Incline closed due to flood in Student Union

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

Students craving snack wraps were out of luck Monday evening and Tuesday morning as the Incline dining center was closed temporarily due to a clogged grease trap that overflowed.

Duquesne University Facilities Management responded “quickly and efficiently to get the issue resolved,” according to Duquesne spokesperson Rose Ravasio. The Incline reopened March 9 at noon. “Facilities management staff remained on site, and they quickly deployed plumbers to identify and correct the issue,” said Scott Richards, assistant vice president of auxiliary services who oversees Dining Services.

The grease traps are regularly cleaned out every six weeks. According to Richards, Chick-fil-A and the Hogan Dining Center extended their hours of operation during the unexpected closing of the Incline.

In several instances across the country, including in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Catholic bishops—who do not have infallibility on matters of faith and morals, according to Catholic teaching—urged the faithful to “avoid receiving” the recently approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine due to production containing cells cultivated from a line of cells from aborted fetuses.

Released on March 2, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said in a statement that “The approval of Johnson & Johnson’s COVID-19 vaccine for use in the United States again raises questions about the moral permissibility of using vaccines developed, tested, and/or produced with the help of abortion-derived cell lines.”

However, according to the USCCB, Catholics are encouraged to receive any of the approved vaccines. “In view of the gravity of the current pandemic and the lack of availability of alternative vaccines, the reasons to accept the new COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are sufficiently serious to justify their use, despite their remote connection to morally compromised cell lines. In addition, receiving the COVID-19 vaccine ought to be understood as an act of charity to the other members of our community. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good.”

The theme of the “common good” continued as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was released, and a statement from the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference released on March 4 reiterates this idea: “Our position has never changed, nor has that of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which said, ‘While we should continue to insist that pharmaceutical companies stop using abortion-derived cell lines, given the world-wide suffering that this pandemic is causing, we affirm again that being vaccinated can be an act of charity that serves the common good.’ In essence, we recognize that at this time individuals are not given a choice of which vaccine to receive and that this should not prevent Catholics from getting vaccinated as soon as possible.”

The Rev. Bill Christy, director of campus ministry and university chaplain, believes that media coverage of the issue—focusing on the several dioceses across the United States again raises questions about the moral permissibility of using vaccines developed, tested, and/or produced with the help of abortion-derived cell lines.

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The struggle for moral vaccines

U.S. Catholic Bishops correct concerns over morality of new Johnson & Johnson vaccine

ZOE STRATOS
staff writer

With Duquesne’s recent approval to begin distributing the COVID-19 vaccine, questions of which vaccine the university will receive have arisen. However, given the vaccines’ ties to abortion and the university’s Catholic mission, many faithful question the morality of this scientific breakthrough, including the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

In several instances across the country, including in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Catholic bishops—who do not have infallibility on matters of faith and morals, according to Catholic teaching—urged the faithful to “avoid receiving” the recently approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine due to production containing cells cultivated from a line of cells from aborted fetuses.

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Despite the words of a few select bishops and Church leaders across the country, the Catholic Church holds firm to its support for lay people to receive the vaccine.
Catholic Bishops describe getting vaccine as "act of charity" and instruct Catholics to receive it

from COVID— page 1

KELLEN STEPNER
editor-in-chief

One of the requirements for Gary Shank — the education professor who used the N-word in a class lecture last semester — to return to teach at the university is to undergo a mandatory diversity, equity and inclusion training course.

But what will that training consist of?

The course, titled “Leading Diversity, Equity and Inclusion,” is taught by Alvin Tillery. Tillery is the director of the Center for the Study of Diversity and Democracy at Northwestern University.

“The course aims to provide individuals with the capacities to be inclusive leaders within their individual organizational contexts,” Tillery said.

Tillery’s course is a six-week online class featuring seven to ten hours of instruction per week and costing $2,100. It runs four times per year and enrolls over 150 students per session.

“It begins by providing students with a vocabulary for discussing diversity, equity and inclusion issues,” Tillery said. “It then shifts to provide students with a deep understanding of our nation’s sad legacies of institutional racism, sexism and other forms of identity-based discrimination.”

At the completion of the course, Tillery said that students will focus on how to utilize nonviolent and inclusive communication strategies to talk about group differences and promote inclusion.

“In short, the course provides everything that an individual will need to become an inclusive presence within their organization,” Tillery said.

Tillery added that Duquesne President Ken Gormley asked him to provide Shank with “individual coaching sessions to ensure that [Shank] has a clear vision on how to translate these lessons to his classrooms at Duquesne.”

Duquesne spokesperson Gabe Welsch said that the course was selected for two reasons: to “make it as easy as possible” for Shank to pursue training in a pandemic, and that the class "has a very practical approach to providing training on how to be an inclusive leader and communicate effectively across group differences.”

“Tillery frequently provides the executives who take [the course] with focused sessions to tailor the lessons to their organizational context, and he will do so in this case,” Welsch said. “It is our hope that the additional coaching will provide Professor Shank with a deeper level of engagement on his path to becoming a more inclusive and effective instructor.”

According to the course website, students will work through six modules ranging from communication strategies for diversity, equity and inclusion, to “managing and leading transformative change.” Students will walk away with tools and insights to “effectively create safe spaces and foster constructive dialogue around diversity, equity and inclusion.”

If Shank earns approval to teach again at Duquesne, the dean of the school of education, along with his department, will determine what courses he will teach. He has yet to communicate his plans to the university.
Celebrating International Women's Day: The Women of The Bluff

Patricia Patterson

A century ago, life was different for women. They couldn’t vote, didn’t have fair access to jobs and if they did find work, they earned far less pay than men.

This is the world Patricia Patterson’s grandmother was born into 105 years ago, and the change the world has seen since then reflects Patterson’s pride and hope in the expansion of women’s rights.

“We came a long way,” Patterson said.

For this reason, Patterson doesn’t take for granted the opportunities she’s had in her life. She’s been a grill cook at the Incline since 2013 and is grateful to be able to live in a world where women can get jobs instead of being limited to caring for their homes or families.

In her eyes, feminism means equality: in job access, in pay and in their rights. And she sees that while women have seen a lot of progress over the past century, there’s still room for improvement.

“We’re not there yet, but we’re almost there,” Patterson said.

Living out her beliefs regarding feminism looks like welcoming everyone and inviting them to the table, no matter their skin color or religion, Patterson’s a Christian, and for her, it’s important to love others and treat them the way they’d want to be treated.

The biggest influence on her life and her perception of feminism, though, has always been her family. Without feminism, though, has always been her family. Without feminism, though, has always been her family.

A large part of feminism for Daley is the celebration of femininity. She recognizes that women have their own experiences into the growth and development of others.

“When we think about in my field, it’s been largely a male-dominated field, so we can’t just say, ‘Women, you’re welcome to enter this field,’ we actually have to create support so that women will enter the field and then will succeed in the field,” Daley said.

One of the biggest lessons Daley’s learned about her role as a woman is that sacrifices don’t need to be made. Not only is she a professor and a conductor, she’s also a wife and a mother to her 2-year-old son, and she didn’t need to give up either position in order to succeed.

“You can make tenure, you can be a leader in your respective field and have a family, and you don’t have to sacrifice either one of those things,” Daley said.

A large part of feminism for Daley is the celebration of femininity. She recognizes that women have their own unique strengths, and bringing those to the table is essential in encouraging success for women.

“It’s what it is that women do really well, and let’s let that be celebrated.”

THANK YOU

On behalf of Kellen Stepler (editor-in-chief) and Colleen Hammond (news & managing editor), thank you to all the brave women who use their voices to uplift others in pursuit of the truth.

Special thanks to Katia Faroun, Carissa Hadlan, Capri Scurelli, Kelsey Burtner and Paula Reed Ward for making this publication possible.

For Kristine Blair, intersectionality is at the heart of what she does. From mentoring students on teaching with technology to being the dean of the McAnulty School of Liberal Arts, her mission has always been to bridge the gap between individuals and their idea of success.

It’s her identity as a feminist that got Blair committed to social justice, and she found her niche in training students of different backgrounds to use technology well in teaching.

“We often think that technology is universally accessible to undergraduate students, and in my experiences, I found out that was far from the case,” Blair said.

What she found in her 20 years of working towards digital accessibility is that cultural differences often prevented women in particular from gaining access to technology and being receptive to its benefits.

Not only did this discovery jump start her passion for social justice, it also encouraged her to find the value in mentoring relationships among women and helped her see how much of an impact people’s differing backgrounds have on them.

“Feminism is not just an issue around gender,” Blair said. “Very often, it needs to be far more intersectionality to understand the differing lived experiences that women have.”

This awareness influences her perception of what representation is: a conglomeration and collaboration of people with different perspectives, backgrounds and life experiences. And she hopes to implement this in her role as dean of the liberal arts school and a leader of its students.

“Part of it is to come up with a leadership and management style that is cooperative, coalition-building — is one that is attuned to listening and learning and ensuring that there is a diversity of perspectives represented at the table,” Blair said.
**OPINIONS**

**THE DUQUESNE DUKE**

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**STAFF EDITORIAL**

**Vaccine Update:** The Path to Immunity

As of Wednesday morning, according to data obtained from Bloomberg, more than 319 million doses have been administered around the globe with the 7-day moving average sitting around 8.25 million doses per day. The vaccination rates of Israel, Seychelles and the United Arab Emirates currently exceed all other countries with doses administered per 100 people of 98.51, 87.99 and 56.01, respectively.

In the U.S., 65.7 million doses have been administered, with the number of Americans receiving at least one dose of this vaccine recently overtaking the cumulative total of positive cases last month. Not to mention, the U.S. recently achieved a new daily record for vaccinations with 2.9 million doses being administered per day.

A few states (e.g. North Dakota, Minnesota, New Mexico) have led the country’s vaccination efforts as the U.S. continues to make strides in the vaccine front by increasing its supply of the three COVID-19 vaccines approved for emergency use by the FDA while also working to resolve any ongoing logistical challenges.

In fact, the White House announced yesterday that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will be purchasing an additional 100 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the coming weeks. Although undoubtedly ambitious, this target is plausible due to a rare partnership between two competitors — Merck and Johnson & Johnson — that was brokered by the government. The Defense Production Act will be employed to assist in equipping two Merck facilities to manufacture Johnson & Johnson vaccines—a political win for the Biden Administration.

Additionally, with billions allocated towards enhancing vaccine manufacturing and distribution, the American Rescue Package awaiting President Biden’s signature will also considerably assist in expanding the country’s ability to distribute vaccines and have them administered quickly.

This news emerges a week after President Biden, as reported by CNN, made the statement that the “U.S. would have enough COVID-19 vaccine doses for every adult American by the end of May,” a date that is two months ahead of his initial timeline.

Anthony Fauci — the top infectious-disease official — has said several times now that between 70-85% of Americans must be vaccinated in order to achieve herd immunity, which will initiate our drive to normalcy. Additionally, the U.S. will have to vaccinate 70-85% of the world’s population in order to achieve a global return to normalcy.

In the U.S., 93.7 million doses have been administered. As of Tuesday, the U.S. had reached a cumulative total of positive cases last month. Not to mention, the U.S. recently achieved a new daily record for vaccinations with 2.9 million doses being administered per day.

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

@TheDuquesneDuke

“History has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own.”

MICHELLE OBAMA

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The Duquesne Duke is the student-written, student-managed newspaper of Duquesne University. It is published every Thursday during the academic year except during semester breaks and holidays, and prior to final exams. The Staff Editorial is based upon the opinions of the editors of The Duke and does not necessarily reflect the views of the students, faculty, administration, student government or the University publications board. Op-ed columns do not reflect the opinions of The Duke, but rather are the sole opinions of the columnists themselves.

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Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer’s name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to The Duke office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduqueduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The editors reserve the right to edit any and all submitted copies. All letters will be published.

Corrections/clarifications

Readers should report any story or photo error to The Duke. All legitimate errors will be corrected in print following the next edition.

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**OPINIONS**

Nearly one year ago, former President Donald Trump signed into law the $2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act — the largest of its kind in American history. Commonly known as the CARES Act, this emergency relief bill promised to support individuals, families and businesses while also stimulating the broader economy in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Equivalent to 10% of U.S. gross domestic product, the CARES Act exceeded — both in size and scope — any relief bill before it. Although much debate over its effectiveness has now taken place, one thing we can all agree on is that this stimulus package did indeed keep America’s head above water during one of the most tumultuous and unprecedented time periods on record.

Now, with a new president in office and the COVID-19 crisis slowing improving, the Land of the Free is attempting to turn the corner on the pandemic once and for all as Republican and Democratic lawmakers have spent the last several weeks duking it out over additional economic aid.

From $1,400 direct checks and anti-poverty programs, to funding for vaccine distribution and substantial aid for local and state governments, this next round of stimulus promises to deliver everything the two before it lacked. President Biden’s $1.9 trillion relief bill — dubbed the American Rescue Plan — aims to support the least well-off Americans who are bearing the brunt of the pain.

Whereas Trump was primarily focused on reigniting the economy, Biden has narrowed his attention on alleviating poverty and other forms of impoverishment caused and even further worsened by the pandemic ravaging across the country.

For example, the main difference is that Biden’s American Rescue Plan allocates a considerably larger portion of funds to the most vulnerable social groups and communities.

Additionally, stimulus is necessary to achieve a full economic recovery.

To the fact that the bill is too broad in nature by including policy that is irrelevant to the objective at hand, with House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell both calling it a Democratic “wish list.” Admittedly, both sides have valid and relevant arguments that have been heard and hashed out inside the U.S. Capitol in recent weeks. That being said, the population grows closer to herd immunity every passing day, the truth of the matter is that one last round of economic stimulus is the catalyst needed in order to resolve the ongoing issues plaguing millions of vulnerable Americans and finally return to some sort of normalcy.

Put simply, where the first two relief bills were intended to, and successfully kept, America afloat during a time of immense uncertainty, the American Rescue Plan holds the power to help our great country turn the corner on the pandemic and make a full recovery.

In an unusual year with too many ups and downs to count, the light at the end of the tunnel is truly nearing as we are closer than ever to no longer living with the constant fear of contracting the virus and possibly spreading it to friends and family. Therefore, I am in full support of Biden’s stimulus package as I believe it holds the power to rescue the American economy by bridging the gap that has been keeping us from returning to a pre-pandemic world for over a year.
L
et me start this hope-

fully inspiring diatribe by
prefacing that I consider
myself a goofy person. I am
the president of the Duquesne Com-
edy Club, and there is nothing I
enjoy more than a good joke and
taking life very un-seriously.

Now, that mostly works be-
cause I think (or at least blindly
hope) that I have a decent mor-
al compass of what’s to be taken
seriously and what’s not. But
of course, don’t we all? And that’s
the problem I’d like to con-
front: I feel like we’re all taking
the wrong things seriously, and
the actual serious issues are
overlooked and subjugated to
meme material.

Boy, that sounds didactic,
so let me explain my finger-wag-
ging self. The most obvious
issue I’m thinking of is politics. Today,
politics is some untouchable,
undiscussable thing that we all
avoid publicly and consume va-
riously privately, leaving only
the most trivial things as serious
conversation topics.

But why? It’s all anyone ab-
sores on their phones all day,
so why all the beating around
the bush? Why is this all-im-
portant topic something we all
spend endless amounts of en-
ergy on privately but then tip-
toe around in real life? I believe
it’s because we can all run away
and hop onto Instagram and
look at a feed full of self-assur-
ning memes that pacify us to feel
quaint and distanced from our
deply entrenched divides, all
while ignoring said divides.

I’m not suggesting life be all
politics and seriousness (that
stinks!), but we need to draw a
line between the serious and the
trivial, for our own good.

Now to pick another piece of
fruit that’s already hanging very
low, but something I’ve been
pondering this entire pandemic
is that COVID-19 has somehow
been turned into a political “de-
bate” by the Republican party.

Most people take it very seri-
ously, but to some people, it’s
not real — a ruse, a meme. How
can that be? How can some-
thing so objectively real and
serious become such an argu-
able truth? If this pandemic is
not serious and what we should
put our complete focus on, then
what in the world is?

There must be something
I’m missing about the fakeness
of it all when I watch my nurse
mother come home crushed by
the weight of a 13-hour shift. It
seems quite serious to her, and
to write it off as some fluke,
some sad, some deep-state con-
spiracy seems to reflect a big, fat
inability to reason with reality.
And however you want to take
that, at the end of the day, it’s a
problem. We just can’t seem to
take reality seriously.

This inability to cope with
the objective reality we’re all sup-
posed to share has led to real re-
percussions, the terrorist attack
on the Capitol being the most
obvious example.

I could go on all day about
serious issues that are subju-
gated to meme material or sim-
ply written off as such as the
pan
demic affecting people of color
at alarmingly disproportionate
rates, climate change, pillaging
the earth for its resources, the
increasingly rich exploiting us
all and, most importantly, the
fact that some of us simply can’t
have conversations with certain
other people. When’s that going
to end? When will someone on
either side genuinely realize this
is all childish and make sincere
efforts to bridge this divide?

How long as a society can we
keep heading in this un-seri-
ous and jaded direction before
someone turns around and asks
why we’re heeding in that direc-
tion in the first place?

By now I hope you get the
point I’m pedantically making:
We need to address the serious
issues head on; we can’t keep us-

ing memes that pacify us to feel
serious and what’s not. But of
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blindly hope) that I have a decent mor-
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**Features**

**DU study: COVID disproportionately affects segregated areas**

**Emily Amberry**
staff writer

Duquesne study found that people living in socioeconomically and racially segregated neighborhoods may be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 deaths.

Dr. Ahmad Khanijahani, a researcher and assistant professor in the Rangos School of Health Sciences, published this study in the Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in January.

Khanijahani gathered data from over 3,100 counties and over 73,000 census tracts within those counties in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Khanijahani classified two models of segregation: racial and socioeconomic. The first classified racially-concentrated segregation as a county with 25% or more of the population as African American. The second classified socioeconomic segregation as female-headed households, living below the federal poverty level, households on public assistance, unemployment rates and adults over 25 years old whose education was less than a high school degree. The percentages of census tract population that fit these qualifications were ranked and the top 25% were classified as socioeconomically segregated.

"By knowing the amount of racially and socioeconomically segregated neighborhoods, we can try to predict the mortality rate of COVID-19," Khanijahani said. "Both of these variables were associated with higher COVID-19 deaths, meaning that if there is a county in which there is a higher number of census tracts fitting the racial and socioeconomic qualifications, there were disproportionately higher COVID-19 deaths."

The study controlled the other factors that might impact COVID-19 deaths, such as the percentage of 65 years or older population, population density, the percent of uninsured and how these influenced the potential impact mortality. Khanijahani explained that in studying this data, if these variables do not affect COVID-19 deaths, the number of deaths should be the same.

"In both models — racial segregation and socioeconomic segregation — for every 10% increase in the proportion of the population, the COVID-19 related deaths increased by 11 to 17% depending on the case," Khanijahani said.

The potential reasons for the study’s results, such as the majority of the population being essential workers not able to work remotely or limited access to healthcare, highlight the importance of a tailored approach to health care distribution.

"Our goal in this paper is to identify the problem," Khanijahani said. "One of the implications is with intervention, such as COVID-19 vaccine distribution. We need to establish that a one-size-fits-all intervention is not going to work because of certain characteristics of each population."

"COVID has highlighted the inequities that already existed and made them more plain for people that do not normally see them," said Tiffany Taulton, an adjunct professor in the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences and the Director of Community Initiatives for the Hazelwood Initiative.

Hazelwood is one of Pittsburgh’s most racially diverse and lowest-income neighborhoods, with an approximately 40% Black population and a median income of $24,000. The Hazelwood Initiative works to ensure low- and moderate-income residents benefit from new investments in the neighborhood.

Taulton emphasized the importance of making healthcare, and specifically COVID vaccinations, available within the community.

"There needs to be more community-level outreach and doing the vaccinations in the actual community," Taulton said.

Vaccination efforts that require transportation outside of the community or require online registration eliminate people that don’t have transportation, can’t afford to take transportation or don’t have access to Internet service.

Taulton and The Hazelwood Initiative helped with UPMC’s targeted vaccination effort for Hazelwood and other Pittsburgh communities by contacting the people within the community whose phone numbers they had on record to get them enrolled for the vaccine.

All Pennsylvanians can find out if they’re eligible for vaccination in Pennsylvania by visiting the Pennsylvania Health Department website, where they can also find available locations throughout the state.

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**Lecture series brings award-winning producers to Duquesne**

**Peyton Harris**
staff contributor

This week at Duquesne, the Mary Pappert School of Music’s Institute of Entertainment, Music and Media Arts (IEMMA) began hosting leaders within the music industry to speak to students about vast opportunities within the field.

Referred to as the IEMMA Lecture Series, the program is “a lecture-performance series featuring industry professionals who come to campus to share real-world experiences with the IEMMA community.”

While events are taking place differently this year as lectures continue on Zoom, the experience aims to be eye-opening to students in providing them with background into a wide area of expertise that otherwise may not be available to them at such an early stage in their careers.

Five panelists are scheduled to speak this year, ranging from engineers who have worked with The Beatles, Fleetwood Mac and Neil Diamond, to more recent artists such Harry Styles and Beyoncé.

“These particular artists have been pivotal in so many moments in musical history over the past 50 years that it will be amazing to hear the behind the scenes that they experienced,” said Tom Kikta, the director of IEMMA. “The Beatles’ last performance, Wings, Linda Rondstadt, James Taylor, Pink Floyd, Steely Dan — all of these acts defined the sound of generations, and these are the people who were instrumental in making it happen.”

The series hopes to share with students the experiences of successful professionals in the music industry.

The five guests will bring their own unique experiences as music industry pioneers. Grammy Award-winning music producer Scheiner started off the IEMMA Lecture Series on Wednesday. Asher, scheduled for March 15, is a multi-platinum producer, and has been named Commander of the British Empire for his work. Juber, who will present the following Monday, is credited for his work in the band Paul McCartney and the Wings, as well as his work on video games such as Diablo III and themes for NBC’s Dateline. For his work on Beatles’ albums Abbey Road and Let It Be, as well as Pink Floyd’s The Dark Side of the Moon, Grammy winning assistant engineer Parsons will share his expertise on March 31.

To close the series, Duquesne graduate Nishta Kumar will share her journey as a jazz singer, acoustician, audio engineer and photographer. This final lecture will take place on April 12.

IEMMA staff themselves are professionals and are active in the music industry in Pittsburgh and beyond, whether it be in different recording studios or music companies throughout the region. With these added perspectives from artists around the world, this event provides students with the chance to ask questions and find answers to pressing issues within the industry, and to provide them with a resource going forward in their education, careers and beyond.

“This artist series is exactly what IEMMA is all about: Giving our students access to artists and industry leaders who normally they wouldn’t be able to interact with,” Kikta said.

"Whether in a lecture atmosphere or an actual event, IEMMA creates an environment for students to not only be inspired but learn from these masters and grow in their own craft."

Students wishing to participate can register for free online at duq.edu/academics/schools/music and by clicking under the IEMMA tab. Each lecture begins at 3 p.m. and students are able to register for multiple lectures at once.
Duquesne WBB ‘in a good place’ heading into A-10 tourney

Luke B. Henne
asst. sports editor

If there’s one thing that Duquesne women’s basketball Head Coach Dan Burt is certain of, it is that any success his squad has in the upcoming Atlantic 10 tournament would not surprise him.

“We don’t look at it as improbable at all. We’re a program that has historically been one of the better programs in the Atlantic 10,” Burt told The Duke Wednesday. “When we step on the floor, we’re not a team that people take for granted. I think people recognize the abilities we have.”

After a season in which the Dukes endured a month-long COVID shutdown and an abundance of schedule quirks — including an 11-day layoff prior to the conference tournament — Burt’s group is set to take on La Salle in the tournament’s second round on Thursday. He knows that — especially at this time of year — anything is possible.

“We could go out and lose (versus La Salle), or we could win the whole thing,” Burt said. “There is no one in this league that can say anyone else. If we beat La Salle and can steal one from Dayton, we’re playing with house money from there.”

Burt is treating this tournament as a “third season.” The first season was halted in mid-January and the second season did not resume until mid-February due to the aforementioned shutdown. In six games since returning from the pause, the Dukes played to a 3-3 record, bringing their overall record to 5-10 (4-7 in A-10 competition).

There were some high points, such as a 71-65 victory over Rhode Island on Feb. 18 in the team’s first-ever game at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. There were also some low points, like a Feb. 28 defeat at Saint Joseph’s in which the team scored zero third-quarter points, something Burt described as having “never seen in [his] 24 years of coaching.”

“We had some disappointment and some real positives,” Burt said, “but I think we’re in a good place. I know our kids are relaxed and ready to play.”

The Dukes’ most recent victory came over the Explorers on Feb. 26 by a 74-70 score. The game was tied after three quarters, but Duquesne outscored La Salle 25-21 in the final frame to earn the victory.

If Duquesne were to beat La Salle in Thursday’s second round, that would set the team up for a date with top-seeded Dayton in the quarterfinals.

The Flyers, who finished the regular season with a 13-2 overall record and a 12-1 mark in conference play, defeated Duquesne by a 64-48 tally on Jan. 3 at UD Arena. The two teams were scheduled to meet again on Jan. 29 in Pittsburgh, but the game was wiped out by the Dukes’ shutdown.

Burt said that he plans to give his team “more offensive freedom” and plans to get them to shoot the three earlier in the shot clock, things that will assuredly be key ingredients for success. The Dukes are shooting just 29.3% from deep on the season compared to a 37.0% mark by their opposition.

Burt is well aware that the conference has “tremendous parity throughout it.” As many of us know, parity has a tendency to prevail in the month of March.

Want to keep up with the Dukes’ trek to March Madness supremacy?

Check out the A-10 women’s basketball tournament bracket in its entirety on Page 8!

Adam Lindner
sports editor

It’s a common refrain we’ve all heard: Enjoy the journey on the way to your destination. For me, I cherish literal road trips — there’s nothing like the anticipation of arrival in the midst of a long car ride. When a fun vacation ends, I often find myself wishing I could go there again because all the experiences are the reason that you are who you are today.”

It’s been one heck of a metaphorical trek for the Duquesne men’s basketball program over the past 44 years. It was then, in 1977, that the Atlantic 10 began play in 1976 as the Eastern 8’s only sponsored sport, and Duquesne won the first-ever league title in the spring of ’77 behind star player Norm Nixon’s efforts.

Nixon is now 65, and Duquesne’s NCAA tournament drought is among the country’s longest active streaks. If I was on the same car ride for 44 years I’d be aching for its merciful ending, no matter how much I claim to enjoy trips — roadside scenery and snack stops be damned.

But Duquesne fans need to enjoy this part of the journey. Why?

Because Keith Dambrot is driving this bus, and he just whisked his head around to roar, “We’re almost there,” for the 902nd time.

There might be a few more mile markers to go, but Duquesne’s not lying — Duquesne is so close. This metaphorical journey is on its last leg, and Dambrot has the pedal to the metal.

Duquesne left the A-10 for the Midwestern Collegiate Conference (now known as the Horizon League) in 1992 but returned the next year. Since the A-10’s inaugural season in ’76, Duquesne has competed in 44 A-10 seasons; it has enjoyed just 11 .500-or-better showings. Three of those have come in the past three years.

Dambrot arrived at Duquesne in the spring of 2017 to inherit a team that went 3-15 in the A-10 in Jim Ferry’s final season. In his second year on the job, Dambrot’s Dukes posted a 10-8 A-10 mark.

At the time, it was only the second season since 1991 that saw Duquesne win double-digit conference games.

Dambrot followed it up with a historic 11-7 showing last season.

This year, Duquesne managed to post a 7-7 league record amidst a COVID-ravaged campaign and despite severe mid-season roster attrition.

Amazingly, this is the first time Duquesne has ever finished 500-or-better in three straight conference seasons.

Duquesne’s second-round win over Rich mond in the conference tourney last week was the team’s first-ever tournament victory under Dambrot. Despite all the regular season success the Dukes have enjoyed under the current regime, the win over the Spiders was a monumental step in the right direction.

The win also served as the program’s first tournament victory beyond the first round since 2009.

Dambrot fell to top-seeded St. Bonaventure the next day in the quarterfinals, ending a season that was assuredly filled with its fair share of peaks and valleys.

On one hand, star guard Sincere Carry transferred, the team spent an entire month on a COVID pause and Duquesne lost games it shouldn’t have (Jan. 3 at George Washington and Feb. 24 at La Salle).

On the other hand, the UPMC Chuck Coo per Fieldhouse is finally complete and sev eral freshmen flashed big potential.

Most importantly, Duquesne — at long last — has the right man behind the wheel. For at least a little while longer, just sit back and enjoy the view.
Sports Briefs: DU women win A-10 XC title

Women’s Cross Country:
The Duquesne women’s cross country team won its first conference championship since 2014 on Friday at Pole Green Park in Mechanicsville, Va.

Jim Lear, the Dukes’ coach, was named the Atlantic 10 Women’s Cross Country Coach of the Year for the first time in his career.

The women’s cross country team’s championship title is the third in program history. Duquesne won back-to-back titles in 2013 and 2014.

Brianna Schwartz, a graduate student, finished No. 7 on Friday en route to all-conference honors. Her 5K time of 17:37.6 led the team.

Freshman Grace Sisson was the second Duke to cross the finish line (18:09.7) followed by junior Tori Kocsis (18:10.4).

Football:
Duquesne began its four-game spring football schedule with a win over Sacred Heart, 30-27, on Saturday at Arthur J. Rooney Field.

Joe Mischler, a transfer from Ohio, impressed in his debut at quarterback. The signal-caller accounted for 294 yards of total offense and three touchdowns in his debut as a Duke.

Garrett Owens played well in his first game in a Duquesne uniform, as well: The running back recorded 172 all-purpose yards and one receiving touchdown in the win over the Pioneers. Owens, a graduate transfer from D-II Mercyhurst, was named a Week 1 Northeast Conference Prime Performer alongside Mischler and defensive back Spencer DeMedal.

Kicker Brian Bruzdewicz was named NEC Special Teams Player of the Week after connecting on all six of his attempts (three field goals and three PATs).

Senior defensive back Leandro DeBrito paced the Dukes with nine tackles.

Duquesne will face Wagner on the road March 14 before returning to Rooney Field on March 21 for a date with Long Island.

Duquesne Football Crossword Challenge (from March 4 issue) — Answer Key

Down:
1. Crawford
2. Buffalo
3. Hines
5. TCU
6. Bryant
7. Kuntz

Across:
2. Bodden
4. Merrimack
5. Towson
6. Buechel
8. Gattuso

Bracket below courtesy of atlantic10.com
Select Dr. Seuss books under fire for racist undertones

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

Dr. Seuss' birthday is nationally celebrated as Read Across America Day — though it's now a day of refining the canon we have always known. On March 2, Dr. Seuss Enterprises announced that six of Seuss' original children's books would stop publication due to racially insensitive imagery. These titles include "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street," "If I Ran the Zoo," "McElligot's Pool," "On Beyond Zebra!," "Scrambled Eggs Super!" and "The Cat's Quizzer." These titles, according to USA Today, are no longer available for purchase on the Dr. Seuss website, whilst also being removed from select libraries internationally.

With this shortened shelf life, controversy has sparked over the ethical standpoint of removing works of literature from public access; however, Dr. Seuss Enterprises said the decision was made in a year-long process of consulting educators and experts in the field to make the decision they thought was best for the company and for its audience.

"These books portray people in ways that are hurtful and wrong," Dr. Seuss Enterprises said in a statement to the Associated Press. "Ceasing sales of these books is not only part of our commitment and our broader plan to ensure Dr. Seuss Enterprises' catalogue represents and supports all communities and families."

Since Seuss' death in 1991, his family has posthumously taken ownership of his literary works and publication policies through the Enterprises. Carefully reviewing the books, the Enterprises made the final decision themselves to cease production of the literature that no longer appropriately resonates with today's political climate.

Lark Grey Dimond-Cates, Seuss' step-daughter, said that this move was a "wise decision."

"I think that this is a world right now that is in a lot of pain, and we've all got to be very gentle and thoughtful and kind with one another," Dimond-Cates said in an interview with People magazine.

With some of his earliest works being written pre-WWII, Dr. Seuss has stereotypically depicted ethnic characteristics, holding a much more harsh connotation in the 21st century. This includes characters of African descent being illustrated with grass skirts and messy hair in "If I Ran the Zoo," as well as Chinese characters being drawn with slanted eyes, yellow skin and "eating with sticks" in "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street."

Some believe this scenario is yet another example of "cancel culture" in the media, with the decision to remove these titles sending recent headlines into a frenzy.

Acknowledging the National Education Association through Read Across America Day, President Joe Biden neglected to acknowledge Dr. Seuss as a part of his recommended children's book list, which sparked a conversation of "getting rid of history."

Responding to this, Donald Trump Jr. posted a reaction video about the matter.

"They [the Democratic party] are canceling Dr. Seuss from education as a whole, Paul said that we have to set a good example for correctness of his older works in order to set a good example for younger generations."

"It's important to question things that have been released for sometime since we are continuing to progress as a society in defining what could be harmful in regards to race, gender or one's beliefs," Paul said.

Dr. Seuss' beloved works are still available for purchase online and at your local bookstore.

WRITING OVER 60 CHILDREN'S BOOKS, SOME OF DR. SEUSS' WORK IS BEING RECONSIDERED.

COURTESY OF PIXIE ORG

HOROSCOPES

Go home, they said! It'll be okay, they said! (One year later...)

It is time to immerse yourself in deep witchcraft.

What if we walked to the Point and sat in the center of the empty fountain :)?

Brownie points if you can say you didn't watch Tiger King in early quarantine!

You seem like someone who would make me a Spotify playlist with a hyper-specific title. Go on, prove me wrong.

This is your sign to put all of your life savings into Bitcoin and buy a Tesla down the road.

It's your sign to put all of your life savings into Bitcoin and buy a Tesla down the road.

The warm weather isn't going to magically solve all of your problems, kiddo.

Take me down to Paradise City where the Shamrock Shakes are green and the girls are pretty!

You're a mediocre man, Charlie Brown!

UPCOMING RELEASES

Spaceman
Nick Jonas
Friday, March 12

In his solo career, Nick Jonas is releasing his fourth studio album, Spaceman through Island Records, making this his first solo release since 2016.

Revolution
Selena Gomez
Friday, March 12

In her new EP, Selena Gomez releases her first all-Spanish music.

COMPLAINTS

Sunshine needs more seating

70-degree weather means my seasonal depression is cured! But where am I going to sit?

With everyone stir-crazy with the cold weather and social-distance protocols, it's been relieving to be able to sit outside — but everyone is on me that one and that's kind of the problem.

All of the tent spaces are filled up, and the Melon pool, and honestly most of the benches and mini tables surrounding College Hall.

I would sit in the grass, but I don't really have an outdoor blanket, either.

I guess it's first come, first serve, but maybe we could add some extra chairs and maybe have a few more for a fair chance at enjoying the outdoors.

— Capri Scarcelli
New 'Spongebob' film pays tribute to late director

Rio Scarcelli
staff writer

The Spongebob Movie: Sponge on the Run premiered on March 4 on Paramount+. The creators of Spongebob movie: one that was made entirely out of computer-generated (CG) animation. Something characteristic of the show’s charm and humor was its off-the-wall, zero-gravity 2D animation. While the show’s artists and animators were not sure how this would translate to the CG realm, Hillenburg was adament in transitioning his characters into a new form.

The direction for the film was inspired from the plot of a season four episode titled “Have You Seen this Snail?” in which Spongebob attempts to find his snail, Gary, after neglecting him for two weeks. Hillenburg felt that the idea of a mission to find Gary could span not just an episode, but a whole movie.

As a nod to the episode, the instrumental version of one of Spongebob’s most famous songs “Gary Come Home” was played as a snippet in the middle of the film. With Hillenburg and writer of the show Paul Tibbit on board, production plans began in fall of 2018. It was at this point, however, that Hillenburg died, and the idea was put on the back burner for some time. Eventually, with some changes in direction, Hill agreed to be fully on board as the director and screenplay writer for the entire film. Given that this was one of Hillenburg’s last ideas before his passing, Hill, as one of his closest friends intended to pay tribute to him and the legacy he had created within his show.

“I think it has a great theme and is built as an homage to Steve Hillenburg,” Hill said in an interview with Nickelodeon news update for NickLive. “Everyone comes together to help SpongeBob because of all the things he has done for them. We thought in a way it’s about what this character has meant to people over the years. It’s a celebration of creativity and humor, and by extension, it’s an homage to what Steve gave to all of us during his lifetime. That’s why I wanted to do the movie, because there was something deeply personal about it, which goes by just having a great story and memorable songs.”

Many tributes to the creator were shown as Easter eggs throughout the film; this included the first sketch of Spongebob with the caption below reading, “In Memory of Stephen Hillenburg.”

Staying true to the iconic characters without becoming too far fetched was Hill’s No. 1 priority when writing the movie, as Hillenburg valued simple, powerful stories told by memorable characters. The movie utilized its adventure-style to hone in on the antics, personalities and interactions of Spongebob and his friends.

As a testament to the show’s notoriety, many celebrities were asked to collaborate on the movie and were met with enthusiastic responses. The on-screen talent and voices of Keanu Reeves, Snoop Dogg, A$AP Rocky, and Tiffany Hadid found their way into the film as well as musical stylings and performances from Kenny G and Hans Zimmer. To be able to meld the original cast and crew with big names from the spectrum of Hollywood was a thrill for Hill to do. While the movie received praise from long-time fans, the same was not said for a spinoff show that was released in tandem: “Kamp Korai: Spongebob’s Under Years.” Within the movie, cameos from “Kamp Korai” made their way into the plot as a segway to the backstory of all the Spongebob characters.

Set in their childhood years, the main characters of the original show find themselves at summer camp and make the friends that would last a lifetime. The show premiered on Paramount+ the same day as the movie with 13 episodes spanning its first season. While this was an exciting announcement for the writers and producers of the show, the idea was met with harsh criticisms by fans as interviews surfaced of Hillenburg allegedly saying that he did not intend or want for any spin-off shows to be made from the original series. Director of the show and voice of Plankton Mr. Lawrence has attempted to diffuse these claims. What has made fans even more angry is that the show is credited to Hillenburg at the bottom of the main title screen, saying “Executive Producer: Stephen Hillenburg.” Regardless, the idea has been put to rest by the fact that Kamp Korai was featured within the movie, which implied the idea that Hillenburg knew about the spin-off and approved its creation.

WandaVision' season finale dissatisfies audiences

Griffin Sendek
multimedia editor

After eight long weeks, WandaVision has finally come to a close. The season finale is emblematic of the show itself – brilliant in its quiet moments, and held back by questionable story decisions.

Episode 9, “The Series Finale,” though one of the longest episodes of the series squanders the extra minutes, succumbing to the same pitfalls of boring homogeneity of the previous episodes. A visit to the WCW and S.W.O.R.D. director Hayward, as well as a heartfelt tribute to Agatha, was no exception. The episode starts with Agatha’s final battle, a change that wasn’t entirely needed. The action of that episode is hampered by the fact unlike other elements introduced throughout the show it doesn’t provide anything new.

The MCU has always had issues when it comes to villains, unfortunately, WandaVision was no exception. Though Kathryn Hahn’s character was present from the very beginning, the revel of her evil twin identity appeared so late in the game she couldn’t effectively function as an antagonist.

A good portion of the episode is dedicated to Wanda and Agatha flying through the air-high above Westview, hailing red and purple magic at one another. The battle was flashy but of little substance. The sequence may have been fine in isolation, but within the context of the rest of the show, this final battle was one of the least compelling scenes WandaVision had to offer.

This CGI fest, mid-air magic laser battle between Agatha and Wanda felt empty, standing in stark contrast to the confrontation between both the Westview Vision and the reanimated body of Vision in the Westview library: a fight transformed into a philosophical conversation.

The strength of Vision’s character and Bettany’s performance never came down to their ability to fight, but in the theory and exploration of what it means for a machine to be alive. And that’s exactly what unfolded in the scene in the library.

All of WandaVision’s characters are decently written and well-performed, but the overall story was unable to give ample room to breathe.

Evan Peter’s Quicksilver, though a fantastic reveal, didn’t amount to much. Monica Rambeau’s character also didn’t really have the screen time to reach a satisfying arc.

S.W.O.R.D. director Hayward, with a strange shift to mustache-twirling villain in the latter half, was dispatched unceremoniously. When the dust had settled, the battles are all won and the couple returns to their dream home for one final evening together. This was when the episode could once again slow down to focus on its biggest strength — Wanda and Vision’s relationship. Thankfully the writers chose to give Wanda and Vision one last quiet moment together, a touching and beautiful scene of love and loss as the Hex decayed and Vision fades back into nothingness. When Wanda and Vision began, it was different from anything else Marvel had ever done, and ended following the traditional MCU affair, adapting to set up future projects rather than coming to its most satisfying conclusion.

That’s what is most disappointing about this finale: the show started in a spot uniquely slow and slowly but surely got roped in to fill the predefined mold of what the MCU typically is. I have lots of criticism for the finale; however, it cannot take away how much joy and entertainment this show provided week to week. The tingle disappoointment as it may be, in no way ruins the show. WandaVision remains well worth a watch and has me waiting in excitement for the moment that Hillenburg’s Wanda’s story will continue.

The first season of WandaVision might be over, but Disney is just getting started with this year’s Marvel content.
Now Hiring

DU Quark is currently interviewing for a new Editor-in-Chief for Fall 2021.

Duquesne University’s student-run scientific journal, The D.U. Quark, is seeking an Editor-in-Chief beginning in Fall 2021. Responsibilities include setting the agenda for the journal and identifying opportunities for the journal to engage with the community. The Editor also receives and reviews all submissions to the journal and facilitates the peer-review process. Candidates should be organized, collaborative, and enthusiastic about science communication. Please visit www.duquark.com to look at student work that has been published in the journal. The position is paid in the form of credits. Undergraduate and graduate students of all disciplines are welcome to apply. Send your resume and cover letter to the faculty advisor, Dr. Kristin Klucovek (klucovekkek@duq.edu), by March 10th, 2021. Interviews will take place Friday March 26th.

Happy Saint Patrick’s Day! 🍀@DU_Cares

Under 21?

Zero Tolerance

Contrary to popular opinion, Saint Patrick is NOT the patron saint of alcohol. Who knew?!

Underage Drinking Penalties

1st violation- $500 fine from PA

Possible university sanctions:

1st violation- $100
2nd violation- $150
3rd violation- $200

21 or Over?

Enjoy Responsibly

You don’t have to drink to have fun this Saint Patrick’s Day, but if you are over 21 and choose to, know the risks and use good judgment.

Tips for Responsible Alcohol Consumption

• Know your limits (.08 legally drunk)
• Take a water break
• Eat before drinking
• Pace your drinks
• Never drink & drive
• Be COVID responsible

Be Safe.

Be Smart.

Be Aware.

This program is made possible through a grant funded by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

The opinions and statements expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the PLCB.