 Mellon 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.

Once Hicks had peach down pat, she experimented with other fruits, which led to poundcakes, and then breads, and then cheesecakes — all the desserts she grew up on.

"That's my niche — I do the nostalgic baked goods. I take you back to the good old days where life was simple, carefree," Hicks said. "That's what I do — all the old-fashioned stuff."



own boss, she gets to determine her own fate.

However, being a small Black-owned business comes with other challenges: getting people to invest in her vision and financial aid.

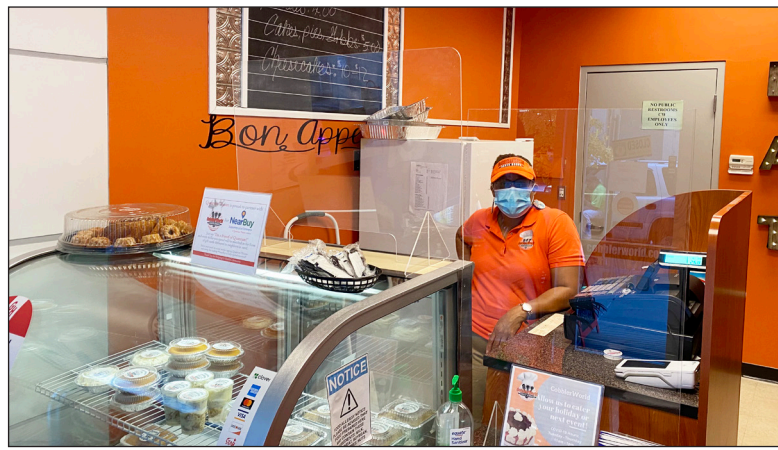
No one is more dedicated than she is, which is why it's difficult getting others to buy into her work when they aren't as passionate about it as she is. Although this is often the case for many small businesses, being Black means she has to work even harder and fight to be the best, she said.

"We always have to go above and beyond because of the color of our skin, and it's always been that way," Hicks said.

This struggle to be seen and heard is just as apparent when it comes to resources for financial help, which are not readily available to her as a Black-owned business, especially during a pandemic, she said.

Two years ago, Hicks secured a loan from the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) for CobblerWorld and also recently received help from the URA's COVID-19 relief fund, both "blessings in disguise" since financial difficulties have been further exacerbated due to the pandemic. But that help doesn't solve everything for a commercial business Downtown — Hicks doesn't get a break on rent or insurances.

She has applied for loans and aid programs, but has not heard back



GILLIAN FITZGERALD / STAFF WRITER

Hicks opened CobblerWorld in 2014 after she had lost her previous job.

Global Strategy Group for Color Of Change and UnidosUS reveals that 51% of Black and Latinx small business owners report applying to the Paycheck Protection Program for less than \$20,000, but only 12% reported receiving the full amount they requested.

"I've applied to so many things, and I haven't gotten one cent. We apply, we apply, we apply and get turned down. It was already hard before the pandemic, and trying to get funding to stay afloat is like pulling teeth — it's not fair," Hicks said. "Resources are not readily available for us as Black [people]."

Although some large companies have been inspired to pledge money or start programs specifically for Black-owned businesses — such as Facebook dedicating \$40 million in grant money — so many business owners like Hicks have not seen these benefits, and don't know where they're going either.

"They talk the talk, but put some dollars behind what you're saying ... Put money behind people who will work hard and who are about their business," she said.

Shawn Harpley agrees with this logic. He is a construction worker at the Westin across the street from CobblerWorld and comes over during break to support the small business — and for the sweet potato cobbler.

"The reason I come is because she makes everything herself," Harpley said.

Though customers like Harpley put thought behind their dollar, big companies that are supposed to provide aid often don't. Hicks has emailed people and programs that tell her they are "still going through her paperwork for loans," but she knows it's not true. Being a Black-owned business means getting looked over while fighting to receive aid, Hicks said.

Hicks has experienced this first hand while finding space to grow her business as well.

As a baker, she needs a specific kitchen to make her desserts and avoid cross-contamination with restaurant equipment. Her store is the place where she sells her baked goods but doesn't have a kitchen, so she rents out space in order to make her products.

Last year, she and other Black bakers had access to a kitchen in Mount Oliver, courtesy of the Bakery Society of Pittsburgh. The space was unique because it was a baker's-only kitchen that was available day and night to accommodate specific hours and schedules.

However, the bakers using the space were kicked out in December 2019 when management decided to sell the space to a white restaurant chef without telling Hicks and the others who relied on the kitchen. She not only didn't have a say in what was happening, but she was also left to struggle to find another kitchen — something her business cannot go without — without notice.

"It seems like they don't want our businesses to survive," Hicks said. "We have to jump through hoops ... We don't get anything, and we don't understand why."

Hicks is now working on constructing a commercial kitchen of her own so she doesn't have to worry about something like this happening again. It's tiring not receiving full support from the community she's put her heart into, along with not seeing the unity from the Black community in Pittsburgh, she said.

In a special done by WTAE — a Pittsburgh television channel — the station released a Chronicle episode titled "Being Black in Pittsburgh" to highlight the challenges the Black community faces in the Steel City, along with the history of the Hill District's destruction during the 1950s to make room for the Civic Arena, dispersing and driving Blacks from their home.

As a result, Black people were forced to spread out and migrate all

over the city — businesses saw a decline, their community was demolished, and segregation sent Black families into public housing. As stated in the special, this downturn 60 years ago still has an impact on the Black community today through inequity in housing, jobs, income and education.

These challenges are even more apparent for Black women, who make 54 cents to every white man's dollar. A study done by the city of Pittsburgh's gender equity commission shows that Pittsburgh is the most un-liveable city for Black women, despite being known as one of the most liveable cities in the United States.

Hicks encourages people to watch the special, and believes her community needs to come back together to find that unity again to build each other up, and to build wealth too.

"We have to be a community and help those who are trying to make it, and then they reach back and help somebody else," she said.

She is hopeful as movements involving young people, such as Black Lives Matter, bring awareness to issues, but still fears that Black people will always have to fight for everything in this country as they are not privy to the same privilege whites have.

As a small Black-owned business owner in Pittsburgh, Hicks is determined to persevere and make CobblerWorld exactly what the name says: world-renowned.

She urges the Duquesne community to go out and support Black-owned businesses in Pittsburgh. She wants students to research and think about them when in need of event catering, Christmas grab baskets or even when going out to eat with friends — to make it their business to seek out Black-owned businesses.

Hicks also encourages Duquesne's Small Business Development Center to help teach and offer resources to small Black-owned businesses who struggle with business credit or need help applying to loans. Black-owned businesses are more likely to be excluded from opportunities and information that allow them to build their capital, according to a McKinsey & Company report, so reaching out and partnering with them will help break down the institutional barriers they face.

As a Duquesne alumna, Hicks wants students to be aware of how they can help, which includes visiting her Downtown at CobblerWorld. And as Duquesne students in need of good dessert or looking to spend money where it counts (or both), Mamie Lou's Peach Cobbler is reason enough to make the trip.

GILLIAN FITZGERALD / STAFF WRITER

CobblerWorld's products are all inspired by Hicks' favorite childhood desserts.

What started as a business idea inspired by her mom turned into selling her desserts at farmers markets and bakeries, but ultimately, she opened a retail store of her own in 2015.

Located at 1059 Penn Ave. next to the Convention Center, Hicks loves owning her own business. She didn't always want to work for others because she found that most people tried to stifle her, especially as a Black woman. But by being her

from any of them. Hicks believes this has nothing to do with bad luck or misfortune, and instead has everything to do with being Black, and she's not alone.

The 2018 Small Business Credit Survey shows that minority-owned businesses have had more difficulty in receiving aid and have been less likely to be approved for loans, but even more so for Black-owned businesses. This research holds true today as well, as a survey done by

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


ADAM LINDNER
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 Bazalak, 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



DUKE ARCHIVES
DU G Libby Bazalak attempts a shot against URI.

(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.”

Bazalak, 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. Bazalak’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 Bazalak 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 Bazalak and Solé, the Dukes welcome back a steady group of veteran players, including sophomore Amaya




DUKE ARCHIVES

Duquesne guard Libby Bazalak defends a Fordham ballhandler during a contest in early 2020.

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 Bazalak and Solé. She also led the team in blocks, and figures to bolster



DUKE ARCHIVES
Head Coach Dan Burt looks on during a 2018 contest at the A.J. Palumbo Center.

Duquesne’s stable of guards behind Bazalak. 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 (<i>postponed</i>)
2.	Notre Dame (2)	6-0	7-0	W7	at Boston College
3.	Ohio State (1)	3-0	3-0	W3	at Maryland (<i>canceled</i>)
4.	Clemson	6-1	7-1	L1	<i>Bye</i>
5.	Texas A&M	5-1	5-1	W4	at Tennessee (<i>postponed</i>)
6.	Florida	4-1	4-1	W2	vs. Arkansas
7.	Cincinnati	4-0	6-0	W6	vs. East Carolina
8.	BYU	n/a	8-0	W8	<i>Bye</i>
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 (<i>postponed</i>)
13.	Wisconsin	1-0	1-0	W1	at Michigan
14.	Oklahoma State	4-1	5-1	W1	<i>Bye</i>
15.	Coastal Carolina	5-0	7-0	W7	at Troy
16.	Marshall	3-0	6-0	W6	vs. Middle Tennessee
17.	Iowa State	5-1	5-2	W2	<i>Bye</i>
18.	Oklahoma	4-2	5-2	W4	<i>Bye</i>
19.	SMU	4-1	7-1	W2	at Tulsa
20.	USC	1-0	1-0	W1	at Arizona

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	This Week
21.	Texas	4-2	5-2	W3	<i>Bye</i>
22.	Liberty	n/a	7-0	W7	vs. Western Carolina
23.	Northwestern	3-0	3-0	W3	at Purdue
24.	Auburn	4-2	4-2	W2	at Miss. State (<i>postponed</i>)
25.	Louisiana	4-1	6-1	W3	vs. South Alabama

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 prognostication 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 slotted to finish fifth in the league, directly behind Richmond, Saint Louis, Dayton and St. Bonaventure. Additionally, redshirt senior Marcus Weathers and junior guard 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



DUKE ARCHIVES

Duquesne forward Marcus Weathers prepares to shoot a free throw against Dayton on Jan. 29.

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: I 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 be good players 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 Indianapolis 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'll play Cincinnati. And 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 say on November the 11th. Again, that's the new normal.

Question for Dambrot: *Any update on the Cooper Fieldhouse? What do you know about getting in there?*

Answer: I really don't know. ... I've been told a couple different things — I've been told the beginning of January, the middle of

January, February. 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 — not 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.



DUKE ARCHIVES

Duquesne guard Tavian Dunn-Martin makes a post entry pass to forward Marcus Weathers during a Jan. 29 contest at PPG Paints Arena. The Dukes fell to No. 7 Dayton, 73-69.

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 since last 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 and [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 they're so 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 for the team to stay connected. Nevertheless, it has been a struggle to create and maintain relationships within the team due to the virtuality 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 or-

der 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."



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

The Duquesne football team is currently looking toward a shortened season in Spring 2021.

Social justice book club flips the page to John Lewis

EMILY AMBERY
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.

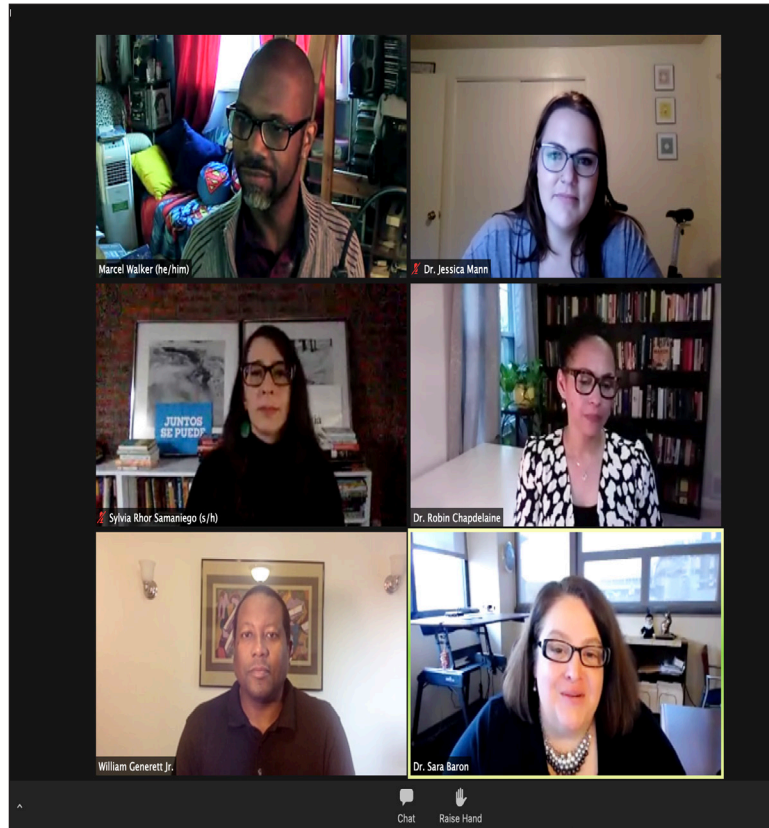
Duquesne's Social Justice Reading Club (SJRC) was developed by Gumberg Library faculty in fall 2018 to unite and engage faculty, students and staff in meaningful dialogue around a good book.

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 Satrapi, *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond and *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan.

The Nov. 5 event was a virtual discussion panel that focused on the life of late Georgia congressman John Lewis. It was co-hosted by Gumberg Library and the Center for Community-Engaged Teaching & Research (CETR).

The panelists for the discussion included Pittsburgh-based artist Marcel Walker; Duquesne history professor Robin Chapdelaine; director of Pitt's art gallery Sylvia Rhor Samaniego and William Generett Jr., Vice-President of Community Engagement at Duquesne University. The discussion was moderated by assistant vice president of



COURTESY OF EMILY AMBERY

Held over Zoom, various speakers honored the life of John Lewis.

community engagement Jessica Mann.

The event began with presentations from each of the panelists.

First, Rhor Samaniego spoke about her experience meeting Lewis and how the 1957 comic book, *Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story* changed Lewis' life and inspired change for civil rights around the world. With translations of *Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story* all over the world, Rhor Samaniego commented that comic books and graphic novels have been and will continue to be a pivotal way to talk about non-violent protests, the civil rights movement and social justice movements.

"It was very compelling to me that a comic book, such as *Martin Luther King and the*

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 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 awareness about the movement, sharing his perspective and 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 history major Alex Kurnava. "The ability to connect and remain relevant and inspiring when you're gone is a special ability that not everyone has in the world."

Chapdelaine 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 panel changed my perspective on comic books and graphic novels, I found the educational value behind visuals and illustrations and would like to see more comics and graphic novels implemented in the classroom," said freshman education major, Luke Kaupinis.

The presentation portion of the event concluded with a presentation from Walker, a Pittsburgh-based artist and board President of the ToonSeum. He shared his experience as a graphic novel writer and artist, and met with Lewis. Walker said that comics can serve as a primer of what we can do and how we should position ourselves morally and ethically.

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."

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.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Freaky
Friday, Nov. 13

After swapping bodies with a deranged serial killer, a young girl in high school discovers she has less than 24 hours before the change becomes permanent.
Rated R

Dreamland
Friday, Nov. 13

A teenager's adventures as a bounty hunter takes an unexpected twist.
Rated R

CAPRI'S COMPLAINTS

A pandemic's prize

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.

HOROSCOPES



Aquarius

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



Pisces

The laundry room holds your secrets, not your degerent.



Aries

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



Taurus

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



Gemini

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



Cancer

Quick! A source of happiness! Somewhere!



Leo

You look better with a mask on :)



Virgo

Is it Thanksgiving break or Black Friday Eve?



Libra

It was 99 cents!



Scorpio

Ah... what a sweet surprise...



Sagittarius

Don't lie. We know it was you who wasn't on mute!



Capricorn

I know what you do during zoom lectures...

Ariana Grande "positions" herself for another album hit

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

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

The second track, "34+35," also makes great use of contrast between the backing and the lyrics, pairing fairy-like instrumentals and a simple backbeat to an otherwise suggestive mode of lyricism.

At first I thought this song didn't fit the album due to lack of dynamic contrast, but the common thread in this album is a gentle, lulling flow that fades in and out from song to song.

Featuring female rapper Doja Cat, "motive" is more up-tempo, yet also shorter than the past two songs. This song gave me more of a "pop princess" vibe, going back into some of the simpler styles of her older works. Definitely catchy, and works as a good transition song.

In the first six seconds of "just like magic," the synthesizer gave me an 80s vibe. However, Grande comes in with low, hip-hop vocals, which contrasted nicely with the beat. This song isn't as memorable, but I did like the ending sequence.

Hills," in the lyrics. This song was slow, soulful and quite heartfelt, though still melted into the album as a collective whole.

The next song, "six thirty," gave off the same energy as "shut up" and "34+35." It was simplistic and repetitive lyrically, but Grande's impressive riffs and lulling backbeat made the song evermore compelling. I liked how the song was written chromatically, making the song feel like a quaint daydream.

Featuring Ty Dolla \$ign, "safety net" had a pulsing rhythm that both artists glided through effortlessly. I liked how the lyrical line was different from the backing, which allowed listeners to pay attention to the dynamic contrast even more. This one definitely caught my attention when first listening to it.

Next on the list, "my hair," was easily my favorite. It was the first song that came on when I put *Positions* on shuffle, and it had my heart from the very first downbeat.



COURTESY OF REPUBLIC RECORDS

Her fifth album to achieve this, *Positions* sky-rocketed to the top of the charts in the first week of its release.

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.

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 whispery 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, but 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.

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, methodic 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 sound 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.



COURTESY OF LINDSAY NEILSON

Pop-sensation Ariana Grande patiently awaits to tour her new album.

juxtaposes the lyrics, which, as Grande said in an interview with the Zach Sang Show, was meant to lightly bring up the negativity that the world surrounds itself in, wanting people to keep harmful opinions to themselves.

However, "off the table" featuring The Weeknd stood out to me immensely. Grande and The Weeknd's vocals blended so well from one verse to the next, with The Weeknd even making a reference to one of his prior works "The

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

Shank files grievance, demands hearing from university

KELLEN STEPLER

Editor in Chief

Gary Shank, the Duquesne education professor who was fired Oct. 7 for using a racial epithet in a Sept. 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 grievants 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.

“The refusal to allow me to be represented by counsel when my livelihood and tenured teaching position is at stake is a violation of due process and fundamental rights,” he wrote.

Duquesne spokesperson Gabe Welsch

said that the university is aware Shank has filed a grievance within the University Grievance Committee for Faculty.

“This follows the process set forth in the university’s Faculty Handbook. The committee is made up of faculty from every school at the University and has the responsibility to hear and resolve grievances through an orderly and fair process. The university is committed to following this due process and respecting the work of the committee in every aspect as it moves forward. In the interest of allowing the committee to do its work diligently and without distraction, therefore, the university will not discuss the matter further at this time,” Welsch said.

In the grievance, Shank said that the Sept. 9 lecture dealt with “cultural visibility.” He claims that he was warning his students to not have a naïve perspective on things like racial slurs, and gave them a warning that they were going to look at the n-word in particular.

“I told them explicitly that this was for pedagogical reasons,” Shank wrote. “I also told them that I was going to use that particular term, and if they felt the need to use the term in our discussions then they had permission to do so.”

He wrote that it was done not to set up a “serious power imbalance between the class and himself,” and “in no way” did he encourage his students to use the term. Shank wrote that in his lecture, he gave three examples of how the n-word was used in the 1950s.

“In using the word, I wanted my students to understand that the relatively casual manner in which these terms were used would in no way occur today,” he wrote. “I pointed out the banishment of these terms represented tangible progress, but we had a long way to go. I spent the rest of the period and the entire next class debriefing my students, listening to them and allowing them to speak.”

The 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 brunt of the word, and that his students – aspiring teachers – will 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



KELLEN STEPLER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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

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 Mari-ani.

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 mission statement, 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 articu-

lated 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 in or consented to the issuance of the statement should recuse themselves from hearing his grievance.

Shank wrote that Dausey must recuse 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. 10 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.



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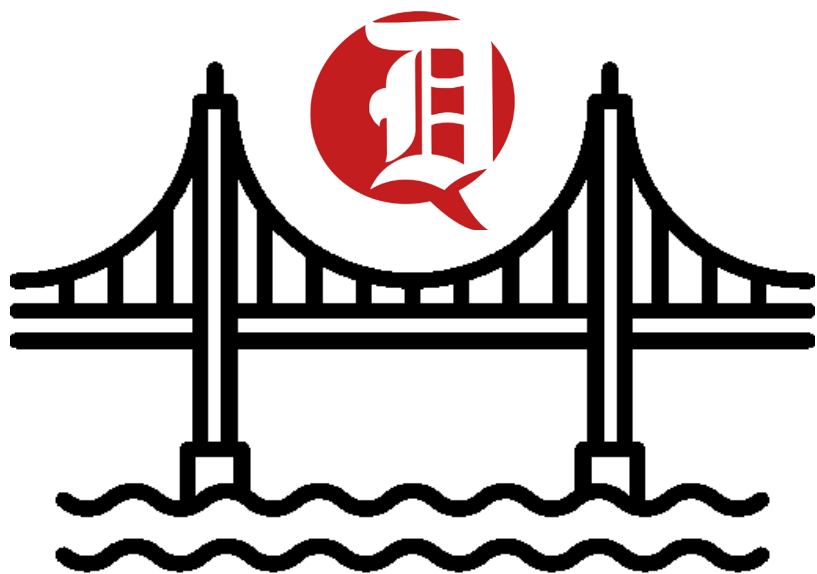
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