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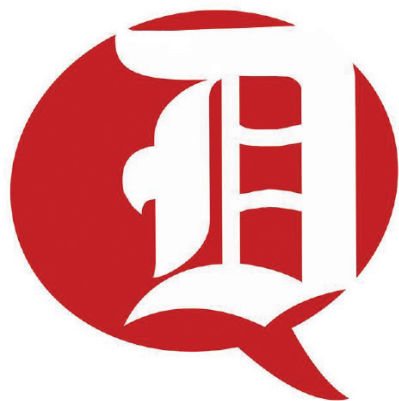
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February 4, 2021
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Remembering Lucas Traverse



COLLEEN HAMMOND
news editor

Kevin Hastings' world completely transformed on Saturday with a single phone call. After not hearing from his childhood friend for several hours, he became concerned. Hours later, he received a call confirming the worst case scenario: Lucas Traverse had died.

At around 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, the Duquesne sophomore was struck and killed by a train on the South Side near Fourth St. and Color Park, according to the Pittsburgh Office of Public Safety. The Pittsburgh City Police are investigating his death and have not provided any more information as to the reason for his death.

Traverse, a student in the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business, had a years-long passion for the stock market and trading, according to Hastings a student at Kutztown University. The two spent many afternoons watching the market and discussing potential profitable stocks, Hastings said.

"He was a great guy," he said. "He always tried to make the best out of a situation."

see **MEMORIAL**—page 2

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Dukes christen new Fieldhouse with home victory



Griffin Sendek / Multimedia Editor

The long-awaited UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse opened with a bang as the men's basketball team played for the first time in their new home on Wednesday. The Dukes beat Dayton (69-64).

ADAM LINDNER
sports editor

Duquesne waited a long time for this day to come.

Of course, construction began on the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse — Duquesne University's gleaming new arena — in March 2019. The school's basketball and volleyball teams went without a home venue for the entirety of the 2019-20 school year, hosting "home" games at nearby locales including PPG Paints Arena, Robert Morris University, La Roche University and various area high schools.

After all, the Cooper Fieldhouse — located on the site of the old A.J. Palumbo Center — was originally slated to open in time for the teams' prospective 2020-21 seasons. One year away from campus in exchange for a revitalized gym seemed like a fair trade for all parties involved.

ties involved.

The Fieldhouse's construction coincided with a major retooling of Duquesne's athletic brand, complete with a new typeface, logo and color scheme (welcome to the club, electric blue). Excitement was mounting on the Bluff as it related to university athletics.

Enter: Global pandemic.

COVID-19's proliferation in March 2020 halted everything at once, sending college students across the country home. The plug was pulled on collegiate athletics, cancelling March Madness and stopping spring sports just as they began. Arena construction, naturally, was put on hold.

The building's assembly resumed in May following a nearly two-month-long hiatus, but even then, the construction team faced "logistical challenges" once it returned to work.

For the longest time, the Fieldhouse appeared to be seemingly half-done, leaving the project — and, by extension, the school's teams — in limbo.

Accordingly, the men's and women's basketball teams would eventually embark on their second-straight seasons as nomads, opting for neutral-sites or road games when not hosting makeshift "home" contests.

The women's volleyball team, which typically competes during the fall, bided time in preparation for its season that will begin next week (the Atlantic 10 moved some fall sports, including volleyball, to spring).

Sheesh, talk about good timing. The Fieldhouse — named after 1950 Duquesne graduate Chuck Cooper, who was both the first Black man to play in a college basketball game south of the Mason-

Dixon Line and to be drafted into the NBA — officially opened Feb. 2, when the men's basketball team beat Dayton, 69-64, in its first game on campus since March 9, 2019. The game, broadcast nationally on ESPN2, saw Duquesne best a Flyers program that it doesn't often beat. Freshman forward Chad Baker nailed a 3-pointer 41 seconds into the game, notching the Fieldhouse's first-ever basket and giving Duquesne a lead it would never relinquish.

Fifty students were permitted to attend Tuesday's grand opening, plus some players' family and friends. In all, 212 people attended the arena's long-awaited christening.

The truth, though?

The truth is Duquesne waited a hell of a lot longer than 22 months

see **ARENA**—page 7

POLICE BRIEFS

There was only one crime reported from **Jan. 25 to Feb. 2.**

On **Jan. 29**, a Duquesne police officer observed a tan SUV “burn tire” up Locust Street from McAnulty. Half way up Locust Street, the driver of the vehicle stopped and asked a passing female student if he could get marijuana off of her. The officer followed the driver down Locust Street where he observed the driver fail to stop at the stop sign at Lower Magee and Locust Street. The officer conducted a traffic stop where he confiscated two pipes containing a small amount of burnt marijuana. The driver was cited for the stop sign violation and the paraphernalia. He was also issued a defiant trespass warning.

Lucas Traverse Memorial Events

Thursday Feb. 4- 12 p.m.- Private, in-person mass for family and the brothers of Sigma Tau Gamma, others can attend virtually

Thursday Feb. 4- 1 p.m.- Candlelight vigil and prayer service on Academic Walk, counseling stations available

Saturday, Feb. 6 12 p.m.- Funeral service for friends and family at St. Jude Church in Chalfont, Penn.

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If you're interested, email thedukeduk@gmail.com or stop by our newsroom located in the basement of College Hall (Room 113).



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We want your input!

The Duke's news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn't make sense? You can send your tips and story ideas to News Editor Colleen Hammond at hammondcd@duq.edu

Lucas Traverse, as remembered by his childhood best friend

from MEMORIAL— page 1

Hastings met Traverse back in middle school, while the two were growing up in Chalfont, Pennsylvania. Despite living just one street apart for the majority of their lives, they did not meet until their pre-teen years. Hastings was drawn to Traverse's “extremely outgoing” personality, and the two formed a close bond that continued through high school and college.

“He loved to make people feel happy,” Hastings said.

Along with their shared passions for entrepreneurship and the stock market, the two bonded over their love of sports, frequently cheering each other on in their respective games through high school: football for Hastings and lacrosse for Traverse.

Hastings recalled a long-treasured moment between himself and Traverse. When the two were in high school, Hastings was playing a football game while Traverse sat and cheered him on in the stands. Partway through the game, Hastings was injured and could not continue to play. He remembered feeling “beat-

When Hastings and his circle of friends did not hear from Traverse for several hours on Saturday, the group began to fear something had happened to their friend. Hastings recalled the moment another friend called him and said “We found out the worst.”

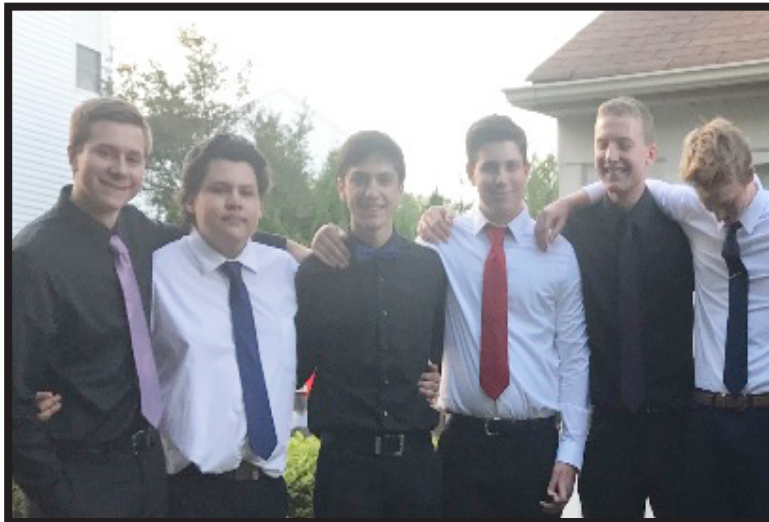
Although Hastings was deeply saddened by the loss of his friend, he expressed a need to help the Traverse family in any way possible.

As a result, Hastings started a GoFundMe campaign to help raise money for funeral arrangements for the Traverse family.

“Whether there is a funeral or not, there will be a cost to burying your son,” Hastings said. “It's just not fair to the family.”

Since launching the campaign on Saturday, Hastings has raised nearly \$30,000, almost triple his initial goal of \$10,000. And donations continue to pour in. Hastings noted that Duquesne's Greek Life community has been among the most generous and supportive during this difficult time.

“It just shows you how much he was loved,” Hastings said.



Lucas Traverse (far left) seen with his childhood friends. Hastings said the two frequently could be seen with a large group of friends from the neighborhood.

up” and “upset.” After the game, Traverse called Hastings and gave him a pep talk.

“He called and he just said to me, ‘At the end of the day, it's just a high school sport,’” Hastings said, grateful for Traverse's perspective on the situation.

Hastings said these types of encounters were not uncommon for Traverse. He always sought to “bring people up,” a phrase Hastings used to describe Traverse's earnest desire to challenge everyone around him to better themselves.

Hastings described Traverse as a “happy guy” who was able to “talk to everyone.”

Hastings said he is shocked by Traverse's death, as he remembers him as someone who constantly looked forward to “experiencing life” and wanted to “see what was out there” in life.

Traverse, a brother of Sigma Tau Gamma, will be missed greatly by the other members of this fraternity.

“Lucas was an amazing friend, always supportive and looking to better those around him. He was the type of guy who did amazingly kind things, not for recognition, but out of the kindness of his heart. He never ceased to brighten the mood with his amazing smile, even in the worst of times,” said Michael Bunce, president of Sigma Tau Gamma. “Lucas truly was the best of us, and it hurts that he isn't with us anymore. He had such a great impact on so many people's lives and he will never be forgotten.”

The brothers of Sigma Tau Gamma are scheduled to honor Traverse at a memorial mass at The Chapel of the Holy Spirit on Thursday at noon. There will be an accompanying prayer service and candlelight vigil on Academic Walk following the mass at 1 p.m. Due to COVID-19 restrictions,



Duquesne mourns the loss of Lucas Traverse, a sophomore business student, after he died suddenly on Saturday morning.

the mass will be limited to family members and fellow fraternity members. However, students and faculty may attend the mass and prayer service virtually.

“Thank you for all the donations and support. It's all for his family. And please just keep praying for them,” Hastings said in gratitude to the Duquesne community.

In addition to Traverse's on-campus memorial, his family will also receive friends and family this coming Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until his funeral service at noon in St. Jude Church in his hometown of Chalfont, PA.

“It's just not going to be the same, all of us — together — and he's not going to be there with us,” Hastings said.



SCAN HERE

GoFundMe page for the Lucas Traverse Fund. The money raised will go to funeral arrangements for the family



Traverse (seen above) posing in front of a Duquesne flag in his dorm room.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEVIN HASTINGS

An inside look at new UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse



KATIA FAROUN / FEATURES EDITOR

Students cheered on the Dukes in their first game at the new Fieldhouse against Dayton, (mostly) masked up and socially distant.



CARISSA HASLAM / AD MANAGER

The new UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse is fully renovated with new amenities including a state-of-the-art jumbotron, 3,500 new seats and a weight room.



KATIA FAROUN / FEATURES EDITOR

Duquesne's men's basketball team beat Dayton (69-64), a strong start to their pandemic season in a new home arena.



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The new fieldhouse remains mostly empty as COVID-19 restriction still prevent large, in-person gatherings such as live sporting events.

Virtual Greek Life recruitment takes campus by storm

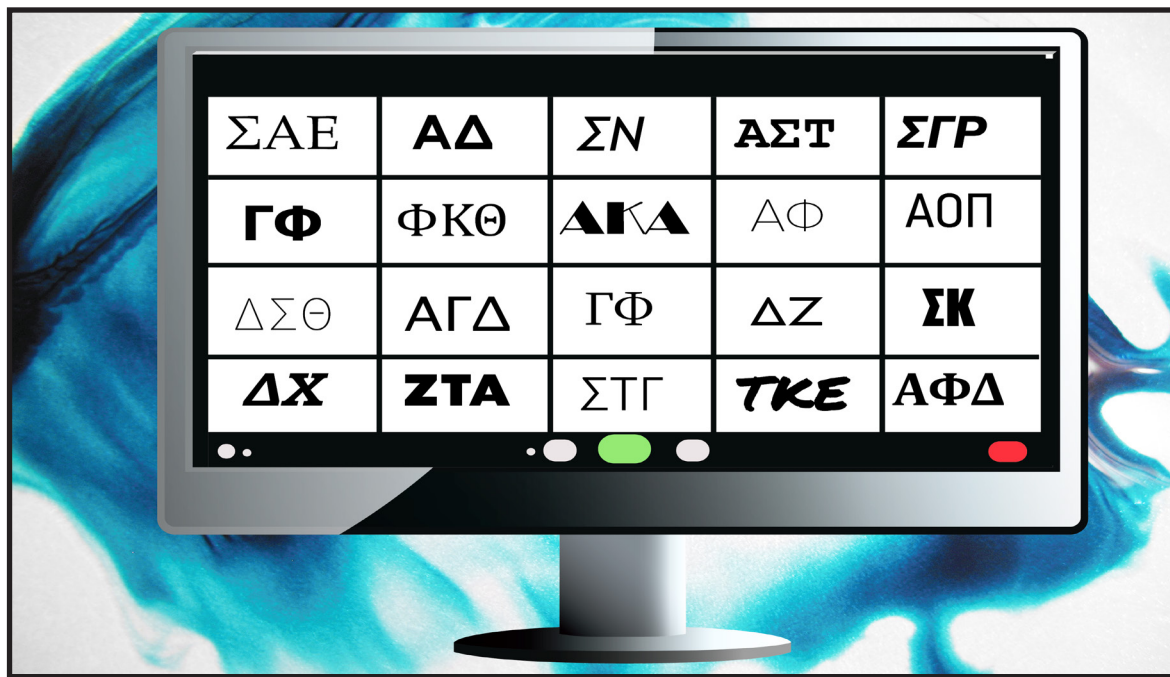
ZOE STRATOS
staff writer

With over 30 active sororities and fraternities on campus, and over half of the student population involved in one or more of them, Greek Life is an influential aspect of the student experience at Duquesne — even with COVID-19 still dominating American lives.

The Office of Greek Life had its hands full thus far planning out spring recruitment following COVID-19 protocols, as the university put new policies in place to ensure a safe process for all organizations — social and professional.

“In November 2020, a new policy was implemented at the university that transitioned all student programs to a virtual format,” said Rebecca Jamrozik Mickler, Director of Greek Life, Honor Societies and Professional Organizations. “As part of that policy to ensure everybody’s safety, we are keeping our recruitment efforts virtual for the time being. To me, the most important thing is to keep the integrity of the current hyflex academic format intact, and if that means recruitment events are virtual, then that’s what we will continue to do.”

Within the Office of Greek Life are the four Greek Councils and their member organizations, including the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the Professional Fraternity Council (PFC) and the Panhellenic Council. These councils work hand in hand with the Office of Greek Life



COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

In a world dominated by the pandemic, virtual Greek Life has become the new norm, with recruitment all online.

to continue fairness, successes and safety during the pandemic-style recruitment.

And with this pandemic-style recruitment, these organizations are coming up with ideas for virtual events while still fostering a sense of brother/sisterhood for new members.

“COVID has made the recruitment process more creative,” said Bailey Prebish, IFC president and member of Sigma Nu fraternity. “Many of them are extremely creative from Zoom hangouts, to giving virtual tours through their chapter’s respective wing on campus. One fraternity

used their recruitment budget to order food and deliver it to each and every potential new member’s residence.”

The creativity does not stop there either, as according to NPHC president Kayla White, the Delta Sigma Theta sorority has self-care nights and constant check-ins. Natalie Klek, PFC President, also points out that Lambda Kappa Sigma sorority uses a platform for new member education called “Ice Breakers.”

Known for their ability to cultivate friendships through events and philanthropy, two social sororities and fraternities did their best to make recruitment as fun as possible in a time

where in-person events were not a viable option.

Incoming Membership Vice President, Delaney Dooley, of Gamma Phi Beta talked about the struggles and successes she had during the spring recruitment process.

“I think we’ve done a good job being as personable as possible, although the online format comes with positives and negatives for both parties,” Dooley said. “We took advantage of screen sharing. We talk a lot about our philanthropy and sisterhood and about events that we’ve held online. It’s not great to tell them how many great things to do in-person, so we

stress the fun online events like playing Kahoots that quiz you on our sisters. We want to be engaging but also COVID-19 safe.”

Even with the protocols and policies in place, turnout for recruitment was fairly consistent, with only a slight drop in student interest. But the chapters were prepared, as new forms of advertising through heavy social media presence came to the forefront of recruitment.

Head of Recruitment Justin Prechodko, of Tau Kappa Epsilon, emphasized the importance of advertising and cultivating a bond through online events.

“We’re big on brotherhood, so we try to hammer that home to potentials. We tell them right off the bat that it’s not going to be the same, but the positives outweigh negatives,” Prechodko said. “My responsibility was to create events and take the initiative to get the word out about us. We hung up posters in freshman hallways — with permission of course — and also talked to kids on social media. I was always handing out phone numbers.”

And with this effort from all of the social sororities and fraternities on campus, spring recruitment continued to occur as usual, but with an edited style.

“Even during this time I encourage everyone to step out of the box — clubs, professional frats, Greek Life, etc. — because the experience is like no other,” Dooley said. “Finding your fit and sharing these experiences with your friends is so fun. I want everyone to have the experiences I’ve had.”

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"If people are
doubting how far you
can go, go so far
that you can't hear
them anymore."

MICHELE RUIZ

You just read | Now tweet
our thoughts. | us yours.

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Comic By Kelsey Burtner

Perseverance in the face of a pandemic

As we all brace and continue to mask ourselves for the daily hurdles of life, what occupies your attention throughout the day may be quite different than what you were preoccupied with in September of 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic shook all Americans to their core as everyday routines were abruptly changed around the country.

This brought forth the need for people to look intrinsically and adapt in order to better understand themselves in the midst of these harsh realities and societal challenges. The lockdown humbled many of us. It pushed those who wanted to strive towards self-sufficiency to do so in an independent way.

For those who wanted to work on their physique, the gyms became unavailable which led to a need to discover other alternatives. Those who wanted to continue practicing mindfulness to nourish the mind, body, and soul had to also do so in creative ways.

From ordering dumbbells online and working out in the garage, to virtual yoga classes and scheduled meditation times, there is overwhelming evidence that Americans rose to the challenge even as the world crumbled around them.

Although this may be true, I continue to hear chatter from those around me — family, friends, and constituents — that the pandemic has had such a dreadful and life changing impact on their lives. I would like

to shine the light on an alternate perspective of COVID-19 — one that most appear to be overlooking.

Fisk Lee, a senior psychology and international relations double-major at Duquesne, spoke candidly about his time exploring both his mental and physical development over the course of this global pandemic. "The pandemic, for myself, habituated a lot of

during the most tumultuous of times is actually proving to be beneficial in the long-term, as it allows one to become better acquainted with his or her inner self.

There is no questioning that this pandemic affected some of us far worse than others. Many of us know of a friend or family member who lost someone close to them over the course of this unprecedented time. However, acknowledging all of the grief and tumultuousness of these past 12-months-or-so, the drastic changes to each of our personal little worlds can be seen through a lens of appreciation.

Admittedly, I am indeed attempting to breed some optimism as, quite frankly, I've grown tired of the negativity among my peers on how the pandemic has devastated life as we know it. Don't get me wrong, the health and social challenges related to COVID-19 are widely-prevalent and should not be taken lightly. I'm in no way undermining the serious implications of the pandemic on our global society.

That being said, I am also of the opinion that we must embrace change with a positive mindset and excessive enthusiasm. If we fail to do so, then we will surely live a life of fear and misery. It is time to acknowledge that humankind has been prevailing since our inception. We must not be bound down by our current predicament but rather adapt to the change while lifting up others. Negativity is not the answer.



NOAH WILBUR

opinions editor

the past that I never took the time to address... like time had a chance to catch up to me. I felt like I was able to find more time with family. The pandemic taught me that life is both finite but very long."

Additionally, when asked how he felt growth in the past 12 months, senior pharmacy student Joe Chen said, "A big thing is learning how to be more comfortable with yourself... spending alone time."

In other words, the benefits of learning how to adapt on the fly while moving forward with life even

STAFF EDITORIAL

Black history should be celebrated longer than a month

Comedian Chris Rock frequently pokes fun at the notion of February as Black History Month — the coldest, shortest month of the year. And he isn't wrong. All too often, the American school system chooses to only educate students on the heroes of the Black community, who helped to shape our nation, as a novelty lesson for a few short weeks in February.

While Black History Month has helped open the door to difficult conversations about race in schools and taught students about pillars in the Black community, this simply isn't enough anymore.

In a year marked by civil unrest and a global cry for racial reckoning, every aspect of society is being called into question to ensure it is equitable and fair. Isn't it time we reevaluate the historical narratives taught in our schools?

Although it is incredibly important to honor, remember and celebrate Black History Month, it cannot be the only exposure students have to the Black community.

Growing up in a predominantly white area, it was custom to learn about MLK and Rosa Park during February, but teachers were unwilling to discuss harder topics like the legacy of Malcolm X and the Tulsa Race Massacre come March.

We need to address the lack of diversity in the American education system at every level, starting with a highly white-washed curriculum.

By and large, students in public schools across the country read novels and textbooks written by white authors. Yes, *Huckleberry Finn* can be one way to start a conversation about race in the classroom. But if the intention is a holistic educational experience with honest depictions of American life, Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* or Toni Morrison's *Beloved* give a much more honest look at life for Black women than any novels by their white counterparts.

While initiatives like the *New York Times*'s 1619 Project, an education system that places slavery and the Black experience at the forefront of the narrative of American history, are a great, they often can be viewed as too ambitious for school districts to adopt. As a result, schools continue to regale Black history to the backburner.

Black history is at the heart of American history. The Black experience is essential to the American experience. And we cannot overlook it — no matter how uncomfortable these lessons might be.

Ignoring the difficult and painful past, and present, experiences of Black Americans only perpetuates the notion that racism is a thing of the past. As this year clearly showed us, it is unfortunately alive and well at home and across the globe.

Our greatest weapon in the war against racism and injustice is education. And we cannot continue to ignore its role in developing strong, citizens who seek justice.

Learning about the Black community and Black history cannot be exiled to a single month — especially not the coldest, shortest one.

It is time to look beyond 'moon stocks' from WallStreetBets

ALEXANDER WOLFE
staff columnist

On Reddit, TikTok, Twitter and Discord, average day traders have managed to unite the internet in support of destroying a select group of hedge funds that moved to abuse a few popular, cheap stocks. From Ben Shapiro to Dave Portnoy to the people who repost “explained” stories on their Instagram, everyone except the hosts of Fox Business and CNBC seems to be coming together to destroy these quite parasitic hedge funds.

As the party winds down, we should reflect on the other, darker side of the moon r/wallstreetbets is shooting for.

Artificial stock values are nothing new to stock exchanges. The South Sea Trading Company famously ballooned to nearly 50% of the London Stock Exchange in 1720 before plummeting by nearly 90% in a month and causing one of the first well-documented market crashes in world history.

More popular today are the ‘pump-and-dump’ schemes whereby organized firms advertise their investment in a particular stock, usually cryptocurrency, before cashing out to turn a profit after the

value has inflated.

The problem with trading GameStop stock at \$480 is that eventually, the value will have to diminish. Whoever is either late to the party or slow to sell is going to get slammed, especially if they placed a substantial portion of their investments in GameStop.

A further problem may arise if r/wallstreetbets continues to act as an informal pump-and-dump forum. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has the liberty to fine Reddit or Discord for allowing insider trading on their platforms, and if a pattern persists of stocks creating volatile market fluctuations, expect to see a heavy regulatory hammer come down on anyone looking to coordinate a push against a short-selling scheme.

In the grand scheme of things, the politics of this moment are almost as weird as the actual financial mechanics. You have free marketeers who traditionally align with big business looking to maintain the current environment with diminished regulations, leftists who see this as a real tool in order to “eat the rich” and centrists who are both confused and entertained by the whole situation.

The tightrope between stopping Wall Street corporations from privately squashing an army of Elon Musk enthusiasts and preventing those same traders from organizing at all is razor thin. The question becomes: What should be considered insider trading, and if a spontaneous Internet groundswell is insider trading, should it be regulated?

The particularly maddening side to this moment is how legally coordinated the hedge fund response has become, because even though Robinhood, Melvin Capital and Citadel go by different names, they largely are influenced by the same people.

When Melvin Capital, the leading hedge fund looking to short GameStop, signaled it was about to fail, Citadel, another fund, bailed it out for \$2.75 billion. Citadel does not own Robinhood, but it does do substantial business with Robinhood by paying for access to Robinhood traders’ order forms. Citadel was fined \$700,000 for trading ahead of the execution of the traders’ orders. Now, Citadel can control the platform, destabilizing the company it just bailed out.

This does not necessarily mean Citadel or Melvin Capital



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

GameStop's stock surged 400% in a week amidst unprecedented trading frenzy.

have done anything illegal. The class action lawsuit filed on Jan. 28 points to Robinhood’s forcing users to sell their shares of GameStop and other trending stocks. Whether or not Robinhood did so at the urging of Citadel is a separate question entirely, which itself drags the conversation back to insider trading.

In short, as we head toward the end of a second week of explosive trading, I am waiting for the federal government to appear as though it is looking to tackle the issue. In the meantime, if you are willing to risk

some money to stick it to Wall Street, buy one of these stocks, but accept the reality that you will probably lose money if you stay in the game too long.

Melvin Capital must still close on its short bets, and with this new infusion of capital, the firm should be prepared to dig in its heels and wait out the trend as traders cash out. Not to say that everything is hopeless — long term damage has, and will continue to be done to these short-sellers — but in the long-run Wall Street has always been able to weather the storm.

Calls for the removal of Marjorie Taylor Greene are well-justified

ALYSE KAMINSKI
staff columnist

There has already been so much drama in politics this year and it is only February. Between the insurrection at the Capitol and subsequent impeachment, it’s hard to even imagine what all is in store for 2021. And with so-called leaders like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Green, I just know we are in for one crazy term.

To recap, Rep. Greene hails from Georgia, representing the 14th District which covers Rome, Calhoun and Dalton. She was the lady at the impeachment debate wearing the “CENSORED” mask while on national television. It is not surprising that a Republican with such strong and far-right views was elected in this district. However, that does not excuse her behavior, past and present.

Recently, a video of Rep. Greene harassing and following David Hogg, a survivor of the Parkland shooting and common sense gun legislation advocate, has surfaced. In an interview in 2019, she also called him an idiot, according to NBC News.

It is as though she fails to recognize the trauma that David Hogg and his fellow classmates endured the day 17 of their peers and school faculty were murdered. Rep. Greene, an elected official sworn to protect her constituents, shows absolutely no empathy to a person about 25 years her junior who experienced the unthinkable.

Not only that, but Rep. Greene has supported the execution of Democrats through liking posts advocating for such violence. According to a CNN report, she liked a post essentially saying that “a bullet to the head” would be the quickest form of removing Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif, from office. I cannot fathom what would happen to any Democrat if they liked such a post referring to a Republican.

Rep. Greene also said on Facebook Live that Pelosi was responsible for treason and should be punished by death. Those words came out of her mouth. News has additionally surfaced that Greene has shown support for baseless conspiracy theories from Q-Anon. I personally

saw one she liked where Jewish people were being accused of controlling space to start the wildfires last year.

Between all of this, and the time in 2018 when she said Reps. Omar and Tlaib are part of a “Muslim invasion on our government,” I am at a loss. It is genuinely hard to come up with the words to describe this all. It is such insanity.

What feels even more insane is that I am siding with Rep. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) on this one. He said it better than I can — Rep. Greene is a cancer to the Republican Party.

This woman, and all like her, represent the worst in us as Americans. She represents those who believe everything they see on Facebook. Those who don’t do research. Those who go to church on Sunday to worship our Lord, but then will turn around and push lies about their Muslim brothers and sisters.

Her lack of empathy and ability to reason should not be tolerated in any elected office. I am in full support of all efforts to have her removed from her



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene is under heavy scrutiny after questionable behavior.

committee assignments, especially if she will really be working on education. Anyone who harasses a student who survived a school shooting should not be making decisions regarding anyone’s education.

Yes, Rep. Greene and her like-minded colleagues represent something truly broken

in America. Let her be a reminder of a few things. First, the danger in electing anyone who uses Facebook as their main source of information. And second, that if we all were just a little more empathetic, we would not be so deeply entrenched in the disaster that is America right now.

Mystery behind Fisher Hall's name *reels in* students

EMILY AMBERY
staff writer

Fisher Hall, soon to be home to a consolidated School of Nursing, was purchased by the university in 1995 from the Fisher Scientific Company.

For several years, the building has housed a variety of offices and programs.

The layout of Fisher is known for being confusing, according to Tom White, the university archivist.

"Fisher Hall is actually five smaller buildings with a common facade," White explained.

The history of Fisher is much more recent than some other buildings on campus.

College Hall, which is home to the McAnulty College of Liberal Arts, is named after Duquesne's ninth president, Fr. Henry Joseph McAnulty, who was president from 1959 to 1980. McAnulty was monumental in fundraising for the university and carrying out his predecessor's Master Plan. It is the oldest school at the university.

"Three of our academic buildings used to be parking garages," White said. "The Mary Pappert School of Music, The McAnulty College of Liberal Arts and Gumbert Library."

Archbishop J.F. Regis Canevin was Bishop of Pittsburgh during the time when Duquesne was growing. Canevin helped secure



ALEXANDER LAFONTAINE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The School of Nursing will fully transition into Fisher Hall by the end of 2021.

funding for expansion and supported Duquesne and the Pittsburgh community immeasurably. The completed Canevin Hall was dedicated on Oct. 28, 1923.

Rockwell Hall is named after Colonel Willard F. Rockwell. An alumnus, former chairman of the President's Advisory Board and fundraiser for Duquesne, he gave \$226,000 to the Duquesne building fund. In return for his generosity, Rockwell Hall was dedicated on Nov. 16, 1958.

In 1964, The Richard King Mellon Foundation gifted \$2 million dollars for the science hall. Father McAnulty, president at the

time, asked if it could be named "Richard King Mellon Hall," and it took six months for General Richard King Mellon to consent. The Mellon Hall of Science was completed and dedicated in 1968.

"Mellon Hall was designed by the famous architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe," White said. "The frame actually collapsed during construction because it wasn't fully tightened."

John G. Rangos Sr. was a member of the Duquesne's board of directors, and was president and CEO of Chambers Development Co. when he gave the university \$2 million to convert and

equip a health science building. The John G. Rangos Sr. School of Health Sciences was completed and dedicated on Oct. 18, 1991.

"The bricks for Old Main were made by Spiritan priests and brothers in a brickyard that once occupied the site of Rangos," White said.

The Bayer Corporation donated \$2 million to the university for a school of Natural and Environmental Sciences, to be matched by Duquesne in return for the school to be named the Bayer Learning Center. The

Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences was dedicated in the spring of 1996.

Venerable Francis Libermann, C.S.Sp. was a missionary and played a key role in the formation and expansion of the Spiritan Congregation. Fr. Libermann's spirituality and influence reminds the Duquesne community of its Spiritan identity. Libermann Hall, which houses Duquesne's state-of-the-art biomedical engineering and nursing labs, was dedicated on his feast day, Feb. 2, in 2011.

School of Nursing dean discusses consolidation

The nationally-ranked school of nursing was founded in 1937 and currently has approximately 1,300 students.

The dedication of this building to the School of Nursing marks an exciting future for Duquesne's nursing students, according to Dean Ellen Glasgow.

"[The School of Nursing] has many new academic programs and a significant emphasis on technology and research," Glasgow said. "Creating a space where faculty and students can gather in one building will promote deeper collaboration, more

research and innovation so that we can continue our efforts to provide an excellent education."

COVID-19 has highlighted the pivotal role nurses play in keeping everyone safe.

"Nurses are with patients 24/7 and they are the individuals who assess patients, recognize changes in status and intervene appropriately," Glasgow said. "They are the technological expert at the patient's bedside, and sometimes the only person at the bedside, comforting the patient when family cannot be present — as is the case with COVID-19."

Duq hosts events celebrating Black History Month

GILLIAN FITZGERALD
staff writer

With January over, Black History Month has begun and Duquesne's Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), along with faculty and student organizations, will be hosting events throughout the next four weeks to engage the entire community in discussions and programs.

Over Zoom, Duquesne's Black Student Union (BSU) kicked off the month with "On My Block," an event intended for students to get to know one another, discuss the meaning of home and welcome them to Black History Month on Monday, Feb. 1.

Their upcoming events include a Trivia Night that will take place over Zoom on Feb. 9 to test students' knowledge of Black history. Students are encouraged to come prepared to win great prizes for the first, second and third place winners.

BSU will also hold an event titled "Hip/Hop Music Culture Discussion" on Feb. 16, along with a showing of Disney's new movie *Soul* — Pixar's first with a Black lead character — on Feb. 26.

Throughout the month, Duquesne faculty and staff will also be holding several events for students, such as "What's the Word Wednesday:" a weekly discussion on current events, trends and Black culture. Other events include "Structural Racism and Health Equity" hosted by the Center for African Studies on Feb. 18, a



KELSEY BURTNER / LAYOUT EDITOR

February marks Black History Month, coinciding with Abraham Lincoln's and Frederick Douglass's birthdays.

discussion on "Critical Race Theory — From Theory to Practice" by the Center for Student Wellbeing on Feb. 23 and Dr. Alydia Thomas' "Colorism Conversation" on Feb. 25.

Other organizations on campus will also host events like yoga, a pageant and a service event during the month. Students can see a full list of events for BHM on Duquesne's website under the Diversity and Inclusion page, along with involved organizations' social media to find out

where and when the events take place.

The origination of Black History Month can be credited to Carter G. Woodson — a Black historian and scholar and the second Black man to earn a Ph.D from Harvard University — and The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., the first international fraternal organization founded on the campus of a Historically Black College.

A member of the fraternity, John H. Burnell, was inspired by an address Woodson gave at the Fraternity's Ninth Annual

Conclave in 1920 to create a program that stressed Black history. What began as Negro History and Literature Week by the fraternity was transformed by Woodson into what is now internationally known and has been celebrated as BHM since 1976.

BHM takes place in February, as chosen by Woodson, because when it was Negro History Week in the 1920s, it was celebrated to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14).

The programs scheduled during BHM are designed to give students opportunities to learn, listen and be involved in conversations and activities that specialize in Black history in the U.S. By participating in programs focused on BHM, students are able to celebrate the historic accomplishments of Black Americans, educate themselves on the nation's history and apply what they learn to today's work towards equity and racial justice.



Men's hoops team dominant in arena-opening W

COOPER — from page 1

for the Fieldhouse's completion.

Even before plans for the Fieldhouse were announced in late 2018, change was needed in order for Duquesne to consistently compete at the highest level. It was evident.

"We weren't going to win with the old building. We weren't," Athletic Director Dave Harper told reporters earlier this week.

The new barn — one that Harper called "transformative" and men's hoops coach Keith Dambrot donned the "perfect building for Duquesne" — came complete with many of the amenities found at



KATIA FAROUN / FEATURES EDITOR
Duquesne forward Marcus Weathers surveys the court during Tuesday's game against Dayton. The star forward paced the Dukes with 20 points.

high-major venues, including:

1. Two high-definition Daktronics video boards, one of which is ginormous

2. Six suites and 55 club-level seats, both of which appear to be professional-grade

3. Enhanced concession areas (Harper said construction contractor P.J. Dick joked that Duquesne may have built the largest bar in Pittsburgh)

4. A modernized, booming sound system

5. Four "fan corners" with impeccable sightlines

6. Large windows on the building's exterior, allowing for phenomenal views of Pittsburgh's skyline

The men's hoops team inaugurated its new building admirably on Tuesday, earning a wire-to-wire victory over last season's conference champions.

The contest's final tally insinuates that the game was closer than it truly was. Duquesne led by as many as 22 points in the game's second half and was never seriously threatened by Dayton's attempt to come back.

Admittedly, it was a lot to take in. Patrons of the former Palumbo Center, which opened in 1988, will remember many things about the Dukes' old digs. Chief among them, perhaps, is the losing legacy Duquesne left in the building.

Since the Palumbo Center's erection, Duquesne's men's team



KATIA FAROUN / FEATURES EDITOR
Freshman guard Mike Bekelja defends Dayton star Jalen Crutcher on Feb. 2.

has failed to qualify for the NCAA Tournament. Duquesne hasn't enjoyed a single March Madness since 1977, when Dambrot was 19-years-old and Norm Nixon was still a Duke.

Things are different now.

For the first time in a long time, Duquesne can say the same.

"The wrap on Duquesne in the past has been, 'They've never won, they can't win, they haven't been to the NCAA Tournament in 1,000 years. Coaches get fired, there's no commitment from the school,'" Dambrot said.

"If you don't commit, you can't win. You can't consistently sustain anything," he continued. "People can think it's the coach, but it's

not the coach when you lose for as many years as Duquesne lost. They've had some good coaches here. They just didn't have enough in the program."



KATIA FAROUN / FEATURES EDITOR
A Dukes fan cheers during the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse's opening game.

DUQ VB coach excited for 2021 season

BRENTARO YAMANE
staff writer

Steve Opperman is a competitor and wants to win as many matches as possible.

This season will be Opperman's 23rd year as the head coach of Duquesne's women's volleyball team. Before the 2019 season, his Dukes team had made the Atlantic 10 tournament for nine straight years. However, in the 2019 season, the Dukes faced injuries and finished the year with a 10-17 overall record (and a 4-10 conference mark), resulting in the end of their nine-year A-10 tournament appearance streak. For Opperman, knowing that his team could not reach the A-10 tournament was definitely frustrating, and he is doing whatever he can to get the Dukes back to contention again.

"Obviously, when your season doesn't go like it's supposed to, I think you always want to bounce back with a winning record. I think our kids did some nice things, even though we didn't have a winning record in 2019," Opperman said, who played collegiate volleyball at Ohio State. "The freshmen took it hard when they realized that we were not going to make the A-10 tournament. They felt like they let the team down."

This season, Duquesne will only play 10 games, with all of their matches set for conference play against either Davidson, VCU, Dayton or Saint Louis. For the Dukes, it has been tough to get everyone together for full-team practices due to COVID-19 protocols, but all of the players have been doing their best to train. The Dukes did not

have a full-team practice with all of their players until Jan. 21.

With the way the team has been practicing, Opperman has liked the improvement he has seen from the group.

"We had a great training block in the fall," Opperman said. "I think we're starting to be a better ball control team than we were

in the fall of 2019 because of the younger kids growing up and maturing, so it has sharpened just a bit. On an attacking standpoint, we've cleaned some things up in that area. I think the biggest improvement that I hope will translate on the floor is our blocking."

The Dukes lost three seniors from last season in Kaitlyn Knurek, Dani Suiter and Liz Wayne. They all brought leadership, but the fact that Suiter and Wayne missed some games last season due to illness and injuries gave some of the younger players more experience.

Going into this season, Opperman thinks everyone on the team has grown into their roles. He thinks all of his players are doing a good job of what him and staff are asking them to do. Some of the players that stick out on the team are Morgan Kelly (sophomore) and Ego Onu (redshirt junior).

"Morgan is really starting to come into her own. She is a kid that our opponents will be eyeing on the future," Opperman said. "Ego is quiet and has done some nice things in the past. She is really starting to understand how good of a player that she can be, and she is providing that on the floor. She wants to know what she needs to



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Duquesne volleyball players, including Ego Onu (No. 8, center), cheer on their teammates during a 2017 match against VCU. Onu, now a redshirt junior, is one of the Dukes' top returning players. Duquesne is set to open its 2021 schedule on Feb. 12 against VCU at the newly-renovated UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

see VOLLEYBALL — page 8

Duquesne football to return March 7 vs. Sacred Heart

Following a postponed fall season, the Duquesne football team is set to play a four-game, Northeast Conference-only schedule beginning on March 7 versus Sacred Heart.

The Dukes will play host twice at Rooney Field — against Sacred Heart and then versus Long Island on March 21 — and will travel for two road games (at Wagner March 14 and Bryant March 28).

All games will be played on Sundays. Game times have not yet been announced.

The NEC decided to postpone all fall sports in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; now, a majority of the conference's teams are set for an abbreviated spring season.

St. Francis (Pa.) and Central Connecticut State have each opted out of competition, leaving six teams to fight for the NEC title. In addition to Duquesne and its four 2021 opponents, Merrimack rounds out the conference's field for the coming season.

Robert Morris, located in nearby Moon Township and a longtime member of the NEC, joined the Horizon League in most sports in 2020. The Colonials' football team now competes in the Big South Conference (the Horizon League doesn't sponsor football).

This season will be the first since 2002 that won't see Duquesne play Robert Morris on the gridiron.

The four-game NEC slate precedes a conference championship game between the league's top two teams. The NEC does not usually have football championship games — typically, the team with the best regular-season record is named the league's champion — making the upcoming season all the more unique.

The date for the title game hasn't yet been determined, but the match will be played some time in April. The league's champion, per usual, will be granted an automatic bid into the FCS playoffs.

The FCS Playoff selection show is set for Sunday, April 18, while the FCS playoffs are scheduled to begin Saturday, April 24.

The Dukes are set to begin spring practice this weekend, per a program press release.

— Sports Editor Adam Lindner

Hebda: Super Bowl LV rife with stars, storylines

JACOB HEBDA
staff writer

On Feb. 7, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Kansas City Chiefs will meet in Super Bowl LV at Raymond James Stadium. The Buccaneers will make history as the first team to play the championship in their home stadium. It will also serve as a rematch, as the two teams met there on Nov. 29. The Chiefs won, 27-24.

The journey to this point has been unparalleled. When the NFL commenced its season on Sept. 10, 2020, many expected play to be short-lived.

In the wake of COVID-19, health officials cautioned against essentially any social interaction. Playing a contact sport, especially one like football, seemed unthinkable.

Despite the challenge of playing in a pandemic, the NFL once again finds itself at the precipice of America's most famed sporting event. It required months of contact tracing, virtual meetings, paused schedules and other strict COVID-19 protocols, but the league's 32 teams endured.

Enduring is a fitting season descriptor for other reasons, too. It captures the essence of Tom Brady, who, at age 43, continues to win. Despite a new roster, coach and home, Brady has returned to the Super Bowl. If his Buccaneers win, it would be an unprecedented achievement.

Endurance also summarizes Kansas City's season. The reigning champions have stared down the extraordinary expectations that come with such an accolade. Despite some tough AFC competition, the Chiefs are back.

At the helm of this Kansas City team is the 25-year-old Patrick Mahomes. He's only been the starter for three seasons, but this is already his second Super Bowl appearance.

As if the quarterback duel wasn't electrifying enough, both the Chiefs and Buccaneers are brimming with talent elsewhere.

Brady throws to the likes of Mike Evans, Chris Godwin and Antonio Brown. Leonard Fournette and Ronald Jones combine for a terrific 1-2 backfield punch.

Mahomes' primary weapons are argu-

ably the best in football. Tight end Travis Kelce and wideout Tyreek Hill have terrorized defenses all year.

Look no further than their regular season showdown with the Buccaneers. Hill raced to 269 receiving yards and three touchdowns, while Kelce had eight receptions for 82 yards.

Clyde Edwards-Helaire's rookie campaign has been marked by steady production, perfectly supplementing the Chiefs' deadly passing attack.

The respective offenses steal the show, but defense is another reason each team has made it this far.

The Tampa Bay defense has shined this postseason. Washington, New Orleans and Green Bay each fought the Buccaneers closely, but defensive coordinator Todd Bowles' unit has held firm. They have stopped opponents when it mattered most, forcing seven turnovers in the past three games.

The Kansas City defense has likewise proven its prowess in critical moments.

In their Divisional Round matchup with Cleveland, the Chiefs were leading by nine when Mahomes left with a concussion. The Browns proceeded to stage a fierce comeback, but Kansas City staved them off.

The following week, Buffalo was stymied by Steve Spagnuolo's defense. After the Bills grabbed an early 9-0 lead, they were held without a touchdown until the fourth quarter.

Each team is also led by a former NFL Coach of the Year.

Andy Reid finally reached the mountaintop of professional football last year. With Super Bowl LIV, the longtime coach filled the only remaining hole on his résumé.

On the other side, two-time award winner Bruce Arians has worked wonders in Tampa Bay. Arians has won two championships as an assistant with the Pittsburgh Steelers, but this would be his first as a head coach.

So, what's the X-factor?

It's no secret that pass rushing is key to victory, especially when playing these quarterbacks. If you consistently give Brady and Mahomes time in the pocket,

they will shred your defense.

Each offense has its weaknesses though. Brady's QBR (total quarterback ranking) is among the worst in the league when he's pressured.

Mahomes is terrific against the pass rush, but he is currently dealing with turf toe. Left tackle Eric Fisher tore his Achilles in the AFC Championship, further weakening an already bruised line.

It's up to the respective defensive units to exploit these potential opportunities. If they can't, this could be a high-octane game.

If that's the case, Tampa Bay is capable of winning a shootout. The last time they scored less than 30 points in a game was Week 14.

However, if that's how this game develops, Kansas City becomes the favorite. They are the epitome of an offensive juggernaut. If you can't slow the Chiefs down, good luck keeping up.

Even if you can impede their offense, you may still be in trouble. Just ask the 49ers, who held the Chiefs to 10 points through three quarters in last year's Super Bowl only to surrender three touchdowns in the final frame.

Tom Brady may be the greatest football

player ever, but it's hard to bet against Kansas City, especially if its defense holds up. The Chiefs possess a uniquely dangerous offense. As long as they're within 20 points, this team can win. That's how potent this offense is.

I'll take the Chiefs.

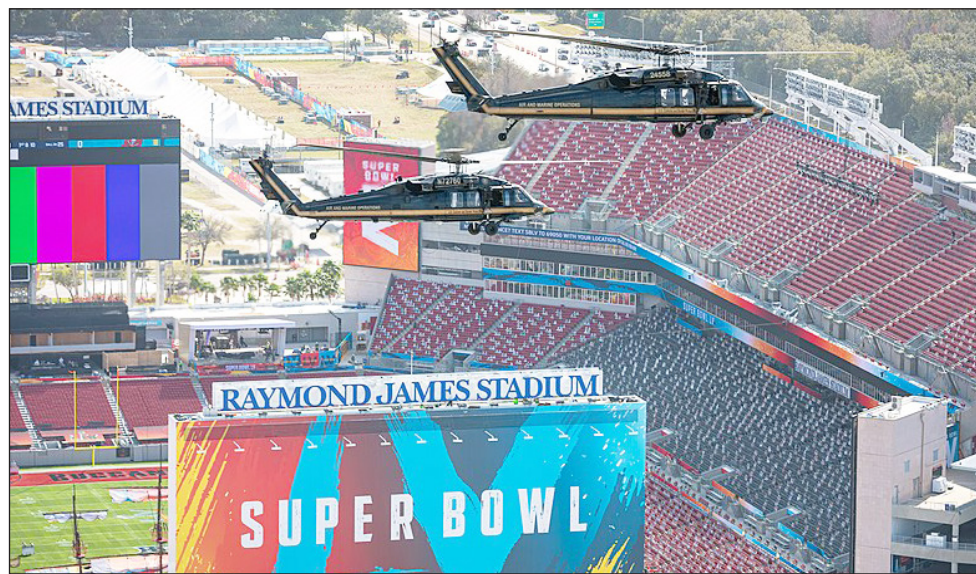
The Duke's newsroom is divided on Super Bowl LV's outcome.

Some are banking on Tom Brady, while others are betting on Chiefs phenom Patrick Mahomes. Here

are some of our picks:

Kansas City: Jacob Hebda (author); Adam Lindner (sports); Katia Faroun (features); Carissa Haslam (ads); Kellen Stepler (editor-in-chief); Capri Scarcelli (a&e)

Tampa Bay: Noah Wilbur (opinions); Griffin Sendek (multimedia)



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Helicopters conduct a flyover of Tampa Bay's Raymond James Stadium — the site of Super Bowl LV — on Jan. 31. The game, set for Feb. 7, will be the first-ever Super Bowl played at one of the participating teams' home fields. The NFC champion Buccaneers play their home games at the venue.

DU volleyball team set to return following postponed season

VOLLEYBALL — from page 7

work on to have the team be better."

One key player returning for the Dukes this season is Summer Slade (junior). She led the Dukes in kills last year with 248.

Ashley Larson (sophomore), Claire Boe (redshirt junior), Hailey Poling (sophomore), Maria Bosbacher (senior), Summer and Ego played all 27 matches last season and all return for the Dukes this year. It should bode well for Duquesne to return such experienced players this season. Poling led the team in service aces (25) and assists (484) in 2019.

One of the newest players is junior Brittne Weigand, who joined the team in the fall. Weigand, who didn't play on the team for her first two years of college, had previous competitive experience, playing both club volleyball for Elite Sports Ohio and at the high school ranks for Marlington High School in Ohio. However, after she had an opportunity to try out in the fall, she made the team and is already providing a spark.

"She really missed volleyball and asked to walk-on and try out. She knows how to pass the ball to the target and setter, she has a nice touch, knows what balls she is digging and she can read the floor well," Opperman said, talking about Weigand's tryout. "She just knows what it takes to compete, and she has brought the level of the gym up higher. Unbelievably, she is fearless. She digs ball after ball when one of our players serves it to her. Brittne is a great teammate, trains hard and can see some playing time."

The Dukes also bring in three new freshmen this season in Riley Speelman, Camille Spencer and Olivia Alessi. So far, Opperman likes what he is seeing from his newcomers.

"Camille has a high volleyball IQ compared to most freshmen that I have coached. She will compete for a starting spot and should see a lot of playing time. She adjusted really quickly, and she was the first person in the gym to start talking trash in a non-derogatory way. She knows how to block and get into somebody's face."

"Olivia is a setter by trade and has a really nice touch and feel for the ball," Opperman

said. "Riley seems to have grown the most as a player and also has a really nice touch and feel for the ball."

Duquesne's first game will be Feb. 12 at home against VCU. It will be the first match the Dukes will play in the newly-renovated UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

The team was originally slated to open its season on Feb. 5 versus Davidson, but the match was postponed due to COVID-19-related issues in the Wildcats' program.

"The players are extremely excited to play in the new arena. For them, being displaced wasn't fun last year, practicing at the Power Center and playing home games at PPG Paints Arena and Mt. Lebanon High School," Opperman said. "They keep asking me every day when they are going to see it. They are excited to be in their home facility."

For the first time in Opperman's coaching career, he — just like many coaches around the globe — is going to have to watch his players compete wearing masks. Even though the players already practice with masks on, Opperman admitted it's going to be a little strange watching the team play with masks on.

"It's tough. I'm not going to lie. It's extremely tough. I guarantee you nobody wants to wear them, but our players understand the reason why we are doing it. The kids want to play, so they will make that commitment to keep themselves and their opponents safe," he said.

This is the 30th-consecutive season that Opperman is a head coach at the Division I level. He spent his first seven seasons at Wright State, from 1991-1997.

Volleyball is a game that he loves and he hopes to give his players a great experience once they graduate college. This season, Opperman hopes he can help the Dukes win another A-10 volleyball championship. The last time they won it was in 2013.

"I pride myself in bringing good student-athletes, giving them a really good experience and graduating kids that go on to do really nice things," Opperman said. "I feel young when I am in the gym. The best part of the day for me is training our kids. I get a lot out of making our players and team better, whether it's in the gym or in the classroom."

Virtual jazz sessions bring new sound to campus

EMMA POLEN
staff writer

Get ready to groove to some jazz from across the ages! Thomas Wendt, a professor at Duquesne's school of music, is now sharing his expansive collection of jazz records and related knowledge, and everyone with a Duquesne email is invited to his listening sessions. His premiere Zoom this past Friday, Jan. 29, was based on the works of the musician Roy Eldridge.

Wendt discovered his passion for jazz as a drummer. He said he started listening to jazz in order to better his own rhythm section skills. "As a musician, you're always trying to grow and become better," Wendt said.

Wendt hopes to encourage this same growth in Duquesne students, especially those interested in jazz music, with his Zoom sessions.

"The best way to [get closer to music] is to listen," Wendt said. "By learning to listen in a critical, focused way, you can gain a much greater understanding of the music. And, it's also fun."

Last week's jazz listening session started out with an introduction on Roy Eldridge, who was a jazz trumpeter from Pittsburgh. His debut album was published in the 1930s, but he was a popular player until his death in 1989. Eldridge played a major part in transforming the

jazz trumpet from the style of Louis Armstrong to how it is heard in more modern jazz.

The first piece Wendt played on his record player for listeners was "(Lookie, lookie, lookie) Here Comes Cookie," a trumpet feature that proves how talented Eldridge was even at the beginning of his career in the mid-1930s. From there, Wendt introduced his audience to a number of other works featuring Eldridge. These included tracks that Eldridge played alongside popular jazz players Oscar Peterson, Quincey Jones and Dizzy Gillespie.

My favorite piece was "What a Little Moonlight Can Do," which Eldridge performed with well-known singer Billie Holiday. It was an upbeat tune that made me just want to stomp my foot. Its jazzy groove and forward motion made it a very easy addition to my favorites on Spotify. The piece that I thought was the most memorable was "Rap Your Troubles In Dreams" by the Newport Rebels featuring Roy Eldridge. The song itself is pretty laid back, but it has a surprisingly impactful message. The record was recorded in protest to big record companies commercializing jazz in the 60s.

In addition to playing a multitude of records for his audience, Wendt included helpful context for each of the pieces. For example, he explained that string orchestras became a popular addition to jazz music in the 1940s, and then proved



Jazz musician Roy Eldridge was featured in last week's virtual record-listening.

that Roy Eldridge could always fit his trumpet part seamlessly into the sound of the song with the track "Bass and Street Blues" with Spencer Williams.

As apparent to anyone who was on the Zoom last Friday, Wendt is an avid record collector. He has shelves of record disks from assorted periods of music, proving that he takes the whole "listening" aspect of learning music seriously.

Wendt says he has had success finding records across Pittsburgh at places like Jerry's Records, The Attic Records and The Government Center. Although last week was solely focused on Roy Eldridge's career,

Wendt had no shortage of records to play, and he filled almost the whole two hours of the Zoom session with Eldridge's fantastic recordings.

Wendt encourages music students to join his Friday Zooms, but all Duquesne students are welcome. I would suggest joining at least once, if only to see Wendt's impressive collection of records.

Tune in next Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. to enjoy the music of Dexter Gordon, a phenomenal jazz tenor saxophonist. In the weeks to come, Wendt will be featuring other jazz musicians from Pittsburgh and other jazz groups from history in future Zoom sessions.

Duquesne student builds vocal career with TikTok

LIZZIE SHARP
staff writer

Senior music technology and vocal performance major, Vinny Marchi, is no stranger to the phenomenon of social media breeding opportunities for aspiring musicians.

He currently boasts over 400 thousand followers on the social media platform TikTok, and this number only seems to be growing.

Before his TikTok career, as long as he can remember, Marchi was singing anywhere and everywhere he could. Although, it was not until college that he realized he had a gift for opera, specifically falsetto.

"It just stuck, and I loved it," Marchi said. He now considers himself a countertenor, a classical male singing part.

Marchi started uploading on his TikTok account in May 2020. He initially began posting for fun during quarantine lockdown, but it eventually gained traction with people all over the world.

His recent TikTok fame came when he uploaded a video singing a version of the "Habanera," originally composed by Georges Bizet, that currently has 6.5 million views. From that point on, he began gaining a large following, and the number of views on his videos increased.

"It was absolutely insane," Marchi said about his videos accumulating so many views. He went from having 100 thousand to 200 thousand

followers in the span of two days, due to the overwhelming support he has gained.

"It is just a fun thing to do, but something that could also further my music career," Marchi said. "When I hit 10,000 followers in the summer, I realized it could be used as a stepping stone to the next big thing...I made a classical album with some original songs, but mostly classical."

Marchi tries to not categorize himself into a particular genre. "I want to create a lot of different kinds of music," he said.

But, with opera being the most popular of his videos while gaining the most traction with his audience, this is a niche he continues to pursue.

"As more and more people started listening to my music, it occurred to me that it was a good time to release and make more," Marchi said.

He recently released a single, "Lullaby for the Anxious," on all streaming platforms. He writes and produces all of his own music and is planning on releasing a new single in the coming weeks.

"The response to 'Lullaby for the Anxious' has been overwhelmingly positive," Marchi said.

He was able to promote this track using his new social media following. The track now has over 30 thousand streams on Spotify.

"Social media has disrupted the whole music industry as much as any other industry," Marchi explained.

"It is possible to be all you need..."



Vinny Marchi goes viral on TikTok for operatic pieces and solo work. GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The record label is not obsolete, but it may be approaching that. Social media has a huge part in this," Marchi said.

Social media can also have a dark side including backlash and criticism. Marchi says he hasn't experienced too much of this but does take some of it as a learning opportunity.

"It can actually be very motivating," Marchi said when explaining comments aimed at his pronunciation of certain words in French or Italian.

"People all over the world are seeing your content. You need to be more cautious of what is being put out there," Marchi said.

"TikTok is not the end goal. It's a stepping stone...I'm going to show all of these people what I can do," he explained.

Marchi has many goals for his

future career, but for now, TikTok has been a way to release meaningful content to viewers.

He tries to post on TikTok every day since his video went viral.

The advice Marchi would give to people wanting to get started on social media is to post consistently and take pride in the work that they do.

"Try to look at content objectively from the eyes of someone that is just stumbling on your feed...and think 'I'm proud of the thing I'm creating,'" Marchi explained.

Marchi can be found on TikTok @veryveryvinny.

Listen to his latest single: "Lullaby for the Anxious."



WEEK'S EVENTS

60 in 60 Virtual Game Show
Feb. 4 @ 9 p.m.

Test your knowledge on 80s, 90s and 00s pop culture with a live virtual game show, brought to you by Residence Life! Winners receive Amazon gift cards. See Campus Link for more details.

DPC DUNite: Bears-to-Build
Feb. 5, @ 9 p.m.

Stop by the Union NiteSpot to build your own stuffed animal! Supplies are limited, so get there fast!

UPCOMING RELEASES

Medicine at Midnight
Foo Fighters
Friday, Feb. 5th

After releasing 3 singles, American rock band Foo Fighters is set to release their 10th studio album.

Bliss
Friday, Feb. 5th

Available on PrimeVideo, this movie focuses on a man (Owen Wilson) who has been recently divorced, who stumbles upon a homeless woman (Salma Hayek) whom he forms feelings for.

CAPRI'S

Where are the Loop buses?

I swear on my life the Loop buses were always on Seitz street. Now that the horrendous construction is finally done, wouldn't it be useful to put the bus stop in the same spot it has always been?

Without explanation, Duquesne moved the bus stop to the Union building, removed Oakland as a drop-off spot and completely changed its hours from night-time to daytime.

I understand this may be to discourage students from partaking in the night-life of Pittsburgh, especially during a pandemic, but I'm pretty sure people used the Loop buses primarily for late-night Target runs and dinner dates.

With the Loop buses not even being an option last semester, it would be nice if the possibilities were the same as we've always known, or at least brought to our attention that they now are not.

-Capri Scarcelli

New SNL episode humors doubtful expectations

CAPRI SCARCELLI

a&e editor

Saturday Night Live is back in full swing — and they aren't behind in content, either.

Last week's episode premiered on Jan. 30, hosted by former Office actor John Krasinski with featured performances by punk artist Machine Gun Kelly.

The show started off with a warm welcome from Krasinski, who was immediately teased for no longer resembling his Office character, Jim. With lots of audience upheaval for "Jim" not kissing "Pam" on air, actor Pete Davidson swoops in to seal the deal with a big smooch followed by a round of applause.

Many SNL lovers were concerned that there would be less political jabs on the set now that Donald Trump is out of office, though that is simply not the case.

In the first skit "What Still Works," Kate McKinnon sits down with various political and pop culture figures to mockingly display everything that has gone wrong in the first month of 2021.

From representative Marjorie Taylor Greene's wacky conspiracy theories to the twist of fate brought to Reddit GameStop investors, McKinnon decided that the only thing that "works" properly in America is, well, Tom Brady. And is she wrong on that one?

The stock market was a consistent target throughout the episode, gaining its own skit called "Twins." In this skit, Krasinski expresses his concerns for the market in a live Zoom interview, but his children in the background were even more concerning, as they resembled the sisters from "The Shining."

More frightening, however, was SNL's ease with poking fun at the storming of the Capitol.

In "Pandemic Game Night," each character gets ready for some board games and wine in their "pod," though one-by-one gets arrested by the FBI for being involved in the coup. Instead of throwing a fit, each character knowingly gets up to be handcuffed, though asks to bring their novelty rebellion gear with them, including a beast costume, a hat that says "Uncle Jam," a podium from the Capitol and a mentioning of Nancy Pelosi's phone being shoved down Krasinski's pants. What was once a night gathering waiting for pizza turned into a "who done it?" round, with only one character being innocent — an FBI agent herself.

As always, SNL keeps it fair, making fun of the chaos as well as the everyday stuff, too.

With the presidential election placing a lot of dependency on the verdict of Georgia, the state reeling in mostly Democratic votes came as a shock to many Americans. So, of course, in "Blue

Georgia," the characters are set in a little diner, pretending to be a perfect utopia where all residents drink out of metal straws, never order meat and graciously use solar power for everything they can. Naturally, when a customer wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat strolls in, he is met with gasps and cries, where he is forced to leave the restaurant immediately for being on the "wrong side of the tracks."

The "Weekend Update" didn't hold much back either, going back and forth in a spit-fire of satire with fits of laughter about coronavirus, more stock market gags, Biden's inauguration and policies and much more.

Unfortunately, when bringing up Biden's repeal on the transgender military ban, SNL writers made the mistake of cracking the joke of "tucking," which caused controversy and caused SNL to have to apologize for insensitivity. They didn't have much to flub with, but this was a quick jab that made me reel back a little.

The other skits were quirky, poking at the "Ratatouille" faze that TikTok went under, as well as a spin-off of "Supermarket Sweep" with two "friends" stealing the show.

At the intermission point, Machine Gun Kelly debuted "Lonely" and "My Ex's Best Friend" off of his 2020 album *Tickets to My Downfall*, which was truly exciting to see live.

His vocals were rich with passion and grit, pouring out with raw power just as he does on his recorded tracks.



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

SNL works through weeks of chaotic content since their last aired episode.

The pink guitar and microphone paired with the painted nails really matched his energy, while the low-cut, all-white suit complimented his tattoos. For those who are not as familiar with MGK and his style, he truly represented his most authentic self on that stage and seemed to really enjoy the night with the cast and crew.

As Krasinski gave closing remarks and the ending cadence car-

ried on in the background, MGK and Davidson took a tumble off the stage, which was, indeed, caught on camera. It was an impromptu, spazzed out moment, but it brought a final round of laughter to the audience as the credits rolled.

The next episode of SNL will air on Feb. 6, hosted by Dan Levy with a guest performance by indie artist Phoebe Bridgers.

Bachelor series features first Black bachelor

ALYSE KAMINSKI

staff writer

Ah, *Bachelor* Mondays. Sitting down for two hours of my day, watching TV producers manipulate people for the whole world to see and becoming emotionally invested in all of it.

I began watching all of the shows in *The Bachelor* franchise during Jojo Fletcher's

run as the Bachelorette. Since then, I have not seen a single person of color be the Bachelor or Bachelorette and I began watching years ago. Rachel Lindsay was the first and only Bachelorette of color, but I hadn't ever seen the show at that point. I love watching the shows in *The Bachelor* universe, but why are they so bad when it comes to representation?

There have been 25 seasons of *The Bachelor*, and Matt James is the first Black Bachelor we have seen. It's pretty ridiculous honestly. And let me be frank - the producers only chose to do so now in the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests this summer. As much as I love sitting down and investing two hours of my week into the stories unraveling on the show, shame on ABC. They are tokenizing Matt and I am confident they tokenized Tayshia last season.

In an article on Medium, writer Helen Kim Ho writes that tokenism happens in the workplace often. She reveals, "Tokenism achieves the same while giving those in power the appearance of being non-racist and even champions of diversity because they recruit and use POC as racialized props."

Notice how this season of *The Bachelor* just might be the most diverse we have seen yet in terms of the contestants. It only took 25 seasons. Had this summer not unfolded the way it did, I am skeptical as to whether or not the franchise would have had a Black Bachelorette and

Bachelor this time around.

Also note that there have been more conversations surrounding race since Tayshia and Matt become the leads. Now this is an aspect I am happy to see. I feel like there is a group of people who watch *The Bachelor* franchise and are likely oblivious to conversations around race. I am glad that Tayshia, Matt and the contestants on the seasons are willing to have raw conversations about this. It brings awareness to the topic and just feels more real, rather than the usual conversations that go something like, "How do you feel about us?" "I feel great." And then they kiss.

Of course it is great to see more representation in the franchise. I am just saying that it took way too long to happen and that it is most likely only happening because the fanbase started getting antsy about it a few years ago and it all came to a head this summer during the protests.

And let me just say on a lighter note that Matt is a great Bachelor. He is caring and conscious of the girls' feelings. There are rarely

times in other seasons of *The Bachelor* when the man asks a girl struggling, "What can I do for you to make it easier?"

He is so genuinely concerned with the wellbeing of every girl there, even Queen Victoria who is obviously there for ratings. It is quite literally impossible that Matt wants her there still, but he does a great job of making her feel comfortable.

One area in which the franchise is lacking is religious representation. Have you ever noticed how every contestant and lead is a devout Christian? Why are stories not being told of practicing Jewish people or Muslims finding love? Or even people who are impartial to religion!

The Bachelor series has a long way to go in becoming more inclusive. I hope that the franchise does better in the future. It seems that this season is getting great reception, and since we know the producers love to capitalize on profit, there will be a much more diverse range of contestants and leads in the future.



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Matt James makes history as first Black bachelor in over 25 seasons.

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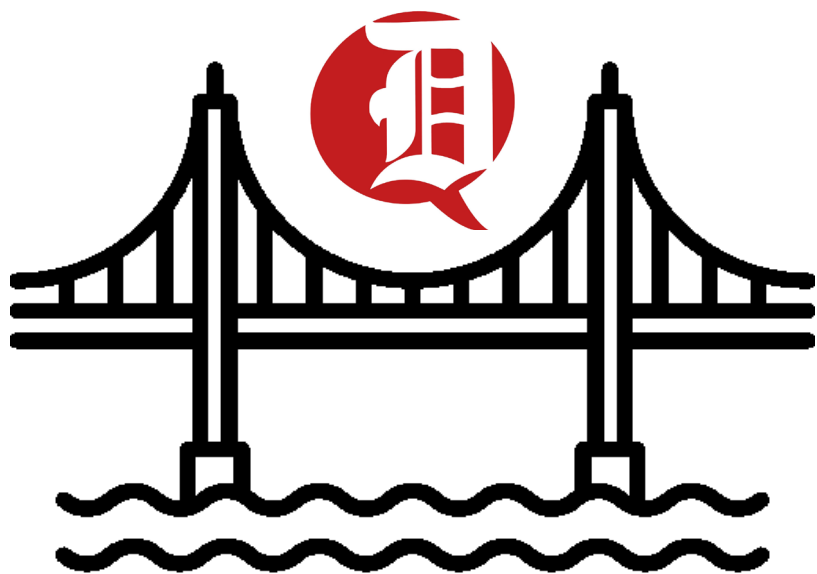
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