

Duquesne Basketball Preview

p. 7 — Maceo Austin looks toward 2020-21 season
p. 8 — Duquesne MBB schedule full of challenges



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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Duq provides free COVID-19 tests to students

Term in review:
Students reflect on semester like no other

ZOE STRATOS
staff writer

Allegheny County issues stay-at-home advisory for residents

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

Allegheny County issued a stay-at-home advisory Wednesday, Nov. 18; the same day that the county recorded 620 new coronavirus cases — an all-time high.

In a weekly coronavirus briefing Wednesday with county leaders, Allegheny County executive Rich Fitzgerald said that the county has seen “alarming numbers” in regards to COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

While not quite the same level of an order, Allegheny County Health Director Dr. Debra Bogen said that people should not have guests in their homes and should cancel their traditional Thanksgiving gatherings involving people in other households.

The county’s previous high was set Sunday, with 527 new cases.

“For the past few weeks, I’ve asked people to follow the rules, curtail gatherings and parties, stay home except for essentials and wear masks,” Bogen said Wednesday. “I’m done asking. Today, I’m telling you that these are things we must all do to bring down the level of spread and keep our community safe.”

People should only leave their homes for work, school and essential activities — like medical care or grocery shopping.

“We have really done a good job at work and in school, and the official activities that we go to during the daylight hours,” Fitzgerald said. “It’s after work and after

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GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

On Nov. 16, Duquesne University began offering free COVID-19 take-home test kits to all students. The kits are provided by Everlywell and give students the opportunity to administer a COVID-19 test to themselves before or after leaving campus.

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

Duquesne University is providing free COVID-19 testing kits to all students before returning home for the holiday break.

The tests arrived earlier than expected, and the university was able to begin distribution Monday. The university is covering the cost of the tests.

Distribution began Monday in the Towers Multipurpose Room. Students will be provided with an Everlywell COVID-19 Test Home Collection Kit. Sign-up is not required, as students may pick up tests at their convenience. The first 3,000 students will get a free T-shirt “celebrating a successful semester at Duquesne,” according to an email sent to all students on Nov. 12 from Duquesne administration.

“Our goal is to ensure that you, and your friends and family, remain safe and healthy throughout the Thanksgiving holiday and for the rest of the year. We therefore encourage all students to pick up your free test and complete it at a time that works best for your schedule,” according to the email.

The announcement notes that if a student will be driving home with someone who picks them up, the test should be taken in advance so that the student has enough time to get the results before they leave.

On the other hand, if a student is driving home themselves and they are able to self-quarantine until they get their test results, the test will be “more meaningful” if the student takes it as soon as they get home.

“Remember that the test shows only whether or not the virus is present at the moment it is administered. If you are taking the test prior to departure, take great care to limit your contact with others,” the email said.

The take-home tests are available from Thursday, Nov. 19 to Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 23 and Tuesday, Nov. 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesday Nov. 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Students can administer the test in their residence by following the instructions in the kit. Duquesne will provide a receptacle where students can drop off their completed samples, and the university will ship the samples

for free. The receptacle is located in the Towers Multipurpose Room, during the same hours when the test is provided.

“In addition to testing, the best way to minimize the risk of transmitting the virus to others is to wind down and limit contact with others for 14 days before you travel, and most especially for the days after you take the test,” the email said.

Those who have been exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms should not access testing through this method — rather, they should call Duquesne Health Services for instruction.

“In the remaining days of the semester, with areas of the nation seeing spikes in positive cases, following safety measures is critical to a safe departure and return to homes and families. The best means of prevention is to continue to meet the commitments of the Protect Duquesne pledge. Answering Daily Screening Questions, maintaining physical distance, wearing your mask and washing your hands will help improve the likelihood of protecting yourself, your family and your friends and loved ones when you return,” the email said.

The fall 2020 condensed semester amid the COVID-19 pandemic is coming to a close as Thanksgiving break and finals week approach for college students across the nation. As Duquesne students gear up for their departure from campus on Nov. 25, they’ve begun to reflect on this unprecedented time.

Starting back in the spring 2020 semester, students were sent home wondering how the next semester would play out. The university sent out a statement on June 24 announcing it would be reopening for fall 2020 — with a few changes to the average school year.

With the help of surveys sent out to faculty, staff, students and parents, the university came to decide they would implement a hybrid/blended model to accommodate students wanting to return to in-person classes and students wanting to take classes online. Moreover, Living Learning Centers were opened; however, they were de-densified and operated with new protocols that complied with CDC recommendations.

Along with this, on-campus clubs and organizations have been largely unable to meet in person besides those given permission from the university to meet in a de-densified form. Similarly, many professors chose to run classes completely online.

One of the most affected areas of study was Duquesne’s nursing program. In the nursing program, students must register a certain amount of clinical hours, allowing them to adequately prepare themselves for a nursing job in the future.

“Ever since the initial outbreak, and now the resurgence of

see TERM — page 2

POLICE BRIEFS

Here are the crimes reported from Nov. 9 to Nov. 16.

On Nov. 10, Duquesne University dispatch was notified by a resident assistant in Brottier Hall that there was a possible missing student. Duquesne police were dispatched to the area, and that student was found at an off campus location.

FLU

SHOTS

Last day is this Friday, Nov. 20

Union 2nd Floor

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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Students reflect on semester's unique events due to pandemic

from TERM — page 1

COVID, the nursing school has been struggling to adequately substitute our clinical experience during online periods," said junior nursing student Aidan Shields. "Even in the HyFlex model, our hospital rotations were halved. During our hardest semester, which focuses on the subspecialties of nursing, we were only allotted 16 in-person hours to our OB, pediatrics and psychiatric rotations."

But with these cuts in their regular clinical hours, nursing students were presented with a new opportunity once Duquesne decided to implement randomized surveillance testing of approximately 800 employees, faculty and students. Starting Sept. 7, randomly selected individuals were able to pick a time slot for testing later that week. The testing was conducted by University Health Service and assisted by both volunteers from the School of Nursing and the Center for Pharmacy Care.

"I volunteered to be a COVID swabber as a part of my population health clinical," Shields said. "It felt good to help give back to

the university in these complicated times. Although it's not perfect and ideal, the university has kept the cases under control for most of the semester."

After this first round of randomized testing, 719 out of 719 tests were confirmed negative on Sept. 18 — along with four inconclusive results that were later resolved.

But the COVID-19-free campus did not last, as 13 confirmed cases in early October prompted the university to administer mandatory testing of all students living on campus. This testing, assisted by the nursing students, spanned a few weeks, ultimately resulting in more confirmed cases.

"I think Duquesne did the best they could to keep everything organized and cautiously thought out," said junior nursing student Cassidy Scassa. "Nobody truly knew what the future would look like, and I believe Duquesne handled the situation well. Students need to educate themselves about the severity of COVID. They can promise each other not to party and go to large gatherings."

After this testing concluded,

an update on Oct. 2 revealed only 34 tests returned positive out of 2,719 total students tested. This has later increased on Duquesne's daily report to up to 272 confirmed cases, as well as many more sent into quarantine due to contact tracing.

The latest update comes as the semester winds down and students prepare to depart from the university. On Nov. 4, 11 and 12, the university released information regarding move out, last-minute testing and final examinations.

Students are advised to limit contact for 14 days before picking up a highly recommended take-home COVID-19 test provided by Everlywell. Students living on campus also must register for a move out date to prevent overflow of people on campus.

As for the spring semester, the university plans to reopen on Jan. 21; however, more details are to come.

"Personally, I think after the holidays end, COVID cases will spread," Scassa said. "I have a feeling the spring semester will be entirely online for the safety of students and their families."

COVID-19 Update: Over 200 students quarantined at home

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
11/17/2020	4	1	11	71	31	216

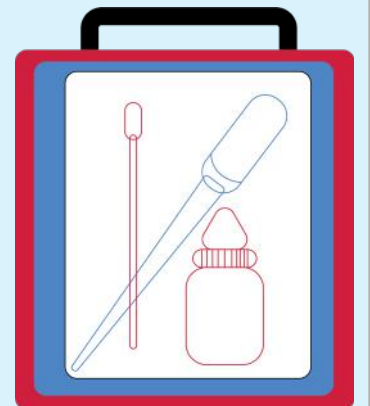
Duquesne COVID-19 Data

- Total number of confirmed cumulative cases: **272**
- Total number of suspected cumulative cases: **48**
- Total number of students isolated on campus over time: **136**
- Total number of students quarantined on campus over time: **251**
- Total number of employees currently under isolation for COVID-19 (reported to DU HR): **7**
- Total cumulative number of employees under isolation for COVID-19 (reported to DU HR): **11**

Scan for the latest Duquesne COVID-19 updates

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

FREE COVID TEST KITS



Located in the Towers Multipurpose Room.

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

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

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

11/22
NONE

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

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

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

The first 3,000 students will receive a free t-shirt celebrating the end of the semester.

County stay-at-home advisory issued

from COUNTY — page 1

school where we let our guard down and where these numbers have really escalated to a dangerous level.”

Bogen said that she hoped to avoid turning the advisory into an order, like the county originally did on March 23.

“We can do this without an order if everybody cooperates and follows those recommendations,” she said.

“County residents are expected to follow the advisory, and if we do, cases will start to drop,” Bogen said. “If we don’t, cases will continue to increase. If the spread of COVID-19 in Allegheny County increases, I will have no choice but to enact official health orders.”

Fitzgerald said that the county did not come out of Halloween very well, with cases linked to parties and other get-togethers. Following Bogen’s lead, he also asked people to stay home during the Thanksgiving weekend.

“We have one of the most active social times of the year — the four days of Thanksgiving weekend,” Fitzgerald said. “We really need people this year to stay home.”

Pennsylvania reported 6,339 positive cases of COVID-19, 2,737 hospitalizations and 110 new deaths from the virus on Wednesday, according to data from the state. 59 out of Pennsylvania’s 67

counties — including Allegheny County — are described as having “substantial transmission.” The positivity rate of tests in the state increased to 9.6% this week, up from 6.8% last week.

Allegheny County reported 355 hospitalizations for COVID-19 Wednesday. The county has seen a seven-day average of 442 cases per day and a seven-day total of 3,905 cases — both new highs.

On Tuesday, Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine announced four “mitigation efforts.” She said that travelers must receive a negative test 72 hours before entering Pennsylvania or quarantine for 14 days if they don’t. Additionally, masks must be worn at all times, even if people are six feet apart.

Levine also recommended that colleges and universities should implement a testing strategy to prevent an outbreak before the holidays and hospitals should move up elective procedures and prepare to suspend them.

The state’s order takes effect Friday, Nov. 20.

Despite the new surge in cases, Levine said that the Department of Health has no plans to return to the “red, yellow, green” model of mitigation like in the spring.

Fall Festival sends off students for Thanksgiving break

CAPRI SCARCELLI

a&e editor

Carrying on tradition, Duquesne replicated its annual “Night of Lights” Christmas celebration with SGA Fall Festival: a sweet send-off for Thanksgiving (and winter) break, carefully following CDC policies throughout the event.

Hosted by the Student Government Association (SGA) and partnered with Residence Life, Parkhurst Dining and Commuter Affairs, the event took place both virtually and in Duquesne’s residence halls as opposed to Academic Walk to ensure social distance protocols.

SGA Student Committee Chair Jamie Becker, a third-year in the physician assistant program and Vice President of Student Life Janelle Gans, a junior speech pathology major, were the main coordinators of this event. According to Becker, the two were “responsible for planning and executing both food and activity components and communicating with other university staff/organizations to make it all possible.”

“Originally, the Fall Festival was going to be a singular event held on A-Walk. We had to modify our plans by moving this singular event to eight different locations ... including the commuter affair lounge, so students would be able to stay socially distant,” Becker said. “We ensured that Parkhurst was able to individually-wrap and pre-package all of the food ... [so] individuals could take it to their rooms and eat it with their ‘pod’ members ... we also made our activities completely virtual.”

According to Campus Link, a free, on-the-go meal was provided through Parkhurst starting at 5 p.m. to ring in the festivities; this included hot chocolate and apple cider, cranberry glazed chicken, red roasted potatoes, steamed vegetables and pumpkin cream cheese rolls. This was on a first-come, first-serve basis, as supplies were limited.

“In order to plan the event, we first had to communicate with Parkhurst catering. David Fortunato from Parkhurst was extremely helpful with assisting us to curate our own special Fall Festival menu; he and his chef came up with some great food and drink options to fit our theme,” Becker said. “We also contacted the Office of Residence Life to figure out how many students were living in each building, so we could order and



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Residence halls offered students free, packaged Thanksgiving meals.

deliver food proportionally.”

Additionally, Gans said SGA had to “get creative” with organizing virtual activities that would be enjoyable for students, eventually deciding on Thanksgiving trivia and a coloring contest that were held on Zoom at 7:30 p.m. Prizes such as Starbucks gift cards were given to the winners of both contests.

“With everything going on in the world today we wanted to hold a fun, yet safe event for students to participate in prior to heading home for break,” Gans said.

Third-place trivia winner Kaitlin Dodd, an education major, said the contest provided 29 questions for participants to answer, with an even mix of random Thanksgiving trivia, riddles and jokes.

“My favorite joke of all time happens to be ‘April showers bring May flowers ... What do Mayflowers bring? Pilgrims!’ Dodd said. “I liked how they put jokes in there because not everyone knows the history of Thanksgiving, so it gave students a better chance.”

SGA President Kallie Crawford, a third-year law student, said that this event was organized with a “stay-in” approach.

“Since Residence Life already had CDC COVID policies and procedures in place at each of the residence halls, it was easy to tailor the event to happen simultaneously at each residence hall to bring the fun to the students. Additionally, thanks to our partnership with Parkhurst, they were able to ensure that all the meals provided during the event also followed [these policies],” Crawford said. “SGA wanted to ensure that all students, not just residence students, could participate

in the event, so we also partnered with Commuter Affairs to offer meals to commuter students during lunch.”

Sophomore music major Noelle Micklow said the Fall Festival meal was “delicious ... a 10/10.”

Historically, SGA has also hosted a “Fall into Finals” event during Reading Day, which offered students a reprieve from the stress of preparing for the end of the semester. According to Crawford, this Fall Festival combines the “Night of Lights” and “Fall into Finals” into one event, offering the same transition into our now virtual finals week, too.

“With all finals being administered remotely this year, SGA has once again pivoted to ensure that we are supporting our students’ mental health by giving them a fun break over the finals season,” Crawford said.

“I think it was nice that the SGA held an event to close out the semester,” Dodd said. “They did a great job considering the circumstances [of the pandemic], and I appreciate the effort they’ve gone through this semester to create programs like this for us.”

“Anything that we can do for our students that provides them with a moment of fun and a break from school is always a good event,” Crawford said. “Especially during [this time], where many students are feeling tired and run down from the marathon of this semester.”

Over break, students can participate in virtual yoga sessions, according to Crawford. Approaching the spring 2020 semester, she said that SGA is working on more fun events for students to look forward to.

“I wanted to share my gratitude to all of the people who made Fall Festival possible ... especially considering this was the first event of its kind ... Although this wasn’t as elaborate a send-off as our usual ‘Night of Lights’ event, I think that this was as big of an event that could be held given the circumstances, and it provided a bit of joy for students as they start to head home for Thanksgiving,” Becker said. “I know that this is an extremely stressful time, so I hope that we were able to create a more positive atmosphere for everyone.”

To stay in the loop, check out @duqsga on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook for more upcoming campus events.

Second Prayer for Unity: 'Be kind'

KELLEN STEPLER

editor-in-chief

Duquesne students and staff gathered on Rooney Field for the second “Prayer for Unity” event on Monday night.

University chaplain Rev. Bill Christy opened the session, offering to “have this time of prayer before we go on Thanksgiving break.”

After a prayer, Christy read a passage of the Bible from St. Paul’s letter to the Colossians, where Paul talks about putting on humility, kindness and perfection. He was also reminding people about their baptism, and putting on their baptismal robes.

“When we were called for this day of prayer, I thought: uniforms,” Christy said. “We put on our uniforms, we put on our equipment, we prepare ourselves. And what a perfect image for athletes in prayer. You prepare what you put on. And then you perform.”

As the community prepares for the celebration of Thanksgiving, Christy asked the attendees to put on a spirit of gratitude and a spirit of thanksgiving, just as athletes do when they put on equipment and uniforms.

Anthony Kane, director of Duquesne’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion, had a simple message

of encouragement for everyone: to be kind.

“Be kind to one another,” Kane said. “Be kind to those whom you may be departing from for a few weeks. Be kind to the people in your life who you may feel have not necessarily supported you as much as you need it, but most importantly, be kind to yourself.”

He noted the unprecedented nature that 2020 has brought.

“We could not have prepared for the challenges that this year has presented to us,” Kane said. “So I ask you to be kind to yourself as you reflect on what challenges you’ve faced this year. Be kind to yourself as you reflect to what oppositions you have faced this year, but be kind to yourself as you celebrate all that you’ve overcome, and all that you’ll continue to overcome.”

The best thing about 2020, Kane said, is that it has taught everyone to be resilient.

“It has taught us to overcome adversity in moments in which we did not know that we could,” he said. “Share compassion with one another. Celebrate, and be excited in the spaces in which you are present.”

Pete Chase, who will take the role of campus minister of Crossroads

see PRAYER — page 11



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Parkhurst’s David Fortunato and junior finance major Zach Babbitt handed out food.

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“If they don’t give you a
seat at the table, bring
a folding chair.”

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

You just read | Now tweet
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OPINIONS



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Recent vaccine developments bring hope that the end of the coronavirus pandemic is near.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel

In early January, the first reports emerged of a new virus originating from a seafood wholesale market in Wuhan – the capital of China’s Hubei province.

Initially classified as a cluster of pneumonia cases, it was unknown at the time that this virus would cause an upheaval of our everyday routines while having an everlasting impact on life as we know it.

55.6 million cases, 1.34 million deaths and more than \$9 trillion in economic stimulus globally, the evidence clearly indicates that our interconnected society was ill-prepared for a pandemic of this magnitude – even one many consider to be not as deadly as what could’ve been.

From stay-at-home orders and unprecedented unemployment, to widespread school closings and mask mandates, COVID-19 is shifting traditional human attitudes on personal sanitation as we all pay closer attention to individual health.

A year later and it still appears that no end is in sight while coronavirus cases and hospitalizations continue to climb at a record-breaking pace around the globe.

In the U.S. alone, new daily cases are shattering records seemingly every other day with an all-time high of more than 170,000 taking place last Friday, Nov. 13 – do you feel the irony?

This meteoric rise is not only occurring in America. Countries in Europe are also struggling to contain the spread of the virus, thanks to a growing number of citizens ignoring social restrictions and instead

heading to the closest pub to enjoy a chilled ale.

In view of the preceding evidence, you may feel that mandatory mask wearing and constant hand sanitizer use is looking – more than ever – like reality for the foreseeable future.

Although the notion of anything positive sounds rather foreign at this moment, I can assure you there is light at the

certainly far away from being out of the woods.

In the weeks ahead, Pfizer and Moderna both must overcome logistical nightmares as they search for the most efficient method to produce and, most importantly, distribute millions of vaccines in a way that ensures the most vulnerable receive support first.

Pfizer faces the greatest challenge stemming from the fact that their vaccine requires a storage temperature of minus 94 degrees Fahrenheit, raising further concerns on large-scale distribution as the vaccination would need to be stored in supercooled containers during shipment.

Nevertheless, with the assistance of Operation Warp Speed, early estimates from the medical community suggest there is a glimmer of hope a vaccine could be available in limited use even before the end of December.

The majority of medical and supply chain experts believe a vaccine – whether from Pfizer or Moderna – is likely to be widely available in the U.S. around the third quarter of 2021.

I would like to publicly thank and congratulate Pfizer and Moderna for taking initiative in response to the most severe public health crisis in human history and developing the first viable vaccine to SARS-CoV-2.

The hard work and dedication of the scientists, doctors, administrators and everyone involved is an excellent testimony that when we join together for a common purpose, we can absolutely overcome any obstacle.



NOAH WILBUR

opinions editor

end of the tunnel.

Two American pharmaceutical companies made headlines in the past two weeks by announcing the success of their COVID-19 vaccines in Stage 3 of human trials.

Pfizer and Moderna reported their vaccines to be 90% and 95% effective, respectively, for preventing the infection of the coronavirus in individuals who’ve yet to be infected.

These accomplishments represent a globalized effort to achieve inoculation on a planet where the coronavirus has already taken the lives of nearly 1.5 million people worldwide. Although, we are

STAFF EDITORIAL

America requires a second lockdown to contain COVID-19

There are moments from this last summer of quarantine that no one wants to repeat. The world had its fill of sourdough starters, Zoom happy hours, toilet paper shortages and horrible celebrity renditions of John Lennon’s “Imagine.” However, when it comes to a deadly virus that already killed 250,000 Americans and continues to rip its way through the country, doing what’s easy and comfortable isn’t always an option.

The U.S. needs to enter another widespread lockdown.

There are many arguments against lockdown-like restrictions, but it’s the one thing that could effectively slow the virus’ spread, keep hospitals from being overwhelmed and help save thousands of lives.

Another lockdown is by far not an easy decision. It will reignite problems that the first wave of stay-at-home orders caused – widespread loss of employment, immense financial insecurity, introduce more stress to family and relationship dynamics and push the ongoing mental health crisis closer to a breaking point.

It’s less than ideal – but in this unprecedented year, what has been?

When COVID-19 daily cases are shattering record after record, it’s proof that what the country is doing isn’t enough, and the virus is winning.

A large scale lockdown will have negative consequences, but it’s a sacrifice that may be necessary in order to subdue the outbreak in the U.S. just enough to get the spread under control.

The news released about the promising COVID-19 vaccine results are an incredible glimmer of hope that we might one day see an end to this situation that’s fundamentally changed every part of our lives. Though nice to hear, it doesn’t do anything to stop the spread. This virus is still on the path to take the lives of thousands more.

Hopeful first initial test results are a long way from approval and widespread distribution. If we’re lucky, and everything goes perfectly, a vaccine could be available by the spring of 2021, at the earliest. This country still has to make it through both the fall and winter.

All around the country, coronavirus cases are continuing to rise as the cold weather sets in and the holiday season approaches.

The virus spreads most easily indoors and as the cold weather sets in, the number of outdoor gatherings will quickly lessen. Paired with holiday celebrations that have the potential to become super spreader events infecting entire families, this may be a very deadly winter.

Another huge spike in the number of coronavirus cases around the country is very likely to come in the next few months.

There’s one huge advantage a second wave of lockdown restrictions will have over the first, and that’s experience. Back in March, the world was tossed into a dizzying scramble to try and adapt society to new never-before-seen rules, and it was messy.

By now, the reality of the situation has set in and whether people take it seriously or not, everyone – for the most part – has adapted to this new way of life. While strict stay-at-home restrictions won’t be popular among many, the country went through it once – it can do it again.

The future of the Republican party in a world without Donald Trump

SIMON JARONSKI
staff columnist

With the 2020 election in the rearview mirror, a few key lessons have become apparent for both parties.

For Democrats, there was a major letdown: Their previously attractive electoral prospects were quickly perforated, and progressive hopes for at least the next two years were dashed along with them.

Despite Donald Trump's ousting from the White House, the party massively underperformed down-ballot. Visions of a Democratic-led senate and an expansive House majority quickly dissipated as the GOP held onto a number of vulnerable seats, and even strengthened their minority in the House.

On the Republican side, one thing is now clearer than ever: the Trumpian brand of politics is here to stay. Despite a significant loss in the popular vote, 73 million Americans still voted for Donald Trump. Now, the question is, what does this trend say about the state of the GOP and our country as a whole?

Long gone are the days of John McCain, Mitt Romney and Jeb Bush. The terrain of the GOP's reliable electorate has been altered immutably as a result of Trumpism, and will demand candidates in the same vein. Joe Biden's margins of victory in 2020 are not enough to indicate a clear repudiation of Donald Trump.

So, who are the likely frontrunners for the Republican nomination in 2024? There are a few

logical successors to the MAGA empire, but we would be remiss if we did not first attend to the most obvious one: Trump himself.

It is not entirely implausible that Trump will run again in 2024; in fact, he is rumored to be considering it already. Whether or not this second bid will be a major publicity stunt meant to maintain relevance, or a legitimate attempt to reclaim the throne, will have to be revealed in time.

In Trump's mind, the wound of a Biden victory is still smarting, but four years' worth of contemplation at Mar-a-Lago could beget a change in mindset. In that case, perhaps he would be ready to pass the torch to someone in his inner circle.

Within the actual Trump family, the most likely person to throw their hat in the ring would be Donald Trump Jr. In keeping with the dynastic undercurrent that has emerged during the Trump family's political ascent, it would make sense that Don Jr. gets the nod.

He will inherit the playbook his father practically invented: aggravating liberals on Twitter, decrying the "Lamestream Media" and displaying a lack of regard for political etiquette.

However, his appeal to swing voters and independents might be lacking. Regardless, Ivanka and Eric probably do not have what it takes to steer the SS Trump, so be on the lookout for a potential Don Jr. ticket.

The second obvious choice would be Vice President Mike Pence. His popularity with Evangelical Christian voters cannot be denied, but whether his persona

can appeal to that substantial portion of the red-blooded electorate in the same manner as Trump is hard to tell. It's difficult to imagine this demographic voting for anyone else, but turnout level will ultimately be the key factor.

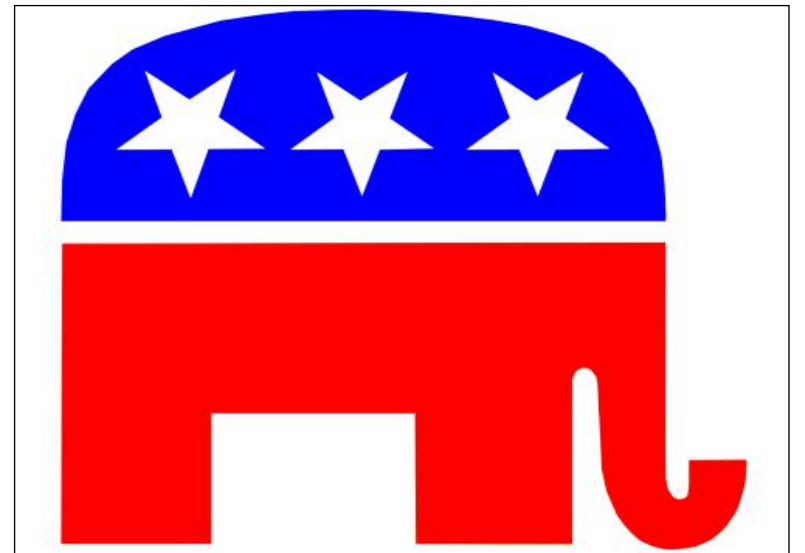
His even keel demeanor might swing back independent-leaning Republicans and suburbanites who have been alienated by Trump, which will be a crucial task for Republicans moving forward. Keep an eye out for a Kamala Harris and Mike Pence rematch in 2024.

If the Trump heir apparent is not directly connected to the bloodline, then several other viable candidates would still be available. What about Ted Cruz, the current junior Senator from Texas, and Trump's one-time debate sparring partner turned ardent supporter?

Cruz adds a level of ivy-league elitism to the traditional Trumpian crudity, and would surely have immense popularity with the conservative base given his devotion to right-wing orthodoxy. A tough stance on abortion, a hawkish foreign policy toward China and a famed 21-hour filibuster involving Dr. Seuss are all highlights on a long list of accolades.

In the same mold as Cruz, we have Senators Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) and Tom Cotton (R-Ar.), both young, ambitious legislators who have stood out as respectable purveyors of Trump populism in an era marked otherwise by a lack of civility and bi-partisanship.

Marco Rubio (R-Fl.) already had a respectable showing in the 2016 primaries and is itch-



COURTESY OF NEEDPIX.COM

The GOP's future is uncertain after Donald Trump lost the 2020 election.

ing to run again. To reiterate, it remains to be seen if the same voters will be attracted to this diluted Trumpism, which is ultimately what this specific group of candidates will attempt to create. In other words, they will seek "Trumpism sans Trump."

For the sake of brevity, it will be impossible to cover every possible contender. Moderate GOP Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland is rumored to be mulling over a possible bid for the White House, as are Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley. The field could be as numerous and diverse as 2016, with some interesting intra-party dynamics likely to play out.

For down-ballot races, expect to see a bevy of MAGA-espousing right-wing fringe candidates seeking to make primary elections a living hell for the last bastion of the old-world GOP. Q-Anon believers have already

slipped through the cracks (e.g. Marjorie Taylor Greene in Georgia), and more will soon follow.

So, what are the big takeaways here? Trumpism is unlikely to disappear anytime soon, and a sclerotic Republican majority (dependent on the Georgia runoffs) in the Senate will most likely attempt to stymie the Biden administration's progressive agenda.

Perhaps the dynamics of Trump's base and media apparatus will have changed by the time the next presidential election rolls around, but the existence of 73 million Trump voters will have not. Both parties need to adjust their strategies going forward: The GOP needs to determine whether or not it values a continuation of Trumpism, a modification of it or a total cleansing, and the Democrats need to decipher what went wrong, and how they can win back disaffected voters.

Amidst COVID-19, the opioid epidemic continues to ravage across the US

MOHAMMAD SAJJAD
staff columnist

The COVID-19 pandemic has occupied much of our mind in 2020. Not only has the pandemic changed the way we operate on a daily basis, but it also served as a focal point in this year's election.

Many of us reminisce about what life was like before COVID-19. Masks were uncommon and social distancing was a foreign concept. For those who deal with opioid use disorder, life before the pandemic was difficult to begin with. And the pandemic did not make it any better.

In this time of crisis, we must not forget about the opioid epidemic. It is a national emergency that has been looming since long before COVID-19 arrived and potentially exacerbated by consequences of the virus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of drug overdose deaths from the first quarter of 2019 compared to the first quarter of 2020 increased by ap-

proximately 3,000. In addition, the American Medical Association (AMA) has reported that at least 30 states have seen an increase in opioid fatalities since the start of the pandemic.

Many individuals have lost their jobs due to the virus. As a result, those battling addiction may turn towards opioid use to manage their stress. Not only does this affect them, but it also affects their families.

Prior to COVID-19, many individuals battling opioid addiction relied on social support as part of their treatment and recovery. Family and friends play a crucial role in the lives of those struggling with opioid use disorder. But with widespread social distancing and quarantining in effect, the social support that many of these individuals rely on has quickly diminished.

Furthermore, isolation has made it difficult for those who overdose to receive life-saving treatment. If someone is isolated from others, how are they expected to be saved if no one is nearby?

In addition, in-person clini-

cal treatment has been hindered since the start of the pandemic. Not only are clinics overwhelmed with a rising number of COVID-19 cases, but people who are battling addiction may be apprehensive to visit a clinic out of fear of catching the virus. After all, they may be more susceptible to the virus given that opioid use is linked to respiratory disorders.

All is not lost, however. Public and private organizations have been working hard to ensure that people battling opioid use disorder are receiving the care they need.

For example, state and federal agencies have eased regulations that limit the distribution of controlled substances that treat addiction. Patients can receive more medications at a time to reduce their trips to the pharmacy.

In addition, the use of telehealth has been increasing across the United States and may be increasing access to care. People battling opioid addiction are able to receive therapy and the behavioral treatment they deserve without having to worry about how they will get to their appointment.



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Opioid-related deaths continue to trend upward in the age of COVID-19.

Insurance companies have also played their part. According to James Carroll, Director of the US Office of National Drug Control Policy, insurance organizations have been reimbursing addiction treatment services throughout the pandemic, cutting costs for the patient and the health care system as a whole.

The work does not end here. All of us can play a part in helping those with an addiction during the pandemic. Advocate for

increased access to health care for those with addiction. Volunteer for an organization working to support those affected.

At the very least, if you know someone who is struggling, try to be there for them. Visit them or give them a call every once in a while to see how they're doing. While these actions may seem small, we can't forget about those suffering from opioid use disorder during the pandemic.

Despite changes, prospective students 'more energetic' than before

GILLIAN FITZGERALD
staff writer

Each college student has the not-so-long ago memories of senior year of high school when they were ready to start their new lives in a world of freedom and opportunities (and, of course, parties).

And then there was the other side of things where those students actually had to work to get there. As a high school senior, the most pressing thing on one's mind is usually college — and apparently, a pandemic.

Choosing a college is an important decision in a teenager's life. It can impact their career, long-time friends, where they live and, more importantly, where they go after college.

Put all that pressure on top of a pandemic — no wonder they're stressed out.

Many colleges in the area, unlike Duquesne, don't have in-person tours anymore due to COVID-19. This presents unique challenges to potential students, who must make decisions about which school they see being their home for four years or more.

Sara Mitchell, a prospective Duquesne student and high school senior from Washington, PA, has been subject to this and is trying to go about the college application process as best she

can during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Most schools aren't doing in-person tours, so it's hard to tell what a college is actually like when it's all virtual, because they just show all the good parts," Mitchell said.

Attending high school that is still doing in-person classes five days a week, she hopes to be physically at school for college, as well, rather than all online — a setting many universities have opted toward this year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges to those applying to schools, as CDC guidelines discourage gatherings, including for SAT and ACT testing. Although test scores for schools have been more lenient because of this, Mitchell explained that schools now rely on a student's GPA to gauge what kind of student they are, which creates more competition.

While Mitchell still plans on attending college, she has been specifically looking at places closer to home, as many rising college freshmen have been.

According to a poll done by Third Way and New America, the pandemic has tremendously impacted the way high school seniors think about college and decisions on enrolling. Of the 221 high schoolers polled, 41% of students said they are applying

to schools closer to home due to the pandemic. Furthermore, 32% say COVID-19 has made them less likely to go to college, and 70% of them say higher education is not worth the costs to students anymore.

Junior Duquesne tour guide Aly Huth has been showing students around for almost two years, and she's been able to see first hand the challenges potential students face as they look to commit to college during a pandemic, along with how things have changed in her job.

"It's definitely different ... it's usually very visual but those visual cues are no longer there because we can't bring them inside buildings," Huth said.

Normally, students are able to see classrooms, the Power Center, dining halls and the Student Union. But during the pandemic, tours are done almost completely outdoors — the only place they are allowed to see inside is the model dorm room.

This poses a challenge for Huth's job in getting students to see what it's like to live at Duquesne without being able to fully experience that while touring.

"I have to get people to understand what it's like to be on campus during COVID and before COVID because, obviously, that's what we're working towards, is getting campus back to the way it



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The university's Office of Admissions is located in Old Main, where campus tours start.

was beforehand," Huth said. "So, you kind of have to give them a taste of what campus is like in both settings."

Despite this change, Huth says prospective students are more energetic and enthusiastic than ever before. Because such few schools allow visits, being able to have an in-person tour is a different perspective for prospective students.

For high school students, a memorable part of the college application process is getting a glimpse into university life through tours and meeting with current students. But when a global pandemic threatens col-

leges everywhere, that also means it threatens high school seniors who are hoping to be the next-up freshmen.

As Huth tells those incoming students, what's important is that they remember that they make that decision based on where they feel they fit best, especially with the effects of a global pandemic.

"They're the ones who are going to be spending the four years there," Huth says. "So I always tell them, as much as I would like them to choose Duquesne because this is where I found my home, it's more important for them to find their home."

Panel discusses importance of mental health for athletes

EMILY AMBERY
staff writer

In collegiate sports, open communication about mental health is not widely practiced. In an effort to change this, Duquesne hosted a panel on breaking down the stigma of mental health and wellness.

On Monday, Nov. 16, Duquesne Athletics and Counseling Services held a panel on Hilinski's Hope Foundation (H3H), an organization that promotes awareness and education of mental health and wellness for student athletes. The foundation's mission is to educate, advocate and eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness, while funding programs that provide student-athletes with the tools and resources that support their mental health and wellness.

Kym and Mark Hilinski, founders of Hilinski's Hope, gave a presentation on their story and the foundation's mission. The panel was moderated by Associate Athletic Director John Henderson, Associate Head Athletic Trainer Jessica Johns and Ian Edwards, assistant vice president for Student Wellbeing.

To begin the panel, Edwards shared the resources available for Duquesne students regarding mental health and wellbeing. In addition to individual services, Counseling



COURTESY OF HILINSKI'S HOPE FOUNDATION

Hilinski's Hope Foundation promotes awareness of mental health for student athletes.

Services provides group sessions for students who may be struggling emotionally due to the COVID-19 pandemic or the events surrounding the death of George Floyd. Counseling Services also holds stress management, grief and anxiety workshops. Duquesne's Student Wellbeing Club promotes a culture of support to encourage conversations about mental health and wellness.

"The [Hilinski's Hope] presentation will transform the way you think about mental health," Ed-

wards said. "Don't be afraid to start a conversation about mental health; consider this a place where you were meant to be."

Edwards emphasized that the Hilinski's Hope presentation will be an experience through which everyone learns and grows. He issued a challenge for the audience, encouraging them to "allow this experience to transform you, and text or call someone you know and tell them about this presentation."

The conversation turned to Mark

Hilinski, who told the story of his son, Tyler. Tyler committed suicide on Jan. 16, 2018. The second of Mark and Kym's three sons, Tyler was a talented and dedicated student athlete and a kind, genuine young man. He described how Tyler gave no indication he was contemplating suicide and usually kept his feelings to himself.

Mark explained that football is only one place to start destigmatizing conversations about mental health. While the presentation's main focus was football, it did not exclude other sports and activities. But football is what the Hilinski family knows and loves.

"If you're struggling and don't know how to reach out for help, use Tyler's story to break the ice about what you are going through," Kym said.

Kym continued the discussion with a presentation on H3H and its mission.

Kym explained the importance of treating mental health in sports the same way as a cold, a sprained ankle or a torn ACL.

The Hilinski's Hope Foundation is fighting to eradicate the "just play, don't talk" culture apparent in many collegiate sports teams. While this culture may give way to success on the field, it often fails to foster an environment for athletes where

they feel comfortable opening up and reaching out for help with mental health wellness off the field.

H3H works with mental health education curriculums such as Behind Happy Faces and Step Up to bring mental health into the conversation in collegiate sports. H3H is using education tools like these to raise awareness to stop the stigma and normalize taking care of mental health.

"The stigma played a part in me not knowing," Kym said. "The stigma played a part in [Tyler] not being able to reach out and ask for help."

Tyler's collegiate number at Washington State University was 3. Kym Hilinski also offered a challenge to the attendees of the panel: "Reach out to three people. Tell them how much they matter and how much you care."

Students can contact the university's Counseling Services by calling 412-396-6204 or visiting their website at www.duq.edu/counseling. Those experiencing a mental health crisis, who know someone who may be experiencing a mental health crisis or who want more information on mental health can call the National Alliance on Mental Illness at 1-800-950-NAMI or text "NAMI" to 741741. More information on Hilinski's Hope Foundation can be found on their website at www.hilinskishope.org.

2020-21 Duquesne Basketball Preview

Maceo Austin an integral piece in Duquesne’s future

JACOB HEBDA
staff writer

Prior to Keith Dambrot’s arrival, Duquesne was deemed a dead program. However, the former Akron coach quickly provided reason for optimism. In his first two years, the results were surprisingly strong. He inherited a team coming off a 10-22 season. Dambrot lost some of the best players from that roster, but still improved, coaching the Dukes to a 16-16 record. In his second year, Duquesne took another leap, finishing 19-13 and sixth in the Atlantic 10.

Despite that early success, Dambrot made it clear he wanted to take the program to the next level, claiming NCAA Tourna-



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Maceo Austin flies through the air during a 2019 game against Radford in Akron, Ohio. Austin, the gem of Coach Keith Dambrot’s 2019 recruiting class, finished with seven points, five rebounds and five assists against the Highlanders.

ment qualification as his top priority. Enter Maceo Austin, one of Duquesne’s most prized recruits ever. The 6-foot-5 sophomore won four Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) championships in high school with Kennedy Catholic, then chose Duquesne over other finalists VCU, Penn State and Northwestern. Who better than Austin to help Duquesne take that next step? His winning pedigree has no doubt been a boon for the program. In his first season, Austin proved to be a key contributor, averaging about seven points and four rebounds a game.

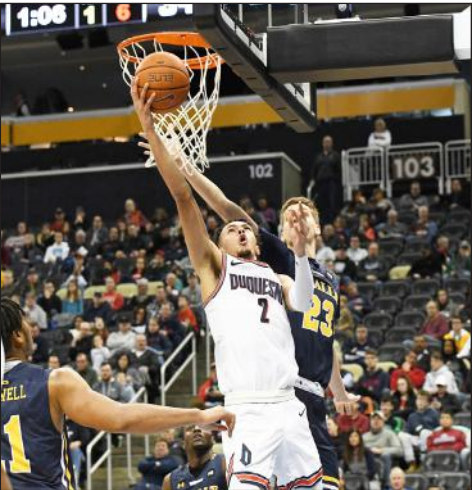
As Duquesne got off to a 10-0 start, the freshman played particularly well. He averaged 9.4 points per game in his first 15 outings. However, it proved to be a challenging year both on and off the court. As the year progressed, Austin’s performance slowed. His points per game dropped to 4.4 over his final 14 before the season abruptly concluded.

Notably, tragedy struck Austin and his family in January as he suffered the loss of his sister. Now in his sophomore season, Austin, much like his team, will be trying to go from good to great. According to him, it boils down to “making more open shots” and “physical strength.” “It’s just a matter of knocking down shots and getting stronger,” Austin said. If anyone believes in Austin’s ability, it’s Dambrot. Count the Duquesne coach among his biggest supporters. In January, he told reporters, “When we go bad, he’s the one to rally them. He’s never in a bad mood. He’s like an old soul. He’s one of my favorite guys that I’ve had.” That’s high praise considering the plethora of players Dambrot has coached in his three decades of college experience. According to Austin, the feeling is mutual. “He just tells you what you need to hear, not what you want to hear. ... That’s one of the most important things.” The Dukes hope the relationship will help push the program to heights not seen since the 1970s. The goal remains breaking a 43-year tourney drought, and this roster



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Duquesne guard Maceo Austin drives past a VMI defender during a 2019 contest at La Roche.

has as good a shot as any in recent memory. However, with COVID-19 surging throughout the country, much remains to be seen. We can only hope teams are able to stay safe and play. Despite the difficult circumstances, Austin says he and his teammates have persevered. “It’s not what we want, but it is what it



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Austin attempts a lay-up against La Salle during a 2020 contest. The Dukes narrowly won, 71-69.

is,” he said. As of now, the Dukes are slated to kick off their season on Nov. 30. They’ll be traveling to Louisville to partake in the Wade Houston Tipoff Classic. Their first opponent will be the Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans. They’ll round out the event with games against UNC Greensboro and Winthrop. Austin says the Dukes are ready to take to the court again. “Since they cancelled the season last year, we’ve been wanting to get back out there and play,” Austin said. The players aren’t the only group excited for the season. Fans are eager too, as Duquesne was recently selected to finish fifth in the Atlantic 10. It’s their highest preseason conference ranking since 2010. Impressive as it may be, Austin thinks the Dukes can achieve even more. He expressed confidence in his team, saying, “We feel like we can win the A-10.” Fans hope Austin’s optimism rings true come March, but there is still plenty of basketball to be played. But one thing’s for sure: If they achieve that feat, Maceo Austin will be a big reason why.

NCAA Men’s Basketball AP Top 25 — Preseason

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	First Game
1.	Gonzaga (28)	15-1	31-2	W4	11/26 vs. 6 Kansas
2.	Baylor (24)	15-3	26-4	L1	11/25 vs. 18 Arizona St.
3.	Villanova (11)	13-5	24-7	W2	11/25 vs. Boston College
4.	Virginia (1)	15-5	23-7	W8	11/25 vs. Maine
5.	Iowa	11-9	20-11	L2	11/25 vs. NC Central
6.	Kansas	17-1	28-3	W16	11/26 vs. 1 Gonzaga
7.	Wisconsin	14-6	21-10	W8	11/25 vs. Eastern Illinois
8.	Illinois	13-7	21-10	W1	11/25 vs. NC A&T
9.	Duke	15-5	25-6	W2	11/25 vs. Gardner-Webb
10.	Kentucky	15-3	25-6	W1	11/25 vs. Morehead State

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	First Game
11.	Creighton	13-5	24-7	W2	11/25 vs. S. Dakota State
12.	Tennessee	9-9	17-14	L1	11/25 vs. Charlotte
13.	Michigan State	14-6	22-9	W5	11/25 vs. East. Michigan
14.	Texas Tech	9-9	18-13	L4	11/25 vs. N’Western St.
15.	West Virginia	9-9	21-10	W2	12/2 vs. Youngstown St.
16.	North Carolina	6-14	14-19	L1	11/25 vs. Charleston
17.	Houston	13-5	23-8	W1	11/25 vs. Lamar
18.	Arizona State	11-7	20-11	W1	11/25 vs. 2 Baylor
19.	Texas	9-9	19-12	L1	11/25 vs. UTRGV
20.	Oregon	13-5	24-7	W4	11/25 vs. E. Washington

Note: Each conference record, overall record and record streak listed reflects each team’s position at the end of last season.

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	First Game
21.	Florida State	16-4	26-5	W2	11/27 vs. Gardner-Webb
22.	UCLA	12-6	19-12	L1	11/25 at San Diego State
23.	Ohio State	11-9	21-10	L1	11/25 vs. Illinois State
24.	Rutgers	11-9	20-11	W2	11/25 vs. Sacred Heart
25.	Michigan	10-10	19-12	L1	11/25 vs. Bowling Green

On This Day in Sports History ...

On **Nov. 20, 2016**, the Duquesne men’s basketball team fell to No. 2 Kentucky at Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky. The Dukes, then led by Head Coach Jim Ferry, fell to the Wildcats, 93-59. Kentucky was led by future NBA stars De’Aaron Fox and Bam Adebayo, while Duquesne’s roster boasted the likes of Emile Blackman and Tarin Smith, plus freshmen Mike Lewis II and Isiah Mike. The contest against the No. 2 Wildcats was the last time Duquesne faced a ranked non-conference opponent.

2020-21 Duquesne Basketball Preview

Dukes' 2020-21 tentative schedule full of challenges

LUKE HENNE
staff writer

In a year plagued by uniqueness and uncertainty, one thing is inevitable for Keith Dambrot and the 2020-21 Duquesne Dukes: the schedule — despite being fluid and subject to adjustment — will be loaded with marquee opponents and many chances to build a solid postseason resume.

In 2019-20, Duquesne's 10-2 non-conference record — punctuated by losses to UAB and Marshall following a 10-0 start — was appealing to the eye. However, only two of the 10 teams the Dukes defeated (Radford, Austin Peay) would go on to win 20-plus games. Two of those 10 opponents (VMI, Columbia) both finished the abrupted cam-



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Duquesne's Amari Kelly defends a Pitt lay-up try in a 2018 contest. Pitt topped the Dukes, 74-53.

paign with less than 10 victories.

Duquesne — who finished last season with a 21-9 record and a sixth-place conference finish prior to the coronavirus pandemic halting all postseason competition — will likely benefit from more challenging competition that this year's schedule lays out for them.

After accepting an invitation to the University of Louisville's Wade Houston Tipoff Classic, the Dukes are set to begin the season by participating in a multi-team event at Louisville's KFC Yum! Center, along with a handful of other strong mid-majors and college basketball bluebloods.

While Duquesne will not get the chance to compete against top-tier competition in host Louisville or the Big East's Seton Hall Pirates, their three-game trip in Louisville is still littered with games against strong talent.

Following some schedule shuffling, Duquesne will tentatively begin its season



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Duquesne guard Tavian Dunn-Martin guards Rhode Island's Fatts Russell during a 2019 game.

with a date with the Little Rock Trojans on Nov. 30. In their first year under the guidance of former NBA first-round pick Darrell Walker, the 2019-20 Trojans won 21 games and were the Sun Belt Conference's regular-season champions.

Little Rock is no stranger to the NCAA Tournament. In 2015-16, the Trojans earned the conference's automatic bid, even pulling off a first-round upset of the fifth-seeded Purdue Boilermakers.

After an off-day to regroup, the Dukes will be back at it on Dec. 2 when they face the UNC Greensboro Spartans, who are seeking to win 20-plus games for the fifth consecutive season. A member of the Southern Conference, the Spartans earned the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament in 2018 and came within five points of defeating the Gonzaga Bulldogs. Last season, the Spartans went 23-9 with a 13-5 mark in SoCon play.

Before departing from Louisville, the Dukes will battle the Winthrop Eagles on Dec. 4. The Eagles are fresh off the heels of a season which saw them go 24-10 and earn the Big South Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, their second bid in the past four years (2017). They return redshirt sophomore forward D.J. Burns Jr — who averaged 12.5 points per game and earned Big South Conference Freshman of the Year honors in 2019-20 — to an already experienced bunch.

After what is sure to be a packed slate in Louisville, the remainder of the Dukes' non-conference schedule remains very fluid and subject to modification, as will likely be the case with the majority of the season as the ongoing coronavirus pandemic continues to evolve.

Jon Rothstein of CBS Sports had previously reported that Duquesne was set to participate in a four-team event in Indianapolis, joining the Cincinnati Bearcats and Loyola-Chicago Ramblers while searching for a fourth participant. However, Rothstein recently reported that Loyola-Chicago — best remembered for their miracle run to the Final Four in 2018 — withdrew from the event due to a COVID-19 outbreak within its locker room, leaving the event's overall status in jeopardy.

Cincinnati — a member of the American Athletic Conference — has been one of the country's most consistent programs over the past decade, having not missed an NCAA Tournament since 2010. This success was highlighted by a 2017-18 campaign which saw the Bearcats go 31-5 — all while playing at Northern Kentucky University's BB&T Arena — as their home, Fifth Third Arena, underwent renovations. In 2019-20, under the direction of first-year head coach John Brannen — the former head man at Northern Kentucky — the Bearcats went 20-10 and were likely on their way to earning a tenth consecutive ticket to the NCAA Tournament.

When Atlantic 10 play rolls around at the end of December, the Dukes will be well-prepared for the ensuing competition, but that won't make the journey any easier.

Conference action begins with two road matchups against the Saint Louis Billikens (Dec. 30) and George Washington Colonials (Jan. 2). The Dukes will return to

Pittsburgh for back-to-back home games against the Davidson Wildcats (Jan. 5) and Fordham Rams (Jan. 9).

Perhaps the toughest stretch Duquesne will face throughout all of conference play comes in the form of three consecutive games against some of the conference's most successful programs.

On Jan. 13, the Dukes will travel to Dayton for a meeting with the Flyers, who finished last season with a remarkable 29-2

round out conference action with four consecutive home games against Massachusetts (Feb. 20), George Washington (Feb. 24), La Salle (Feb. 27) and St. Bonaventure (March 3) prior to tipoff at the Atlantic 10 Tournament in Brooklyn on March 10.

However, the schedule left a road match-up with the Richmond Spiders — the pre-season favorite to win the conference — to be scheduled at a later date. It was a 73-62 loss to the Spiders this past March that



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne center Mike Hughes dives for a loose ball during a Dec. 14 win over Radford. Hughes was the only Atlantic 10 player to lead his team in both blocks and steals last season.

record and a perfect 18-0 mark in conference play. This game is followed by a Jan. 16 clash with rival St. Bonaventure in Olean, New York.

After two battle-testing road games, the Dukes will host the Rhode Island Rams on Jan. 20. It was the Rams who ended Duquesne's 5-0 start in Atlantic 10 play last season with a 22-point dismantling of the Dukes.

A trip to the Bronx for a meeting with Fordham (Jan. 27) and a home tilt with the Saint Joseph's Hawks (Jan. 30) will set the stage for a rematch with Dayton, this time in Pittsburgh, on Feb. 2. The game will be televised nationally on ESPN, marking a testament to the growth the program has made in just under a handful of seasons under Dambrot.

A home meeting with the VCU Rams on Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 7) precedes a two-game road trip that will see the Dukes get a five-day break before road contests with the George Mason Patriots (Feb. 13) and Davidson Wildcats (Feb. 17).

The Dukes are tentatively scheduled to

ended up being the Dukes' final game prior to the cancelation of the season due to the virus' outbreak.

Due to a construction delay, Duquesne will still have to wait to play home games at the renovated UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. Last season, the Dukes split their 13 home games between PPG Paints Arena, Kerr Fitness Center (La Roche University's arena) and UPMC Events Center (Robert Morris University's gym), winning nine of the contests despite the unique circumstances.

As the situation surrounding Duquesne's schedule evolves, don't expect to have any game be set in stone. The circumstances created by the pandemic are certain to wreak havoc on college basketball schedules across the country, and Duquesne's is certainly no exception.

However, games will still be played, and a season will still be fielded. Despite a schedule that is guaranteed to be loaded with formidable and talented opponents, Duquesne will certainly have the experience and mentality required to win when it matters most — March.

For more Duquesne basketball-focused content, please visit The Duke online at www.duqsm.com.

Johnny Depp faces repercussions after losing libel case

RIO SCARCELLI
staff writer

A life in the spotlight does not come without controversy: this is no exception for high-profile celebrity Johnny Depp. After a five-month long libel trial, the actor lost his case against ex-wife Amber Heard — all because of a 2018 newspaper article. Under a ruling of 14 allegations of physical assault against Depp, the courts found the article's usage of the term 'wife beater' to be substantially true.

Libel trials refer to the defamation of an individual through public slandering. In this case, Depp used a 2018 article posted by The Sun titled "GONE POTTY: How can JK Rowling be 'genuinely happy' casting wife beater Johnny Depp in the new Fantastic Beasts film?" The use of the term 'wife beater' was held viable in the courts to be tried in London. This saw Depp and Heard's first meeting since their divorce in May 2016.

The trial required both Depp and Heard to appear in court for 16 days as they examined the evidence of the assault allegations. Judge Justice Nicol released a 585-paragraph ruling on Nov. 2, 2020 in The Sun's favor. This was not the only loss that Depp received as, days later, Warner Bros. released a statement on the matter. "We thank Johnny for his work on the films to date. 'Fantastic Beasts 3' is currently in production, and the role of Gellert Grindelwald will be recast."

As a prominent actor from the past three decades, Depp



COURTESY OF FLICKR

Renowned actor Johnny Depp faces defamation in terms of abuse allegations, posing as a detriment to his career.

film took fans by surprise.

Inspired by the #MeToo movement, a feminist action against unspoken male abuse, many cases regarding physical assault have been brought to the public eye causing large corporations to take action immediately.

Sydney Spears, a freshman forensic science major, said, "The way viewers perceive [physical assault cases] and their want to speak out against them can go as far as people not supporting the company that supports an alleged abuser. Scandals like Depp's would take a while for a company's reputation to go back to normal."

Regardless of Depp's resignation to the role, he still obtained \$10 million per his contract.

ships than men, and since Heard had been the initial person to cite abuse in the relationship, it did not seem all that outlandish," said junior political science major Jess Schmitz. "At that time when stories about Harvey Weinstein and Charlie Rose were starting to make headlines, it made sense that those allegations were made against Depp."

Many fans took to looking into the Depp and Heard case after the verdict, and this resurfaced evidence of phone calls between the two from their divorce in 2016. According to the leaked evidence, Heard admitted to throwing a vodka bottle at him unprompted, which sliced off the tip of his finger, landing him in the hospital to contract MRSA as a result. Upon Depp asking if Heard believes that she is an abuser herself, her response was that she was "a 115-pound woman."

After stating that no one would believe Depp because he was a man, Heard said, "No one is going to believe that I am in a fight club or that I used makeup and hair to create fake bruising." Because Depp never brought these claims to the public himself, many fans felt it was implied that Heard's statements of defense were preconceived notions set to corroborate Depp.

The Nov. 2 ruling was not the end of the case, however, as Depp made plans to appeal the case within U.S. courts in the near future. Reactions to the verdict of the case only asserted this. Whereas the 2016 court case was met with criticism against him, the revival of their phone call garnered enough publicity to do the opposite.

Schmitz said she believes that the phone calls could play a great role in Depp's appeal as they were not used in the libel case to begin with.

"It is going to be hard to turn that tide back in his favor, especially since there isn't nearly as much media coverage on

it," Schmitz said. "Regardless, I think the [#MeToo movement] and its values will eventually and should be working in his favor. Abuse is abuse, and all victims deserve justice."

With many phone calls and interviews coming out that have Heard admitting to physically assaulting Depp, a large turnaround is surfacing not only for the case, but also the movement itself. As most of the allegations of assault are against men, this case is becoming popular enough to broaden the perspective that stands behind abuse.

"This case is changing around the way that people, more often than not, view men as abusers," Spears said. "While people know that women can be indicted for this too, it truly opens eyes as people get to see that come into fruition with this case."

In lieu of the public's reaction, fans have been petitioning to have Heard removed from the cast of "Aquaman 2", which is filming in 2021. Regardless of the support gathered to get her resignation, Warner Bros. stated it would be against her contract to do so.

Schmitz said she feels as though the same treatment should be given to Heard if she had abuse allegations against her.

"I highly encourage people to stay and not support her career, just as was done to Kevin Spacey, Harvey Weinstein and other abusers in the industry," Schmitz said.

With more interviews being conducted on the daily for the upcoming appeal, the final verdict of the case is still unknown.

Until then, fans and the public alike are taking note from Depp and Heard in how allegations can damage someone's career. The demand for thorough assessments of allegations may be enough of a push to give Depp justice.

WEEK'S EVENTS

Cocoa and Cookies with DUASL Club
Nov. 19, @ 9 p.m.

Stop by the Union NiteSpot with Duquesne's ASL club for sweet treats, sign language and Bingo! Email duasl@duq.edu to sign up: 25 slots are available.

Socially Distanced Ballroom Lesson
Nov. 19 @ 8 p.m.

Go to Rockwell Hall for a lesson in rhythmic dance! Email clarkh4@duq.edu for details.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Plastic Hearts
Miley Cyrus
Friday, Nov. 30th

Cyrus' seventh studio album rocks on with both covers from Metallica and original works inspired by the era.

The Croods: A New Age
Wednesday, Nov. 25th

The Croods are back, but this time with competition: The Bettermans come to prove that they are "better" and "more evolved."

CAPRI'S COMPLAINTS

Wear Your Masks

MASKS ARE SO COOL.

You can match them to your outfits, keep your face warm in the winter, hide acne, cover your mouth when you yawn - you could start a whole collection of them!

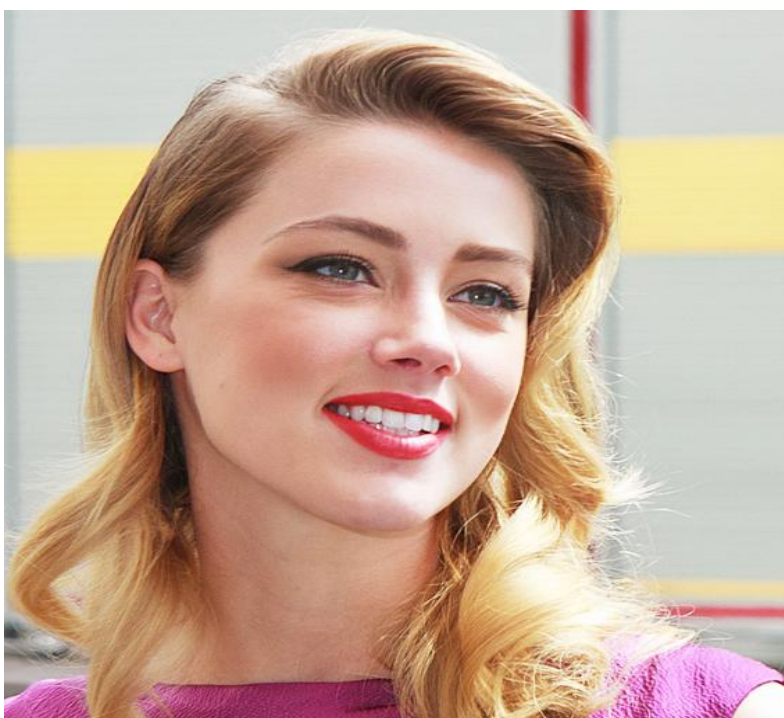
In order for us to return for the Spring Semester, we must cherish these little things to protect ourselves and those around us to ensure a smooth transition back home for the holidays and back to campus upon our alleged return.

Do your part.
It's up to us.

Think: is the risk really worth another lockdown?

Be smart and be safe on this much-needed break.

-Capri Scarcelli



COURTESY OF FLICKR

Amber Heard has become a large controversy in media regarding Depp's verdict.

made himself known for roles in movies spanning from "Edward Scissorhands" to "Pirates of the Caribbean." His name is no stranger to the film industry, so the news that Depp would lose his role in the next Harry Potter

Although there was no monetary loss, his reputation was lost to the libel case. This was something, Depp implied, that would last him far longer than a loss of millions ever would.

"Women on average are more likely to be abused in relation-

A Q&A with Carrie Teresa on Black Celebrity journalism



MARCELA MACK
staff contributor

Duquesne student Marcela Mack recently sat down with Carrie Teresa, the author of "Looking at the Stars: Black Celebrity Journalism in Jim Crow's America." The book, and the conversation below, is an insightful and informative look at the Black press dating back to times of segregation without the efforts of the Black press.

The conversation with Teresa has been edited for brevity and clarity.

Carrie Teresa: I had never learned about Black press journalism, so I had no idea that newspapers like the Pittsburgh Courier existed. I knew a little bit about the abolitionist press pre-Civil War, but I didn't know that these newspapers extended beyond the end of the Civil War to have these kinds of readerships that they had. I was so enamored with the editorial style and the approach to reporting and the investigative work that these newspapers did. That semester, as I was studying the Black press and trying to figure out exactly what I wanted to do with it, my husband, who is a huge sports fan, convinced me that we should watch the six-hour documentary on Jack Johnson.

Unforgivable Blackness is a Ken Burns PBS documentary that I had absolutely no interest in watching, because I am not interested in sports. On a rainy Saturday night, he finally kind of convinced me that we should sit down and watch it, because he knew I was interested and had always been interested in African-American culture, and the cause for civil rights. That was something I had always carried with me, and was probably why I fell so in love with the Black press. We sat down and watched the documentary, and I fully expected to fall asleep. And I did not. I was completely riveted by Johnson's story. I was riveted by the idea that he was as popular as a mass market celebrity, as he was in a time when we really didn't have mass market entertainment mechanisms.

We had newspapers, we had some film — not much — we didn't have TV, we didn't have radio. We didn't have all the mechanisms of celebrity that makes celebrities so ubiquitous now in 2020, but yet Johnson was essentially being a household name and being this sort of larger-than-life character. He was a pioneer in sport. He was the first Black heavyweight cham-

pion of the world.

I just kind of fell in love with the idea of looking at journalistic coverage of Johnson through the eyes of the Black press, because Johnson, as an African-American celebrity who did whatever the heck he wanted, including traveling with groups of white women, and gambling, and carousing and carrying on. I kind of knew what the mainstream press thought of him and that was covered in Ken Burns' documentary. The racist mainstream coverage of Johnson was really no surprise to me at all. And I wasn't particularly interested in that. I was really interested to understand what Black fans and Black journalists thought of Johnson in his time, because he was such a ubiquitous celebrity.

Because he was such a controversial character, I thought that was just a really interesting cultural question. I realized how much I enjoyed going through the archives and reading Black press newspapers. I'm a student of popular culture, everyday culture. I'm a celebrity gossip kind of follower — just in my private life. So the prospect of following other celebrities, essentially in the gossip pages of these newspapers, seemed like this really kind of novel topic to cover for my dissertation.

And so that's what I did. I expanded my approach in looking at the framing of Johnson and Black press newspapers to include an inductive reading of Black person newspapers for a 40 year period, 1900 to 1940. So what other celebrities were famous during that period and to figure out how they were covered if they were celebrated by Black journalists and fans, if they were criticized, um, you know, what were the repetitive



COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Johnson led head-first with the beginning of Black representation in American boxing.

frames that kept coming up over and over again? And how could those frames help us to understand how Black celebrity culture works today? So once my dissertation was done in 2014, I got a book contract with the University of Nebraska press. I spent two years editing the project, and it came out as "Looking

at the Stars," in 2019.

Q: It's really interesting, the contrast of the story that the mainstream media does, and then the story that the Black press displays. Did you find with every certain celebrity that you would look into that there were always those stark differences?

Teresa: I really wanted to avoid doing a comparison between mainstream media and Black press media. Until very recently, the way we've thought about Black celebrities has been this color line trope, the idea that a Black celebrity doesn't have any cultural value until they get the attention of the mainstream press. And I hate that idea. I wanted to throw that idea out all together because the underlying assumption of that is racist. It's a racist ideology. It's the idea that the only thing that has value is what white America assigns it to have value.

I wanted my work to be as far away from that as possible. So I made the conscious decision to not look at any mainstream press coverage at all, and to focus only on the Black press with the proposition that the most important Black celebrities of the time were the Black celebrities of the Black press covered and that they celebrated and provided as exemplary models for the Black communities during that period.

Those are the Black celebrities we should be talking about today in 2020. Those are the people who should have statues and public commemorations of them. Those are the folks that are truly important. Some of those people overlap with the mainstream pioneers of Jack Johnson, Hattie McDaniel, Bert Williams, Jesse Owens and Joe Lewis. Those people are incredibly important, they just happened to get mainstream



COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Johnson's celebrity presence reached beyond his career, making a cultural impact.

included in the main picture.

Teresa: I never liked that idea, and I was never comfortable with that idea.

Especially back in the early 1900s — which is my time period — there was absolutely no diversity in mainstream news outlets. We're operating under the Jim Crow regime of segregation and discrimination. We didn't start to see newsrooms diversify until the civil rights movement. Even today, if you look at the numbers from like the Pew Research Center, newsrooms are not nearly as diverse as they need to be to reflect their readership and America's population — they're still predominantly white and male. So there's no way that those newsrooms, populated the way that they are, can tell the story properly of new subjects who don't look like them and share their experience.

Q: What kind of impact do you feel that the representation of Black celebrities has on the history of celebrity journalism as a whole?

Teresa: Because of Black press coverage of Black celebrities, celebrity journalism as a whole has some social consciousness. What that means is that when celebrity journalists cover their subjects, they have some frame of understanding of why they might have an obligation, or a passion for social justice causes. Because we have this frame of entertainer activists from the Black press, we have some way to understand and to cover with folks like Beyonce, who are not only incredibly talented artists, but who are very active philanthropists and cultural critics and activists. That is the lasting legacy of that coverage from the Black press, is that we actually have a frame to understand what an entertainer

activist is, where they come from and what cultural function they serve for their readers and for their fans.

There's less maybe of a question than there would be of, "why is this person talking? They don't know what they're talking about. They don't belong in this conversation."

There was that Fox News pundit who told LeBron James should just dribble, or some mundane offensive comment. James is obviously a really outspoken activist, and this amazing cultural force, as well as the most dominant basketball player on the court. So the idea that LeBron James, with all of his influence, all of his resources, all of his experience navigating his career and his life wouldn't have a say in American culture and politics is just outlandish.

Q: How can the early days, all the way from the Jim Crow era of celebrity Black journalism, translate to today's social media age of journalism?

Teresa: I can tell you, it still thinks that the mainstream press has a long way to go largely because of that newsroom diversity issue. From what my students have reported, and from what I see them share on Facebook and Instagram, I know that the Internet has opened up spaces for diverse voices to share viewpoints and to share experiences that otherwise wouldn't be available through the mainstream press gatekeepers.

I think that that's a really positive thing. I see students retweet stuff and share stuff from things like the shade room and other sources that seems to be this kind of collection of exclusively online sources that are grassroots in nature, that people gravitate towards for this coverage. I think that's a marvelous thing.

Prayer for Unity

from PRAYER- page 3

Christian Fellowship in the spring, told a story of himself in 2006, outside Vickroy Hall during his sophomore year, where he felt overwhelmed and angry — reflective of the cold, dark weather outside.

"The year had been pretty hard already," Chase said. "I really felt like I had no direction. I didn't know why I was in the major I was in. I had a pretty significant relationship that was obviously approaching an endpoint, and on top of that, I had finals next week."

He said that an older and wiser man outside of Vickroy Hall gave him advice "that he won't ever forget."

"The older and wiser man said to me, 'Peter, you have to cultivate an attitude of gratitude,'" Chase said.

2020 has been that kind of a year, Chase said, and asked the attendees if they were experiencing peace.

"Thankfulness, as it turns out, is the key to peace," Chase said. "Thankfulness is actually ... one of the few things designed to get you through those challenges."

He cited clinical trials out of University of California Berkeley that suggest the prac-

tice of gratitude increases happiness, lessens the chances of depression and alters the way an individual's brain processes data.

"Literally, your body was made to practice thankfulness. Like the muscles of your body are made to be trained to perform in the world through exercise and become stronger and accomplish great feats," he said. "Thankfulness is a muscle made to perform and be exercised, and by using it, the world accomplishes great feats."

Chase encouraged everyone to practice an attitude of gratitude, "as silly as the rhyme is."

The Prayer for Unity service is a series of monthly prayers for unity sponsored by Duquesne's athletic department. Christy hopes that December's service will be broadcast on YouTube.

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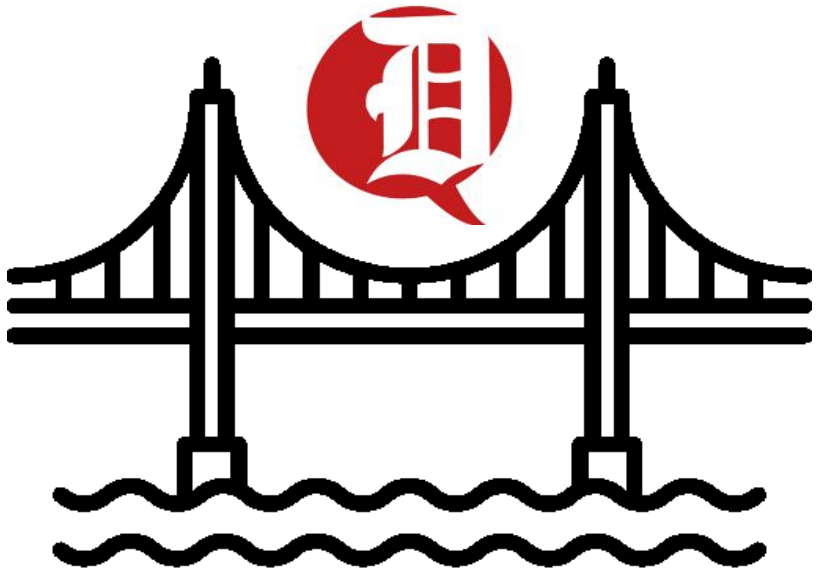
UNDER 21?
ZERO TOLERANCE!

warning: excessive use of this drug may cause headaches, upset stomach, vomiting, loss of coordination, dizziness, nausea, poor decision making, stumbling changes in mood & behavior, excessive crying, anger & aggression, memory loss, increased arguments, negative peer perceptions, increased interactions with law enforcement officials or other authority figures, next morning sickness (hangover), loss of control of bowels and bladder, passing out accidents and even death. It may also cause long term problems.

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Tuesday

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Wednesday

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