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Duq ranks in "Top 10 Worst Colleges for Free Speech"

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

"Every great university has its critics."

That's what Duquesne spokesperson Gabe Welsch said in regards to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education's (FIRE) recent placement of Duquesne University on their "Top 10 Worst Colleges for Free Speech" list last week.

The list, made up of 10 schools worldwide, argued Duquesne's placement on the list for "promising academic freedom and free speech but fired a professor when it faced public pressure."

FIRE has been a staunch defender of Gary Shank – the education professor who used the n-word in a class lecture in September – arguing that Shank using the racial epithet was "pedagogically-relevant" class discussion about why it's inappropriate to use the word.

The points FIRE makes to place Duquesne on the list, Welsch said, are not true.

"The case FIRE makes for its choice to include Duquesne on the list rests on the flawed reasoning that Professor Shank's repeated use of a racist slur was pedagogically justified, and that the university then restricted his freedom of expression," Welsch said.

Welsch said that Duquesne's

see FIRE— page 3

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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New campus-wide COVID-19 testing gets underway



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Students assembled in the Genesius Theater to begin the first days of COVID-19 testing. All students, faculty and staff who come to campus for in-person classes will have to undergo asymptomatic testing once every two weeks. Given the colder winter weather, testing has been moved indoors this semester.

ZOE STRATOS
staff writer

On Feb. 17, Duquesne released an update on campus wide testing to begin the week of Feb. 22 at the Genesius Theater. Different from the fall semester, this version of testing is required every two weeks for all students who come to campus in any capacity – whether it be to go to the Power Center, classes or even the bookstore.

To ensure a smooth process for both testing staff and testing students, the university partnered with a platform called SONA to facilitate scheduling and results.

According to their website, SONA is a cloud-based participant pool management system created to aid administrators, researchers and now universities in launching studies and manag-

ing participants for a variety of reasons – COVID-19 test scheduling and tracking now being one of them.

On-campus students are the first eligible group, with commuters and employees next on the email list to schedule.

Upon receiving the email, stu-

dents will be provided with a link to log into the registration system with DORI credentials. Once logged in, students are met with a page containing the student's name, email address, birthday, student ID number, phone number and an option to receive email announcements about available

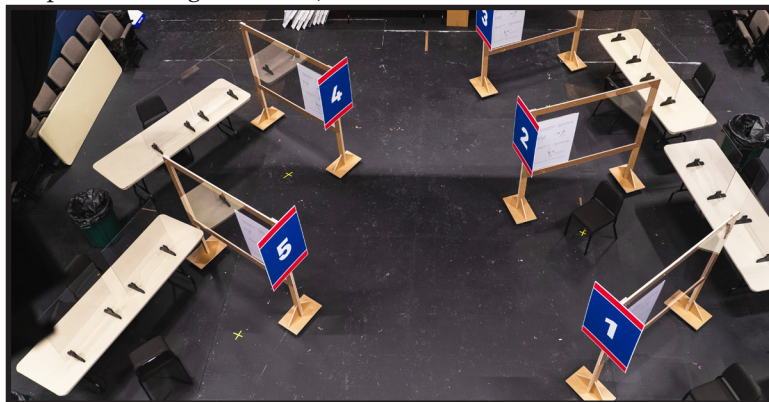
studies.

After confirming personal information, a new acknowledgment page appears with information regarding the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and the student's protected health information.

Finally, after acknowledgment, a third page appears allowing students to view and sign up for a testing time. The SONA software allows for hundreds of appointments per day, and testing is taking place in two multi-hour sessions: morning and afternoon.

"Surveillance testing is required for all students," said Vice President of Marketing and Communications Gabe Welsch. "The SONA system will help to track which students received a test and when. Students who don't

see COVID— page 2



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The COVID-19 testing takes place at these numbered stations in the Genesius Theater. Students are separated by transparent dividers to prevent transmission.

POLICE BRIEFS

Here are the crimes reported from Feb. 15 to Feb. 22.

On Feb. 19, graffiti was discovered on the rear portion of the Mary Tobin building on Fifth Ave.

On Feb. 21, a student reported that her coat was stolen from the Power Center. An investigation found that another student stole the jacket. The jacket was recovered, and the student will be referred to the office of student conduct.

COVID-19 NUMBERS

The new dashboard features campus COVID-19 data along with information from Allegheny County.

The campus data dashboard breaks down COVID-19 cases, tests, isolation and quarantine spaces and vaccination information.

As of Feb. 18, there were five positive tests at Duquesne, and 484 tests conducted.

SCAN HERE FOR COVID-19 DATA



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EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

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

Biweekly COVID-19 for all in-person students, faculty and staff begins

from COVID— page 1

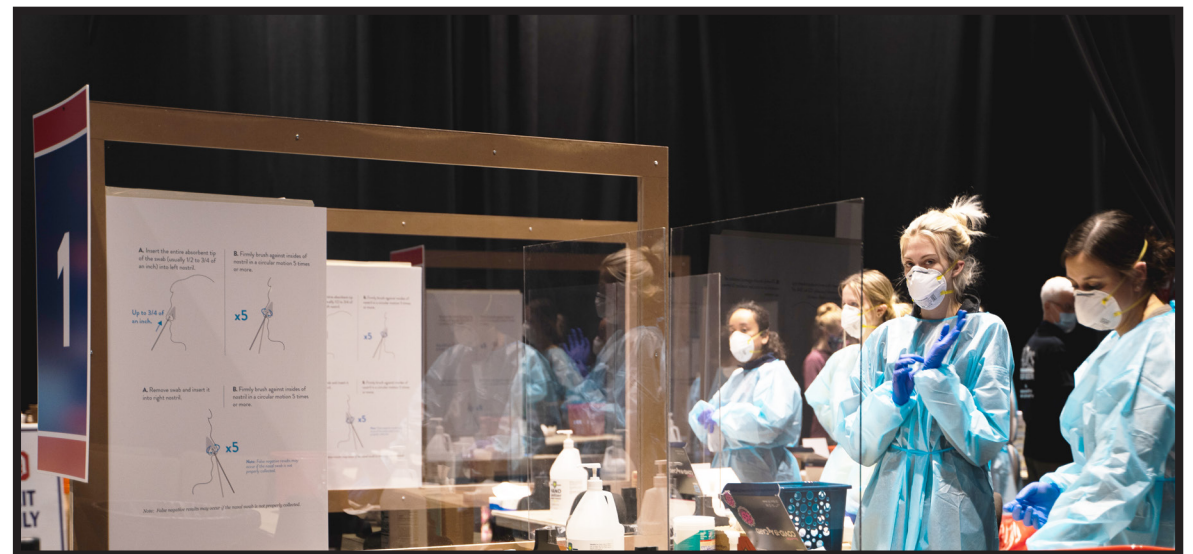
voluntarily get a test every other week will be contacted.”

Non-compliance of students will result in being prohibited from campus, including residences, with continuing non-compliance resulting in termination of ID card access to campus buildings.

Although testing is required for all students, there are some exceptions.

“Only persons with no symptoms on their daily health screen are eligible for testing,” said Welsch. “Students who are experiencing potential COVID-19 symptoms must contact Duquesne’s Health Services at 412.396.2617 for instructions on appropriate next steps.”

Also, students who have tested positive for COVID are not eligible to participate in testing until they have surpassed the 90-day window from the date of their positive COVID-19 test result. Students who have received one or both doses of the vaccine are



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Armed with a few plexiglass shields and full PPE, these pharmacy students are suited up and ready to begin the asymptomatic COVID-19 testing.

easy to use nasal swab — similar to the Everlywell testing kits given to students upon their return to campus from winter break.

“I got my email on Feb. 18 and got tested today,” said freshman nursing student Shaina Sweeney.



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Duquesne's pharmacy students assist in administering and organizing the new COVID-19 testing in the Genesis Theater.

still required to participate, as well.

For those who are scheduled for testing, the Genesis Theater is fully equipped for a safe testing process, even though students do the testing themselves.

“We continue to follow all safety protocols and provide an environment following preventive guidelines for environmental protection, using of PPE by the testing staff, wearing of masks by all volunteers and participants, following safe hygiene practices and maintaining social distancing,” said Welsch. “The COVID testing will be managed by dedicated professional nursing staff who will oversee trained students from the schools of nursing, pharmacy and health sciences.”

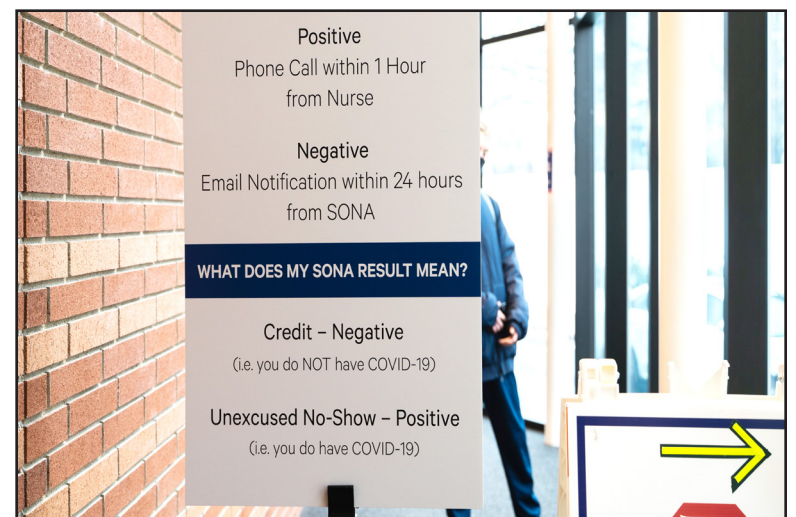
For a quick test turnaround, the university is utilizing the Abbott BinaxNOWTM COVID-19 rapid antigen card, a 15-minute,

“You had to first check in, and the process was pretty easy and there was barely a line. You did the test yourself by reading a sign in front of you, and the whole thing took about five minutes.”

But with the nasal swab being a rapid form of testing and students doing it themselves, the university is preparing for some difficulties that come along with it.

“Because participants are expected to be asymptomatic at the time of testing, positive results may not be expected,” said Welsch. “Students who do result positive will require prompt follow-up with Duquesne’s Health Services for further evaluation by a medical professional, additional COVID testing, and will be under university protocol for isolation and contact tracing of close contacts.”

Although Sweeney is pleased



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Instructions are located on highly visible signs across the theater and inform those getting tested where to enter, exit and sign in for their appointment.

with the software and turnaround time, she is still slightly worried about self testing.

“The software I used to schedule my test was pretty easy to use. Personally, I don’t like doing the tests myself. I would rather have a nurse do it because, to be honest, I don’t know if I’m doing it right and how accurate that’ll make the test. I didn’t realize you do it yourself until I got there.”

After testing, students must be reachable by phone for at least an hour in the case of a positive result; follow up testing and communication will be provided after.

Negative results will be sent by email, although positive results are prioritized.

“I haven’t gotten any results back since I just took it today, but signs said if it is positive you’ll receive a call within the hour and if you’re negative you’ll receive an email within the next 24 hours,” said Sweeney. “I honestly think they should use the same system as they used in the fall when someone took your test for you. Otherwise the whole process wasn’t too bad.”



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Duquesne's pharmacy students are all smiles as the new testing procedures get underway.

Shank controversy sparks campus-wide conversation on the limits of academic freedom

from FIRE— page 1

placement on the list is “little more than a public relations stunt for an organization that attempts to create fear for restrictions that simply are not real dangers at colleges and universities across the country.”

“In this case, it is far more important to worry about the university’s commitment to treating its students with respect in the classroom than to worry about FIRE’s flawed logic,” he said. “We insist, through our policies and procedures, that faculty members use sound pedagogical practices and treat all students with respect in carrying out their teaching duties. That did not happen in this case.”

FIRE spokesperson Adam Steinbaugh said that Duquesne’s placement isn’t “just about Gary Shank.”

“In the fall of 2019, Duquesne’s

administration initially banned a student group from using the term ‘gender-neutral’ and images reflecting gender-neutrality in connection with the Gender Neutral Fashion Show,” Steinbaugh said. “Students and faculty shouldn’t have to fight to protect freedom of expression when their university – like Duquesne – already promises it to them.”

Academic freedom is not unlimited, Steinbaugh said, giving an example of a faculty member who targets a student for harassment, or who repeatedly introduces irrelevant subject matter into class discussions – those would be actions not protected by the principles of academic freedom.

“But that’s not what Shank did,” Steinbaugh said.

“[Duquesne] should have recognized that a commitment to academic freedom means that administrators have to take some

types of responses to offensive, but protected, speech off the table,” he said. “They can criticize exercises of protected speech and explain why they believe that exercise to be offensive or unwise, and they can work to make sure that students have robust, meaningful ways of making their voices heard.”

Welsch said that the faculty handbook and university policies protect the free expression of ideas and give faculty a wide berth for their judgment on best ways to teach their courses.

“Academic freedom, however, is not a license to cause harm to others, and free speech does not mean a person’s words have no consequences,” Welsch said.

On Feb. 5, Duquesne President Ken Gormley set sanctions and requirements Shank must complete in order to be reinstated at the university. As of press time, Shank has not com-



FIRE

Foundation for Individual Rights in Education

COURTESY OF FIRE

FIRE has communicated its support for Gary Shank from the very beginning, citing a need for academic freedom.

municated to Duquesne about his plans.

“Gormley imposed a sanction that made clear that such conduct will not be tolerated at Duquesne,” Welsch said. “The Student Government Association has provided useful suggestions for revising the Faculty Handbook to make explicit, in the

future, that faculty misconduct of this sort has serious consequences.”

Welsch said that Gormley supports examining the Faculty Handbook for that purpose, and intends to discuss this matter with officers of the Faculty Senate, to determine if he can assist in accomplishing that goal.

New study spaces mean fewer books for Gumberg

ELIZABETH SHARP

staff writer

Gumberg Library is starting a new chapter— one that includes significantly less books.

Gumberg is currently undertaking a collection review project that will condense the library’s print collection by 40-50% to accommodate the increasing need for socially distant study spaces during the winter pandemic months.

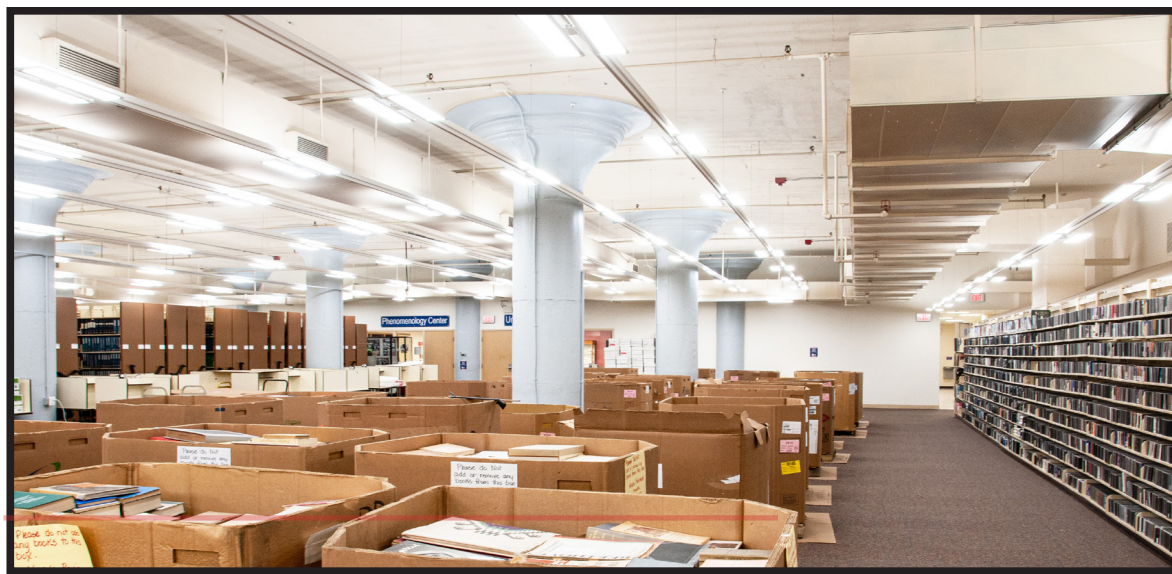
Gumberg Library has been opening more study spaces for students during the spring semester. Students have been encouraged to use study spaces around campus, but this has proven difficult due to COVID. The library’s goal is to continue to increase the number of study spaces available while also maintaining safe protocols.

Scott Buchanan, communication and engagement librarian at Gumberg Library, explained the library’s plan when reopening for the fall 2020 semester.

“Gumberg implemented protocols last fall to help mitigate the spread of COVID on campus, including: limiting our hours to allow for more cleaning/sanitization by our facilities crew, limiting browsing and check-outs to online only with contactless pick-up, and de-densifying our study spaces,” Buchanan said.

In addition, Gumberg Library requires all students to socially distance when using the library and wear masks at all times when in the facility.

Buchanan also detailed study space plans open for students during the spring semester with



ALEX LAFONTAINE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Thirty percent of the Gumberg Library’s print books are being removed from viewing and instead donated to Better World Books, an online bookseller that will sell, donate or recycle these volumes.

with a continuation of all Fall 2020 semester protocols.

“Right now, we are outfitted with one chair per-table to ensure social distancing in our open study areas on floors 3-5,” Buchanan said. “We also temporarily transitioned most of our group study rooms to single study spaces, which are all available to reserve online.”

There are currently 27 reservable rooms in the facility that are regularly cleaned and sanitized. But with increasing numbers of students wanting to utilize these spaces, and there being a limit on the number of students allowed in each room, the library has come up with a way to quickly make more study space available.

“Floors 1 and 2 have been closed this semester due to collections maintenance being per-

formed on those floors, including the shifting of books and shelving, and the addition of some compact shelving,” Buchanan said.

This project consists of a review of each source that is being considered for removal. As much more information becomes available online through databases and other library resources, the need for a large print collection decreases.

Because of the removal of these print sources, the library is able to use this empty space to accommodate more students that need more places to study because of de-densified spaces due to COVID-19.

This process is also being utilized to ensure students have the necessary resources and spaces to study in time for finals. The

library is working to expand and open the second floor to be able to accommodate the bump in the building that often occurs at time.

The books and sources from



ALEX LAFONTAINE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gumberg Library may look different in the coming months, but it continues its mission of providing a place for students to study and learn.

this project will not be thrown away. They will instead be sent to Better World Books, an online bookseller, where they will be sold to other libraries, donated or recycled.

Availability and use are contributing factors to whether or not a print source will be removed. If something is available in OCLC, a global library cooperative, and it is not being used at Duquesne, this usually qualifies the source as a good candidate for removal.

Though it may seem surprising that the library is willing to give up so many print sources, this has actually been going on since 2006 when they undertook the first print journal collection review and has continued in some capacity each year since.

As of Feb. 5, the total number of items reviewed comes to 272,411, which is 69% of the total capacity. The total number of items left to review is 119,566 which is 31% of the total capacity.

The current percentage of items actually removed from the library is 30%. The other 70% of items are planned to be removed by October 2021.

THE DUKESNE DUKE

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COURTESY OF FLICKR

Elon Musk and Tesla made headlines last week after purchasing \$1.5 billion worth of Bitcoin.

Blockchain: The future or the latest fad?

In 2010, before cryptocurrency rose to fame as a profitable alternative to traditional investing, a Florida man by the name of Laszlo Hanyecz paid 10,000 bitcoins for two Papa John pizzas. Although at the time this payment seemed equitable for both parties, we are all well-aware of just how unfair this exchange turned out to be down the road.

As of Wednesday evening, at a price of \$49,359 per coin, 10,000 bitcoins would now be worth nearly \$500 million — let that sink in for a moment. The price has risen more than 65% in 2021 alone as it continues to accelerate after surpassing a \$1 trillion market cap earlier this year. With Elon Musk, Jack Dorsey and other business leaders beginning to take an interest in cryptocurrency, the future of Bitcoin and other tokens is undeniably bright.

The recent surge in the prices of Bitcoin, Ethereum and Litecoin has once again brought into the public spotlight the notion of blockchain technology and whether it will serve a role in our globalized society someday in the near future.

According to Luke Conway from Investopedia, blockchain is a distributed, decentralized and immutable ledger that attaches “blocks” of information into a “chain” — a public database. Although this might be the book definition, I am of the opinion that it does little to shed light on the true value blockchain offers humanity by improving the inefficiencies that plague our world.

To gain a clearer picture, we must ask: What distinguishes blockchain from other forms of emerging technology? Unlike traditional databases, blockchain promotes security and builds trust among users through a shared system where information is “tamper-free.”

This transparency is achieved

and further fostered by recording information across a network in a way that restricts any modification of the data while providing real-time access to all network participants.

Put simply, blockchain enhances privacy and reduces risk because information can only be added or viewed, rather than modified or removed. For example, a traditional database allows users to read, write, edit and delete data. On the other hand, in a blockchain, users can only read and write while existing information is restricted from modification and removal.

Without overcomplicating



NOAH WILBUR

opinions editor

things, what's most important to understand is that as a decentralized and permanent public ledger, blockchain enables data to be stored in a secure manner across a network where authorized individuals from all over the world can access the information at any time.

From finance and healthcare, to international elections and cybersecurity, this technology can be applied to almost every aspect of our society with the potential to disrupt day-to-day life in the best way possible. To illustrate its future relevancy, here is an example of blockchain's impact on the banking and finance industry.

As blockchain is incorporated into the industry, individual consumers and major corporations will benefit from faster transactions and considerable reductions in transactional costs.

Arising from blockchain's transparent nature, the need for financial intermediaries and third-party verification in the transaction process is eliminated whether it be between major corporations or everyday people like you and me. In turn, by decreasing the number of intermediaries, the transaction process is simplified with the other fees and costs associated with a third-party — such as a commercial bank — also removed.

As a result, peer-to-peer financial transactions between consumers as well as payments between both large and small firms are facilitated quicker and processed in significantly less time. Not only are payments executed at a faster pace, but these dealings are also facilitated at a lower cost. In fact, French consulting agency Capgemini recently discovered that consumers could save around \$16 billion annually in banking and insurance related fees.

With the number of applications growing every passing day, this real-life case is an excellent indicator of blockchain's future relevance in an increasingly modern world. Everyday consumers, businesses and even governments will reap the benefits of shortened transaction times and decreased execution costs.

Ultimately, as the preceding evidence certainly suggests, blockchain has emerged as a leading technology wielding the power to actualize necessary and valuable change. By streamlining processes, minimizing unnecessary costs, and creating a secure environment for data, I foresee this technology continuing to disrupt long-lasting traditions and elevating humanity to a higher standard of living.

STAFF EDITORIAL

In memory of the 500,000 Americans lost to the COVID-19 pandemic

All across the country, the American flag will be flown at half-staff this week to commemorate a harrowing COVID-19 milestone: 500,000 recorded deaths.

After over a year of COVID-19 deaths in the U.S., it's easy to let yet another shocking milestone breeze by as we continue to move forward. However, in our pandemic frenzy, many of us have never stopped to process the magnitude of our individual and collective loss.

At a White House memorial on Monday, President Joe Biden urged all Americans: “We have to resist becoming numb to the sorrow.”

When the pandemic first began, it was far easier to feel the shock of each loss, but 500,000 is an impossible number to fathom. It's easier to numb ourselves to such a seemingly abstract quantity of death. However, the 500,000th death is no less meaningful than the very first death that received days of intense news coverage.

As we remain steadfast in our commitment to mask-wearing, we must also remain steadfast in our commitment to grieving our losses and feeling the sorrow.

We have all lost something. Perhaps not something as significant as a loved one, but we have all endured months without the embrace of our friends and the joy of being together; we have lost our sense of control and safety; we have missed out on momentous life celebrations. We have each faced death and loss in some capacity. It is one of the few things we all share in common.

As the slow but steady distribution of the vaccine offers growing hope for a return to pre-COVID life, we mustn't rush through the collective grief of this season.

Americans are notoriously bad at grief. While various other cultures encourage public displays of sorrow and practice lengthy mourning rituals, most Americans shudder at the thought of crying in public and often attempt to squeeze funerals in during a half-day of work. However, grief is an inescapable part of the human experience, and ignoring it doesn't make us stronger or more evolved.

Each of the 500,000 Americans who lost their lives to COVID deserve our grief and likewise, we deserve to give ourselves the permission to grieve all we've lost.

We all know the COVID-19 trifecta: wash your hands, wear a mask, social distance; but we'd like to suggest one additional directive: Don't forget to grieve.

How the heck are we even supposed to recycle?

TROY SMAJDA
staff columnist

I love recycling. It is one of the few things that I do during my day that makes me feel like I'm helping my future, the planet's future and everyone else's future who is stuck on this rock. I believe it is one of the most honest and effective ways to create tangible change in the world around us.

Take my mother for example: born in the '60s and not very well-versed in recycling. That is until the last few years when I saw the horrifying effects of climate change and devoted myself to trying to keep the earth clean for me and everyone around me.

My mom saw the extensive efforts I was making to sort everything we throw away and make sure everything that was recyclable got recycled. She was so inspired by me and my constant reminders that I'm not just doing it for me, but for my kids who will be her grandkids and their kids and all the kids that come after all of us.

Now she uses eco-friendly sponges, buys plant-based meat substitutes and (God bless her) she takes every plastic thing we

might throw away and sorts it for me. She even sorts single-use plastics from fast-food restaurants among an array of other things.

Her devotion has been so inspiring to me, and the repercussions have been more than tangible.

I save all my plastic bags, plastic wraps, plastic packaging, any type of plastic that can be taken at a grocery store bag recycling and combine it with what she has saved for me, and I show up to Giant Eagle with an entire carload full of plastic — all of which would've been thrown into a landfill or drifted into the ocean.

Now, sure I get some funny looks from the employees, but if it means keeping piles of non-biodegradable plastic from ending somewhere it shouldn't, it helps me sleep at night.

My point is that I have taken my devotion to helping the earth and multiplied it by two, and even three now by getting my brother involved (we're still chipping away at my dad). And everyone can do that! It wasn't hard, I just talked to people openly and understandingly about it and now I can see real,

tangible change in what my family sends to a landfill. Posting on your Instagram story about climate change and doing your own part to recycle is important and needed, but for the earth's sake, actually talk to real people you know about it and create tangible change.

Now, that may help answer your question, "How can I recycle?" However, this article is more about, "How the heck can we recycle?" I admit that it is so unnecessarily confusing and esoteric to be able to effectively recycle, and that needs to change.

I mean, there are only two types of plastic that you can actually recycle from your house (types 1 and 2, very creative jobs by the recycling people), and the other types — such as cardboard — you usually have to take to a recycling center. And who the heck wants to do that? How do you even find the right recycling center? Who is in charge of all this? Last but not least, why is this all so confusing? I wish I knew.

It is hard to raise awareness and get people to commit to a cause if the cause confuses people, and I totally see that side of the argument. That is why the whole sys-



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Amid growing confusion and skepticism, it has never been more difficult to recycle.

tem needs to be revamped.

Why are there so many types of plastics? Probably because vastly different plastics are needed for different things, but for consumers who have no information on what to do with these plastics, can we maybe stick to one type of plastic that is universally recyclable? Why does my Chick-fil-A order involve every type of plastic from type 1-5? Maybe, and hear me out, there could just be one. Then,

nobody would be confused.

I realize that is an ultra-simplification, but maybe that's what the solution to our country's garbage and recycling problem needs to be: simple. It would make it a lot easier for me, my mother, anyone concerned about the earth and those who are just plain old confused about recycling to actually be able to recycle. I believe it is crucial for our sake, and for our kids' sake, that we all figure out how the heck to recycle.

Why Facebook's clash with Australia is worth monitoring

ALEXANDER WOLFE
staff columnist

Now that we're beyond the initial 2021 spiral of news and it seems we're in more normal times, outrageous current events are less obvious, but still easily found. Facebook became the first company in recent memory to attempt to use the power of its own brand to influence legislation.

While the idea of Facebook's brand having the power to encourage positive action is laughable, 40% of Australians used Facebook as their primary news source between 2018 and 2020, according to a Reuters Institute report.

An Australian regulatory commission launched an inquiry into the impact of Google and Facebook on competition in media and advertising, and found that these companies collect A\$81 (Australian Dollars) of every A\$100 spent on digital advertising in Australian media.

Given this extreme level of sway, Facebook having control in the market is unsurprising, but how the company has elected to use its influence is worth noting. Facebook disabled news sharing for Australian users on Feb. 18, after a proposed law was introduced to the Australian legislature that

would make tech companies compensate news outlets for hosting or sharing content.

Whereas Facebook might have responded by privately pressuring lawmakers through lobbying or dark money contributions, in this case, the social media giant elected to launch a pressure campaign designed to force Australian politicians to dismiss the proposal.

Key to the proposal was the power held by the Australian government in binding arbitration to determine compensation for content usage. In this way, the government could force Facebook to account for the positive benefits gained from its position as both a platform to view and share news media.

Facebook has been fighting the law for months before resorting to disabling the news sharing feature, negotiating with both Australian politicians and Rupert Murdoch, whose company News Corp. maintains a sizable share of traditional media in Australia.

An 11th hour deal was reached on Tuesday, with the proposal scheduled for a vote by the end of this week. Facebook will still be required to compensate media outlets whose content is shared on the platform, but Facebook will retain the right to determine

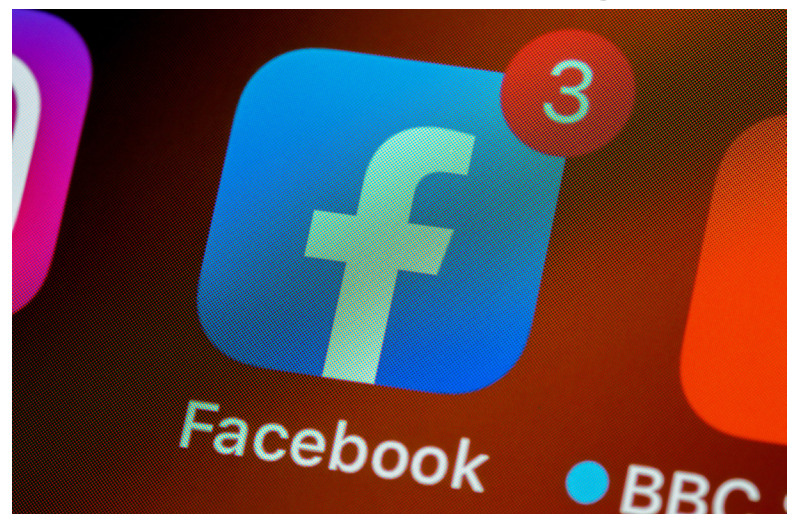
compensation.

While Google avoided controversy entirely by negotiating private deals with individual publishers to dodge the more stringent penalties, Facebook's heavy-handed approach is rather ominous. The concept of a massive transnational corporation threatening a sovereign state isn't new: Philip Morris International — the largest tobacco conglomerate — sued Australia in 2011 after the passing of a law requiring plain packaging for cigarettes. While Australia won easily, Philip Morris had successfully negotiated settlements with Uruguay and Togo after threatening similar lawsuits.

Despite the dominating strength of elected governments — of whatever sort — in the world today, our lives are still greatly impacted by the products, services and platforms provided by private corporations.

A national government can ill-afford to adopt a conciliatory posture, but in profit-driven economies where government is devised as a hindrance of profit, corporations are incentivized to become large enough to negotiate with governments on equal footing.

International courts have traditionally allowed corporations to challenge foreign countries, but



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

There are far-reaching implications of Facebook's recent clash with Australia.

systemic consolidation has empowered the largest corporations to begin adopting state-like behaviors. Particularly at a moment when government is unpopular, legislators and regulators are facing corporations that are more emboldened than at any point in the past century.

The good news behind the Australian negotiations lies in both the outcome and the regulatory proposal itself. The outcome shows that Facebook could not completely stifle regulation, and the fact that Google simply chose to accept the new transaction cost belies a hope that perhaps there are more ways than congressio-

nal hearings to address technology conglomerates.

Furthermore, the world will now bear witness to an initial attempt at curbing the power of said conglomerates, and doing so in a way that preserves the rapidly changing media industry. An industry free from the mercy of changes in Facebook's feed algorithm may rebound, providing a model for other nations to regulate social media and digital advertising platforms as well. Facebook and Google aren't going anywhere, but spreading the wealth to more useful places may be an effective stop-gap measure for the time being.



DUKE SERIES: MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

Sisters grow food and flowers for Pittsburgh residents

KATIA FAROUN
features editor

When TaRay and Raynise Kelly were kids, organic and locally-sourced produce was easily accessible. They'd be able to find fresh fruits and vegetables in shops on the corners, no matter the day.

Today, corner shops instead have shelves lined with processed snacks and junk food, rather than the nutritious produce the sisters grew up eating. And they saw the need for change.

"There was a lot of older people that remembered Beltzhoover as having fresh produce and good grocery stores, and so I felt like their grandkids deserve the same thing and their great-grandkids deserve the same thing," TaRay said. "... It needs to come back full circle."

In 2020, Raynise and TaRay founded Soil Sisters Plant Nursery, an organization with a mission to get seedlings and plants into the hands of Pittsburgh residents. Their hope is to grant food accessibility to those who lack the resources by growing sprouts, hosting educational workshops and eventually selling fresh produce to those in the city.

The sisters have always been surrounded by greenery. Though they grew up just south of the Monongahela River, the Kelly's have roots further south, and aspects of rural living were inherited by their family — specifically through the gardens of their grandparents. Raynise and TaRay both got the green thumb gene and pursued careers related to botany: Raynise now works with Grow Pittsburgh as a learning garden educator and TaRay works in the grounds department at University of Pittsburgh.

Through Soil Sisters, they're able to fuse their knowledge together and share it with the community they're so fond of.

"We knew we wanted to have it in the city. We knew we wanted to have it in Beltzhoover — where we're from — to give back to the community. That was just the number one thing," TaRay said.

As Black women, Raynise and TaRay recognize they're involved in a field that doesn't consist of many people of their same race. And as small business owners, they know that having connections might be the most helpful part in obtaining funding and grants.

"Sometimes it's not what you know, it's who you know," TaRay said.

Because of Raynise's involvement with various Pittsburgh organizations through her positions on different farming coalitions, the sisters were able to form connections with the Urban Redevelopment Authority and Circles in Pittsburgh, who mentored them through the startup of their business.

Soil Sisters had been in the works for a couple years before launching in 2020 — right as the pandemic started. Since they didn't yet have the funding to start a physical nursery, and because of the logistical challenges brought on by the pandemic, Raynise and TaRay started up their business online, focusing on their social media presence.

While most business owners feel the pandemic brought them more challenges than rewards, TaRay claims it has actually given their business the boost it needed.

"People were looking for that; people wanted food," TaRay said. "They wanted to grow. They wanted to garden."

So far, TaRay and Raynise have navigated



COURTESY OF SOIL SISTERS PLANT NURSERY

Until they construct a physical nursery, TaRay and Raynise have been growing seedlings at home.

the pandemic and their virtual business by attending events at coffee shops and having pop-ups on the land where they plan to build their nursery: the site of their grandparents' old Beltzhoover home, which burned down in 2010. Until they have enough funding to create a physical nursery, they're using money out-of-pocket to grow seedlings for flowers and vegetables and sell some succulents and air plants.

"We're talking about seedlings? We're a little sprout," TaRay said with a laugh.

While minority business owners often find themselves to be disadvantaged due to their race or ethnicity, TaRay believes she and her sister have received more support because of their identities as Black women. Sparked by the protests following George Floyd's death over the summer, the sisters have found that

more people are being intentional about supporting Black business owners.

"People really have taken a liking to be interested in Black businesses right now," TaRay said. "That's not something that we were expecting."

TaRay feels optimistic about Soil Sisters' success and the future of their business; she and Raynise plan on launching their second season on Earth Day and hope to have a physical location for their nursery by the end of the year. And TaRay aspires to make giving back to the community — along with a green thumb — part of the Kelly family's DNA.

"This is a generational thing," TaRay said. "I don't want this to just stop with me and my sister — I want the Soil Sisters to be Soil Brothers, and then nephews and sons and cousins."

DU discusses Catholic universities, LGBTQ+ community

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

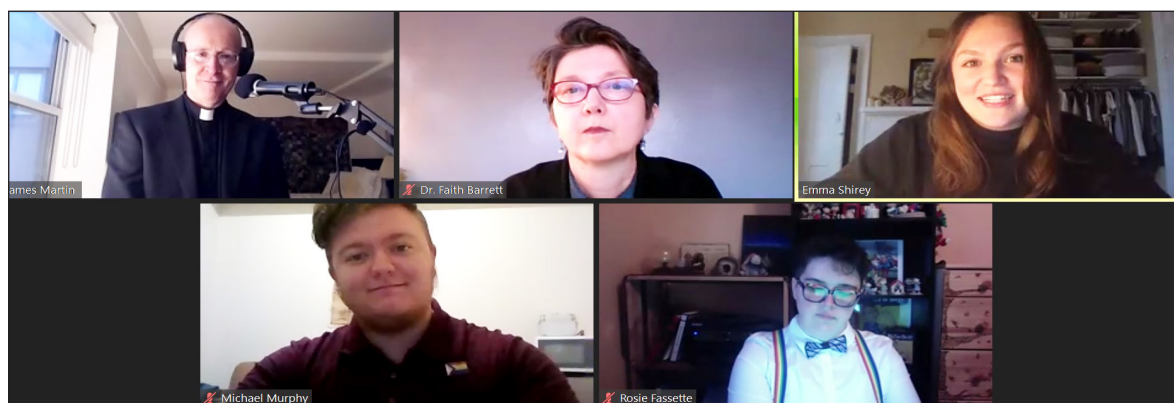
How can Catholic universities welcome LGBTQ+ students?

On Feb. 24, Duquesne's Faculty Senate, Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Gumberg Library held an event on Zoom with keynote speaker the Rev. James Martin titled, "Catholic Universities Welcoming LGBTQIA+ Students."

Martin is the editor-at-large for the Jesuit Review magazine America and a consultant to the Dicastery for Communication of Vatican News. He shared practices to help Catholic colleges sustain an environment where LGBTQ+ students feel welcomed while honoring a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

"Duquesne is already doing such wonderful work. Even by having a conversation like this shows that they are open and welcoming," Martin said. "But we can all improve; everybody can sort of do better."

Martin said that he contacted numerous Catholic college presidents, administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni and trustees to ask for their insights, and presented the "shared wisdom of dozens of people affected by this issue, who work both



KELLEN STEPLER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Pictured from top left, clockwise: the Rev. James Martin, Faith Barrett, Emma Shirey, Rosie Fassetto and Mike Murphy.

in the academy and in the church."

Cura personalis — Latin for "care for the entire person" — is at the heart of this topic, Martin said. The primary question for Catholic higher education isn't a legal one, a financial one or even an academic one.

"It's a spiritual one — how to best care for people who have probably doubted that they are loved by God, fear that their parents will reject them, question whether they could find a place in the world, and, if they are a Catholic, have certainly doubted or despaired about their place in the church," Martin said.

He provided 10 best practices for Catholic universities to help support and care for LGBTQ+ individuals,

like the "God-given dignity of the human person" and calling people by the names and pronouns they choose to show respect.

"They should be cared for, not because they are Catholic or not Catholic but because we are Catholic, and this is a Catholic school," Martin said. "Catholic schools should be known for their acceptance of LGBT people as a visible sign of how much we value their God-given dignity."

He also wanted people to remember how much LGBTQ+ individuals have suffered, and cited U.S. Department of Health statistics that lesbian, gay and bisexual youth contemplate suicide at almost three times the rate of straight youth, and they

are almost five times as likely to have attempted suicide.

Martin encouraged Catholic institutions to be clear and creative with programs that welcome LGBTQ+ individuals, to stand with them and to make the whole school a place where LGBTQ+ individuals can feel safe and supported.

"It's important for gay students to know that they are not alone, that there are others like them on campus and for them to form a support," Martin said.

Being open to learning new things, asking questions when you don't understand and educating yourself and the school can also make an environment feel more inclusive.

Following Martin's lecture, a Q+A panel of student leaders had the opportunity to respond and share their opinions on the topic.

The panel was composed of Emma Shirey, a senior English major and president of the Gender Forum; Mike Murphy, a theater arts and women and gender studies (WGS) major and special advisor to LAMB-DA; Rosie Fassetto, a law student and president of Law LGBTQIA+ EIID and Faith Barrett, an English professor and the director of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies.

"Events like this ... are not the goal, they are the stepping stone," Shirey said.

Murphy echoed similar statements to Shirey, saying that events similar to the panel are the kind of bridge that needs to be built at Duquesne.

"To be loved is to be welcomed," Murphy said.

Fassetto said that if people want to become allies, it begins with education, and people should look at LGBTQ+ individuals as people who have been "left for dead" — because they have been.

"We are not afraid to answer questions as long as they come from the heart," Fassetto said. "Make it not just a safe place, but a brave place."

Things looking up for Pens following rocky start to campaign

JACOB HEBDA
staff writer

The opening stage of the Penguins’ 2021 season could best be categorized as concerning. Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin got off to slow starts. For his first nine games, Tristan Jarry was a 6-foot-2 sieve in goalie pads. Former General Manager Jim Rutherford abruptly resigned in late January, raising questions about the state of the organization. Fortunately for Pittsburgh, better days are afoot in PPG Paints Arena.

The Penguins have won three games in a row. Crosby reached a tremendous milestone Feb. 20 — 1,000 NHL games. And while Head Coach Mike Sullivan’s team would never admit to scoreboard watching, fans will appreciate that the intrastate rival Flyers dropped four of five games prior to their triumph over the New York Rangers on Wednesday evening. Most importantly, after a rocky start to the season, the Penguins are 10-6-1. In a difficult East Division, they now sit in third place. An overtime victory in Washington Feb. 23 gave Pittsburgh its third consecutive win. Kasperii Kapanen’s game-winning goal ultimately decided what was yet another tight affair between the two rivals. The victory featured legitimate reasons for optimism, specifically regarding Jarry and

Malkin. Both players are critical to any hopes of a Pittsburgh Stanley Cup run, but neither has performed up to expectations thus far. Tuesday night, however, was Jarry’s third-straight game allowing two goals or less. Malkin netted a power-play goal, and now has four points in his last three contests. As each player continues to work out of his respective slump, the remaining roster is also showing signs of promise. Jake Guentzel and Bryan Rust are providing vital offensive support. Teddy Blueger, Zach Aston-Reese and Brandon Tanev offer a much-needed spark from the bottom six forward group.

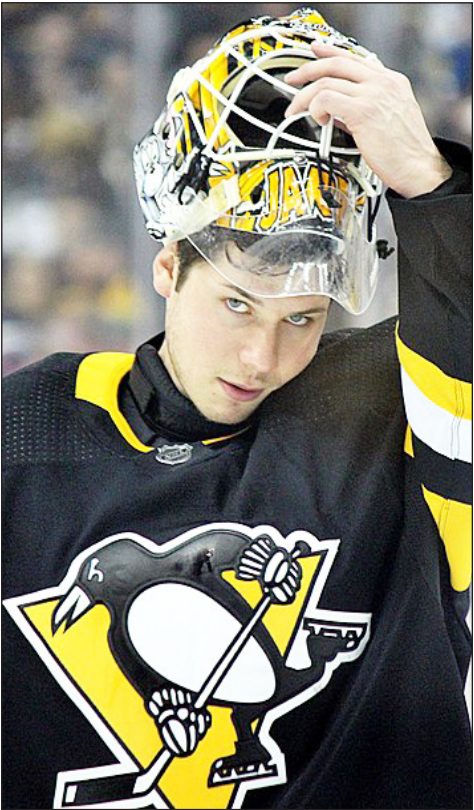
The defense suffered an early spate of injuries, but the unit is steadily regaining health. Also significant is Pittsburgh’s initial success against the Capitals and New York Islanders. Pittsburgh currently holds a 7-2 record against the pair of likely postseason contenders. If that trend continues, it could have major implications for the playoff race. There are four spots available for the division. At the moment, Boston is the clear leader. After the Bruins, there is a four-team pile-up between the Capitals, Flyers, Islanders and Penguins. A winning record against these opponents could loom large. Of course, there is still cause for apprehension in Pittsburgh.



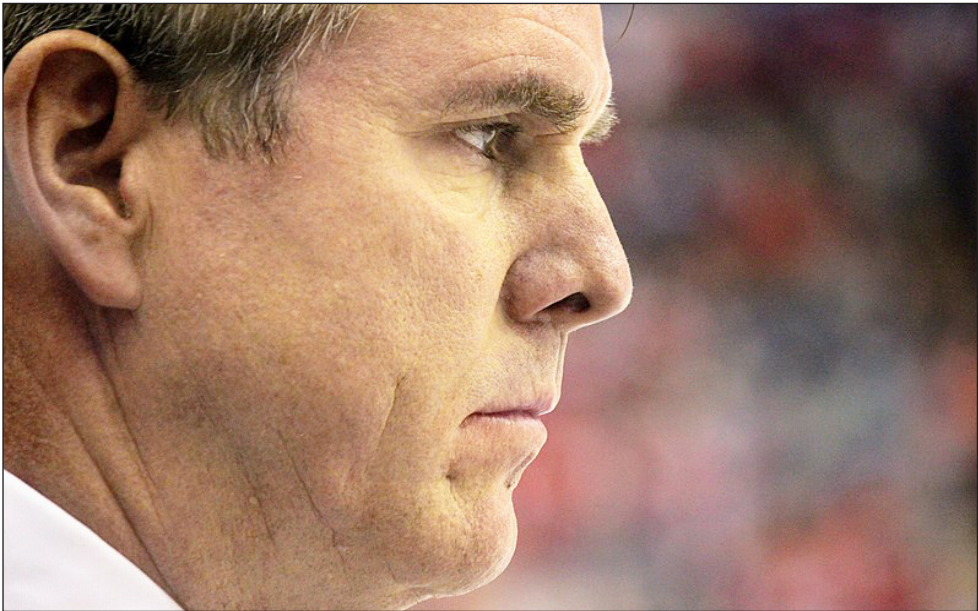
COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Pittsburgh star center Sidney Crosby skates during a game at Washington’s Capital One Arena during the 2018-19 NHL regular season. Crosby, who played in his 1,000th career game on Saturday night, has 15 points through 17 games so far this season — tying Jake Guentzel and Bryan Rust for the team lead. The 16-year NHL veteran, set to turn 34 years old in August, is in search of his fourth Stanley Cup title, with previous victories coming in 2009, 2016 and 2017.

Winger Jason Zucker left in the third period against Washington on Tuesday night after a collision near the boards. While his status remains uncertain, it appeared to be a painful lower-body injury. The Penguins’ forward depth is already questionable, so an extended absence from Zucker could spell trouble. Malkin’s goal was a refreshing sight, but it will not quell the ongoing worries surrounding him. There is growing concern that the 34-year-old’s days as an elite player are behind him. He has struggled to fill the scoresheet and his occasional defensive lapses have proven costly at times. Now, it is imperative to remember that a mere third of the season has been completed. Thirty-nine games remain. Recent history contains examples of how much can change before the playoffs. At this approximate point in the 2019-20 season, Pittsburgh was firmly in playoff position, only to stumble down the stretch. The team lost eight of 11 before the pandemic-induced pause. It eventually fell to underdog Montreal in the Qualifying Round. On the other hand, around this time during the 2015-16 season, coach Mike Johnston was fired. Despite a lackluster start, that campaign concluded with a Stanley Cup. One-third of a season can be equal parts insightful and misleading. So, how this year unfolds remains to be seen, but this much is true: The Penguins

appear to be on the upswing. That could change, but it is undeniably an improvement from how the season began.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Penguins goaltender Tristan Jarry during a 2018 home contest at PPG Paints Arena.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Pittsburgh Head Coach Mike Sullivan surveys the ice during a recent Penguins contest. The Boston native, who was named the team’s coach during the 2015-16 season, is 224-121-41 with the Pens.

Men’s Basketball A-10 Standings					
Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	St. Bonaventure	10-3	12-3	W2	2/26 at GW
2.	VCU	10-3	17-5	W1	2/27 at Davidson
3.	Richmond	6-3	13-5	W2	2/26 at Saint Louis
4.	UMass	6-3	7-5	L1	3/1 at Saint Louis
5.	Davidson	6-4	11-7	L2	2/27 vs. VCU
6.	George Mason	7-6	11-8	W3	2/27 vs. La Salle
7.	Dayton	8-7	12-8	L1	2/28 at St. Bonaventure
8.	Saint Louis	4-4	11-5	L2	2/26 vs. Richmond
9.	Duquesne	6-7	7-8	L2	2/27 vs. Rhode Island
10.	Rhode Island	7-9	10-13	L1	2/27 at <i>Duquesne</i>
11.	GW	3-4	4-10	L1	2/26 vs. St. Bonaventure
12.	La Salle	6-10	9-14	W1	2/27 at George Mason
13.	Saint Joseph’s	2-9	3-14	W2	3/1 at Richmond
14.	Fordham	2-11	2-11	L2	<i>TBD</i>

Women’s Basketball A-10 Standings					
Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Dayton	11-1	12-2	L1	2/28 at Davidson
2.	Fordham	8-2	11-3	W5	<i>TBD</i>
3.	Saint Louis	8-3	10-3	W6	2/26 at Davidson
4.	Richmond	9-4	12-6	W2	2/26 at Rhode Island
5.	Rhode Island	9-4	9-7	W1	2/26 vs. Richmond
6.	VCU	9-4	11-9	W2	2/26 at UMass
7.	UMass	6-4	10-5	L3	2/26 vs. VCU
8.	La Salle	6-9	10-12	L2	2/26 vs. <i>Duquesne</i>
9.	Davidson	5-8	8-11	W1	2/26 vs. Saint Louis
10.	St. Bonaventure	5-10	6-12	W1	2/26 at Saint Joseph’s
11.	Duquesne	3-6	4-9	L1	2/26 at La Salle
12.	GW	4-9	7-12	W3	2/28 vs. George Mason
13.	Saint Joseph’s	3-9	5-9	L8	2/26 vs. St. Bonaventure
14.	George Mason	0-13	3-17	L13	2/28 at GW

Men's hoops team drops key game at La Salle

Duquesne suffered a deflating setback in Philadelphia on Wednesday night, losing to lowly La Salle by way of a whopping 20-point margin. The loss dropped Duquesne to ninth in the Atlantic 10 standings ahead of its Saturday regular-season finale against Rhode Island. A win against the Rams would put the Dukes at .500 heading into the A-10 tournament; a loss would cast the team even further down the league's rung.

LUKE HENNE

asst. sports editor

Sloppy and careless play — headlined by a season-high-tying 17 turnovers and a Michael Hughes second-half ejection — were detrimental to Duquesne in an 85-65 loss to La Salle at Tom Gola Arena in Philadelphia on Wednesday night.

One would imagine it would take a lot to frustrate Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot, who is currently coaching in his 19th season at the Division I level. Dambrot, however, certainly did not hold back following the loss.

"We were just no good. It's probably as poorly as I've ever had a team play. We can't make any excuses. It's probably one of the worst games we've ever played," Dambrot said in his postgame press conference.

The loss — Duquesne's sixth-consecutive road defeat at La Salle — may serve as a wake-up call for the Dukes (7-8, 6-7 Atlantic 10), who were brought together for a postgame teaching moment by their head coach.

"We talked about trust, loyalty and commitment. We defined those terms. Because when things go poorly, you find out who's really committed. We just have to be more mature. We weren't very mature tonight," Dambrot said.

Perhaps the immaturity Dambrot was referencing was best displayed just under six minutes into the second half, when Hughes swatted a ball out-of-bounds and proceeded to taunt La Salle's David Beatty, prompting the refs to issue Hughes his



COURTESY OF MEGAN LEE

Duquesne senior forward Marcus Weathers (No. 5) looks to move the ball during the Dukes' Feb. 20 contest at Richmond. A Preseason All-Atlantic 10 Second Team selection, Weathers has led the Dukes' offensive attack this year, averaging a career-high 15.3 points per game on 48.8% shooting. The Overland Park, Kan., native was one of the team's few bright spots in its 85-65 defeat at La Salle on Wednesday evening, scoring 23 of the team's 65 tallies.

second technical foul of the evening, which subsequently resulted in his ejection.

Dambrot knew that Hughes' departure, which came when the Dukes trailed 46-38 and were still within striking distance of the Explorers, was particularly consequential.

"Emotionally, you can't get technical fouls and get kicked out of the game. That

hurts us. I love Mike Hughes, but we just have to quit talking," Dambrot explained.

From there, the Explorers (9-14, 6-10) never faltered, outscoring the Dukes 39-27 down the stretch. La Salle, led by Beatty's 22 points, shot 47.8% from 3-point range and connected on an impressive 81.5% of its shots from the charity stripe.

Dambrot took responsibility for his team's performance, being careful to not make excuses, but also clarifying that "it's hard to judge anything" based off one outing and that "nothing surprises [him] this year."

The loss, which was Duquesne's second-consecutive defeat following an 18-day, COVID-induced layoff, was certainly littered with poor individual performances, but to Dambrot, it is just another quirk in an unprecedented season.

"It's just a weird year. You can't judge what layoffs do to different teams. We played decent against Richmond, and we were no good tonight. Once we lost Mike [Hughes], we went in the toilet," Dambrot said.

Marcus Weathers led the Dukes with 23 points — one shy of his season-high — while also adding a team-high-tying four rebounds. With 11 points each, Toby Okani and Andre Harris were the only other Duquesne players to score in double figures.

"He [Weathers] tries every night. We had some guys try pretty hard. We just ran in mud and then we played really dumb, too. Fast and dumb and inconsistent. We just played like it was the first game we'd ever played together," Dambrot remarked.

For Duquesne, there is no time to waste in regrouping. The Dukes will host Rhode Island at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse on Saturday night — their final regular-season contest — prior to heading to Richmond, Va., for next week's A-10 Conference Tournament.

Duquesne defeated the Rams on Jan. 20 at La Roche University's Kerr Fitness Center by a 71-69 score. Due to scheduling adjustments recently made by the conference, Rhode Island will come to Pittsburgh for the second time in just over a month.

"Each game is a mutually-exclusive event and so is each practice," Dambrot said. "Maybe a good old-fashioned ass-kicking might be good for them. Or maybe it won't be.

"We're gonna find out how much fight they really have."

Duquesne Basketball Crossword Challenge (from Feb. 18 issue) — Answer Key

Down:

1. West Liberty
2. Chuck Cooper
4. Houston
5. Cinicola
6. Pirates
7. Baseball
11. Bazelak

Across:

3. Pittsburgh
8. Oregon
9. Dayton
10. Hlede
12. Adidas
13. McConnell



COURTESY OF MEGAN LEE

Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot, pictured during the Dukes' loss at Richmond Feb. 20, expressed disappointment in his team's effort during Wednesday's setback at La Salle. The Dukes fell, 85-65.



COURTESY OF MEGAN LEE

Duquesne center Michael Hughes, pictured above, was ejected from Wednesday's contest.

Virtual jazz session offers tribute to late Chick Corea

EMMA POLEN
staff writer

Feb. 9 was a sad day for the jazz community with the death of Chick Corea, 79, a phenomenal jazz pianist and composer of the modern age.

On Feb. 19, Duquesne music school professor Thomas Wendt hosted a jazz listening session centered around Corea's early career. Wendt honored Corea by playing several records that encapsulated the different techniques Corea used throughout his career.

Two tunes really stood out from the Zoom listening session. The first was "Ritmo Bobo" from "Stitt Goes Latin." It featured some amazing latin auxiliary percussion parts as well as Corea's early piano solos. The tune was recorded in 1963, before Corea had records under his own name, proving that Corea was a talented musician.

The second tune was recorded under Corea's name, titled "Trio with Flute, Bassoon, and Piano." While the name might sound unmemorable, the piece has a very unique sound. Corea has influence from both classical and jazz roots, and both were evident in this short work recorded in 1969. "Trio" sounded like something that would play behind an animated short film. The melody alone tells a story, even with just three instruments. Someone else must have had the same idea, because the piece appears in the short film "A Picasso on the Beach," a 1988 animated short film by Greg Neri.

"Ritmo Bobo" and "Trio" are different in so many ways, but they are both great examples of how Corea's work is both timeless and versatile. Most great musicians lose their telltale "edge" by the end of their lives, but Corea had a highly successful career almost until



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIACOMMONS
Jazz artist Chick Corea's extensive career impacted music for as long as he lived.

the very day he died.

Corea's father was a musician; he was introduced to music at a very early age. He started out taking classical lessons on piano, and soon no one could deny he had talent. Corea's early successes came as a large part of his motivation to practice on his own.

For his college education, Corea studied music at Columbia University and then transferred to Julliard. However, neither school satisfied Corea and he gave up on the college experience.

Instead, starting in the 60s he toured in New York City with talented players who apprenticed young Corea and influenced the incredible musician he became. Some of the great names he played alongside included Willie Bobo, Miles Davis and Stan Getz.

Corea was unique for his ability to remain flexible among different genres of music. He was also

uniquely situated at a turning point in keyboard history. In the many years of being a pianist, he played a role in developing the modern electric keyboard.

Rather than staying solely dependent on traditional methods as other jazz pianists chose to do, Corea changed with the times and proved to be a master of all eras of jazz.

Even over the 2020 quarantine, he actively performed, composed and taught. Emiliano Siegert Wilkinson, a freshman music student at Duquesne, recalls that Corea was "sharing amazing lessons in writing and improvising on his Youtube and social media, and I think that says a lot about the amazing, loving man he was."

Wendt is not the only one here at Duquesne who is a fan of the musician. Corea's accomplishments continue to inspire young musicians in the Duquesne music program.

Jake McCormick, a senior music education major, admires how Corea

"truly dedicated his life to the mastery of the music and toward helping others achieve that mastery."

"Chick's attitude and generosity have had a large impact on me and my playing," McCormick said.

Freshman music student Emiliano Siegert-Wilkinson mentions that as a bass player, he appreciates the world-class bassists that Corea played alongside including Stanley Clarke, John Pattuci and Christiand McBride.

"As a composer, his music, melodies and willingness to use whatever instrument to get the timbre [that] fits the song best, are forever inspiring," Siegert-Wilkinson said.

Both McCormick and Siegert-Wilkinson remember "Spain" being one of the first Corea songs they heard that got them hooked on his music.

"The excitement and energy that he conveyed through that recording and many other recordings motivated me to learn more about him and incorporate that same energy into my own playing," McCormick said.

Anyone who has not heard the song should definitely give it a listen. It is another popular hit by Chick that showcases the musician's ability to engage many different musical audiences, which Wendt said he recognized as well.

"Chick's career is long and musically varied. There's something for almost everyone. If you hear some of his music and you don't really like it, be sure to check out more of it, as you'll probably find something that resonated with you," Wendt said.

Corea will always be remembered as a unique and powerful force in the world of jazz, and for an exceptionally long time, too. From his first recording in 1966 until early 2021, it is evident that Corea fully invested himself in both his piano-playing and compositions.

Funky Fly brings new sound to Duquesne

JACOB YANOSICK
staff writer

Funky Fly, a jazz-inspired funk group, performed at *The Duke's* musician showcase on Feb. 20, offering their genre-mixing musical talent and sharing their many influences.

The four-member group consists of two Duquesne students, a 10th grader and a 22-year-old.

With Eric Dowdell Jr. on bass, the four-member band is composed of Winston Bell on saxophone, Henry Schultz on keys and Brandon Terry on drums. Bell and Schultz are also students at the Duquesne University Mary Pappert School of Music. In their creative process, Dowdell and Terry usually focus on the groove and rhythm, while Bell and Schultz focus on harmony and melody.

The refusal to only stick to one genre was apparent during their performance. They performed the title tracks from both of their albums — *Sunday Afternoon* and *Déjà Vu*. These songs show how the group has effortlessly blended different styles and genres together, taking influence from jazz and contemporary funk music.

"We don't want to have any genre labels on us, we are just musicians," Dowdell said.

The music comes to them naturally; playing by ear, the band members work together to create their own unique sound.

"We usually start with a simple groove, and then add to it over time to shape it into what we want," Terry said.

The group has been influenced by many different genres and styles of music, which are incorporated into the music they create. Schultz said that he'd love to open a show for Damon Albarn, the co-founder of the group Gorillaz — a British electronic dance band. Bell's dream would be to open for Terrace Martin or Lalah Hathaway, and Dowdell also shared interests in opening for hip-hop artists.

While Jazz used to be an extremely popular genre almost a century ago, it is not as prevalent nowadays. Funky Fly is hoping to help revitalize the style with a new modern twist.

"The music helps tell the story," Bell said.

With this, Funky Fly is committed to making it in the music industry.

Bell said he believes that one day he



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
With a jazz-funk influence, Funky Fly shows off their unique sound while recording.

can see Funky Fly being a full-time gig.

"It would be possible one day, but it wouldn't be easy. Definitely possible though," Bell said.

The band mates spoke about the paths they may have taken if music wasn't in their lives, though they all agreed they are thankful for the opportunities that music granted them.

Such opportunities include the shows they got to perform before the pandemic: They had played around 80 shows within a year, with many locations in the upper East Coast and even a performance in Chicago.

As they dive deeper into the realm of performance, Funky Fly expects challenges along the way.

According to Bell, the music industry has a lot of room for improvement.

WEEK'S EVENTS

Grab 'N Go Series: Chicken Tenders.
Thursday Feb. 25 @ 9 p.m.

Join the Center for Student Involvement for our grab 'n go special! Visit the NiteSpot for free chicken tenders (5) and house chips!

BSU Cinema presents: *Soul Night!*
Friday Feb. 26 @ 6 p.m.

Grab some popcorn and join the Black Student Union in a viewing of the new Disney+ movie, *Soul!*

UPCOMING RELEASES

Tom and Jerry
Friday, Feb. 26
Adaptation of the classic Hanna-Barbera property, which reveals how Tom and Jerry first meet and form their rivalry.

Things Don't Stay Fixed
Friday Feb. 26
When a worldly photojournalist returns to the Deep South to try to stop his daughter's wedding and save her future, he discovers that it is he who has been stuck in the past.

CARISSA & KATIA'S COMPLAINTS

Brottier Disappoints: Laundry Situation
This week, residents received an email notifying them of a new laundry policy that requires them to swipe in to the laundry room during their pre-registered time slot. Failure to swipe at the correct time will result in a fine.

Expectedly, everyone signed up to do their laundry, leaving no open slots except between 12 a.m. and 6 a.m. Not exactly prime laundry-doing time.

Further, if any resident who is signed up forgets about their laundry, the whole system gets screwed up, forcing students to use the incorrect washer — starting a never-ending (spin) cycle.

For 20 floors of residents, there's only a single laundry room with less than 15 washers. While the policy intends to ease the innate laundry stress, it has actually created a larger laundry predicament.

-Carissa Haslam & Katia Faroun

10

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

Britney Spears documentary sheds light on legal battle

RIO SCARCELLI
staff writer

The year 2019 virally resurfaced pop-singer Britney Spears into the public eye with a movement called #FreeBritney. Fans explained it as a call to action in legally removing Spears from her now 13-year conservatorship, which is typically put in place for those deemed unfit to process their finances without supervision.

While her father, Jamie Spears, and his attorney, Andrew Wallet, have maintained guardianship over Spears for above a decade, the ideas surrounding #FreeBritney have now transcended in the general public with the recent release of *The New York Times Presents: "Framing Britney Spears."*

Airing on Hulu and FX on Feb. 19, the hour-long documentary showcased different celebrities, with Britney the spotlight of one of six current episodes written; the show is produced and directed by members of the Times staff.

"Framing Britney Spears" focuses on Britney's infamous 2007 meltdown, the establishment of her dual-conservatorship in 2008 and the current movements against it.

For many years, the media took Britney's divorce, separation from her children and the shaving of her head as a form of cruel entertainment. This was listed as a mental breakdown with no questions as to why it occurred. As more paparazzi began to exploit areas of her personal life, the breakdowns became worse until members of her family had admitted her to a mental-care facility against her consent.

Months after her admittance, the courts had announced plans



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIACOMMONS

After years in the shadows, Britney Spears inches closer to justice.

for Jamie Spears and his attorney to obtain temporary conservatorship over Britney, her estate and her finances.

As years passed, Britney continued to create music, obtain brand deals and tour as she normally would. People felt that the onslaught of the 2007 breakdown was over and that the pop-sensation had returned the same as she ever was. This time, however, she was under the management team of her father and his legal team.

Jamie Spears had never made an effort to be involved in Britney's ca-

reer and life. He was an alcoholic in her teenage years who was committed to rehab multiple times. To see the juxtaposition from having no significance in Britney's brand to having full control was eventually shocking to some fans.

Most details about the conservatorship were not questioned for over a decade; after all, she had released three studio albums within this timespan.

Things became much more widespread as Britney publicly walked out on the announcement of her *Domination* tour in 2018. In No-

vember of that year, an entire crowd witnessed her for the last time before she disappeared for a five-month period.

It was soon revealed that Britney had admitted herself into a mental-health facility and was to remain there as she focused on her father's illness and personal-affairs. Past this point, Spears had not been seen in the public nor had any of her social media been updated.

With fans concerned about where she had gone, podcasts such as "Britney-Gram" and Instagram accounts began frequently covering the disappearance of Britney. This trend also continued when Britney made her return to social media, but seemed to be under various restrictions, according to fans. Many believe she is not in charge of her own social media.

Thus, spotlight on the conservatorship had returned for the first time since 2009 with #FreeBritney becoming a trending search yet again.

On April 23, 2019, Britney finally spoke out against her father on her social media saying she would be taking an indefinite leave from work until her father stepped down from the conservatorship. Around this same time, Wallet requested a raise from the courts for the conservatorship, comparing the affairs to "a mock-business model."

Because the affairs were to be for the family's benefit to keep Britney out of trouble, the multiple comparisons to a lucrative-business scheme in the court report made the conservatorship feel much more beneficial to Jamie rather than to Britney herself.

After the announcement and continuation of Britney's leave, an anonymous caller sent in a report

to "Britney-Gram" claiming to be a former-paralegal for Britney's team. He said that Britney's admittance to a mental-facility was forced, and violated the terms of the conservatorship.

This message gained so much traction that Wallet immediately stepped down from the dual-conservatorship, leaving Jamie solely responsible. This practically proved that Jamie was manipulating his daughter's situation.

With #FreeBritney becoming more popular, one of Jamie's attorneys issued a statement saying that the anonymous caller presented baseless claims and that members of the movement had no information to properly concern themselves with the legal case.

Lynne Spears, Britney's mother, and Britney had spoken with the #FreeBritney movement, saying that they appreciated the support and awareness that the cause was spreading. After this, Lynne had expressed full-interest in becoming part of the conservatorship as it was now clear that Britney and Jamie were no longer on good-terms.

As of Feb. 11, 2021, Spears had actively approached the courts asking for the removal of Jamie within the conservatorship to instead be placed in the hands of Lynne and Jodi Montgomery, her childhood caretaker. While her request was denied to remove Jamie, a split-conservatorship was set in place with private company Bessemer Trust over her estate, finances and self.

This was seen by fans as a partial win for Britney: the Spears family agreed the fight with the court is not over.

Daft Punk calls it quits, ending music career

GRIFFIN SENDEK
multimedia editor

There will never again be "One More Time" for Daft Punk.

The legendary Parisian electronic pop duo announced the end of their astounding 28-year run on Monday morning with an eight-minute video titled "epilogue."

The sendoff used scenes near the end of their 2006 experimental science fiction film *Electroma* as one robot makes the other actively self-destruct, one blows into a million pieces as the other walks away, alone into the sunset.

As the loney android walks on the final refrain from "Touch" plays, a beautifully melodic repetition of the lyric, "Hold on, if love is the answer you're home."

This moment from *Electroma* had always been somber, but its use as Daft Punk's break up announcement completely re-contextualizes the scene. It will forever be remembered as the very last moments for the band. Alongside the epilogue Daft Punk released an extended version of their soundtrack from the film *Tron Legacy* (2010). And with

that — Daft Punk was no more.

Daft Punk's longtime publicist Kathryn Fraizer confirmed to multiple outlets the group's split but revealed no details or reasons behind the breakup.

Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo formed Daft Punk in 1993 and released their first studio album *Homework* in 1997 with stand-out hits "Da Funk" and "Around the world" plunging them into the limelight. The debut of their sophomore album *Discovery* (2001) would further cement the style and electronic-pop sound of the band. *Discovery* would also be the debut of the robot costumes that would soon be the inseparable trademark of the duo. Daft Punk's unique sound would only continue to develop through their subsequent albums *Human After All* (2005), *Alive* (2007). The release of *Random Access Memories* (2013) would place Daft Punk at the top of the charts and garner three Grammy wins introducing the band to an entirely new generation of fans.

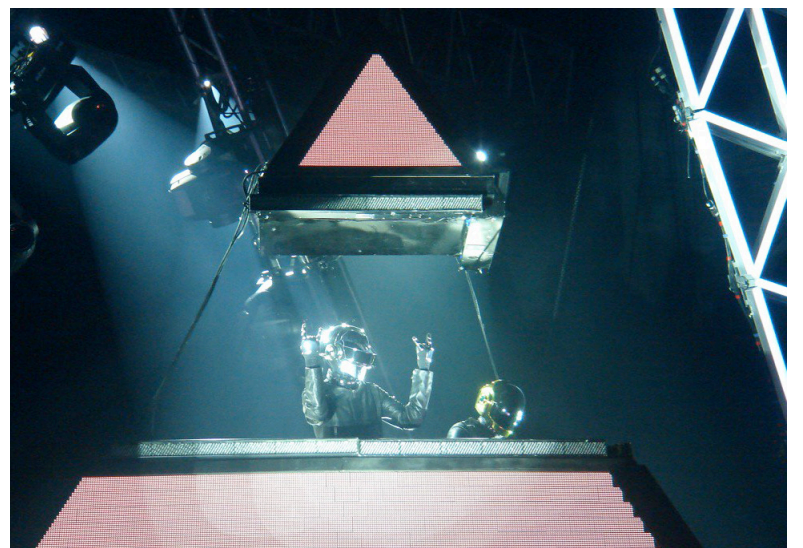
Lesser bands could never pull off half of what Daft Punk accom-

plished. The simplicity that Daft Punk tracks functioned within was astounding, their ability to take circular and repetitive electronic melodies and stay far and away from any form of tedium was completely unmatched.

The robot personas were never a gimmick, vying for attention, it was a staple of the band and became who Daft Punk truly was. Never made official public appearances without the helmets. Part of the band's immense appeal was the magic of their mystique, they didn't play the PR game, the rockstar lifestyle was never for Daft Punk and they stuck to that until the bitter end.

Daft Punk presided within this perfect Goldilocks zone, talented enough to create top-charting singles and Grammy-winning albums all the while maintaining their stranglehold on the underground and hipster scenes.

The comment section underneath the breakup announcement was filled with comments in a multitude of languages proving that these Parisian androids created art that transcended language and touched the hearts



COURTESY OF FLICKR

A staple of the 21st century, Daft Punk has changed dance music forever.

and minds of people all around the world.

After the *Random Access Memories* in 2013, Daft Punk for the most part went dark. Apart from the stray producing credit or artist collaboration, Daft Punk hasn't released any new music in eight years. Coming out of an eight-year hiatus only to end it all begs the question, why now? There very likely will never be an

answer to that question, as Bangalter and de Homem-Christo have always been very reserved, rarely giving interviews.

Daft Punk coming to the end of its 28-year run is a reminder that underneath the shiny chrome helmets Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo were not just mindless machines capable of pumping out beats for all eternity, but truly human after all.

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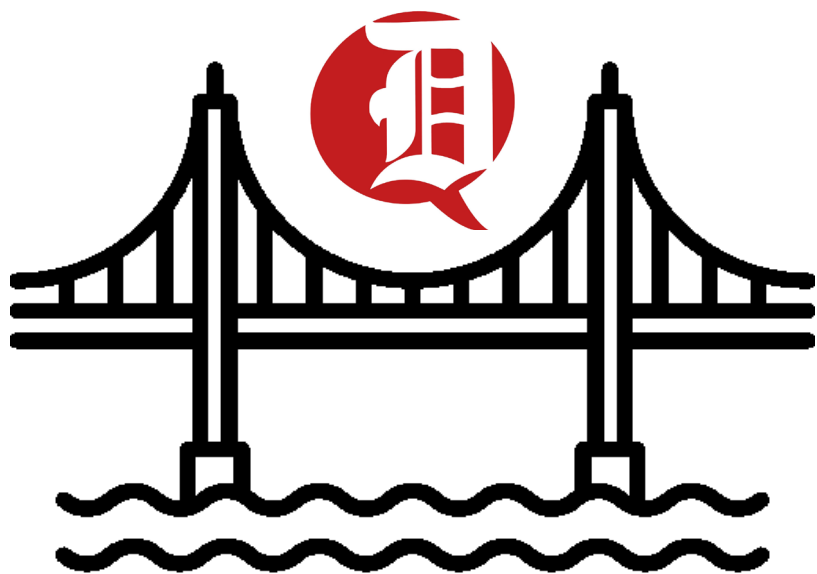
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